

Minutes of Meeting
Of the Board of Managers
Of the Lower Heart River WRD
March 25, 2025
2:00 p.m. – Veteran’s Room
Mandan City Hall

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

Also in attendance: Dennis Reep, HDR Engineering; Karli Frohling, HDR Engineering; Vicki Twerdochib, HDR Engineering (virtual); Dan Vander Vorste, HDR Engineering (virtual); Becky Baker, HDR Engineering (virtual); Jim Froelich, Mayor City of Mandan and Craig Sjoberg, Mandan City Commissioner.

The minutes of February 25, 2025, Board Meeting were presented. Ryan Jockers made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Luci Snowden. Motion passed unanimously.

The minutes of March 18, 2025, Special Meeting were presented. Mitch Bitz made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Luci Snowden. Motion passed unanimously.

The financial report for February 2025 and monthly bills were reviewed. Luci Snowden made a motion to approve the financial report and the monthly bills as presented, seconded by Mitch Bitz. Motion passed unanimously.

Vouchers approved for payment:

Scott A Johnson (Pd 3-3-2025)	Permanent and Temporary Easement Pymt	1100	91,694.80
HDR Engineering, Inc.	General Engineering Services-Task Order 3		
	January 26, 2025 to February 22, 2025	1101	4,044.17
HDR Engineering, Inc.	Flood Risk Design Phase 2 – Task Order 5		
	January 26, 2025 to February 22, 2025	1102	60,878.50
U.S. Postal Service	Annual PO Box Fee	1103	244.00
City of Mandan	Dike Maintenance – Auto Fuel	1104	16.19
William Robinson	1 st Quarter Salary	1105	554.10
Ryan Jockers	1 st Quarter Salary	1106	554.10
Mitch Bitz	1 st Quarter Salary	1107	461.75
Luci Snowden	1 st Quarter Salary	1108	369.40
Alan Kemmet	1 st Quarter Salary	1109	369.40
Carol Beechie	1 st Quarter Salary	1110	1,092.31

Operations and Maintenance:

Manager Mitch Bitz updated the board that the candidate is not interested in the maintenance position any longer. Wendy, with Morton County HR, has a few more candidates to review. Wendy also requested permission from the Board to spend \$500 to \$1,000 on advertising. The board approved this expenditure. Gary Benz is ready for the season. A tractor has been reserved for the 2025 season and the company has requested one-half the rental fee up front. Mitch stated that we have had an easy thaw this spring and no flooding is expected. The water line at the shop may be frozen.

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

Coordination: HDR attended a meeting with the City of Mandan and Lower Heart on March 18th to discuss funding process and FEMA FMA grant reimbursement. The Board discussed providing a project schedule and financial plan with the City of Mandan. HDR will start work on the schedule and financial plan.

Design: A further review of the redundant levee potential drainage routes if the DOT highway embankments would fail was completed, which indicates that FEMA could potentially map areas along Main Street west of the railroad underpass and areas within the trailer park as Missouri River floodplain. Identified conceptual solution but need to verify effectiveness and acceptability with FEMA technical group. Unfortunately, the meeting with FEMA was cancelled and HDR is attempting to reschedule.

The design team met with LHWRB and Mandan Public Works to review the proposed improvements for the interior drainage portion of the project. Changes requested during the meeting include the addition of a backup generator for the master storm water lift station and electric actuated gates at the pump station and oxbow outfall. These changes will be incorporated into the final design.

Funding: HDR submitted a cost share request to the NDSWC on February 19, 2025 for golf course mitigation during construction. Director approval of the request (\$23,925 in state dollars) was received on March 10, 2025 and the agreement was recently signed by Chairman Robinson.

Environmental/Permitting: Confirming extents of 75% design limit of work with past coverage of environmental reviews. Mandan Floodplain Permit for golf course mitigation work signed on February 21, 2025.

Right of Way: Johnson ROW have been finalized and recorded.

Preliminary contact has been made with ND Parks, process reviewed with preliminary document discussion. Possible discrepancy with County GIS property boundaries. Meeting with Surveyor to verify Parks border and existing easement metes, bounds descriptions.

Update on O&M and SWIF Plan:

Karli Frohling, HDR Engineering, provided a written update for the board. The next deadline for a SWIF plan submittal is December 2025.

Karli stated that they are still waiting for the 2024 site visit summary and she has not received a date yet for the 2025 site visit.

Karli will reevaluate the large manmade excavation located in the bank of the Heart River. The excavation is not directly excavated into the levee and is located on the riverward side of the North Unit. The board decided at the September 2024 meeting that they would reevaluate in 2025.

Apex Engineering contacted Karli regarding a fiber optic line that will be installed across North Dakota. Apex Engineering provided preliminary plans and requested additional information from Lower Heart.

Lower Heart will wait for the Utility Application to be submitted. Mitch requested that Karli share the preliminary plans with Shane O’Keefe, City Engineer, and himself to discuss.

Other Business:

Farmland Lease for 2025: Chairman Robinson stated that he has placed an ad for the 2025 farmland lease. Information will be shared at the March Board meeting.

The Board adjourned at 3:30 p.m. Next regular meeting is March 25, 2025, at 2 p.m.

Chairman

Secretary/Treasurer

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