

UIRWMA | Agenda

Meeting date time 11/9/2017 Business Meeting 5:00-5:20 PM Presentations 5:25 | Meeting location Decorah City Council Chambers

BUSINESS MEETING

Board Attendees:

Jan McGovern, John Beard, Andy Carlson, Mark Jensen, Jack Knight

1.) Agenda topic Call Meeting to Order | Presenter John Beard

2.) Agenda topic Approval of Minutes 8/10/17 meeting | Presenter John Beard

Discussion:

Action items

Motion

Second

Approve Minutes from 8/10/2017 meeting

1st Jan McGovern

2nd Mark Jensen

3.) Agenda topic Update and Discussion of Engineering Technician – Extending job announcement | Presenter: Matt Frana

Discussion:

- Extending job posting to increase candidate pool. Extended until Nov. 24th

Action items

Motion

Second

UIRWMA Board empowers the WMA hiring committee and the Winneshiek County SWCD to conduct interviews and initiate hiring process regarding the Engineering Technician position. WMA board member Jack Knight will serve on the hiring committee on behalf of the UIRWMA board.

1st – Mark Jensen 2nd – Jack Knight

4.) Agenda topic Discussion of Purchasing AGREN Pond Builder program | Presenter: Matt Frana

Discussion:

- New program will create efficiency in generating accurate estimates.
- Will look to purchase a single user function on the pond program only for Winneshiek County

Action items

Motion

Second

UIRWMA board moves to purchase the AGREN Pond Builder program for Winneshiek County area as initial phase.

1st – Mark Jensen 2nd – Andy Carlson

UIRWMA | Agenda

5.) Agenda topic Set Next Meeting Time/Date and Adjourn Business Meeting | Presenter John Beard

Discussion: Meeting set for February 8th at 5:00 pm at Decorah City Council Chambers

Action items

Motion

Second

Meeting Date: 2/8/2018 at 5:00 pm Location: *Decorah City Council Chambers*

1st – Mark Jensen

2nd – Jack Knight

Presentations:

Update from Iowa Flood Center | Presenters Antonio Arenas, Craig Just, Ashlee Johannes, Valerie Decker

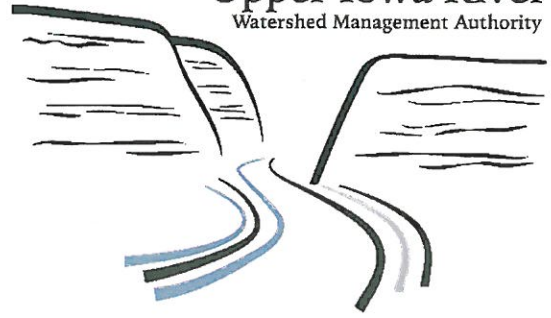
- Updates
 - Hydrologic assessment update (Antonio Arenas)
 - Flood resilience update (Craig Just/Ashlee Johannes)
 - Survey results (Valerie Decker)

Update from Northeast Iowa RC&D | Presenter Megan Buckingham and Tori Hartman

- Upper Iowa River Watershed Plan Development Update

Upper Iowa River WMA Coordinator Update | Presenter Matt Frana

- Coordinator Update



UIR-WMA Meeting 11/12/17

Matt Frana - Project Coordinator Update:

Project Progress

Road Structures:

- Met with county engineers (Winneshiek and Allamakee) to develop list of potential locations.
- Sent out letters to landowners next to potential sites.
- Meet with Landowners.
- Checked out sites with county engineer and NRCS engineer to determine best locations to start with.

✓ 1 site surveyed and preliminary design (Coon Creek)

Private sites:

- Been mostly working off list from NRCS of previous interest in ponds/structures
- Contacted and met with several landowners.
- Went with technician out to sites to check for feasibility.

✓ 1 site surveyed.

Public Outreach:

- ✓ Calmar Lyons - 8/28/17
- ✓ County Supervisors - 10/2/17
- ✓ Iowa Coldwater Conservancy - 10/21/17
- ✓ Calmar CFS School Lego League (Water Cycle) - 10/26/17
- ✓ Trout Unlimited - 11/2/17

Upcoming

- ✓ Working with Iowa Learning Farms (ISU) to set up cover crop field day (Decorah) - 11/21/17
- ✓ RC&D Upper Iowa River Watershed Open House - Nov 14th, 27th, & 28th

NRCS address 12-30

Workshop/Meetings

- ✓ WMA Project Coordinator Meeting - Soap Creek Watershed Projects 9/11-9/12
- ✓ Project Coordinator Meeting - Easter Lake Project (Des Moines) 9/14-9/15
- ✓ 2017 Iowa Watershed Academy - 10/24 - 10/25

Conservation Technician Position posted

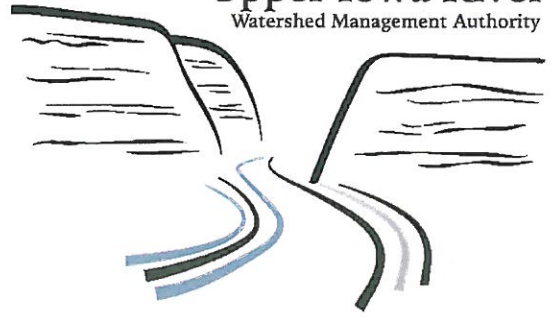
- Closes 11/28/17. Anticipated Hire 1/15/18

Future Plans:

- Follow up with current contacts and start making new ones.
- Start developing info sheet about Bear Creek Watershed Project
- Start developing newsletter/Facebook page.

Upper Iowa River

Watershed Management Authority



**Position Opening Announcement
Upper Iowa River Watershed Management Authority:**

Conservation Technician

Announcement Date: November 3, 2017

Application Closing Date: November 28, 2017

Anticipated Date of Hire: January 15, 2018

Winneshiek Soil and Water Conservation District seeks a Conservation Technician to assist in the survey and design of conservation practices that will address the goals of the Iowa Watershed Approach project for the Upper Iowa River Watershed. The project will address areas of environmental concern that may include but are not limited to flood reduction, nutrient loading, sedimentation, and other hydrologic, soil conservation and water quality issues for the Upper Iowa River Watershed Management Authority (WMA).

Work Examples:

- Conducts preliminary field surveys in order to develop cost estimates and obtains detailed information for the design of practices; develops design computations from survey notes, determines grades, maps and measures drainage areas and completes bench level surveys as required in order to assist staff in the layout of conservation practices including ponds, wetlands, grade stabilization structures, terraces, waterways, contour lines, etc.
- Meets with landowners on installing and maintaining basic types of soil and water conservation practices and systems within the Soil and Water Conservation District and Iowa Watersheds Approach.
- Oversees contractor construction of conservation practices and inspects completed practices for compliance to Natural Resource Conservation Service specifications.

Competencies Required:

- Knowledge of engineering survey techniques as applied to the survey, design and layout of conservation practices.
- Knowledge of conservation practices and systems including ponds, wetlands, grade stabilization structures, terraces, waterways, contour lines, etc.
- Ability to learn and apply policies, procedures, and eligibility standards associated with district soil and water conservation programs.
- Ability to collect and analyze field data in relation to designing and implementing conservation practices.
- Ability to use and maintain a variety of field surveying equipment.
- Ability to interpret soil data, standards and specifications for use in laying out conservation measures.
- Ability to work out of doors under all types of weather conditions.

- Ability to establish and maintain effective working relationships with agency staff, contractors and landowners. Works and communicates in a polite, courteous, and cooperative manner. Committed to quality service.
- Displays a high level of initiative, effort and commitment towards completing assignments efficiently. Works with minimal supervision. Demonstrates responsible behavior and attention to detail.
- Responds appropriately to supervision. Makes an effort to follow policy and cooperate with supervisors.

Applicant Qualifications:

The position requires a degree in Environmental/Civil Engineering, related discipline, or equivalent experience in engineering field survey work. Ideal candidates will have experience surveying and designing conservation practices including ponds, grade stabilization structures, wetlands, waterways, terraces, and other similar projects that address natural resource concerns in accordance with NRCS standards and specs. Experience with Laser Survey, Trimble GPS, AutoCAD, and ArcGIS is a plus. A valid driver's license is also required for the position.

Position Information:

This is a full-time position that will be in effect over the remaining 4 years of the Iowa Watershed Approach program. The successful applicant will be housed in the Winneshiek SWCD office and will adhere to the employment policies and benefit system of the SWCD. Primary work hours will be during normal business hours (Monday - Friday, 8:00 am – 4:30 pm), however, early morning, evening and weekend work, with occasional overnight trips, will be occasionally required throughout the year to meet with local leaders and boards of political subdivisions, watershed committees, conservation districts, interested stakeholders, various state and federal agencies, and to attend trainings. The successful applicant must have a valid driver's license.

Compensation and Benefits:

- Competitive salary commensurate with education, experience and skills.
- Supportive communities and partner organizations
- Benefit package including sick/vacation time, paid holidays and retirement.

Application Process:

- To apply, please submit each of the following **via email** to Paul Berland, Project Administrator, Northeast Iowa RC&D
 - cover letter
 - resume
 - three professional references
- Submit all three pieces *together* no later than **November 28th, 2017** to:

Paul Berland:
pberland@northeastiowarcd.org
563-864-7112

Winneshiek SWCD does not discriminate against any qualified employee or applicant for employment because of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, sexual orientation, gender identity, familial status, physical or mental disability. All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, sexual orientation, gender identity, physical or mental disability, or familial status.

Upper Iowa River Watershed Management Authority



Planning Update
November 9, 2017

Ross Evelsizer, Watershed Coordinator
ross@northeastiowarcd.org

Megan Buckingham, Watershed Outreach Coordinator
megan@northeastiowarcd.org

Tori Hartman, GIS Analyst & Project Technician
tori@northeastiowarcd.org

Northeast Iowa RC&D: 563-864-7112

Northeast Iowa RC&D



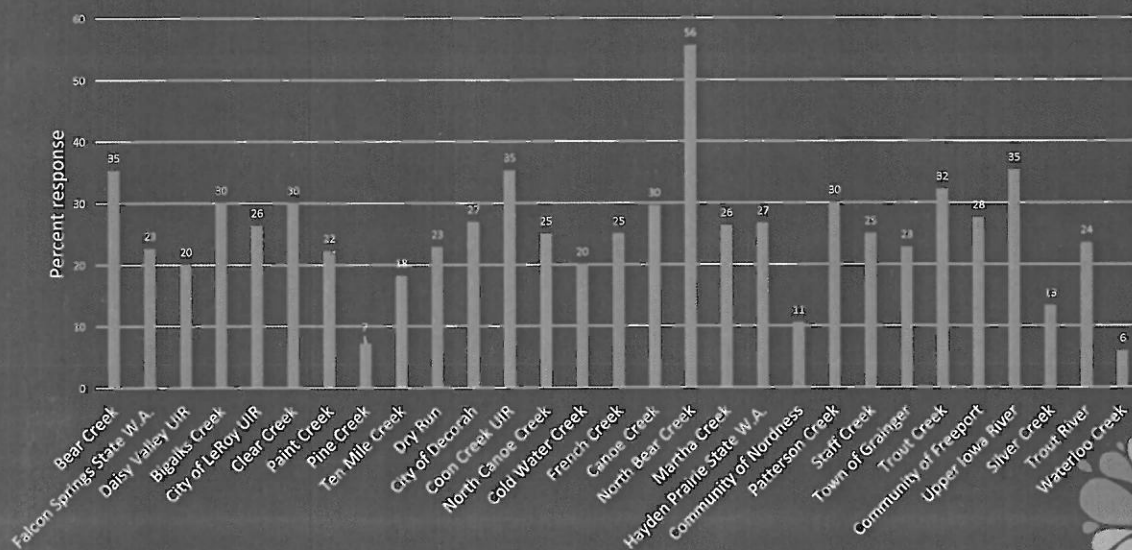
Landowner Survey

- 1,300 surveys mailed to landowners in the Upper Iowa Watershed.
- 304 surveys returned, 23% response rate.
- Results from the survey help us understand landowners' experiences, attitudes, and willingness to participate in solutions.

Northeast Iowa RC&D



Percent response from each HUC 12 sub-watershed



Northeast Iowa RC&D

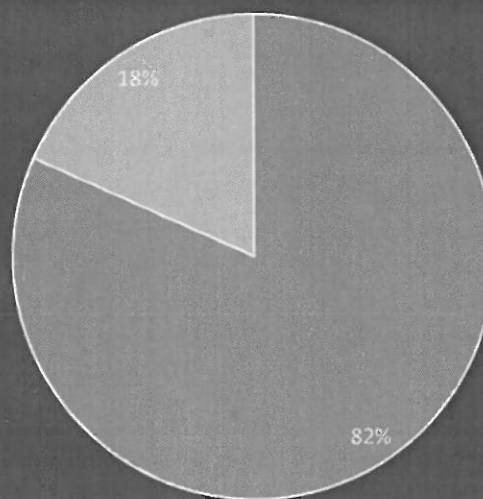


Number of respondents who reside in the UIR watershed

41% of respondents own farmland.

Nearly 40% of respondents live in a town, city or village.

44% of non-residents live over 30 miles away from watershed.



■ Residents ■ Non-Residents

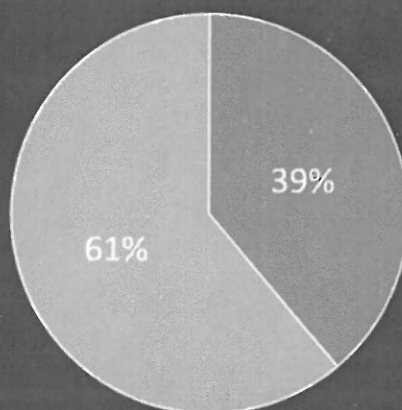
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Respondents whose land or home has been affected by flooding in the last five years

Nearly half those respondents experienced flooding 2-3 times.

80% of respondents know someone who has been impacted by flooding.

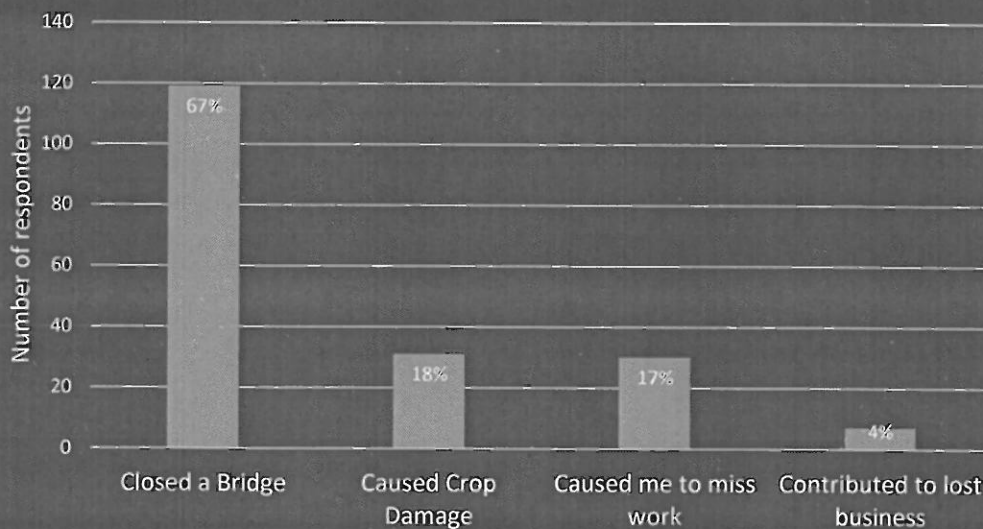


□ Affected by flooding ■ Not affected by flooding

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How flooding has impacted residents in the UIR

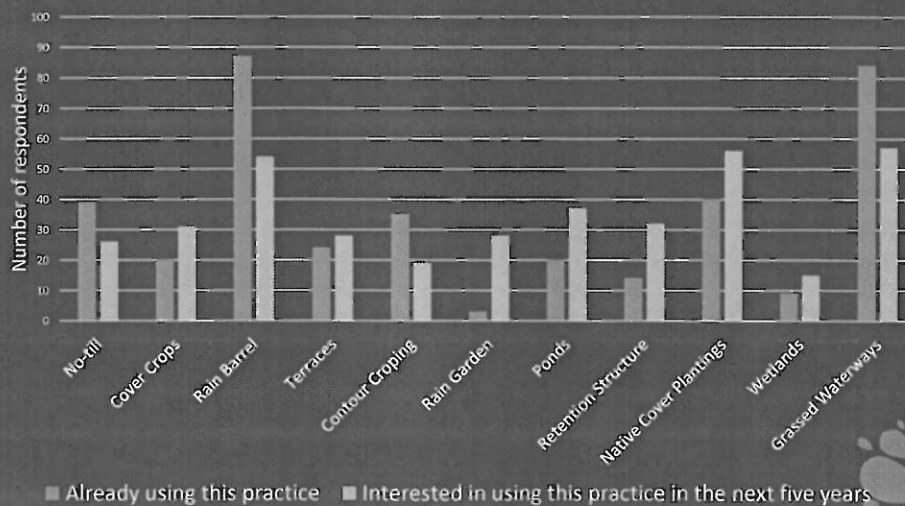


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Practices farmers are using or are interested in using.

68% of those who responded are interested in using at least one conservation practice on their land.

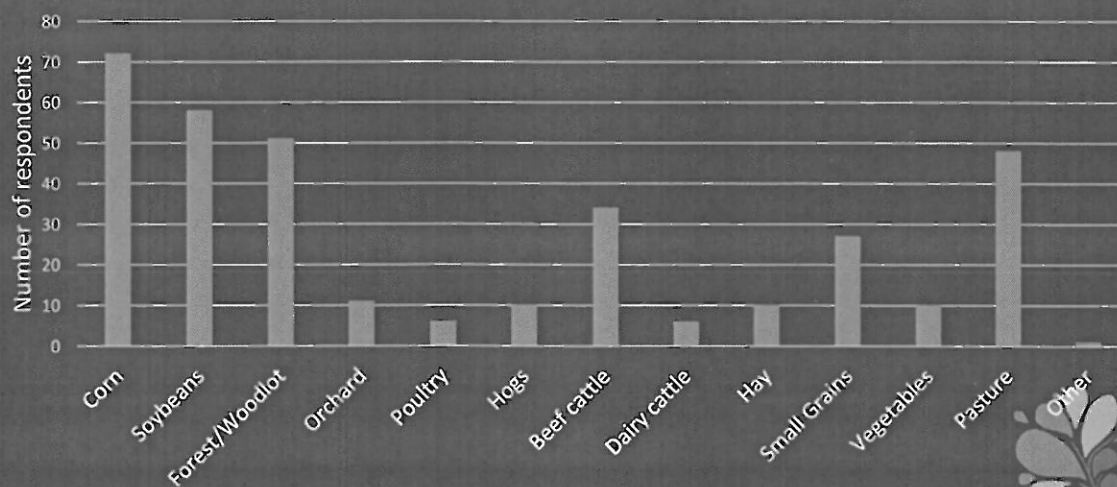


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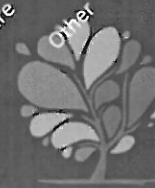


Crops and livestock raised on respondents' farms

41% of respondents farm or own farmland.



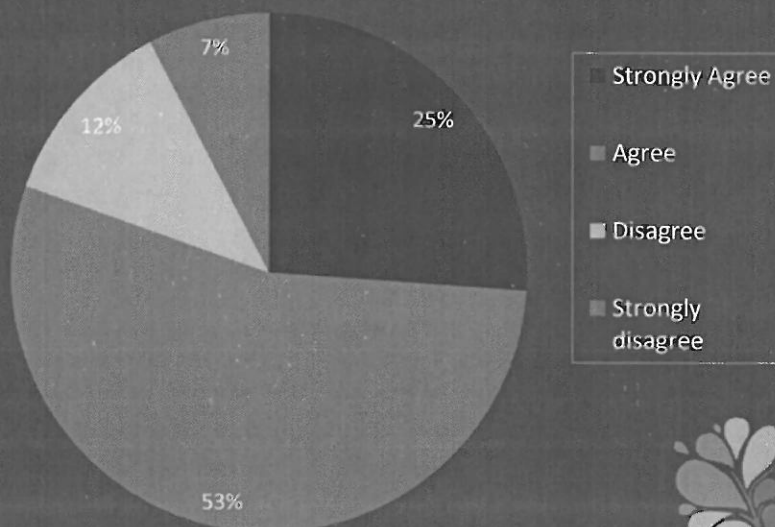
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Farmers interested in receiving conservation assistance

Nearly 80% of farmers and farmland owners are interested in potentially receiving funding for adopting conservation practices.

54% of farmers said cost was a limiting factor when implementing conservation practices.

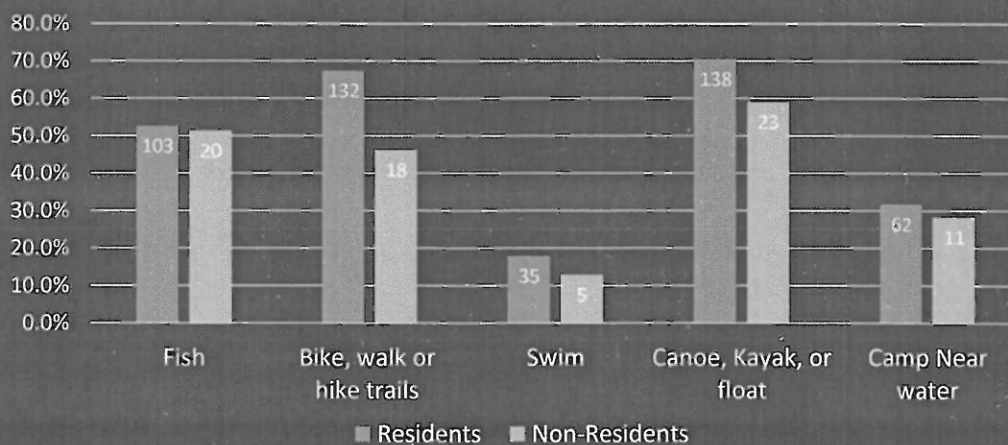


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How Residents and Non-residents recreate in the UIR Watershed

73% of respondents are involved in some form of outdoor recreation in the Upper Iowa Watershed.

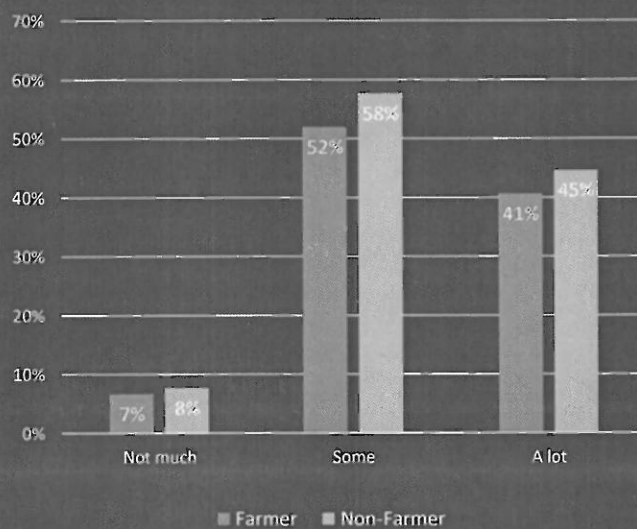


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Views about the contribution to flooding in the UIR Watershed

Land Use

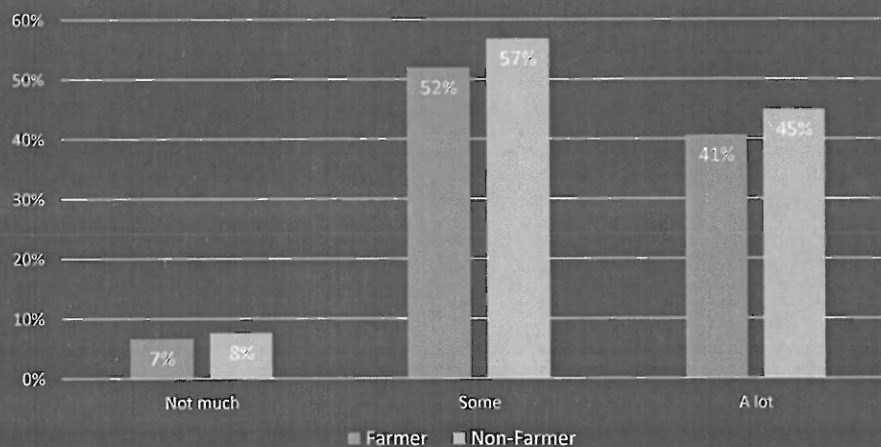


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Views about the contribution to flooding in the UIR Watershed

Tillage Practices

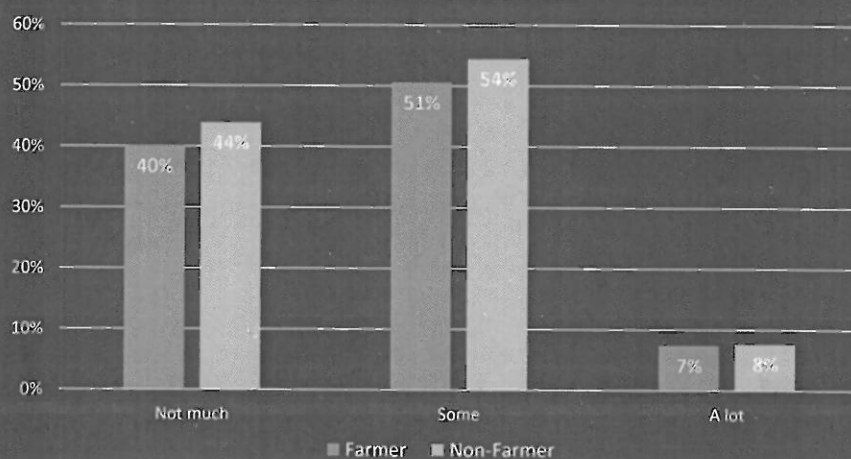


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Views about the contribution to flooding in the UIR Watershed

Control Structures

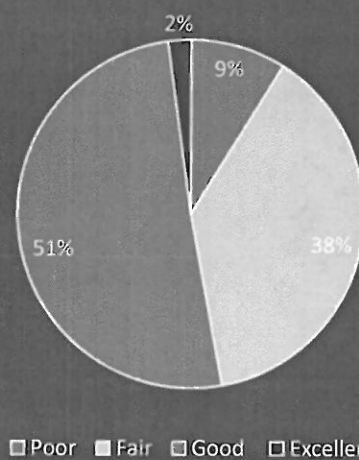


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Landowners view on the quality of surface waters in the UIR Watershed

53% of respondents think that the quality of surface water in the UIR Watershed is good or excellent.



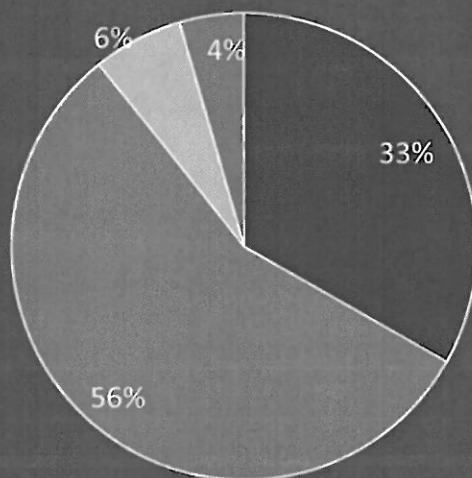
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Flooding is a problem in the Upper Iowa Watershed

89% of respondents think flooding is a problem.

80% of respondents think that more can be done to reduce flood risk in the watershed.



Strongly Agree Agree Disagree Strongly Disagree

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Landowner Survey

When asked if they were interested in learning more about how they could reduce flooding and/or improve water quality:

- 60% of overall respondents agreed they wanted to learn more!

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Landowner Survey

The full landowner survey report will be included in the plan.

Data may be helpful in future efforts to:

- Prioritize sub-watersheds for future projects
- Demonstrate need & interest to secure funding
- Shape outreach, education and communications



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Upper Iowa Watershed Open Houses

Wings Bar and Restaurant-Dorchester, Iowa
Tuesday, November 14th, 12:00-1:30pm

Decorah City Council Chambers
Monday, November 27th, 7:00-8:30pm

Cresco United Methodist Church (next to library)
Tuesday, November 28th, 6:30-8:00pm



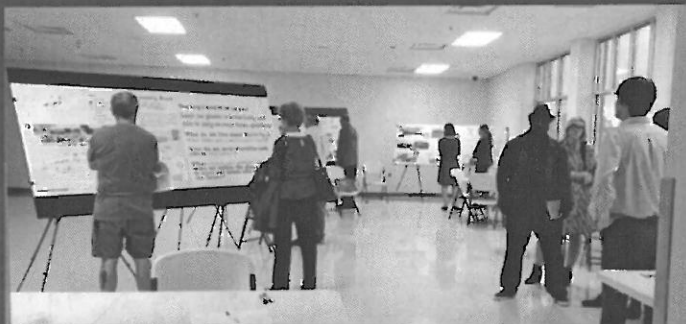
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Upper Iowa Watershed Open Houses

Inform & educate people about their watershed!

Gather input from the public:

- What do they value?
- What concerns do they have?
Flooding? Water quality?
- What do they want to do on their own land and in their communities?



Northeast Iowa RC&D

Upper Iowa River Watershed Management Authority



Questions?

Ross Evlaiser, Watershed Coordinator
ross@northeastiowarcd.org

Megan Buckingham, Watershed Outreach Coordinator
megan@northeastiowarcd.org

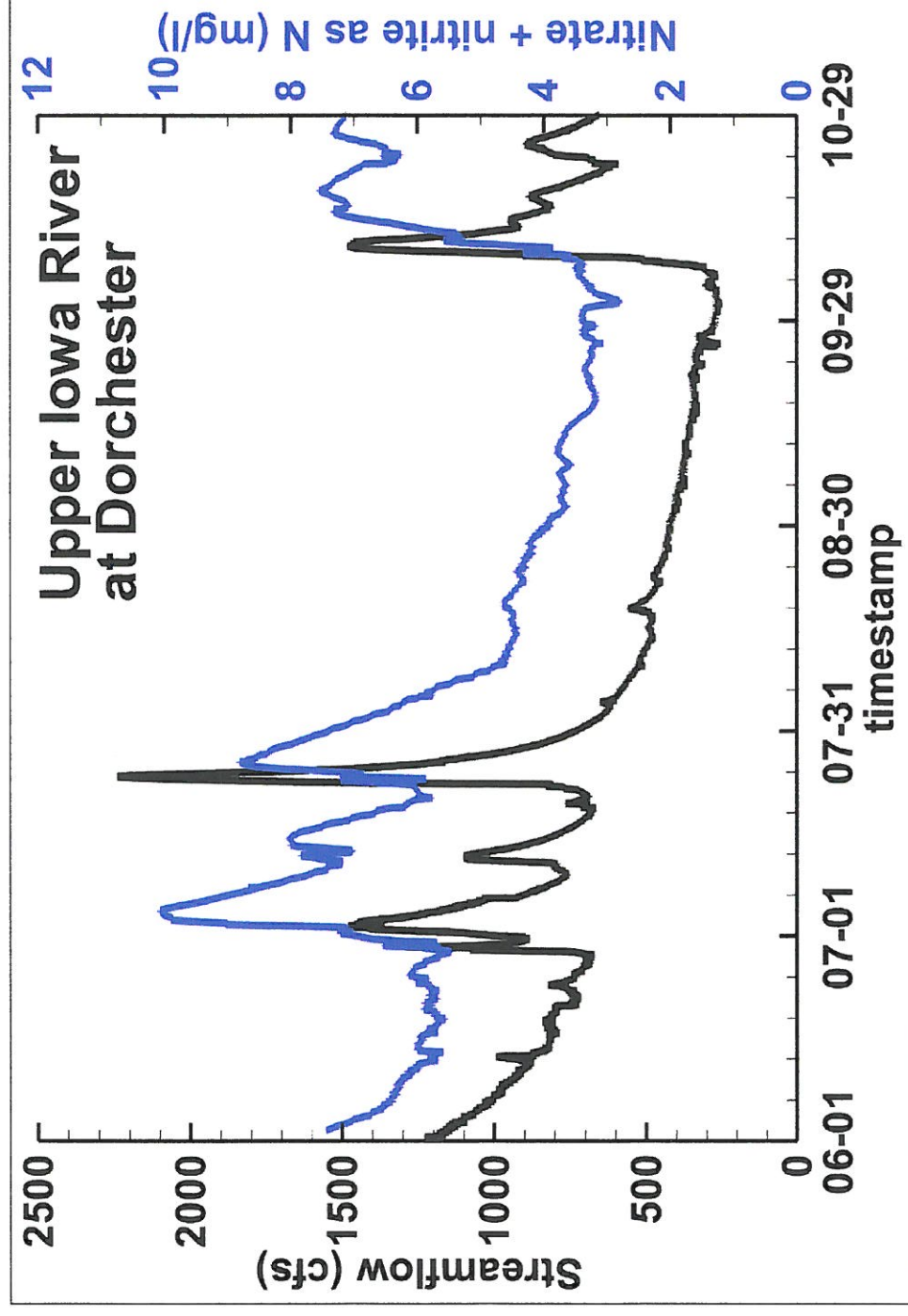
Tori Hartman, GIS Analyst & Project Technician
tori@northeastiowarcd.org

Northeast Iowa RC&D: 563-864-7112



Northeast Iowa RC&D

Iowa Water Quality Information System / 2017 Data



The Iowa Watershed Approach

Iowa Water Quality Information System / 2017 Data

