

Minutes of Meeting
Of the Board of Managers
Of the Lower Heart River WRD
January 24, 2023
2:00 p.m. – Veteran’s Room
Mandan City Hall

Attendees: Bill Robinson, Chairman; Mitch Bitz, Manager; Alan Kemmet, Manager and Luci Snowden, Manager (phone).

Also in attendance: Dennis Reep, HDR Engineering; Karli Frohling, HDR Engineering; Vicki Twerdochlib, HDR Engineering (phone); Mayor Tim Helbing, Mayor of Mandan (phone); Cody Mattson, Morton County Emergency Manager (phone) and Andy Zachmeier, Morton County Commissioner.

The minutes of the December 27, 2022, Board Meeting were presented. Mitch Bitz made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Alan Kemmet. Motion passed unanimously.

Monthly bills for January and the financial report for December 2022 were reviewed. Mitch Bitz made a motion to approve the invoices and financial report, seconded by Alan Kemmet. Motion passed unanimously.

Vouchers approved for payment:

HDR Engineering, Inc.	General Engineering Services – Task Order 3 November 27, 2022 to December 31, 2022	\$19,680.25
HDR Engineering, Inc.	Flood Risk Design Phase 2 - Task Order 5 November 27, 2022 to December 31, 2022	\$51,085.65
Morton County Treasurer	2022 Taxes and Specials	\$5,338.90
ND Water Resource Districts	2023 Membership Dues	\$675.00
City of Mandan	Gas Charges	\$52.05
North Dakota Tax Comm	ND Income Tax Withholding	\$40.00
Carol Beechie	Office Supplies – 2022 Tax Forms	\$18.99

Operations and Maintenance: Chairman Robinson discussed that Manager Mitch Bitz has received some preliminary information for the 2023 tractor lease. Estimated cost is \$5,995 from Northern Plains Equipment. Chairman Robinson opened a brief discussion on staffing for 2023, which remains to be filled. Lower Heart River WRD will continue to seek and advertise for help.

Update on SWIF Plan: Karli Frohling, HDR Engineering, provided a written update for the board. There has been no update provided for the inspection of the lower unit performed in 2022 by the USACE. The USACE has not provided comment on the SWIF plan progress presented to them in October 2021. The USACE has not provided comment on the O&M Manual provided to them in May 2019. The total levee survey data has been submitted to the USACE. The final data provided by Toman Engineering.

Update on Mandan Flood Risk Reduction Plan: Dennis Reep, HDR Engineering, provided a written update for the board. Flood Mitigation Grant Application was presented to the City Commission on January 3rd by Chairman Robinson. Support of SB2020 was provided in testimony by Chairman Robinson on January 19th. Dennis Reep discussed a general cost increase in Phase 2 that HDR will provide information on at the February meeting. Increase will be an 8% to 10% increase from the original amount. Dennis Reep will also submit Lower Heart's cost share application to the State with the higher amount.

Other Business:

Farmland: Chairman Robinson began discussion of the farmland lease opportunity for 2023. The existing lease expired in November 2022. Lower Heart River WRD would be in a position to lease again in 2023 due to the project construction schedule. Discussed extending existing lease and determined that the Board should visit with the Morton County States Attorney about extension of the 2022 lease. If lease cannot be extended, the Board will proceed with advertising.

The Board adjourned at 3:40 p.m. Next meeting is Tuesday, February 28 at 2 p.m.

Chairman

Secretary/Treasurer