

EAST & WEST NISHNABOTNA RIVER WATERSHED MANAGEMENT COALITIONS

SPRING 2024
NEWSLETTER



WHERE THEY BOTH BEGAN

The East and West Nishnabotna River Watershed Management Coalitions were formed in 2017 as a part of a larger state-wide project titled the Iowa Watershed Approach. Through this program two sister but separate watershed coalitions formed: The East and the West Nishnabotna River Watershed Management Authorities.

The East Nishnabotna WMA has 19 members: 7 member SWCDs, 8 member counties, and 4 cities that represent 489,500 acres. The West Nishnabotna WMA has 19 members: 8 member SWCDs, 8 member counties, and 3 cities that represent 696,400 acres.

They are 2 of the 28 WMAs within Iowa making a difference at a larger watershed level on both water quality and flood resiliency.

After formation, the coalitions set off to put together a watershed plan for each with the assistance of the watershed coordinator Cara Morgan and JEO Consulting Group. The intent of this watershed plan was to include shovel ready projects and programs to have a plan with projects able to immediately be implemented and not simply have a plan to sit on the shelf.

The Nishnabotna Watershed Management and Flood Resiliency Plan won the American Planning Association - Iowa Chapter 2019 Environmental Planning Award. Today, 3 of the 5 priorities in the plans have been addressed.



Flood of 2019 in Hamburg, IA.

RCPP UNDERWAY!

Golden Hills RC&D, the Natural Resource Conservation Service, and Hungry Canyons Alliance, through a \$9 million Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) grant, will be helping landowners in the West Nishnabotna Watershed implement conservation practices. This 5-year project will provide cost share and technical assistance to landowners to implement practices that will improve water quality, increase flood resiliency, and protect public infrastructure

Landowners whose properties are at least 50% within the project area (shown at right) are eligible.

Golden Hills held five public informational meetings for landowners in 2023, two virtual public informational meetings in early 2024, and an open house in February 2024. More outreach events are being planned for later in the year, including a field day on May 23 near Hastings, IA about prairie strips.

More details about the program are available at:
<https://www.goldenhillsrcd.org/rcpp>
Contact Project Coordinator Shaun Ahern (shaun.ahern@goldenhillsrcd.org or 712-482-3029) or your local NRCS field office for more information or with any questions.

