

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

Testimony, SB 2020
11:25 AM, January 19, 2023
Sakakawea Room, State Capitol, Bismarck, ND

Testimony From: Jim Neubauer, City Administrator, Mandan, ND and
Bill Robinson, Chairman, Lower Heart WRD

Chairman Sorvaag and Members of the Senate Appropriations Committee:

We are here to present testimony in support of Senate Bill 2020 and represent the City of Mandan and the Lower Heart Water Resource District.

The Lower Heart 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. The Hurricane Katrina event in 2005 resulted in the United States Government through the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) updating requirements for meeting federal levee safety standards. Due to these updated requirements and a subsequent FEMA hydrologic and hydraulic analysis, the Lower Heart River Levee System was determined to be out of compliance of these new 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. These requirements result in an estimated **\$10 million direct economic burden annually** on our citizens, not to mention the additional secondary economic and social impacts.

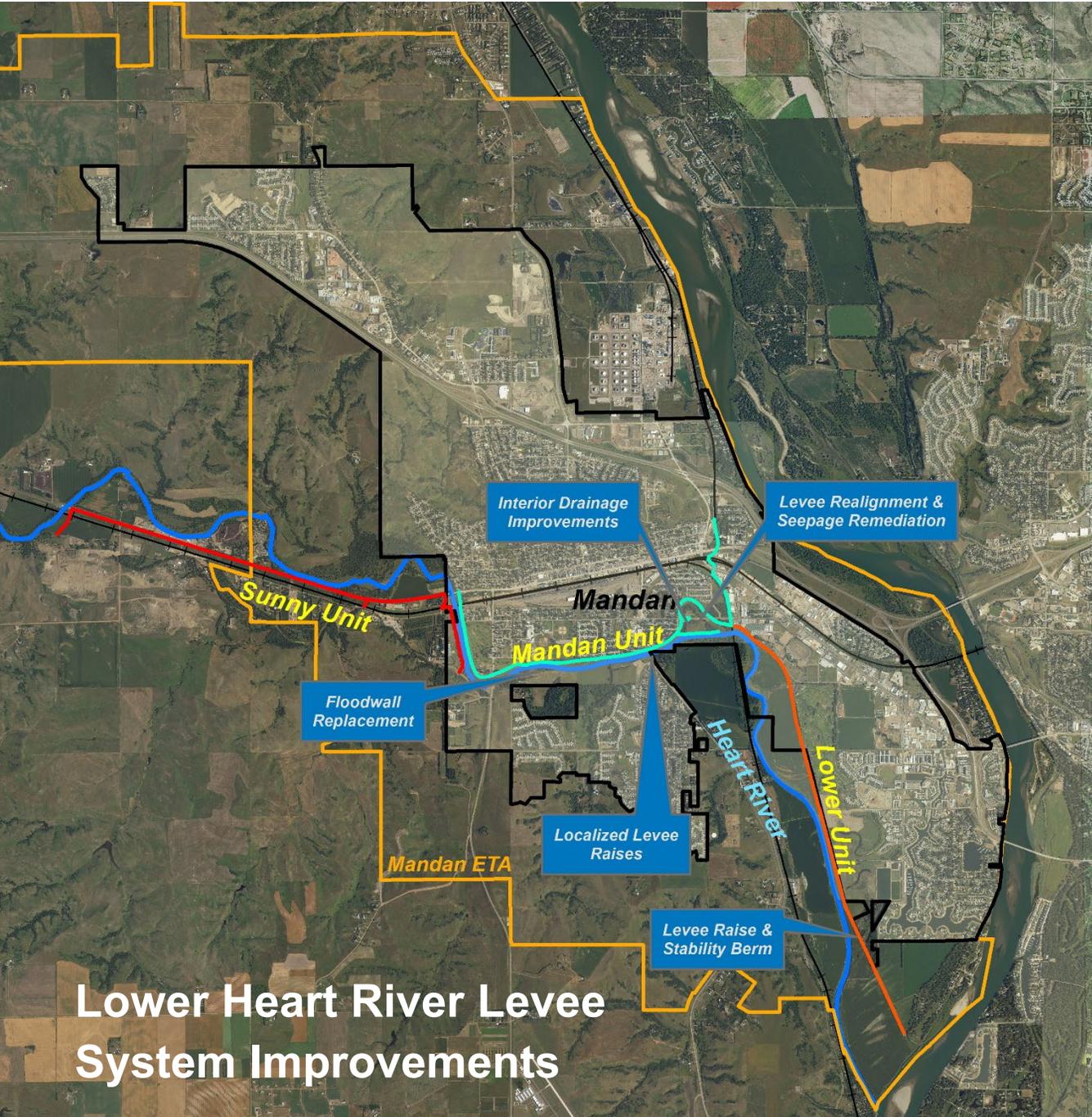
We are currently designing remediation work on the levee system and applying for state and federal permits to bring it up to current federal standards and maintain FEMA accreditation. The State of North Dakota through the North Dakota State Water Commission has been a valuable, and absolutely necessary, partner to complete the work required to maintain FEMA accreditation and avoid the economic and social impacts of de-accreditation. Below are some pertinent information bullets on the project and its status:

- 2,600 commercial, industrial, and residential properties directly impacted.

- Includes critical infrastructure such as fire stations, electrical substations, wastewater treatment plant, city and county office buildings, transportation routes, etc.
- Entire community of Mandan and surrounding areas indirectly impacted.
- \$10 million in estimated *annual* flood insurance requirements if de-accredited.
- \$23.3 million estimated project cost.
- Federal benefit cost ratio is 5.7:1
- \$1.4 million already received through North Dakota State Water Commission in grants for design and planning studies.
- \$12.3 million estimated need from the North Dakota State Water Commission in 2023-25 biennium if additional federal funding is not secured.
- ***Have established city-wide assessment district to cover local cost share.***
- Major project features:
 - Localized levee raises and raise of Lower Unit levee segment protecting the Lakewood residential area
 - Geotechnical work including stability berm installation and seepage berm
 - Interior drainage improvements and replacements (pump station)
 - Floodwall replacement
- Project schedule”
 - February 2023 – Conditional Letter of Map Revision (CLOMR) Submittal
 - February 2023– Section 408 and 404 Permit Submittals
 - Fall, 2023 - Spring 2024 – Construction Bidding
 - Spring, 2024 – Construction Commencement
 - Fall, 2025 – Construction Complete

Thank for your consideration of our testimony in support of SB 2020. We would be happy to answer any questions the committee may have regarding this testimony.

Thank you.



Lower Heart River Levee System Improvements

0 4,000 8,000 12,000 16,000 Feet



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Project By The Numbers:

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Upcoming Project Schedule:

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