

Minutes of Meeting
Of the Board of Managers
Of the Lower Heart River WRD
September 26, 2023
2:00 p.m. – Veteran’s Room
Mandan City Hall

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

Also in attendance: Dennis Reep, HDR Engineering; Ryan Anderson, HDR Engineering; Vicki Twerdochib, HDR Engineering (phone); and Andy Zachmeier, Morton County Commissioner.

The minutes of the August 22, 2023, Board Meeting were presented. Luci Snowden made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Alan Kemmet. Motion passed unanimously.

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

Vouchers approved for payment:

HDR Engineering, Inc.	General Engineering Services – Task Order 3 July 1, 2023 to August 26, 2023	\$1,155.00
HDR Engineering, Inc.	Flood Risk Design Phase 2 – Task Order 5 July 30, 2023 to August 26, 2023	\$57,858.24
Klesalek Excavating	Levee Crossing Gravel by Race Track	\$1,832.00
City of Mandan	Auto Fuel – July and August Invoices	\$501.05
William Robinson	3 rd Quarter Payroll	\$277.05
Mitch Bitz	3 rd Quarter Payroll	\$277.05
Luci Snowden	3 rd Quarter Payroll	\$277.05
Alan Kemmet	3 rd Quarter Payroll	\$277.05
Carol Beechie	3 rd Quarter Payroll	\$1,092.31
Carol Beechie	Office Supplies – Stamps	\$66.00
Bravera Bank	Loan Payment – Kist Property	\$15,453.14
Ryan Jockers	3 rd Quarter Payroll	\$369.40
ND State Auditor	Audit Fees	\$3,610.82

USGS has submitted the 2024 cost-share standard joint-funding agreement for river gauge locations and maintenance. The charge for 2024 is \$5,470. The charge for 2023 charge is \$5,415 and this invoice will be processed with the October invoices. Luci Snowden made a motion to approve and sign the agreement, seconded by Mitch Bitz. Motion passed unanimously.

Operations and Maintenance:

The 2024 maintenance position has been posted for Lower Heart with Morton County. Mitch Bitz stated that mowing has been completed and the gates have been exercised. The tractor will be returned in a couple of weeks. Discussion on the Mandan Municipal Golf Course pump from the Heart River into their pond. This pump will need to be researched to ensure it is being properly exercised each year and listed in the O&M manual.

Update on SWIF Plan: Ryan Anderson, HDR Engineering, provided an update for the board. The fee for the Levee System Submittal Information (both within the levee right-of-way of \$500 and within the levee critical area and outside the levee right of way of \$75) was reviewed and the board agreed to “go live” with these documents.

The inspection was completed on August 22nd. Chairman Robinson will reach out to Brandon before the next meeting for an update.

Update on Mandan Flood Risk Reduction Plan: Dennis Reep, HDR Engineering, provided a written update for the board. As of September 26, eight of eleven technical reviews are complete. A meeting is scheduled for October 2nd with BNSF to accommodate relocation of their utilities. HDR is continuing coordination with existing utility companies to update their levee crossing needs at the BNSF location.

HDR received dialog in late August that the BRIC project will likely be awarded a FEMA grant through the Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA) program in the amount of \$13,804,610.00. Actual status is “Identified for Further Review”, but the understanding is once a project reaches this stage, it will almost certainly be awarded. Final determination will likely be the end of the calendar year or into the beginning of 2024. Once the status of the grant is confirmed, a call will be made to the State Auditor to work up an accounting program to handle the funds. The State will still reimburse at 60% of the local non-federal costs.

Update provided by Dennis Reep on the Lower Unit landowners with discussions still ongoing.

HDR has received review comments from FEMA on the CLOMR submitted on June 23. Follow-up meetings with FEMA contractor on June 28, July 12, August 24 and September 13. H&H issues remain in resolution status with on-going dialog and correspondence occurring with FEMA reviewers.

Other Business:

Chairman Robinson discussed riverbank erosion concerns from property owner at 201 14 Ave NW. City did perform foundational stability tests in that area prior to selling lots. Chairman Robinson will visit with that landowner.

Mitch Bitz brought up a concern he received from a homeowner in the Verity Homes Development area regarding dewatering. Vicki Twerdochib stated that the dewatering system remains until the utilities are in place. The board reviewed the 500 feet landward from the levee centerline. Mitch Bitz and Dennis Reep will review this information off-line. Luci Snowden made a motion to have HDR and the City of Mandan to obtain field measurements from the centerline of levee to the retention pond. Motion was seconded by Alan Kemmet. Motion passed unanimously.

The Board adjourned at 3:45 p.m. Next meeting is Tuesday, October 24 at 2 p.m.

Chairman

Secretary/Treasurer