

Minutes of Meeting
Of the Board of Managers
Of the Lower Heart River WRD
September 23, 2025
2:00 p.m. – Veteran’s Room
Mandan City Hall

Attendees: Bill Robinson, Chairman; Zac Ranisate, Manager; Mitch Bitz, Manager; Alan Kemmet, Manager (virtual); Ryan Jockers, Manager (virtual) and Carol Beechie, Secretary/Treasurer.

Also in attendance: Dennis Reep, HDR Engineering (virtual); Karli Frohling, HDR Engineering; Vicki Twerdochlib, HDR Engineering (virtual); Cole Higlin, Mandan Park Board Executive Director; Craig Sjoberg, Mandan City Commissioner and Justin Schulz, City of Mandan.

The minutes of August 26, 2025, Board Meeting were presented. Mitch Bitz made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Zac Ranisate. Motion passed unanimously.

The financial report for August 2025 and monthly bills were reviewed. Chairman Robinson stated that an invoice for the USGS has been received and will be approved for payment at the October Board meeting. Chairman Robinson stated a response was received from the State Water Commission regarding the use of federal and state funds. The State Water Commission feels the most practical approach would be for the LHWRD to retain the federal funds and apply those funds toward the construction phase. This will reduce the amount requested from the SWC for construction. Using this process, an accounting method would need to be developed to track the costs appropriately and shared with the Board on a monthly basis. Chairman Robinson also stated that he will check into moving some of the funds into a higher interest account. Zac Ranisate made a motion to approve the financial report and the monthly bills as presented, seconded by Mitch Bitz. Motion passed unanimously.

Vouchers approved for payment:

HDR Engineering, Inc.	Flood Risk Design Phase 2 – Task Order 5 July 27, 2025 to August 23, 2025	1136	\$86,407.75
William Robinson	3 rd Quarter Salary	1137	\$554.10
Ryan Jockers	3 rd Quarter Salary	1138	\$184.70
Mitch Bitz	3 rd Quarter Salary	1139	\$461.75
Alan Kemmet	3 rd Quarter Salary	1140	\$369.40
Zac Ranisate	3 rd Quarter Salary	1141	\$461.75
Carol Beechie	3 rd Quarter Salary	1142	\$1,092.31
Bravera Bank	Loan Payment	1143	\$15,453.14

Operations and Maintenance:

Mitch Bitz stated that drainage areas are wet and Gary has been mowing these areas as well as possible. The 15’ batwing mower has had major repairs in the past month. Mitch asked Gary to obtain prices to replace this mower. The gate valves and flap gates have all been exercised.

Update on Mandan Flood Risk Reduction Plan: Dennis Reep, HDR Engineering, provided a written update for the board.

Coordination: Scheduled meeting for September 30 with BNSF to re-engage coordination at the BNSF bridge.

Design: 75% design documents are complete. Section 408 and CLOMR packages are submitted.

Funding: Cost share approved at the August 14, 2025, meeting of the NDSWC (\$360,000.00) and agreement has been emailed to Chairman Robinson for signature. An email was sent to NDDOT on September 17 to discuss funding arrangements/agreement for their portion (~\$2.3M) of the combined lift station.

The Board discussed the local assessment process. HDR will update the cost projections and present the revised cost estimates and an information sheet that includes the scope of the project at the October Board Meeting. This information will then be shared at the November 4 City Commission Meeting. Chairman Robinson and Dennis Reep will attend this meeting. Information will be published on November 10th for 30 days with a follow-up City Commission meeting on December 16th.

Justin Schulz, City of Mandan, stated that the City will apply for the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWASRF) loan fund (2%) by the November 1st deadline.

Environmental/Permitting: CLOMR package is finalized and was submitted on September 19th. The Section 408 Request was submitted on September 22nd. Meeting was held with ND USACE regulatory office. Section 1156 agreement proposal from USACE was received on September 9th in the amount of \$152,605 (including \$19,905 of contingency).

The Board discussed the Section 1156 agreement proposal. Vicki Twerdochlib stated she would check on using Section 1156 funding first before federal funds are used. After discussion, Zac Ranisate made a motion to enter into the 1156 agreement with the Corps of Engineers, seconded by Mitch Bitz. Motion passed unanimously.

Zac Ranisate made a motion for the Board to apply for SWC funding assistance in the amount of \$52,605 in addition to the already approved amount of \$100,000 for the 1156 process, seconded by Mitch Bitz. Motion passed unanimously.

Dennis Reep stated he would prepare and submit the quarterly report to FEMA for the DES process.

Update on O&M and SWIF Plan:

Karli Frohling, HDR Engineering, provided a written update for the board. The next deadline for a SWIF plan submittal is December 2025.

Meadowlands Development has submitted drilling program information to the Corp of Engineers for review.

The utility levee crossing by RediTech and Apex Engineering is working on their 408 package.

Karli has visited with Tim Dodd, Bureau of Reclamation, regarding the Heart Butte dam project. Karlie will ask Tim to attend a future Lower Heart Board meeting after they have estimated project construction schedule.

Other Business:

Mandan Golf Course: Expenses have been submitted to HDR and Chairman Robinson for the hole reconstruction. The Park Board would like to be reimbursed by the end of the year.

The Board adjourned at 3:10 p.m. Next regular meeting is October 28, 2025, at 2 p.m.

Chairman

Secretary/Treasurer