



TO: Mayor Tom Ross
Members of the City Council

FROM: Jason Sorenson, Utilities Director

DATE: April 1, 2024

SUBJECT: REQUEST LETTER FOR PLANNING ASSISTANCE FOR STATES AND TRIBES

I. RECOMMENDED ACTION

- A. Recommend council authorize sending a request for US Army Corps of Engineers Planning Assistance to States and Tribes (PAS) to investigate seasonal water quality issues with the dead loops in Minot.

II. DEPARTMENT CONTACT PERSONS

Jason Sorenson, Utilities Director

III. DESCRIPTION

A. Background

The dead loops in Minot are a result of the federal flood control project constructed in Minot during the late 70s and early 80s. Due to channelization of the Souris River through Minot, some long meanders in the river were cut off which resulted in isolated sections of river channel that remain connected to the main river through control structures. During spring run off the up and downstream control structures are opened to flush and refill the dead loops with fresh water. However, after spring runoff, the flow in the river frequently drops to a negligible level, thus eliminating the ability to flush. During these times, the dead loops become isolated and stagnant resulting in algae and duckweed blooms. The areas become mosquito breeding grounds and frequently get reported by residents due to odor concerns.

B. Proposed Project

PAS is authorized under Section 22 of the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) and it allows the Corps to provide state and local entities with technical assistance. The request, if accepted, would engage resources within USACE to study ways to mitigate some of the issues associated with the dead loops while ensuring any potential projects would be compatible with design and construction of the Mouse River Enhanced Flood Protection Project.

C. Consultant Selection

N/A

IV. IMPACT:

A. Strategic Impact:

As the overall flood control project is constructed, some of the dead loops will be reincorporated into the river system. However, not all of the dead loops offer the same restoration possibilities. This study will help identify ways to mitigate concerns with the dead loops.

B. Service/Delivery Impact:

The hope is that there are opportunities that exist to improve the quality of the dead loops thus improving the quality of life for those living near them

C. Fiscal Impact:

PAS projects through the Corps have a 50/50 cost share.

Project Costs

N/A

Project Funding

Funding for this was not included in the 2024 budget. If council supports moving forward, there will be a subsequent budget amendment to allocate funding. It is anticipated the initial phase wouldn't exceed \$50,000 and funding support will be requested from the Souris River Joint Board. This would cap the City of Minot participation to less than \$12,500.

V. CITY COUNCIL ASPIRATIONS

This item would achieve all of the council aspirations.

VI. ALTERNATIVES

The council could elect to deny this request. In that case, no further investigation will be done

VII. TIME CONSTRAINTS

N/A

VIII. LIST OF ATTACHMENTS

A. *Request Letter*