

Minutes of Meeting
Of the Board of Managers
Of the Lower Heart River WRD
February 28, 2023
2:00 p.m. – Veteran’s Room
Mandan City Hall

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

Also in attendance: Dennis Reep, HDR Engineering; Karli Frohling, HDR Engineering; Allen Schlag, National Weather Service; Spencer Wheeling, USGS; Mayor Tim Helbing, Mayor of Mandan (phone); and Cody Mattson, Morton County Emergency Manager (phone).

The minutes of the January 24, 2023, Board Meeting were presented. Mitch Bitz made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Alan Kemmet. Motion passed unanimously.

Monthly bills for February and the financial report for January 2023 were reviewed. Mitch Bitz made a motion to approve the invoices and financial report, seconded by Alan Kemmet. Motion passed unanimously.

Vouchers approved for payment:

HDR Engineering, Inc.	General Engineering Services – Task Order 3 January 1, 2023 to January 28, 2023	\$6,425.00
HDR Engineering, Inc.	Flood Risk Design Phase 2 - Task Order 5 January 1, 2023 to January 28, 2023	\$23,745.00
BNSF Railway Company	Preliminary Engineering – Levee Raise	\$1,705.84
Morton County Recorder	Kist Property Water Permit Recording Fee	\$20.00
City of Mandan	Gas	\$31.57
Bismarck/Mandan Tire Center	Farm Mount/Dismount & Service Call	\$308.81

Operations and Maintenance:

NOAA Discussion on Spring 2023 Overland Flow Expectations: Allen Schlag, National Weather Service, presented the Heart River Runoff Expectations. Extremely dry soils dominate the upper watershed. This will help minimize runoff above the Heart Butte dam. The snowpack farther west shows less snow also affecting the runoff. The predictions show a slow melt over the next couple of weeks. An ice jam is possible, but there should be no volume behind it because of the lack of snow in the West.

Spencer Wheeler stated that the river gauges go active on March 1st. Also discussed was the Missouri River ice flow and how the Heskett Station not operating will affect the Missouri River ice situation.

Operating Season Staff and Equipment: No direct hire yet. Bill will check with the County to ensure the position is posted. Barry Beechie and Gary Benz are available to assist in case of a flood situation this Spring.

Update on SWIF Plan: Karli Frohling, HDR Engineering, provided a written update for the board. The USACE was unable to inspect the Lower Unit in September and they plan to return in the Spring of 2023 to finish that portion of the inspection. The updated O&M Manual was submitted to the USACE for review and approval in May 2019. The most recent update (January 26, 2023) from the USACE stated that the project was still in their backlog for review but there is no estimated timeframe for when the review will be complete. HDR has received all information from Toman Engineering and have assembled the submittal package. The USACE was contacted in January 2023 to inquire about the submittal but have not received a response yet. HDR is currently working on the Morton County Floodplain revisions and will be added to the Flood Manual. The Utility document was discussed and the minimum fee is noted at \$500 with the fee escalating if the costs exceed that amount. The Board was asked to review the document that Karli emailed to the Board members and respond to Karli with their comments before the next meeting. Bill Robinson will forward this document to the Morton County attorney for review also.

Update on Mandan Flood Risk Reduction Plan: Dennis Reep, HDR Engineering, provided a written update for the board. Section 408 Authorization Request is going through the QC backcheck process. Anticipating that Section 408 submittal will be provided with EA, geotechnical design report, and hydraulics report summarizing both interior drainage and riverine hydraulics by next week as will the CLOMR submittal to FEMA. FMA and BRIC grant application material finalized in late January with decisions expected in late summer 2023. HDR submitted design amendment cost share request to the NDSWC on February 22, 2023. Pre-commission meeting on March 16 and full NDSWC board consideration on April 13. Recent discovery of mis-filed document at the county recorder's office indicated portions of Parcel 655513600 do belong to Mr. Johnson and not the City. Same is true for extreme southeast corner of Parcel 300113125 (Lower Heart parcel). Mitch Bitz will follow-up with Jim Neubauer, City of Mandan, and the City Attorney and report back at the March Board Meeting.

Other Business:

Farmland: Chairman Robinson presented the two bids that were received. After discussion, Alan Kemmet made a motion to accept the Gerving bid offer, seconded by Mitch Bitz. Motion approved.

The Board adjourned at 3:30 p.m. Next meeting is Tuesday, March 28 at 2 p.m.

Chairman

Secretary/Treasurer