

Introduction:

Why are we here? - We are here to ask for your help in protecting the city of Lisbon from the Sheyenne River and Mother Nature. We have experienced 3 years running of Major Flooding in the City of Lisbon.

Excessive moisture over the last 3 years has filled surrounding lakes, sloughs, and ditches, creating more run off combined with the heavy rain and snowfall for us to deal with.

Lisbon Flood Stages:

Minor Flooding occurs at 15' to 17'

Moderate Flooding occurs at 17' to 19'

Major Flooding occurs at 19' and up

Once the temporary emergency levees are in place we need to pump water over the levees due to storm sewers being closed off to the river. We asked our City Superintendant to give us some numbers on pump management during flood operations.

2009

-On 3-23-09 the river level was at 14' when Lisbon started to run extra pumps and bypass the lift station.

-Pump operations continued and increased as the river rose and decreased until 5-17-09 when the river level hit 11.18'. At that time, sewers, run off, and river inflows decreased to allow gates to be reopened.

- High river level for the year was 22.86'

2010

- No by pass info available. Bypass was limited this year.

- High river level for the year was 19.46'

- River level came up and went down much quicker this year.

2011

-On 4-11-11 river level was 17.07' when Lisbon started to run extra pumps and began to bypass the lift station.

-This continued until 5-16-11 when the river level hit 12.97'

-High river level for this year was 21.59.

Due to high costs of fighting the river our city has depleted their funds and net worth to an extreme level. We are to the point to financial instability to where normal operations in our community are at risk.

5 years ago we ask our engineer to present a plan to bring Lisbon's infrastructure up to date city wide.

2008 - Phase 1 Water/Sewer Improvement	\$2.5 million
75% Sales Tax	1% Sales Tax Increase
25% Assessments	
2009 - Phase 2 Water/Sewer Improvement	\$1.5 Million
50% Sales Tax	Increase ½% Sales Tax
50% Assessments/Reallocation of funds	

Phase 3 & 4 were tabled do to 2009 Flood. To date are not funded.

- City Engineer has been asked to apply for grant money which our portion if grant is awarded would require over \$3 per household per month on sewer bill.
- this improvement would address a major issue with water infiltration into our sewer system by lining sewer lines, eliminating clay tile, refurbishing 10 manholes, and relocating our south lift station to assist in pumping when the river is high, eliminating the need to bypass sewer into the river as much.

Just a few months ago a 2011 Flood Improvement Bond was passed to pay for removal of levees and pay for buyout of homes that are along the river for the amount of \$2,063,000. Repayment on this bond has not been decided for certain as of yet.

After FEMA reimbursements are complete, approximately \$1 million will need to be taxed to city residents.

-How the repayment on this bond has not been decided for certain as of yet.

It is important to point out that at the end of 2008, before the flooding took place, the net worth of the City of Lisbon was \$3,091,000.

Our current net worth as of 9-30-11 was \$1,172,000. We mention this to show proof that our funds are depleted and we are likely looking at yet another flood in just 5 months. We will have no choice to tax our community again. We are already losing residence and many potential residents to other locations. The main reasons are too high of taxes and they are worried about fighting the river.

City of Lisbon Floods

2009	Expenses	Reimbursements	Net City Cost
	\$1,935,480.55	\$1,064,673.12	\$870,807.43

<u>2010 Expenses</u>	<u>Reimbursements</u>	<u>Net City Cost</u>
\$275,026.49	\$156,032.75	\$118,993.74
Flood Study	State Water Comm	
\$60,000	\$29,500	\$30,500

2011	Expenses	Reimbursements	Net City Cost
	\$2,469,508.75	\$1,250,205.87	\$1,219,302.88

Fuel for Pumps not reimbursable	2009 - \$4,827.60
	2010 - \$3628.80
	2011 - \$4242.60

Payroll for overtime not covered \$54,936.32 in 3 years. City Employees.

It is not just direct dollars lost. It is the thousands of volunteer hours that are lost hours from work, added expenses residence incur from sandbagging and helping manage the floods. Lost hours from work also means less spending in our community and state down the road.

We have a need and a responsibility to protect our city, our residence, and their property. We have great response from our Fire Department, and our volunteers, but how long do we put them in harms way. How long before something terrible happens, a levee slough or blowout could easily happen and endanger many lives and properties.

Looking Forward: What needs to be done?

The need and time to plan for the future is now. The future we are told is to be wet and continued flood issues will remain.

What can be done right now? Lisbon has several areas that permanent levee could be put in place. We have acquired properties with city funds during the buyout process combined with areas of land we already own that could be put into motion at any time if funding was available.

We have several areas of concern that deal with erosion. We will, without a doubt need dollars to be spent on wrapping certain areas of the river to prevent future damage to more properties.

Engineering will be needed in both of these issues. We do not have the ability to hire the engineering. We have done a flood study in the recent past before our buyout process

began. It shows soil boring along the river channel and the recommended 18 homes that needed to be bought to clear the way for future emergency levees. That tool should be a great time savings.

What needs to be done in the long term?

-According to where the flood study shows the Floodway, we would need to have another round of buyouts to gain access to the floodway. An estimated 16 more homes may need to be purchased with City or State funding to allow permanent levee construction.

- We would need to complete the permanent levee in the areas we were unable to before the next buyout process.

- River clean up. The river has been inundated by trees that have been washed away. This prevents flow of ice and water from freely running through the Sheyenne. This should be done from Bald Hill Dam all the way through and past Lisbon.

Cost?

Moore Engineering was hoping to give us a line item estimate in time for this meeting but we did not get that information. In a phone conversation without looking at numbers a rough estimate was around \$11,000,000 for permanent levee through Lisbon.

A rough estimate on a second round of the estimated 16 homes would be \$1,600,000.

Erosion control is undetermined all together. We have not had anyone look at this issue financially. We did ask the Office of the State Water Commission to assist us in this and levee costs, but have not received any feedback.

Gov. Dalrymple and Todd Sando were at Lisbon on Aug. 11, 2011 to visit on Devils Lake outlets. Todd Sando asked for us to provide a written request for his office to assist us. We received a copy of the mitigation pamphlet on Devils Lake.

Closing:

We hope that our statement here today have shown clear that we are a city in need of your assistance. We are aware of the concerns and critical issue of Devils Lake to the North. It is necessary that we prepare our community for the future dangers that lie ahead in terms of the Sheyenne River.

Whether or not we see Devils Lake water in slow controlled volumes or the potential high uncontrolled, we need your help to prepare us and keep our citizens safe. Understandably, an uncontrolled release at Devils Lake would likely flood our city with or without permanent levee, we need to be under the assumption that the outlet being constructed will be in place soon enough to prevent that disaster. It is Mother Nature we need to concern ourselves with. We are confident that permanent levee will protect us from her. However, we need your help to complete this task.

12/24/08

CITY OF LISBON

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Run

Rachel PAGE 1

BALANCE SHEET
FOR ALL FUNDS AND DEPARTMENTS
AS OF 12/31/08

CURRENT YR ACTUALS
12/31/08

ASSETS:

CASH IN BANK	\$139,586.91
SWEEP ACCOUNT	\$1,947,138.00
NSF CHECKS	\$50.78
INVESTMENTS	\$1,004,197.94

TOTAL ASSETS	\$3,090,973.63
	=====

LIABILITIES:

TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$0.00
	=====

FUND EQUITY:

FUND BALANCE	\$2,894,935.68
EXCESS REVENUES	\$196,037.95

TOTAL FUND EQUITY	\$3,090,973.63
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TOTAL LIABILITIES & FUND EQUITY	\$3,090,973.63
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BALANCE SHEET
FOR ALL FUNDS AND DEPARTMENTS
AS OF 09/30/11CURRENT YR ACTUALS
09/30/11

ASSETS:

CASH IN BANK	\$141,835.36
SWEEP ACCOUNT	\$1,497,092.98
NSF CHECKS	\$461.82
INVESTMENTS	\$1,008,000.00

TOTAL ASSETS

\$2,647,390.16
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LIABILITIES:

TOTAL LIABILITIES

\$0.00
=====

FUND EQUITY:

FUND BALANCE	\$2,617,755.43
EXCESS REVENUES	\$29,634.73

TOTAL FUND EQUITY

\$2,647,390.16
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TOTAL LIABILITIES & FUND EQUITY

\$2,647,390.16
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1,475,000. - Bond

1,172,390.16

Included
Bond that
was just
added

August 15, 2011

Todd Sando, State Engineer
ND State Water Commission
900 East Boulevard
State Office Building
Bismarck, ND 58505-0850

RE: Downstream Devils Lake Water and Erosion Issues

Dear Mr. Sando:

At the recent meeting held in Lisbon on August 11, 2011, we spoke about our concerns in the City of Lisbon regarding the increased amount of water flow potentially delivering higher water levels through the city during springtime flooding and heavy summer rains. There are also concerns of increased erosion that would likely be severe in the City of Lisbon. These are issues we feel need to be addressed immediately to help prevent our city from being put in harms way from Devils Lake water.

We do fully support the drainage of Devils Lake down to a safe level. However, we want to know that the State of North Dakota, which is financing and sponsoring this increased release down the Sheyenne River to aid the Devils Lake community and surrounding farming community, is also going to be giving Lisbon the same concern and support.

We are a community that has been financially tapped by flooding and FEMA regulations over the last three years and have no funding available to fight future flooding or increased flooding and erosion from the Devils Lake proposed outlets.

Therefore, the City of Lisbon is requesting any and all assistance that is available from your office and the State of North Dakota. We feel there are issues that need to be addressed before the increased release from Devils Lake begins.

Your time and consideration of this matter would be greatly appreciated.

LISBON CITY COUNCIL

RAE