

Lower Heart River WRD
P O Box 395
Mandan, ND 58554

Appropriations – Education and Environment Division

HB 1020

Representative Mike Nathe, Chairman

Chairman Nathe, Members of the Education and Environment Division Appropriations Committee, my name is Bill Robinson, I am the Chairman of the Lower Heart River Water Resource District. We are submitting this testimony in support of HB 1020.

The Lower Heart River Water Resource District and the City of Mandan are truly appreciative of the past support provided by the State of North Dakota in progressing our Flood Risk Reduction Project forward. This FEMA recertification project is vital to the community, in both flood protection and flood mapping. Project completion would not be possible without past and continued support from the state.

The project timeline, as its presently understood, includes design and FEMA approval through 2025. Bidding and construction would commence in 2026 with completion occurring in 2028.

As it progresses toward construction, operating costs to implement construction will be a challenge we need to overcome. This project would benefit greatly from an opportunity to utilize a line of credit through the Bank of North Dakota's Water Infrastructure Revolving Loan Fund. Utilizing that line of credit would offer us the ability to pay construction costs as they are incurred. After construction, the special assessment district established through the City of Mandan would allow the project to pay off that loan.

Therefore, we request consideration to include a line of credit up to \$11 million in the appropriation legislation for the North Dakota Department of Water

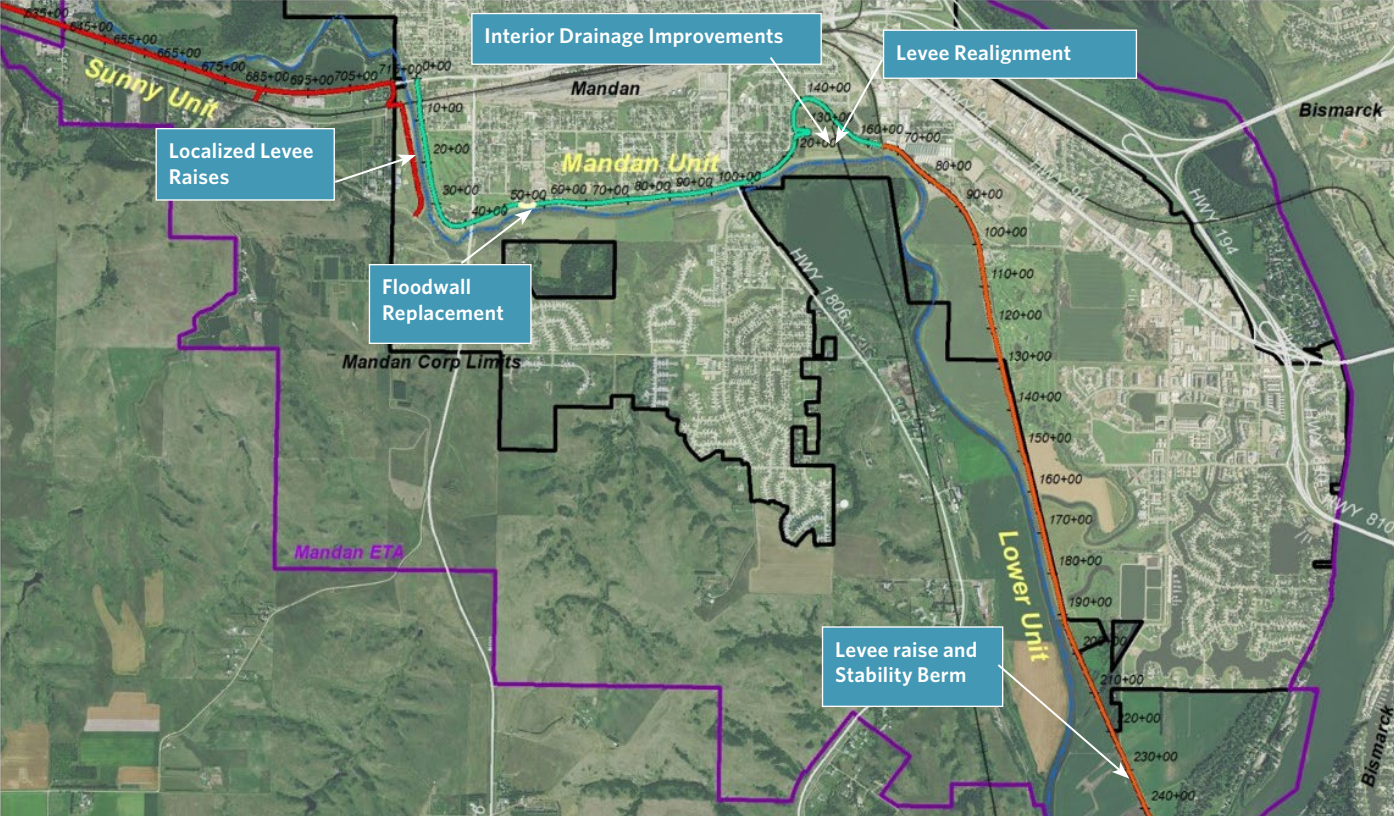
Resources budget in House Bill 1020. This would provide certainty to the financial condition of the construction activities of the project and allow us to move confidently forward toward final completion.

The project timeline, as it is presently understood, includes design and FEMA approval through 2025. Bidding and construction would commence in 2026 with completion occurring in 2028. Below are some pertinent information bullet points on the project:

- 2,600 commercial, industrial, and residential properties at direct risk.
- \$10 million in estimated annual flood insurance requirements if de-accredited.
- \$32 million in estimated in project cost remaining - \$13.8 million funded with FEMA Flood Mitigation Assistance grant - \$11 million estimated from ND DWR cost-share assistance - \$7 million local funding via special assessment.

Thank you again for your past support. Without it and future consideration from the state, real and recognized flood protection for the City of Mandan will be in jeopardy. Please do not hesitate to reach out with any questions or concerns.

Thank you.



Major Project Features

- Levee raise adjacent to Mandan Municipal Golf Course and raise of Lower Unit levee segment protecting the Lakewood residential area
- Geotechnical work including stability and seepage remediation
- Interior drainage improvements and replacements (lift station)
- Realignment on 3rd Street SE reach
- Floodwall replacement

Project By The Numbers

- 2,600 commercial, industrial, and residential properties at risk.
- \$10 million in estimated annual flood insurance requirements if de-accredited.
- \$32 million estimated project cost remaining (construction and administration).
- \$11 million estimated need from the North Dakota State Water Commission.
- Local funding (\$7 million) through a city-wide special assessment of benefitted properties.
- Received federal funding in the amount of \$13.8 million.

Lower Heart River Levee System

The Lower Heart River Water Resource District's primary responsibility is assuring the Lower Heart River Levee System operates to successfully provide real and recognized flood protection to the City of Mandan and surrounding areas. Recently, the Lower Heart River Levee System was determined to be out of compliance with federal levee safety standards. Meeting these standards is imperative

for the economic well-being of our community as being out of compliance will invoke flood insurance requirements on over 2,600 residential, commercial, and industrial properties. The Lower Heart River Water Resource District is working with a consultant to design remediation work on the levee system to bring it up to current federal standards and maintain FEMA accreditation.

