

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

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

Also in attendance: Dennis Reep, HDR Engineering (phone); Ryan Anderson, HDR Engineering; Karli Frohling, HDR Engineering; Jordan Singer, City of Mandan; Tim Helbling, Mayor of Mandan (phone) and Evan Biegler, Midco.

The minutes of the September 26, 2023, Board Meeting were presented. Ryan Jockers made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Mitch Bitz. Motion passed unanimously.

The financial report for September 2023 was reviewed. Mitch Bitz made a motion to approve the financial report and the monthly bills as presented, seconded by Ryan Jockers. Motion passed unanimously.

Vouchers approved for payment:

HDR Engineering, Inc.	General Engineering Services – Task Order 3 August 27, 2023 to September 30, 2023	\$1,122.50
HDR Engineering, Inc.	Flood Risk Design Phase 2 – Task Order 5 August 27, 2023 to September 30, 2023	\$61,185.75
U.S. Geological Survey	Levee Gauge Joint Funding Agreement	\$5,415.00
Ternes Outdoor Services	Spraying	\$4,243.20
City of Mandan	Auto Fuel – September Invoice	\$332.04
N.D. Tax Commissioner	State Payroll Taxes	440.00

Operations and Maintenance:

Midco: Mitch Bitz introduced Evan Biegler with Midco. A Midco cable was hit during the rebuilding of the bridge on Highway 1806 in the summer of 2022. Evan presented a solution to the Board that would not compromise the levee. After discussion, it was decided that Evan would provide to HDR a sketch of what Midco proposes along with elevations over the levee. Karli will obtain an opinion from Vicki Twerdobchib and Brian Kumm regarding the proposal. Item will be discussed again at next month’s meeting.

Mitch Bitz stated a bobcat with brush cutter was rented to trim the sides of hills where the tractor cannot cut and this piece of equipment worked very well. Mitch mentioned that the Board may want to budget for a new skid steer. Communications with the Meadow Park management team about trimming trees and brush in their park that overhang onto the levee and need to be trimmed up. The gate valves have been checked and are ready for spring. The tractor will be returned shortly.

The pump at the Municipal Golf Course has not been placed in the O&M Manual yet. Karli will check into this and get it added. This pump is not listed in the City GIS map either. HDR will survey the pump and manhole cover in this area.

Update on SWIF Plan:

The most recent SWIF plan was submitted to the USACE for review and approval on October 11, 2021. The SWIF plan must be resubmitted for an additional two years of eligible extension, so it is recommended the SWIF be updated and submitted for November 2023. The board stated they had no verbal close out from the last inspection held on August 22 has been received. Karli will reach out to Brandon for an update.

Shores of Lakewood Update: Karli Frohling, HDR Engineering, provided an update for the board. Arthur Goldhammer stated the Corps provided all approvals for the development. Arthur has asked Braun to perform an updated seepage analysis. Jordan Singer, City of Mandan, stated permits have only been received in Phase One development and no permits have been submitted for Phase Two. More discussion will follow at next month's meeting.

Update on Mandan Flood Risk Reduction Plan: Dennis Reep, HDR Engineering, provided a written update for the board. Alternative acceptance was achieved by the DOT/City of Mandan for the Memorial Highway drainage, allowing for the ability to finalize design of lift station. DOT Management and City of Mandan met on October 5th to discuss alternatives. Mandan City Commission considered and approved at their October 17th meeting. HDR's lead civil engineer, John Cambridge, is retiring December 1, 2023. He is currently working to transition to a new civil engineer familiar with levee design and involved in USACE levee projects.

No contact by FEMA or NDDDES has been received to date regarding the FEMA grant through the Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA) program.

Land Value Analysis (LVA) was requisitioned by Mr. Johnson, with expected results by the end of this week. Mr. Johnson is waiting for that result before he submits a counteroffer to the Lower Heart WRD.

Land swap discussions with the City of Mandan and the Biver property have been progressing well. Very likely that a resolution to that option will occur soon.

HDR has received FEMA comments on CLOMR that was submitted on June 23, 2023. H&H (hydrology and hydraulics) issues remain in resolution status with on-going dialog and correspondence occurring with FEMA reviewers. Additional meeting scheduled for October 27 to provide draft results to FEMA reviewers on H&H process.

Other Business:

201 14th Avenue NW Property: Chairman Robinson did meet with the property owner at this address. Three feet of their property dropped down this past year and there is about a 3 story drop at the end of their property into the river. House is approximately 25-30 feet from the end of this bank. MDU does have a power pole close to this bank also. The Board is aware of this property. HDR will research if there is a program that would fit this property.

Chairman Robinson brought up the most recent Legislative Report that mentions Senate Bill 2372 that states all water boards need to be part of a joint water board and that the county has to provide a 1 mill levee to the joint water board. Lower Heart may need to become a member of a joint water board eventually. This Senate Bill will be watched for developments and information brought forth to the board.

The Board adjourned at 3:15 p.m. Next meeting is Tuesday, November 28 at 2 p.m.

Chairman

Secretary/Treasurer