

Minutes of Meeting
Of the Board of Managers
Of the Lower Heart River WRD
December 17, 2024
2:00 p.m. – Veteran’s Room
Mandan City Hall

Attendees: Bill Robinson, Chairman; Mitch Bitz, Manager; Ryan Jockers, Manager; Luci Snowden, Manager (virtual); Alan Kemmet, Manager (virtual) and Carol Beechie, Secretary/Treasurer.

Also in attendance: Dennis Reep, HDR Engineering; Karli Frohling, HDR Engineering (virtual); Bryan Kumm, HDR Engineering (virtual); Vicki Twerdochlib, HDR Engineering (virtual); Cole Higlin, Mandan Park District Executive Director; Patrick Martin, Morton County Emergency Manager and Jarek Wigness, City of Mandan.

The minutes of the November 26, 2024, Board Meeting were presented. Mitch Bitz made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Ryan Jockers. Motion passed unanimously.

The financial report for November 2024 and month bills were reviewed. Mitch Bitz made a motion to approve the financial report and the monthly bills as presented, seconded by Alan Kemmet. Motion passed unanimously.

Vouchers approved for payment:

HDR Engineering, Inc.	General Engineering Services-Task Order 3 November 3, 2024 to November 30, 2024	9030	1,452.50
HDR Engineering, Inc.	Flood Risk Design Phase 2 – Task Order 5 November 3, 2024 to November 30, 2024	9031	45,198.50
City of Mandan	Dike Maintenance – Auto Fuel	9032	116.09
William Robinson	4 th Quarter Salary	9033	461.75
Mitch Bitz	4 th Quarter Salary	9034	461.75
Ryan Jockers	4 th Quarter Salary	9035	277.05
Lucy Snowden	4 th Quarter Salary	9036	277.05
Alan Kemmet	4 th Quarter Salary	9037	277.05
Carol Beechie	4 th Quarter Salary	9038	1,092.31

Operations and Maintenance:

Manager Mitch Bitz stated he has been in communication with a potential candidate for the Lower Heart River maintenance position.

Update on Mandan Flood Risk Reduction Plan: Dennis Reep, HDR Engineering, provided a written update for the board.

Coordination: The East half of Memorial Highway project is scheduled to open bids on December 20, 2024. A meeting was held on December 6, 2024 with Mandan Parks on golf course options for Reach 6. A meeting was held on December 12, 2024 with City of Mandan to discuss funding process and FEMA

FMA grant re-imbursement. HDR will assemble a cash flow analysis. The Lower Heart website was recently updated by HDR. A quarterly update to the website will be completed going forward.

Design: Analyses of Toe Trench option for Reach 6 are complete with only quality control checks remaining to be completed and cost estimated to be calculated. All indications are it will be a viable option with comparable design, construction, and O&M costs. Updates to areas 1-5 are ongoing, including drainage structure erosion protection design, real estate coordination for temporary and permanent easements, identification of utility conflicts, and levee scour analysis and mitigation.

Funding: City of Mandan (Subgrantee) signed agreement with NDDDES (Grantee on behalf of FEMA) on November 21, 2024, for Phase 1 of the FMA grant in the amount of \$2.7M (federal dollars). Phase 1 includes pre-construction costs of design, permitting, administration and other activities.

Right of Way: Dan Vander Vorste stated that Mr. Johnson has approved and accepted the counteroffer presented by Lower Heart River WRD and the offer should be signed later this week. The board requested that Dan update the board upon signing of the counteroffer by Mr. Johnson. The Biver parcel process is progressing with an anticipated completion date ASAP.

Levee Raise along Mandan Municipal Golf Course: The board reviewed the mitigation conceptual cost options. Seepage/stability berm with a probable cost of \$3.4 mm; the cut off wall option with a probable cost of \$8.6 mm; the pressure relief wall option with a probable cost of \$12.1 mm and the toe trench option with a probable cost of \$2.25 mm. After discussion, the board still agrees that the toe trench option is the best option and is the least invasive to the golf course along with less cost compared to the other options.

Discussion continued around the Women's Treatment Center and the sanitary sewer system that runs through the golf course. Lower Heart would like the City of Mandan to have the State verify that the sewer pipe system has adequate capacity.

A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is being assembled by Arlyn Ruff, Attorney, for the Park Board and Lower Heart to review and approve. The Park Board meets again on January 13th and would like a representative from the Lower Heart board and HDR be present.

The Park Board would like Lower Heart to extend the easement all the way to the North end of the Golf Course to cover the putting green on hole 4.

Mandan Parks did receive conceptual designs and shared with Mitch Bitz, City of Mandan, and Chairman Robinson, Lower Heart on December 6th.

Update on O&M and SWIF Plan:

Karli Frohling, HDR Engineering, provided a written update for the board. Karli did recommend to the Women's Treatment Center to submit a lower tier utility application to Lower Heart. Nothing has been heard back from the Treatment Center to date.

Other Business:

Election of 2025 Officers:

President: Mitch Bitz made a motion for Bill Robinson to be the President for 2025, seconded by Luci Snowden. The motion passed unanimously

Vice President: Mitch Bitz made a motion for Ryan Jockers to be the Vice President for 2025, seconded by Luci Snowden. The motion passed unanimously.

Secretary/Treasurer: Ryan Jockers made a motion for Carol Beechie to be the Secretary/Treasurer for 2025, seconded by Mitch Bitz. The motion passed unanimously.

Approval of 2025 Meeting Dates: The 2025 meeting schedule was reviewed. Alan Kemmet made a motion to approve the 2025 meeting dates, seconded by Luci Snowden. Motion passed unanimously.

January 28	July 22
February 25	August 26
March 25	September 23
April 22	October 28
May 27	November 25
June 24	December 16

The Board adjourned at 3:00 p.m. Next regular meeting is January 28 ,2025, at 2 p.m.

Chairman

Secretary/Treasurer