

Memo

Date: Tuesday, January 25, 2022

Project: Lower Heart River Levee System – System Wide Improvement Framework

To: City of Mandan Residents

From: Lower Heart River Water Resource District

Subject: Repairs Continue on Lower Heart River Levee System

January 25, 2022
Mandan, ND

The Lower Heart River Water Resource District (LHRWRD) is continuing to work on repairs to the Lower Heart River Levee System that protects City of Mandan residents. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) inspects the levee system on an annual basis to assure it operates successfully to provide real and recognized flood protection to the City of Mandan and surrounding areas. The USACE has identified maintenance deficiencies that put the levee into an unacceptable rating status and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has determined the levee system to be out of compliance with federal levee safety standards. The levee system was put on inactive status for the Rehabilitation Program pursuant to Public Law (PL) 84-99. This program provides federal funds to repair the levee should it be damaged. Non-compliance with federal levee safety standards would also require property owners protected by the levee to be subject to flood insurance premium requirements. Levee improvements must be made in order to bring the levee system up to federal standards and maintain FEMA accreditation.

The LHRWRD prepared and submitted a System Wide Improvement Framework (SWIF) plan to the USACE to correct the levee deficiencies on March 23, 2017. An updated SWIF plan was submitted to the USACE on October 11, 2021. The LHRWRD is responsible for upkeep and improvements to the levee system and is making steps to resolve the deficiencies in order to bring the levee system back to an acceptable status. The LHRWRD is working with a consultant to design the levee improvements. This endeavor is referred to as the Mandan Flood Risk Reduction Project. The LHRWRD is committed to repairing and maintaining the levee system to meet federal standards and maintain an active status. The deadline for the rectification work of unacceptable deficiencies is December 2028.

The LHRWRD meets the fourth Tuesday of each month in the Veteran's Room of the City of Mandan's Administration Building, but is also currently offering virtual meeting access in response to the COVID-19 situation. HDR Engineering acts as the advisory engineer for the LHRWRD. Questions concerning the LHRWRD may be directed to Karli Frohling of HDR Engineering at Karli.Frohling@hdrinc.com or 701-557-9725.