

Minutes of Meeting
Of the Board of Managers
Of the Lower Heart River WRD
October 28, 2025
2:00 PM – Veteran's Room
Mandan City Hall

Chairman Robinson called the meeting to order at 2:03 PM.

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

Also in Attendance: Dennis Reep, HDR Engineering; Karli Frohling, HDR Engineering; Becky Baker, HDR Engineering (virtual); Jim Froelich, Mayor, City of Mandan; Craig Sjoberg, Mandan City Commissioner; Cole Higlin, Mandan Park Board Executive Director; Jarek Wigness, Engineer, City of Mandan.

The minutes of September 23, 2025, Board Meeting were presented. Ryan Jockers made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Zac Ranisate. Motion passed unanimously.

The financial report for September 2025 and monthly bills were reviewed. Chairman Robinson reported that the annual billing for the USGS river gage is being paid this month. Discussion by Reep and Robinson in relation to the State cost-share funds will need clarification from the State to utilizing them with FMA Grant funds in hand. Work continues to establish a tracking report with both state and federal cost-share fund utilization and remaining balances. 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:

Flood Risk Design Phase 2 – Task Order 5

HDR Engineering, Inc.	August 24, 2025 to September 27, 2025	1144	\$118,056.50
General Engineering Services – Task Order 3			
HDR Engineering, Inc.	July 27, 2025 to September 27, 2025	1145	\$ 4,125.00
Joint Funding Agreement – October 1, 2024			
US Geological Survey	and September 30,2025	1146	\$ 5,620.00
Bobcat of Mandan, Inc.	Dike Maintenance – Brushcat, trailer, T770 rent	1147	\$ 764.83
Ternes Outdoor Services	Dike Maintenance spraying	1148	\$ 4,143.00
City of Mandan	Dike Maintenance fuel	1149	\$ 754.72
Insomniacs Computer			
Sales &Repair	Office Supplies – laptop and labor	1150	\$ 859.00
HUB International			
Great Plains, LLC	Insurance – Brushcat, trailer, T770 rental	1152	\$ 25.00

Operations and Maintenance:

Bill Robinson reported the fall work is predominantly completed with the system set for winter/spring operations. He also updated equipment discussions related to the batwing mower and needed replacement. Presently a 15-foot mower is being used, and he has discussed with the operator the possibility of reducing to a 12-foot mower to reduce the capital expense of a replacement. More discussion to follow.

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. Lower Heart River WRD will make a presentation to the Mandan City Commission on November 4, 2025, to re-engage the assessment district. There is a schedule meeting with the NDDWR for coordination of state permits in relation to construction for November 3, 2025.

Zac Ranisate recommended that we provide guidance to HDR Engineering to utilize 2027 construction cost estimates with a 12% contingency as we prepare for construction in that window and assessment planning with City of Mandan. The board provided a consensus for that discussion and recommendation.

Design:

75% of the design is complete, and both Section 408 and CLOMR packages have been submitted. 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.

Right of Way:

Preliminary contact has been made with ND State Parks on possible easement needs for the MFRRP. Lift station location and construction may impact their lands.

Environmental/Permitting:

Dennis Reep and Becky Baker, HDR Engineering, discussed the 404 Permit (Environmental) and have determined that approximately 3.26 acres are impacted with this project from an environmental standpoint. Becky Baker discussed that multiple remedies are available. All options may have a cost attached; however, HDR will research a 1:1 trade that may alleviate an outlay of cash. Annual monitoring is required and may have a cost attached to that for a few years.

Update on O&M and SWIF Plan:

Karli Frohling, HDR Engineering, provided a written update for the board. The O&M Manual was submitted to the Corps in May 2019. The Corps has not provided a review or concurrence at this time. Updates to the manual occur on an ongoing basis. The updated O&M Manual will be submitted to the Corps in December 2025. She also informed the board that Tim Dodd with the Bureau of Reclamation will be attending the November meeting to update the board on Heart Butte Dam repairs and repair schedules.

Other Business:

Chairman Robinson updated the board on the year-end resignations of Manager Ryan Jockers and Secretary/Treasurer Carol Beechie. We have an interested person for the Secretary/Treasurer position and managers Bitz and Robinson have met with her. She intends to attend the November and December meeting to meet the board and get familiar with the WRD project status. The board will be seeking a replacement manager for Ryan Jockers.

Meeting adjourned at 3:21 PM.

Chairman

Secretary/Treasurer