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**September 23, 2023**

The lake level this morning was 2.73 ft above the Oshkosh datum. Inflows to the lake were estimated at approximately 1,820 cubic feet per second (cfs), while outflows at the USGS Appleton gage were measured at 1,430 cfs. Evaporation is contributing approximately 680 cfs of additional water leaving the lake (based on a 4-day calculated average).

The level of Lake Winnebago continued to drop through last weekend from 2.75 ft on Friday morning down to a low of 2.73 ft by Monday morning. The Lake Poygan level fell roughly a quarter (1/4) of a foot over last weekend, and the level of Lake Winnebago balanced up slightly. Lake Winnebago actually ended up beating predictions by receiving about 0.10 inch of rain (per National Weather Service estimates) on Saturday evening. USACE rain gages recorded as high as 0.20 inch [at Oshkosh]. There was also some trace (up to 0.03") rain that fell in the watershed through this week. However, the small amount of precipitation had little effect on flows in the tributary rivers to Lake Winnebago. The rest of the week was dry, and lake levels continued dropping from 2.75 ft on Monday to 2.73 ft this morning. The level of Lake Poygan rose back to nearly a quarter (1/4) of a foot higher than Lake Winnebago on Tuesday, and the average hourly level of Lake Winnebago dropped as low as 2.69 ft but has since recovered.

The two largest tributaries to Lake Winnebago are the Upper Fox River and the Wolf River. The calculated annual mean flows (to date) in water year 2023 for the Upper Fox River at Berlin and Wolf River at New London are 1,079 and 1,423 cfs, respectively. That would make this water year the lowest mean flows in the Upper Fox River since 2015 and in the Wolf River since 2009. However, both will be well above the historic lowest annual mean flows of 559 cfs for the Upper Fox River in 1964 and 866 cfs for the Wolf River in 1931.

There were no gate changes made at either Menasha Dam or Neenah Dam this week, and the current gate setting is zero (0) Menasha tainter gates, zero (0) Neenah needle gates, and one-half (0.5) Neenah tainter gates open. The target elevation for Lake Winnebago is 2.83 ft for October 1st with a range between 2.70 and 2.95 ft. As of today, the average level of Lake Winnebago matches the bottom of the strategy band at 2.73 ft.

Today, weather conditions will be mostly sunny, with a high near 76. Light east wind will become southeast 6 to 11 mph in the morning, gusting as high as 18 mph. The extended forecast is partly sunny skies with highs in the low-70s, dropping to the high-60s next week. The probability for rain showers remains low, with a slight (20%) chance tonight into Saturday. The National Weather Service Quantitative Precipitation Forecast (QPF) only forecasts an average of 0.09 inch precipitation on Lake Winnebago over the next 5 days.

Forecasts and basin conditions will be reassessed on Monday through coordination with the Lake Michigan Project Office (Appleton, WI). Please check this page for weekly updates regarding basin conditions and gate operations.

### 2022 - 2023 Lake Winnebago Stage with # of Open Gates

