



Fox River Status Update
May 16th, 2024

**This Update is based on the current forecast and will be adjusted based on future forecasts and rainfall.*

Summary

There is currently 1.25”-2.00” of precipitation forecasted for the watershed during the next 7 Days with the bulk of the rain Monday night thru Wednesday evening (Figure 4). Based on the current forecast, inflows will peak on 05/25 (Figure 1). The lakes are predicted to continue dropping over the next week (Figure 2) and the Lower River is expected to be below 3.0’ tomorrow (Figure 3).

Current Conditions and NWS Forecasts

Figure 1: NWS Forecasted Inflows

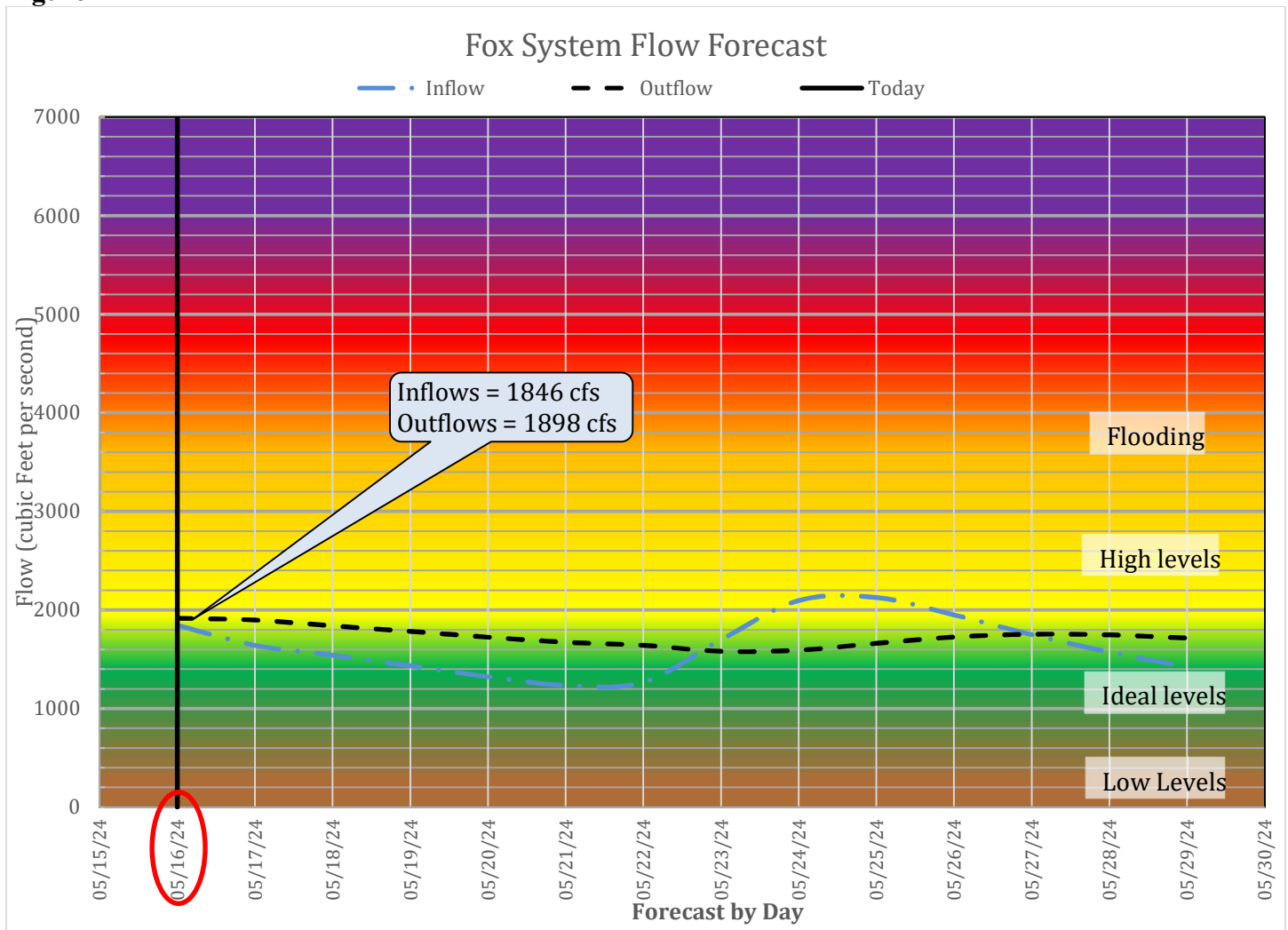


Figure 2: Estimated Upstream Gage Heights

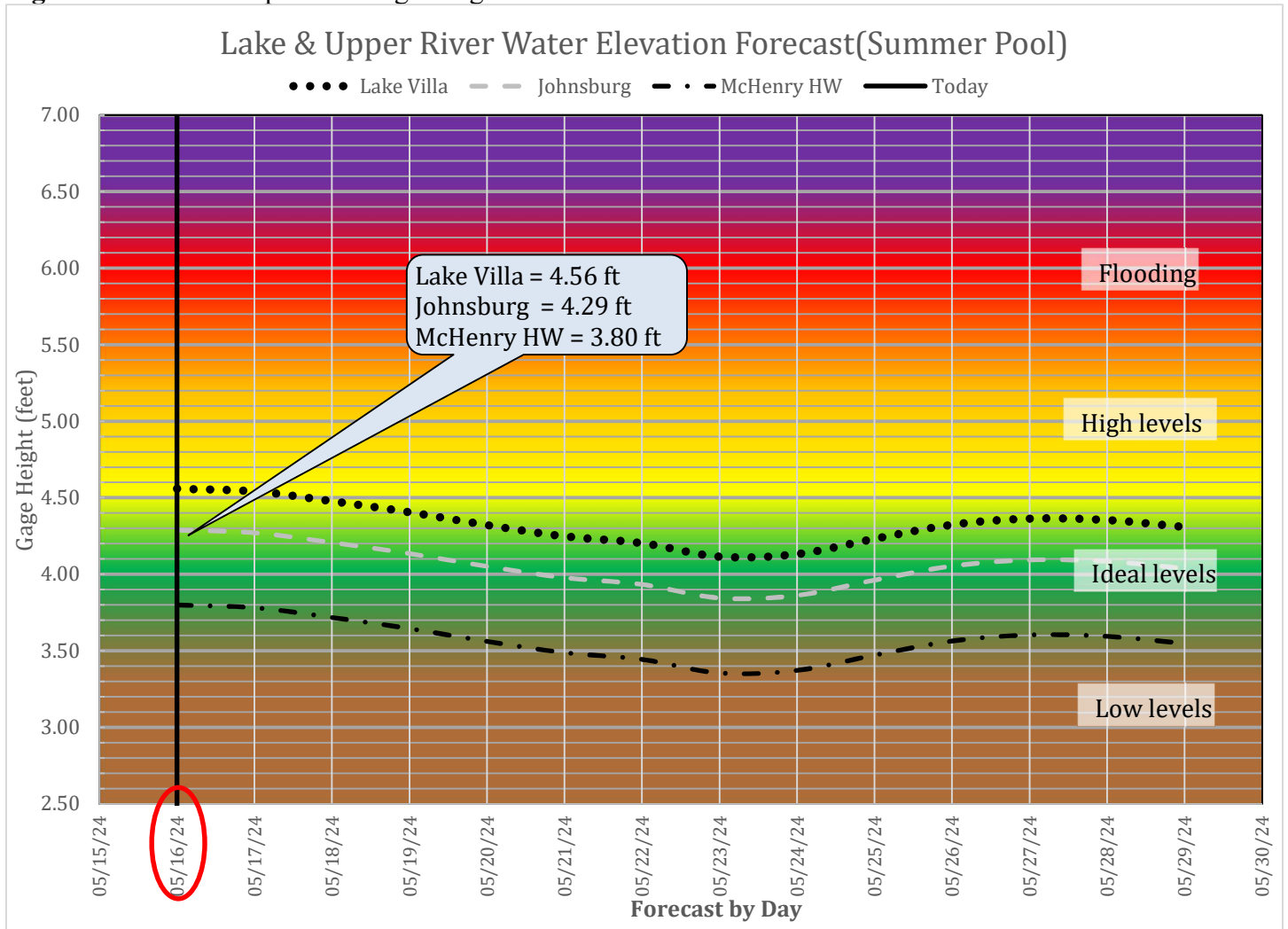
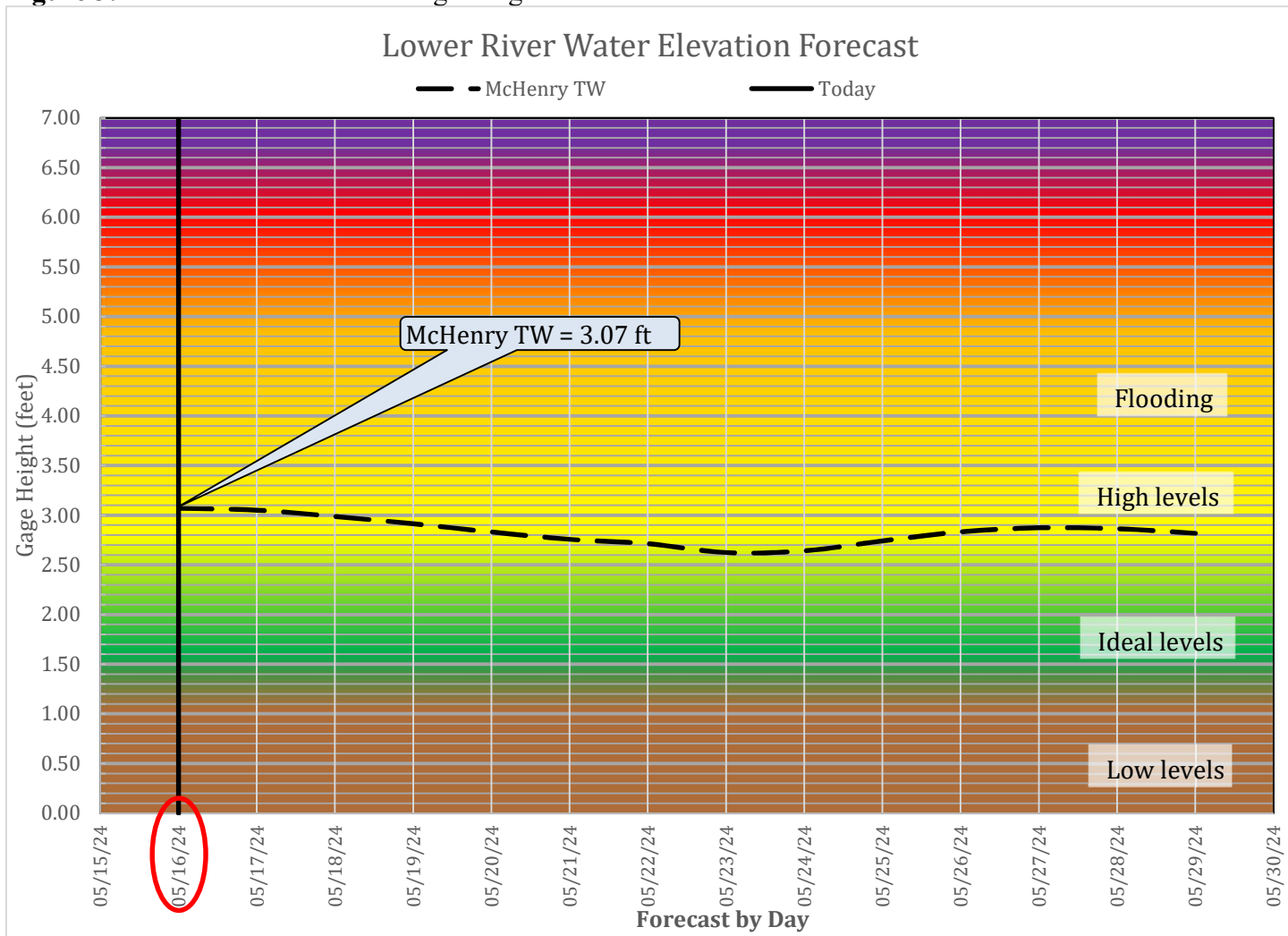


Figure 3: Estimated Downstream Gage Height



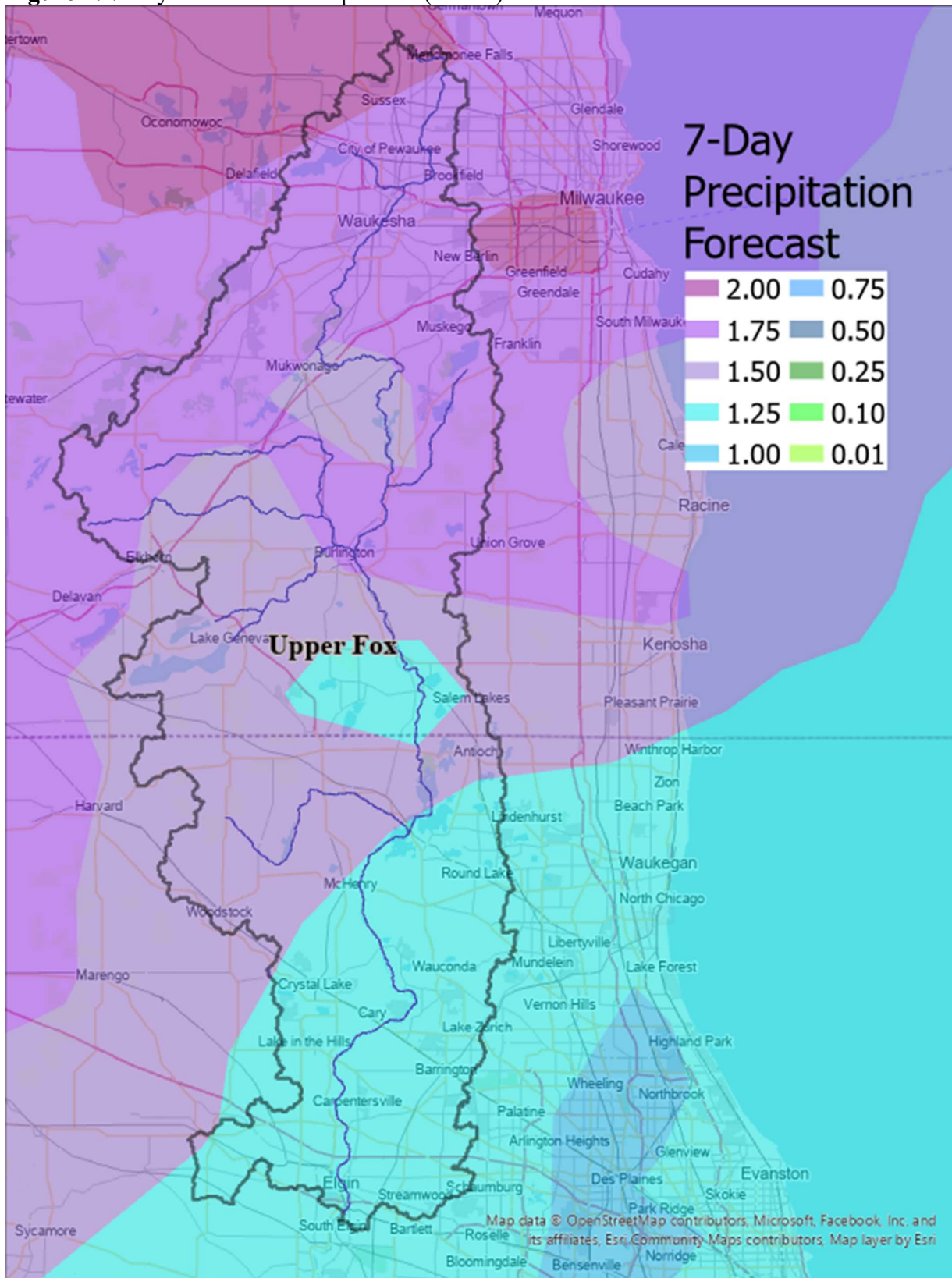
Current Conditions

Measured flow on the Fox River near New Munster, WI is 932 cfs and Nippersink Creek near Spring Grove is at 258 cfs. The total system inflow is 1856 cfs. The Fox Lake stage is 4.56 ft; the Stratton Dam Tailwater stage is 3.07 ft. The Fox River at the Algonquin Dam headwater stage is 1.42 ft.

Forecast

Inflows are forecasted to peak at 2100 cfs next Saturday, as shown in **Figure 1**. Fox Lake is forecasted to drop over the next 7 days and areas upstream of the dam should begin to reach equilibrium with the lakes as inflows continue to decline, as shown above in **Figure 2**. The Lower River should drop below 3.0' tomorrow, **Figure 3**. The 7-Day Precipitation forecast is showing 1.25"-2.00" rain for the watershed, with the heaviest rains located in Wisconsin **Figure 4**. This will raise the water levels in Wisconsin, causing them to open the dams there. Typically, it takes two and a half days to reach the Chain of Lakes. All of this is dependent on rainfall amounts five days from now.

Figure 4: 7 Day Forecasted Precipitation (inches) for the Fox River Watershed



System Outlook

Chain O' Lakes Outlook

Water levels are forecasted to continue falling over the next week.

McHenry Pool Area Outlook

Inflows have begun dropping and pool levels are being raised. This trend should continue over the next week.

Lower River Outlook

As inflows continue to drop, outflows will as well. This will help lower the water levels to below 3.0', with a little luck by midday tomorrow.

IDNR-OWR will continue to monitor conditions and make changes as necessary pending future forecasts and conditions.

Thank you,

Aaron Rotherham
Office of Water Resources
Illinois Department of Natural Resources