

Minutes of Meeting
Of the Board of Managers
Of the Lower Heart River WRD
November 25, 2025
2:00 PM – Veteran's Room
Mandan City Hall

Chairman Robinson called the meeting to order at 2:00 PM.

Attendees: Bill Robinson, Chairman; Zac Ranisate, Manager (virtual); Alan Kemmet, Manager (virtual); Ryan Jockers, Manager (virtual) and Carol Beechie, Secretary/Treasurer. Not Present: Mitch Bitz, Manager.

Also in Attendance: Dennis Reep, HDR Engineering; Karli Frohling, HDR Engineering; Vicki Twerdochlib, HDR Engineering (virtual); Dan Vander Vorste, HDR Engineering (virtual); Craig Sjoberg, Mandan City Commissioner; Cole Higlin, Mandan Park Board Executive Director; Jordan Singer, City of Mandan; Patrick Martin, Morton County Emergency Manager; Darrin Goetzfried, Bureau of Reclamation; Timothy Dodd, Bureau of Reclamation and Stacy Moos, Incoming Secretary/Treasurer for Lower Heart River WRD.

The minutes of October 28, 2025, Board Meeting were presented. Alan Kemmet made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Zac Ranisate. Motion passed unanimously.

The financial report for October 2025 and monthly bills were reviewed. Zac Ranisate asked if HDR/ Lower Heart received the report from Metcalf Archaeological Consultants that billed through the HDR invoice. Dennis Reep will check on receipt of said report. Zac Ranisate made a motion to approve the financial report and monthly bills as presented, seconded by Alan Kemmet. Motion passed unanimously.

Vouchers approved for payment:

HDR Engineering, Inc.	Flood Risk Design Phase-Task Order 5 September 28, 2025 to November 1, 2025	\$61,403.25
HDR Engineering, Inc.	General Engineering Services-Task Order 3 September 28, 2025 to November 1, 2025	\$1,913.75
City of Mandan	Dike Maintenance – Fuel	\$263.62

Operations and Maintenance:

Bill Robinson reported that Gary Benz has officially retired. Mitch Bitz and Bill Robinson are working with Morton County HR to prepare Jacob Achtenburg for the Spring season.

Update on O&M and SWIF Plan:

Karli Frohling, HDR Engineering, provided a written update for the board. The Meadowlands utility crossing has been delayed a couple of months because of the government shutdown. The ReadyTech levee crossing is currently working through some technical issues. Karli is working on the 2025 SWIF extension and it will be submitted with the Corps for review.

Darrin Goetzfried and Timothy Dodd, Bureau of Reclamation, made a presentation to the Lower Heart Board on the Heart Butte Dam Construction Project and timeline. The Heart Butte Dam was completed in 1950, which is the same year the levee in Mandan was completed. In 2013 sediment was noted in the bottom of the conduit along with foundational issues that need to be taken care of. The Heart Butte Dam is one of the highest risk dams in the United States. The current timeline starts in 2027 with mobilization, 2028 and 2029 with drawdown and work being done and 2030 typical operations expected.

Update on Mandan Flood Risk Reduction Plan:

Dennis Reep, HDR Engineering, provided a written update for the board.

Coordination: A meeting was held with BNSF on September 30, 2025, for the purpose of discussing the railroad bridge area and construction processes and remedies for the impacted parties. A follow-up meeting is scheduled for December 5, 2025. Lower Heart River WRD made a presentation to the Mandan City Commission on November 4, 2025, to re-engage the assessment district. The written protest period is open through December 15, 2025.

Design:

75% of the design is complete, and both Section 408 and CLOMR packages were submitted in September. The Memorial Highway west-end design is complete with that Section 408 package submitted on August 8, 2025.

Funding:

The Phase 1 Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA) grant funds have been received by Lower Heart River WRD by way of City of Mandan and NDDDES. NDDWR approved the request for a cost-share (\$360,000) at their August meeting. The agreement is executed by the state and Lower Heart. An additional request was submitted in October to offset the actual cost versus the estimate in October (\$31,563). Approval is forthcoming. The City of Mandan has pursued and confirmed the qualification to apply for temporary funding assistance with the state using the Clean Water State Revolving Fund program on the stormwater portion of the MFRRP. A coordination meeting is scheduled for December 3, 2025, with NDDOT to discuss funding arrangements/ agreement of the combined lift station.

Right of Way:

Meeting with local Biber family members is scheduled for December 1st to execute documents. Title Team is handling Biber out of state family members, Darren Schmidt, Oaktree Realty, handling City document execution. ROW exhibit and easement documents for consideration by ND Parks Department for easement near lift station. ND Parks has verified understanding that they are legal owners of parcel in question. Need to verify compensatory values for easements. General concurrence to utilize Biber appraisal amounts to initiate the negotiations.

Environmental/Permitting:

CLOMR package is finalized and was submitted on September 19, 2025. FEMA comment period initiated on that day – 90 day deadline is ~ December 19, 2025. Section 404 report is ready to submit and the board concurs in its submittal.

Other Business:

Chairman Robinson stated that he would be attending the ND Water Convention on December 10-11, 2025 at the Bismarck Hotel and Convention Center. Zac Ranisate and Alan Kemmet will also be attending the convention representing their businesses.

Meeting adjourned at 3:55 PM.

Chairman

Secretary/Treasurer