Landowner Survey

- 1,300 surveys mailed to landowners in the Upper Wapsi Watershed.
- 251 surveys returned, 19.3% response rate.
- Results from the survey help us understand landowners’ experiences, attitudes, and willingness to participate in solutions.
Landowner Survey

Response Rate by Subwatershed

- West Branch Buffalo Creek: 11% (38% response rate)
- Walton Creek-WR: 13% (27% response rate)
- Village of Tripoli-WR: 15% (23% response rate)
- Village of Ionia-WR: 17% (25% response rate)
- Village of Deerfield-WR: 15% (25% response rate)
- Upper Crane Creek: 17% (24% response rate)
- Spring Creek-Little WR: 16% (20% response rate)
- Smith Creek-WR: 18% (25% response rate)
- Sand Creek: 18% (33% response rate)
- Otterville Bridge State Access-WR: 17% (25% response rate)
- Nugents Creek-Buffalo Creek: 13% (23% response rate)
- Middle Crane Creek: 17% (23% response rate)
- Malone Creek-WR: 13% (23% response rate)
- Lower Crane Creek: 10% (27% response rate)
- Headwaters Otter Creek: 13% (27% response rate)
- Etter Creek-WR: 13% (27% response rate)
- East Branch Buffalo Creek: 13% (27% response rate)
- Camp Creek-WR: 13% (30% response rate)
- Bruggeman County Park-WR: 20% (33% response rate)

Northeast Iowa RC&D
1 in 4 respondents owns farmland.

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

21% of respondents say their primary residence is outside the watershed.
24% of respondents have been impacted by flooding in the last 5 years.

Nearly half those respondents experienced flooding 3 or more times.
More than half of respondents reported that recent flooding had impacted them in one of the following ways:

- Closed a road or bridge they use regularly – 48%
- Caused crop damage on their land – 13%
- Caused them to miss work – 6%
- Contributed to lost business – 3%
Nearly 70% of those who responded say they know someone else in the watershed who has experienced flooding in the last 5 years.

Nearly a third of those who said they did not know anyone else in the watershed who had experienced flooding do not live in the watershed.

Landowners who know someone else impacted by recent flooding:
- 69% know someone else impacted by flooding
- 31% do not know anyone else in the watershed impacted by flooding
- 32% of those who do not know anyone else in the watershed impacted by flooding do not live in the watershed.
Landowner Survey

We asked landowners what conservation practices they were already using on their land. Over half of those who responded were using at least one practice to slow or reduce runoff.

We also asked landowners if they are interested in using conservation practices in the future. 67% of those who responded are interested in using at least one conservation practice on their land.
Landowner Survey

Practices landowners are using now and want to use in the future

- No-Till
- Cover Crops
- Contour-Cropping
- Terraces
- Ponds
- Retention Structures
- Grassed Waterway Buffers
- Native Cover Planting
- Wetlands
- Rain Barrels
- Rain Gardens

- Already using this practice
- Interested in using this practice in the next 5 years

Northeast Iowa RC&D
Landowner Survey

42% of respondents farm or own farmland.

Crops and livestock raised on respondents’ farms

- Corn: 70%
- Soybeans: 60%
- Forest/Woodlot: 15%
- Orchard: 20%
- Poultry: 10%
- Hog: 5%
- Beef cattle: 15%
- Dairy cows: 10%
- Hay: 5%
- Small grains: 5%
- Vegetables: 5%
- Pasture: 5%
- Other: 5%
Nearly 80% of farmers and farmland owners who responded say they are interested in potentially receiving funding for adopting conservation practices.

Farmers and farmland owners were also asked about their experience with existing conservation programs, farm organizations, and obstacles to implementing conservation.
68% of respondents are involved in some form of outdoor recreation in the Upper Wapsipinicon Watershed.

- 44% fish in the watershed
- 37% bike, hike or walk trails near water
Landowner Survey

Landowners were asked their opinion on a number of questions related to flooding and water quality, including:

• the extent to which factors, such as urban stormwater runoff and land use, contribute to flooding,

• whether or not flooding or poor water quality are problems in the Upper Wapsipinicon River Watershed,

• and whether or not enough is being done to address problems with flooding and water quality.
Landowner Survey

84% of respondents think flooding is a problem in the Upper Wapsi Watershed.
60% of respondents think surface water quality in the Upper Wapsi Watershed is poor or fair.
When asked if they were interested in learning more about how they could reduce flooding and/or improve water quality:

- 48% of overall respondents agreed they wanted to learn more!
- 53% of those who have been impacted by flooding in the last 5 years agreed.
- 58% of respondents who live in the watershed agreed.
- 61% of farmers and those who own farmland agreed.
- 40% of those who say flooding is a problem agreed.
- 43% of those who say they recreate in the watershed agreed.
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
Wapsi Watershed Open Houses

New Hampton Public Library
Thursday, November 16th, 1:00-2:30pm

Bremer County ISU Extension, Tripoli Iowa
Monday, November 20th, 1:00-2:30pm

Riceville Public Library
Thursday, November 30th, 7:00-8:30pm

Independence Public Library
Wednesday, December 6th, 7:00-8:30pm
Wapsi Watershed Open Houses
Inform & educate people about their watershed!

Gather input from the public:
• What do they value in their watershed?
• What concerns do they have about their watershed? Flooding? Water quality?
• What do they want to do on their own land and in their communities to make their watershed more resilient?
Questions?

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