

## Houle, Brian (Crofton)

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**From:** Houle, Brian (Crofton)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 28, 2024 2:08 PM  
**To:** Houle, Brian (Crofton)  
**Subject:** Watershed update: August 28, 2024  
**Attachments:** Cowichan River WQ update 23Aug2024.pdf

Good afternoon everyone,

Great weekend with weather cooperating on Sunday for another amazing river clean up event on the lower Cowichan River and hosted by the Cowichan Watershed Board/Society.

While it is sad that so much garbage accumulates in and along side the Cowichan River, it is a great story that we have so many people in our community who step up to coordinate the clean-up and that so many people come out to help clean up the lower river and river side areas each year.

And also a great big thank you for the similar event that brings volunteers out to the upper river, to the annual upper Cowichan River clean up that is hosted by CLRSS (Cowichan Lake and River Stewardship Society).

Attached is the most recent weekly river water quality update and excellent to not have any dead fish showing up this year, so far. With cooler weather and cooler water, the risk to fish in the river is reducing now as we enter September.

Regarding the lake and river, conditions remain very good with low risk of needing to reduce the flow in river this fall.

On a different matter, Catalyst is authorized to conduct gravel removal from in front of the river pump house on Cliffs Avenue and that project will begin on September 9.

This project was previously conducted in 2007 and 2012 and now in 2024 we again need to remove gravel from in front of the pumps at the River Pump House.

The water license that the mill has anticipates this need to remove gravel, as the gravel impedes movement of water to the pumps operating by Catalyst Crofton, with objective to sustain a water flow to the mill.

Federal approval was requested and provided for this in river activity to proceed.

Recent rainfall was effective in allowing more water to be saved in the lake and now, lake level is again dropping at historical rate.

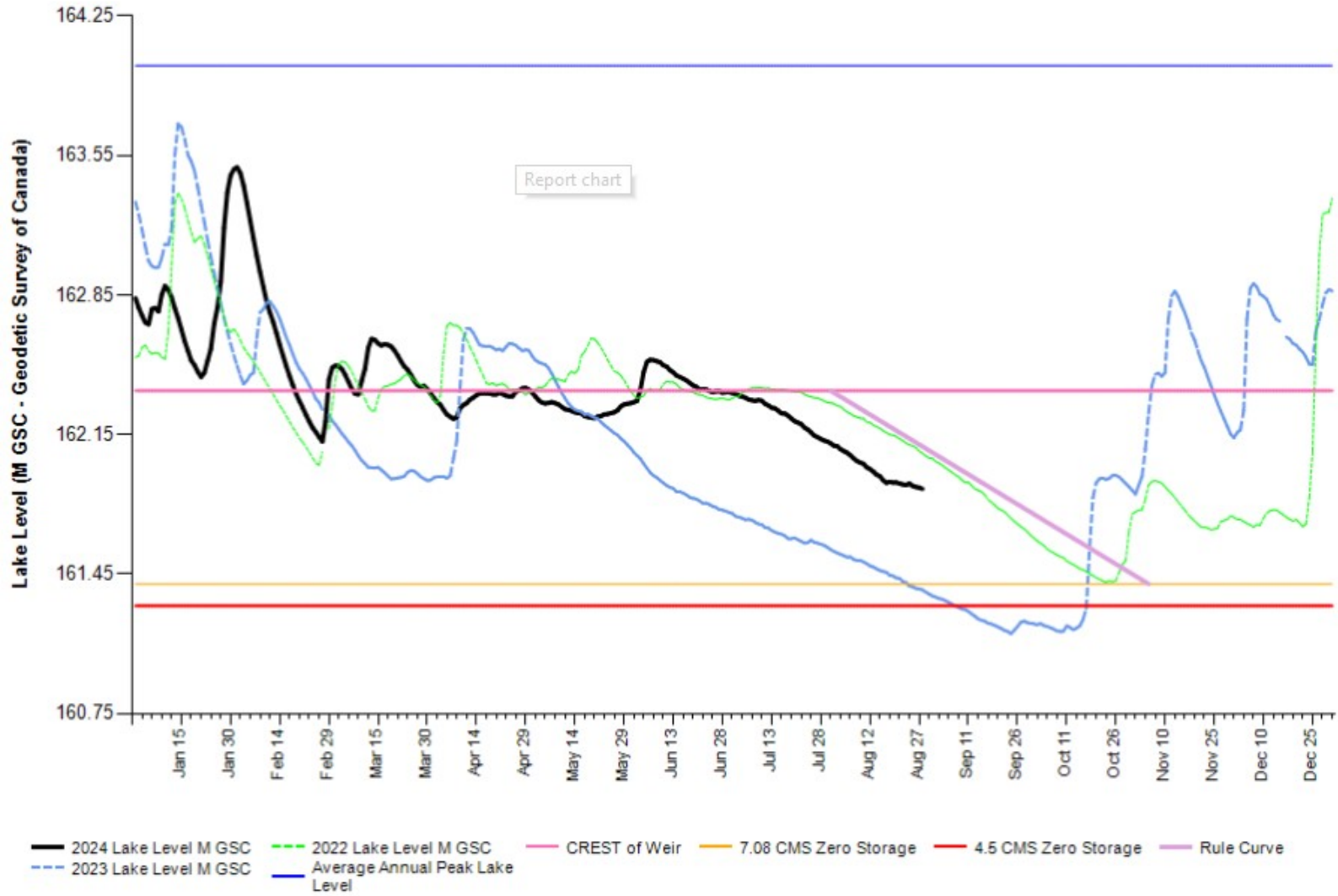
Today, Water Survey of Canada conducted the river flow calibration procedure to ensure the river flow gauge in town of Lake Cowichan is calibrated.

They measured an actual flow of 7.4 cms and tomorrow, a new calibration table will be issued to allow adjustment down to 7.08 cms.

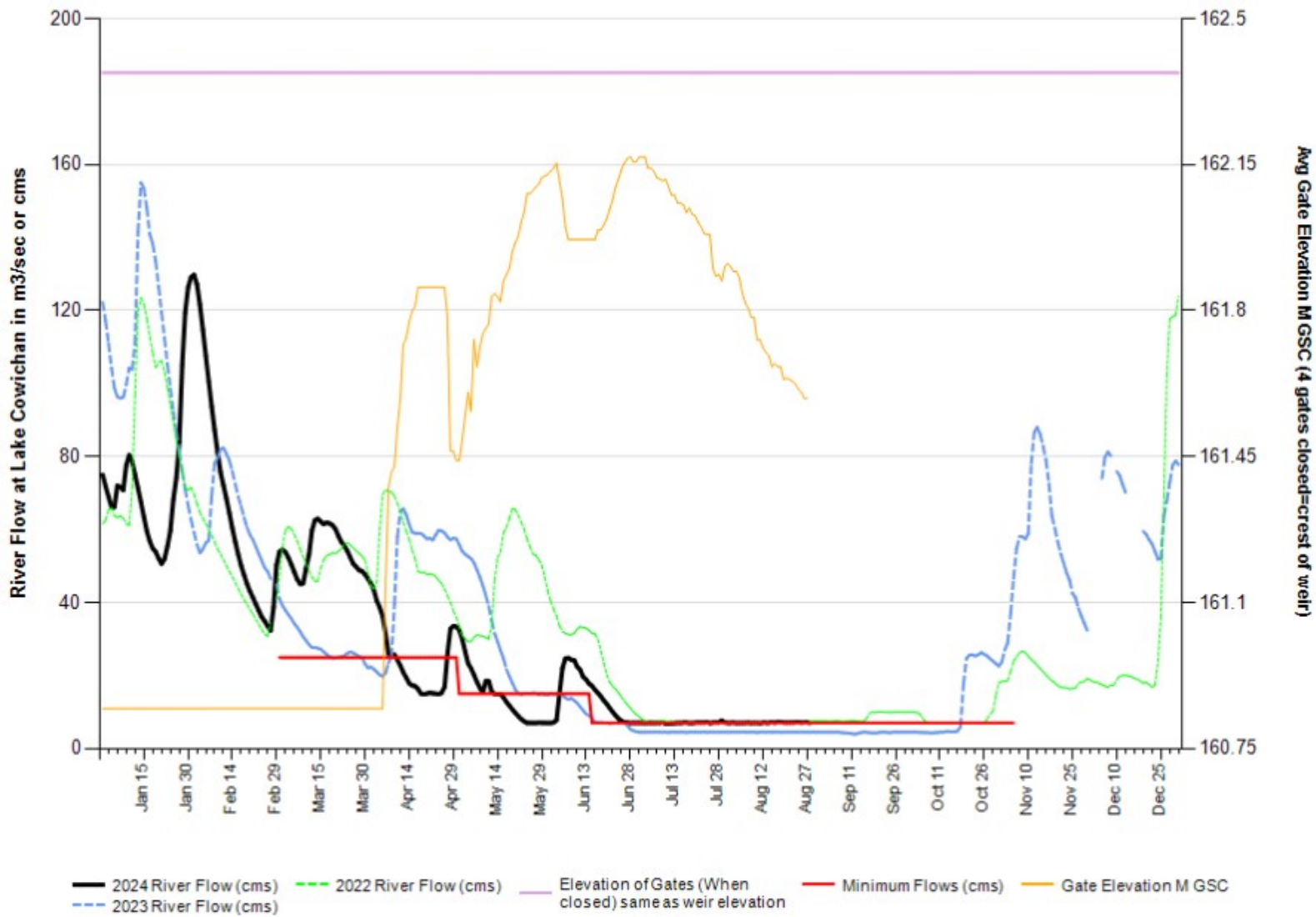
Tomorrow they are calibrating the river flow gauge in Duncan by the White Bridge (Allenby Road Bridge).

Regards,  
Brian

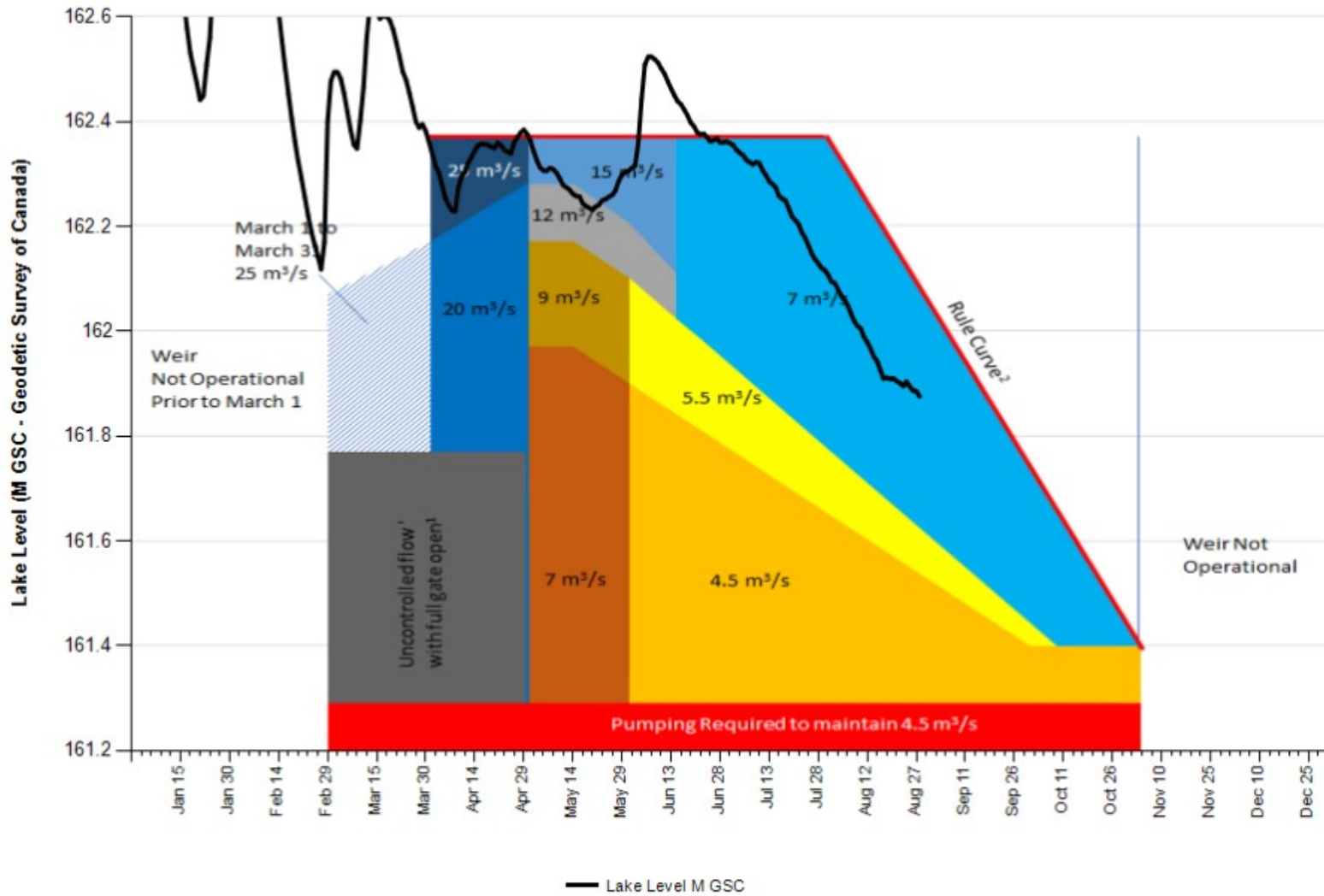
### 2024 Cowichan Lake Level - 2024 (Black) & 2023 (Blue) & 2022 (Green)



2024 Cowichan River Flow - 2024 (Black) & 2023 (Blue) & 2022 (Green)



## 2024 Cowichan Lake Level and River Flow Guidance Chart - Below Average snow pack



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