



Fox River Status Update  
March 10<sup>th</sup>, 2023

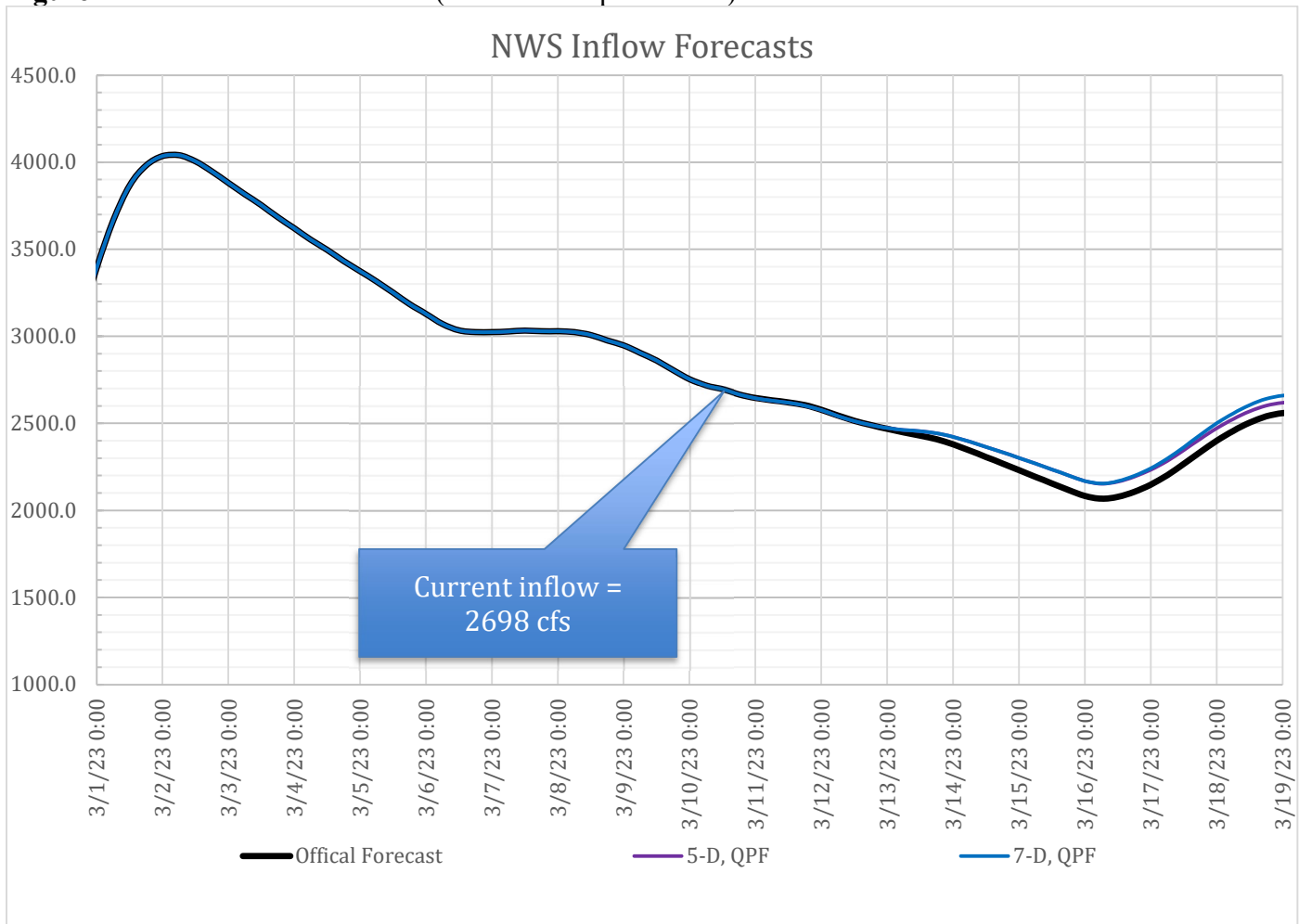
*\*This Update is based on the current forecast and will be adjusted based on future forecasts and rainfall.*

### Summary

There is approximately 0.25" of rain forecasted in the watershed for the next week. The current inflow forecast continues to slowly drop over the next 7 days. Lakes are expected to drop to near the 4.5' level based on the 7 Day forecast. McHenry pool will hold at approximately 3.2'. Gates will be maintained in an attempt to keep maximum outflows while keeping the Lower River below 4.0' on the Tailwater Gage. As water levels drop on the lakes, the gates will be adjusted to provide more relief to the Lower River. All forecasts are subject to change as NWS forecasts are revised.

### Current Conditions and NWS Forecasts

Figure 1: NWS Forecasted Inflows (in cubic feet per second)



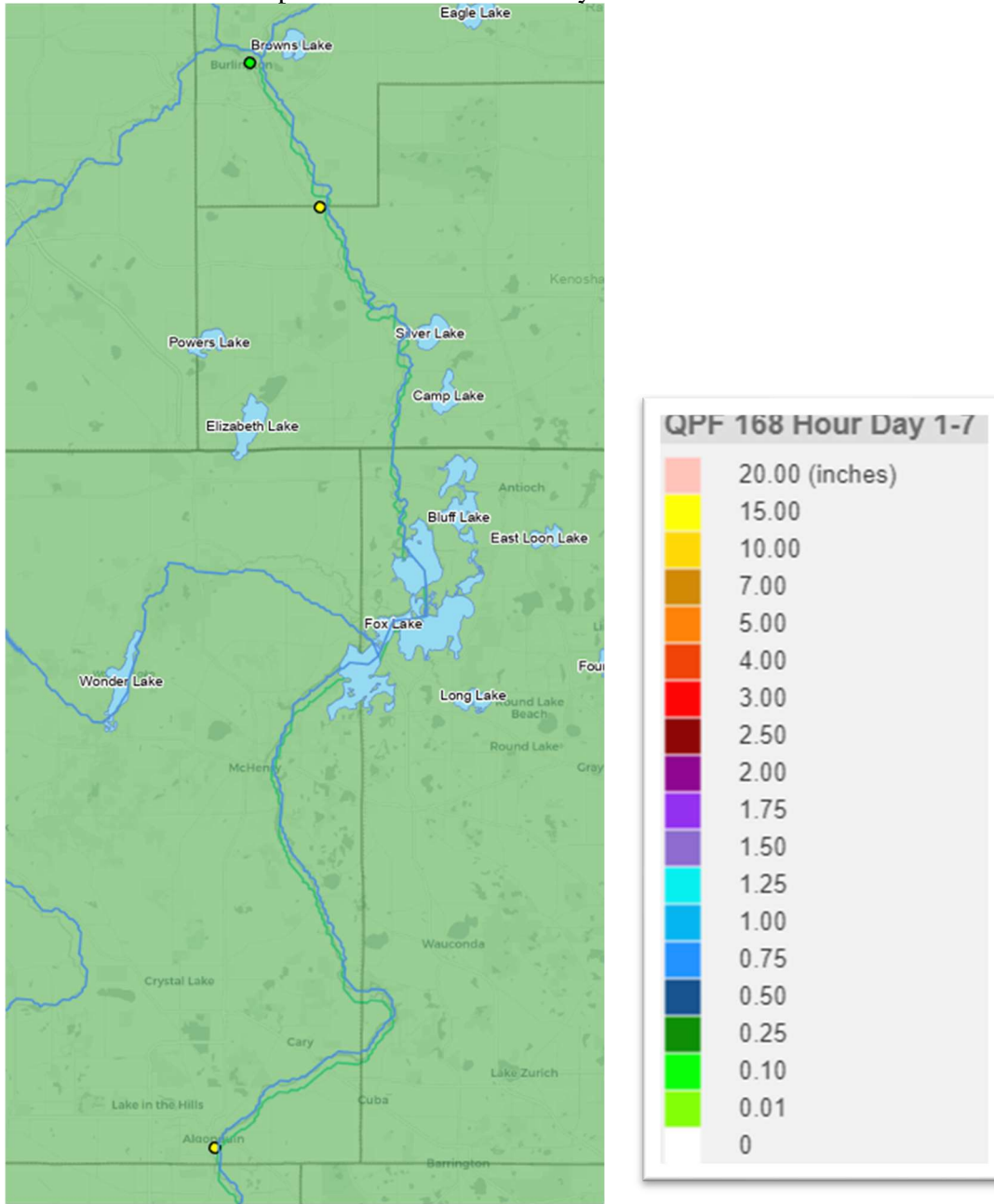
## Current Conditions

Measured flow on the Fox River near New Munster, WI is 2000 cfs and Nippersink Creek near Spring Grove is 242 cfs. The total net system inflows are 2698 cfs; the outflows at Stratton Dam are 2657 cfs. The Fox Lake stage is 4.69 ft; the Stratton Dam Tailwater stage is 3.95 ft. The Fox River at the Algonquin Dam headwater stage is 1.66 ft.

## Forecast

Inflows are forecasted to fall over the next 7 days, as shown above in **Figure 1**. The NWS 7-day forecast is predicting near 0.25” precipitation for the Fox River watershed as shown on **Figure 2**.

**Figure 2:** Forecasted Precipitation for the Next 7 days



Source:

<https://viewer.weather.noaa.gov/general#/layers=35225+40090+40146+40091+42149+42377+40134&x=-88.48082&y=42.38798&z=9.6&panel=layer>

## System Outlook

### Chain O' Lakes Outlook

Water levels in the chain are forecasted to slowly drop to near Summer Pool levels by the end of next week.

### McHenry Pool Area Outlook

The Upper River near the McHenry Pool is currently at 3.17 as the system has started to stabilize. The pool is expected to remain near 3.25'.

### Lower River Outlook

The new gates at Stratton are fully open and the Obermeyer no longer being utilized in order to reduce tailwater height to under 4.0', with the ultimate goal of being below 3.7'. Water levels will remain near this level to create storage for upcoming spring rainfall events.

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

Thank you,

Aaron Rotherham

Office of Water Resources

Illinois Department of Natural Resources

<https://www.dnr.illinois.gov/WaterResources/Pages/StrattonLockandDam.aspx>