

Minutes of Meeting  
Of the Board of Managers  
Of the Lower Heart River WRD  
October 22, 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); Dan Vander Vorste, HDR Engineering; Cole Higlin, Mandan Park District Executive Director; Craig Sjoberg, Mandan City Commissioner; Jim Froelich, Mayor City of Mandan; Patrick Martin, Morton County Emergency Manager (virtual); Steve Burian, Burian & Associates (virtual); and Jordan Pzazak, Burian & Associates (virtual).

The minutes of the September 24, 2024, Board Meeting were presented. Mitch Bitz made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Ryan Jocker. Motion passed unanimously.

The financial report for September 2024 was reviewed. Chairman Robinson reviewed the invoices to be approved and paid this month. Chairman Robinson stated that third quarter invoices have been submitted to the Department of Water Resources for reimbursement. Alan Kemmet 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:

HDR Engineering, Inc.	General Engineering Services-Task Order 3 July 28, 2024 to September 28, 2024	9018	5,557.06
HDR Engineering, Inc.	Flood Risk Design Phase 2 – Task Order 5 August 25, 2024 to September 28, 2024	9019	113,259.29
United States Geological Survey	Levee Gauge Joint Funding Agreement	9020	5,470.00
Ternes Outdoor Services	Dike Maintenance – Spraying	9021	3,985.00
ND State Auditor	Audit Fees	9022	3,960.69
City of Mandan	Dike Maintenance – Auto Fuel	9023	345.93
ND Tax Commissioner	State Payroll Taxes	9024	40.00

**Operations and Maintenance:**

Chairman Robinson stated that the Trolley line squatter camp has been cleaned up by Mandan Police and Mandan Public Works. Mayor Froelich asked about securing the police department to fly their drones over the levee system on a periodic basis to proactively catch these squatters. Chairman Robinson will check into this. Mitch Bitz stated that the tractor has not been turned in yet this fall. Mitch also stated that the pricing for leasing a tractor in 2025 has risen from \$4,000 to \$8,000 based on 240 hours of use and obtaining a tractor during a flood event cannot be guaranteed. Patrick Martin stated he would check with his County resources regarding tractor rental options. The two ditches North of Spirit of Life and North of Southside Amoco have been cleaned out of sediment. Flood gates have been exercised.

**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 out to bid with bid opening on November 20, 2024.

**Design:** Because of the revised hydraulics, Reach 3 currently is not free-board deficient. Plans will be to remove Reach 3 from the project by consensus of the board.

**Funding:** Cycle of responses with FEMA on their RFIs has led to imminent award of Phase 1 in the amount of approximately \$4.7M. Phase 1 includes pre-construction costs of design, permitting, administration and other activities. Phase 2 will include construction and will be in the amount of the remainder of the total grant of approximately \$9.1M. The FMA grant contract was forwarded to the City of Mandan on September 25, 2024, and the contract is in the process of being signed by the City.

**Right of Way:** Dan Vander Vorste stated that Mr. Johnson has approved and accepted the counter offer presented by Lower Heart River WRD and the offer should be signed next week. The roadway was discussed and a preferred top width of the road is 18 feet per Mr. Johnson. Dan Vander Vorste stated that the corresponding construction easement will not expire prior to construction completion.

**Environmental/Permitting:** Cultural field work being completed this week for Reach 6. HDR is planning to complete a wetland delineation for Reach 6 in the upcoming weeks. HDR will be coordinating in November with FEMA to clarify if USACE and FEMA are federal leads.

**Levee Raise along Mandan Municipal Golf Course:** Chairman Robinson stated he researched other communities with similar circumstances regarding a levee reach along a river and a golf course. Chairman Robinson reached out to Council Bluffs Iowa (Dodge Riverside Golf Course) and discussed with the public works department at this location regarding their SWIF plan. This location installed 100 relief wells several years back and are now trying to eliminate the relief wells and go to a Pervious Toe Trench system. The relief wells need to be tested approximately every 3 years at the cost of approximately \$10,000 per well and the testing of each well takes approximately 1 day to complete each well.

Bryan Kumm, HDR Engineering, shared information on the pervious toe trench system. Discussion continued on what the toe trench system would look like, the maintenance of such a system and the impact to the golf course. Long-term operation and maintenance of such a system would be a consideration, but much less so than a relief well system. Bryan Kumm will analyze the pervious toe trench option for Lower Heart and share his analysis with the Board. Cole Higlin, Mandan Park District Executive Director, stated that the Park Board is waiting to hear back from their golf course consultant as to whether the golf course could provide the 90,000 yards of fill from within the golf course property.

**Update on O&M and SWIF Plan:**

Karli Frohling, HDR Engineering, provided a written update for the board. The Updated O&M Manual was submitted to USACE for review and approval in May 2019. The most recent update (June 5, 2024) from the USACE stated the project was still in their backlog for review but there is no estimated timeframe for when the review will be complete. The O&M Manual should be updated on an as-needed basis.

**Other Business:**

Joint North Dakota Water Convention: Chairman Robinson stated that board members interested in attending the Joint North Dakota Water Convention scheduled for December 11-12 should let him or Carol Beechie know so registration and payment can be submitted.

The Board adjourned at 4:15 p.m. Next regular meeting is November 26, 2024, at 2 p.m.

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Chairman

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Secretary/Treasurer

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