Illinois Department of Natural Resources
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Fox River Status Update
June 25th, 2026

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

Summary

There is currently less than 0.10" of rain forecasted for the lakes over the next 7 Days. Inflows are forecasted to jump to around 2000 cfs by 6/26 and then start dropping off (Figure 1). Fox Lake (Lake Villa) is currently forecasted to peak near 4.35' with the Upper River (Johnsburg) and Pool (McHenry) being slightly lower (Figure 2). The Lower River is forecasted to peak near 2.50' (6/28) on the tailwater gage (Figure 3).

Current Conditions and NWS Forecasts

Figure 1: National Weather Service Forecasted Inflows

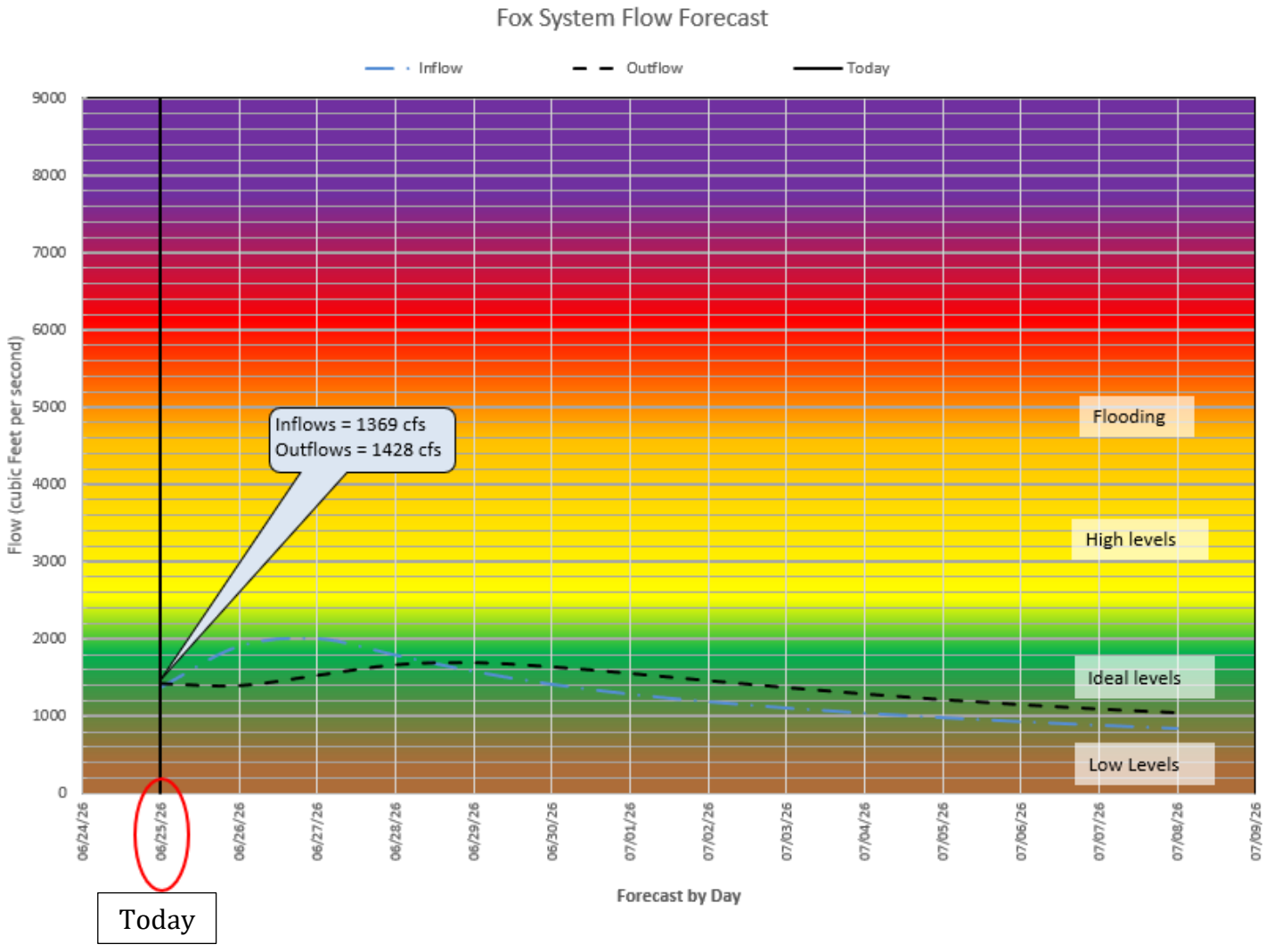


Figure 2: Estimated Upstream Gage Heights

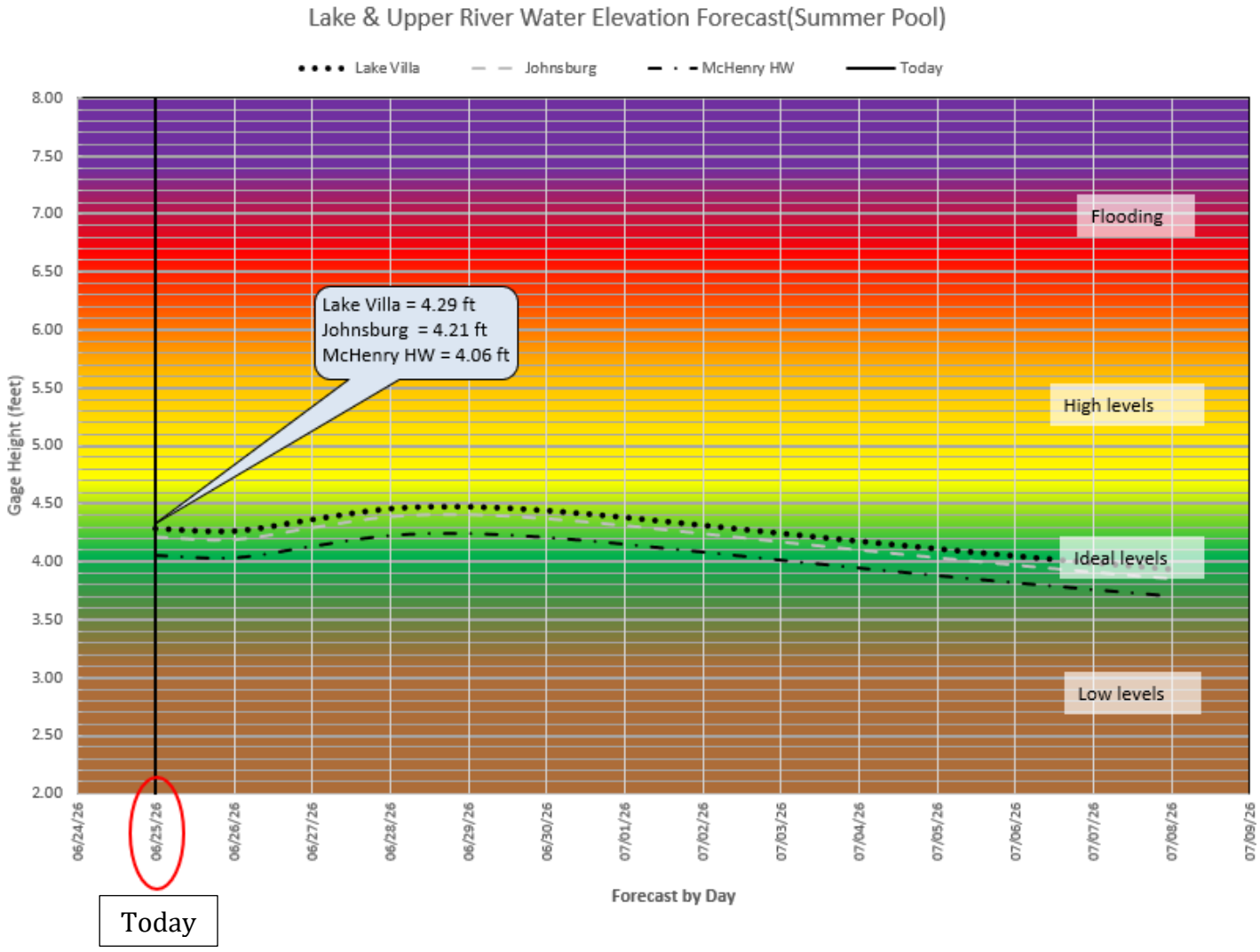
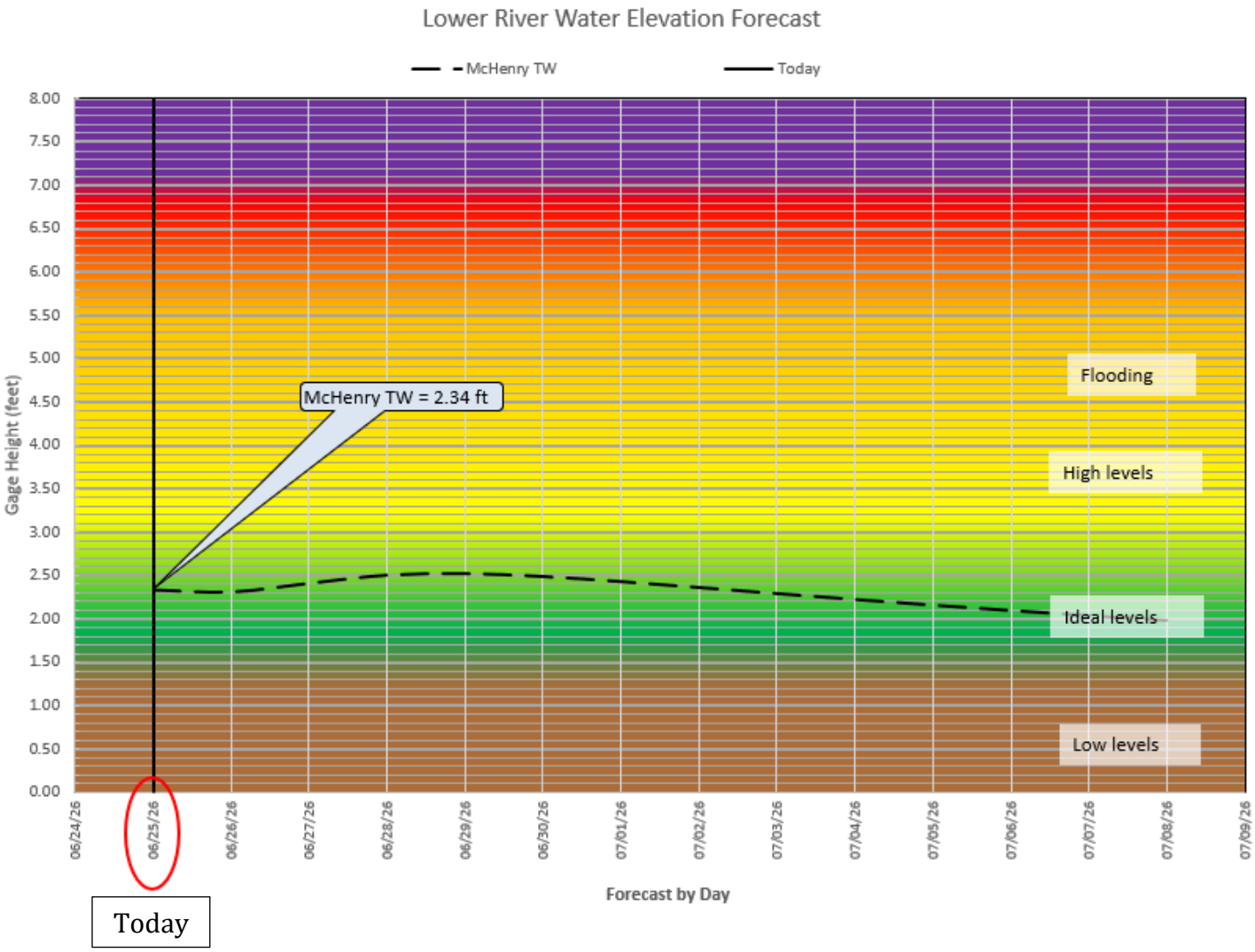


Figure 3: Estimated Downstream Gage Height



Current Conditions
Measured flow on the Fox River near New Munster, WI is 1050 cfs and Nippersink Creek near Spring Grove is 384 cfs. The total Stratton inflow is 1369 cfs. The Fox Lake stage is 4.29 ft; the Stratton Dam Tailwater stage is 2.34 ft. The Fox River at the Algonquin Dam headwater stage is 1.99 ft.

Forecast
Inflows will peak over the next couple of days and then begin dropping, as shown in **Figure 1**. Fox Lake will peak at 4.35' with areas upstream of the dam remaining a little lower than the lakes, as shown above in **Figure 2**. The Lower River will peak near 2.50', **Figure 3**. The 7-Day Precipitation forecast is showing less than 0.10" of rain for the lakes and lower river over the next week.

System Outlook

Chain O' Lakes Outlook
Expect water levels near 4.35' and then slowly drop.

McHenry Pool Area Outlook
The Pool and Upper River will be somewhat lower than the lakes.

Lower River Outlook
The lower river is forecasted to peak at 2.50' and then slowly decline.

IDNR-OWR will continue to monitor conditions and make changes as necessary pending future forecasts and conditions. Future updates will be made should forecasts change.

Thank you,

Aaron Rotherham
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