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October 9, 2020

The level of Lake Winnebago near the bottom of the strategy band this morning at 2.75 feet. This week saw sunny skies with above average temperatures, and no precipitation over the lake itself. Warm temperatures are forecasted to continue throughout the weekend. The windy conditions seen this week are also expected to continue through the weekend. Monday brings a chance of rain and thunderstorms with about 0.5" of precipitation currently forecasted.

The strong winds in various directions caused significant fluctuation in the gage readings around the lake this week, making an average gage reading less reliable in determining inflows. Using a mass balance approach, inflows have averaged around 4,000 cfs over the past week. Outflows, as measured at the USGS Appleton gage, averaged around 4,000 cfs this morning, decreasing from around 5,200 earlier this week. Over the weekend, evaporation is expected to contribute to around 600 cfs of additional water leaving the lake.

A tainter gate was closed at the Menasha Dam on Tuesday, October 6th, and an additional 5/8 of a gate was closed Friday, October 9th. This allows lake levels to remain in the bottom of the strategy band over the holiday weekend. The current gate configuration is 1 3/8 tainter gates open at the Menasha dam, half a tainter gate open at the Neenah dam, and no needle gates open at the Neenah dam. Models are predicting a minimal decline over the weekend before slightly bouncing back near current elevations with Monday's forecasted rain. Weather forecasts and basin conditions will be re-assessed Tuesday.

Please check this page for weekly updates regarding basin conditions and gate movements.

2020 - 2021 Lake Winnebago Stage with # of Open Gates

