

Environment Committee Report – October 12th 2020

The fall has been drier than normal and frequent monitoring of the lake levels has contributed to favourable levels of the Whiteshell lakes as we approach the winter targets. The winter drawdown has been aided by the below average precipitation in the last month.

The federal government real time monitoring station on the Whiteshell River, downstream of the Jessica Lake dam, shows the flow rates as of October 6th to be 89.33 cubic feet per second compared to 529.65 cubic feet per second on the same day last year. You may recall the record storms in the early part of October 2019 contributing to high water and ice levels last winter.

LAKE	DATE OF LAST MEASURE	LEVEL IN FEET	COMMENTS
			Target levels
Betula	September 18 th	988.15	Summer 988.20
Big Whiteshell	September 11 th	1018.55	Average summer level 1018.25 (2019)
Brereton	September 18 th	1036.35	Summer 1037.00 Winter 1036.5
Caddy	October 6 th	1044.25	Max summer level 1046.00 Winter 1044.0
Falcon	October 1 st	1065.05	Summer 1065.50–1066.25 Winter 1065.0
Jessica	September 25 th	1017.20	Summer 1017.50 Winter 1017.0
Nutimik	October 6 th	899.93	Average summer level 901.41 (2019)
Star	October 6 th	1114.60	Summer 1115.00
West Hawk	October 6 th	1090.35	Summer 1091.00 – 1092.25 Winter 1090.25
White	September 25 th	1003.20	Summer 1003.40 Winter 1002.7
Lac du Bonnet	October 6 th	836.19	Average summer level 858.01 (2019)

Following the Spring Meeting with Manitoba Infrastructure and Parks, your committee forwarded a number of recommendations regarding lake levels to Manitoba Infrastructure. They have agreed to review our suggestions for Betula Lake and Caddy Lake forwarding those to senior management for consideration of the required capital funding. An analyst has been assigned in the last month at Manitoba Infrastructure to review the options to stabilize Caddy Lake to the committees' recommendation.

Falcon Lake has been more closely monitored this summer in an attempt to keep the lake level at the lower part of the range, as recommended by the committee, because of the problems with the existing control structure. The dry fall has assisted in putting the lake in a good position to enter the winter.

There is no further information at this time on the choice of new control structure for Falcon Lake. The consultants final report has not been submitted to Manitoba Infrastructure.

Bob Harrison our committee member who sits on the Lake of the Woods Control Board has submitted a report commenting on the strategy the Board is applying to the Lake of the Woods as it impacts the Winnipeg River system in the Whiteshell.