

## **E.6 Annual Update – 2020**

### **City of Minot: Annual Hazard Mitigation Plan Progress Report**

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## 6.1 Overview of Ward County, ND Hazard Mitigation Plan

In 2013, the Ward County, ND Hazard Mitigation Plan (the Plan) was prepared by 12 local jurisdictions incorporated into Ward County. The Plan is organized to parallel the structure provided in the IFR, and to reflect the changes in the review process that were implemented in October 2012, with the enactment of the *Local Mitigation Plan Review Guide*. For the ease of review and use, the 2013 Plan was significantly reformatted from the 2008 Plan.

On October 7, 2013 the Plan was formally adopted by the Minot City Council. Documentation of this adoption is provided in the original Plan. Original copies of the 2013 Plan, as well as the 2018 update, are available on the Ward County Emergency Management web page for public use. City of Minot employees in the Engineering, Planning, and Public Works Departments also have access to the Plan through an internal server dedicated to City projects.

In order to maintain compliance with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), the Plan is updated every 5 years and submission of the update was due on October 1, 2018. The 2018 update to the Plan was approved by FEMA as documented by a letter to the North Dakota Department of Emergency Services dated August 17, 2018.

As a participating jurisdiction in Ward County, the City of Minot has prepared this evaluation for use by the Ward County Emergency Management Director (EMD), who is primarily responsible for monitoring the Plan. The EMD may use this document in preparing the County-wide annual evaluation report.

## 6.2 Annual Progress Report Preparation

To maintain the effectiveness of the Plan, a yearly evaluation report is used as a method of monitoring the Plan. This section explains the details of the report and components of the evaluation.

### 6.2.1 Report Preparation Methodology

Primary responsibility for the preparation of this report was given to the City of Minot Engineering Department, due to the department's familiarity with ongoing Hazard Mitigation projects, as well as the City's involvement in the Community Rating System (CRS) program. Evaluation of the Plan included input from the departments and personnel listed in the table below.

<b>2017 Annual Evaluation Report Involvement</b>				
Department	Contact Name	Contact Title	Contact Phone	Contact E-mail
Engineering	Lance Meyer	City Engineer	701-857-4100	Lance.meyer@minotnd.org
Engineering	Aleesha Erickson	GIS Coordinator	701-857-4100	Aleesha.erickson@minotnd.org

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Public Works	Dan Jonasson	Public Works Director	701-857-4140	Dan.jonasson@minotnd.org
Public Information	Derek Hackett	Public Information Officer	701-857-4727	Derek.hackett@minotnd.org

### 6.2.2 Submission to Minot, ND City Council

This report will be submitted to the Minot City Council on January 21<sup>st</sup>, 2020 at 6:30 pm in City Council Chambers. A copy of this document will be filed for the Council's records.

### 6.2.3 Local Media Release of Annual Progress Report

A copy of this report will be given to the Minot Daily News, as well as the local newspaper.

### 6.2.4 Public Availability

The City of Minot's Floodplain Management website has a copy of this report available to the public. This report is available in print at the City Public Works Building and the Minot Public Library.

## 6.3 Mitigation Goals and Action Item Review

Hazard assessments and mitigation strategies are located in a separate section of the Plan for each jurisdiction. Section 12 of the Plan consists of the hazard assessments, mitigation goals, and mitigation goal actions for the City of Minot. For each mitigation goal established, one or more action items were identified. While the mitigation goals are broad and encompass many components, each action item is limited in scope to a specific area of interest or department.

### 6.3.1 Goal 01: Reduce the Effects of Hazards throughout the Planning Area

*Action 1: Continue to enforce floodplain management ordinance and practices*

This action item has been accomplished and will be ongoing as part of the Plan.

*Action 2: Strengthen floodplain ordinance to require additional elevations for new development*

The City of Minot adopted a Flood Protection ordinance in 2015 that requires one foot of freeboard for residential structures in the SFHA. Non-residential structures may use flood-proofing options but must provide two feet of freeboard. The ordinance includes many other requirements for floodplain development to protect people and property in Minot and meet the minimum NFIP requirements. Enforcement of the ordinance will continue as part of the Plan, and the freeboard requirement may be increased to three feet in the future.

*Action 3: Consider joining the NFIP's Community Rating System (CRS)*

The City of Minot began participating in the CRS program in October 2016 as a Class 9 community. After further review, credit was received for additional activities and Minot was modified to a Class 8 in May 2017. This action has been completed and will not be carried forward as part of the 2018 Plan update.

*Action 4: Maintain membership in CRS and work towards decreasing rating and premiums for policyholders*

Work is in progress to increase the City of Minot's rating in the CRS program by maximizing the credit received for existing activities. Additional credit from Activity 420 - Open Space Preservation will be included in a future modification submittal in order to become a Class 7 community. The Engineering Department expects to complete the class modification in 2020. Reaching a rating of Class 7 will provide citizens of Minot in high risk flood areas with a 15 percent discount on flood insurance premiums. This is a new action item and will continue to be ongoing while the Plan is in effect.

**6.3.2 Goal 02: Increase Public and Local Leadership Awareness of Hazard, Risks, and Vulnerabilities; Increase Support for Mitigation Activities through Awareness**

*Action 1: Continue public information and outreach program to educate leaders, residents and business owners about hazards and mitigation*

Various departments and local agencies have increased outreach efforts in the community since the Plan was adopted in 2013. The City's participation in the CRS program has provided more awareness and information available to the community through several credited activities. The actions in Minot that support this goal include the following:

- A newsletter about flood preparedness and mitigation actions is sent annually to all residents who receive a water bill from the City.
- Properties in identified repetitive loss areas receive additional information each fall regarding flood risk in the area.
- In July 2017, a public open house was held for residents of Ward County to learn about several flood-related items, including flood risk on individual properties, flood insurance options, and preliminary FIRM maps that were published in June.
- FEMA's High Water Mark Initiative was implemented in Minot in June 2018, and 15 signs throughout the community help residents understand the magnitude of the flood risk faced by the City.
- Residents can sign up for emergency notifications through the City's website.
- Flyers are available for a wide range of topics including summer and winter weather awareness and fire preparedness.

The City of Minot has also created a Program for Public Information Committee, creditable under Activity 330 of the Community Rating System program. This committee will discuss existing and future outreach programs, including those listed above. The above list does not include all public outreach actions being taken in the community. This goal is ongoing and future actions will consist of expanding the Program for Public Information and continuing the outreach currently in place.

*Action 2: Join the National Fire Protection Agency's Firewise Community Program*

This is a new action included in the 2018 update to the Plan. The Firewise Community Program teaches residents and communities how they can prevent losses from wildfires. Educational information is available through the program to help citizens reduce the risk of wildfires at the local level. No other cities in North Dakota are currently participants in this program.

### 6.3.3 Goal 03: Protect Public Health and Safety Before, During, and After Hazard Events

*Action 1: Work with state and federal partners to determine additional structural flood protection needs, and to design and construct those measures*

The Mouse River Enhanced Flood Protection Project (MREFPP) began in 2013 and continuously evolves to fit the needs of Minot and surrounding communities. Collaborative efforts including the City of Minot, Ward County, the State of North Dakota, FEMA, USACE, and others, have proposed structural flood control projects for the entire Souris River Basin. Multiple phases of the projects within the city limits of Minot are currently under construction. This action is a long-term ongoing effort that will not be complete for several years.

*Action 2: Purchase and install additional emergency power generators*

Emergency power generators for six sanitary sewer lift stations have been added in the community. A Moderate/High priority level was assigned to this action because of its immediate impact on people and property in case of a flood. This item is complete.

*Action 3: Purchase and install additional warning sirens*

A Moderate/High priority level was given to this action, as it is a mitigation strategy that applies to multiple hazards identified in the community. This action was completed in its entirety and will not be ongoing.

*Action 4: Study and develop mitigation solutions to existing stormwater and drainage issues that currently result in periodic flooding*

A City-wide storm water management plan has been developed as a guide for future projects to address areas with drainage problems. A new City ordinance was passed in 2013 which requires Storm Water Management Plans to be submitted for any proposed development within the jurisdictional limits of Minot. Drainage issues reported by residents are inspected at the site and recommendations are given to the homeowner or Public Works Department as applicable. This action has been completed and will be ongoing as part of this Plan.

*Action 5: Install stream gauges to gather real-time data to better predict, prepare for, and respond to high water events in flood prone areas*

This is a new action included in the 2018 Plan update. This action is most applicable to flood hazards, and has a moderate priority level. The City of Minot Public Works Department is the main department responsible for completing this action.

#### 6.3.4 Goal 04: Ensure Post-Disaster Operability of Critical Assets and Infrastructure.

*Action 1: Develop GIS data regarding recent annexations and/or recently constructed assets, to provide for better hazard and risk mapping*

The City's GIS mapping system has been expanding as more information becomes available. Annexations of parcels into the City Limits are shown color-coded by year on the GIS map. A database of this information is also kept by the GIS Coordinator. Newly built or upgraded infrastructure including lift stations, sanitary sewer system facilities, and the City's water supply system are also recorded on the GIS map. The collected data can be used in mitigation and emergency operations planning. This action is in progress and will be ongoing as part of the Plan.

#### 6.3.5 Goal 05: Provide Long-Term Mitigation Solutions to Areas / Structures that Experience Repetitive Hazard Damage or Loss.

*Action 1: Continue collection and storage of data regarding the vulnerabilities of public assets and infrastructure, to develop mitigation actions to better protect them.*

Information about infrastructure and systems built or maintained by the City's Public Works Department is regularly updated to provide an accurate depiction of the risks faced by these assets. Locations of these assets can be viewed on a map to determine which facilities are at risk for certain hazards. This action has been completed and will be ongoing as part of this Plan.

*Action 2: Identify and acquire flood-prone properties throughout the City*

Five repetitive loss properties in the City's jurisdiction remain unmitigated. Many properties inundated by the Souris River in 2011 are being acquired by the City to use for flood storage areas or structural flood control measures. Information about these properties is available on

the City's GIS map and a master list is kept on the City's internal computer servers. Homes on these properties are demolished or auctioned and relocated to prevent future damage from occurring. This is a long-term action item and is still in progress.

*Action 3: Minot Water Treatment Plant Flood Protection Project*

The Minot Water Treatment Plant area is a portion of the Mouse River Enhanced Flood Protection Plan (MREFPP), as discussed for Goal 3. Flood control structures around the Water Treatment Plant were completed prior to the 2018 Plan update. This action has already been completed so there will be no ongoing work.

*Action 4: Phase MI-1 4<sup>th</sup> Ave Floodwall Project*

Phase MI-1 is also included in the MREFPP and included in the 2018 Plan update as a new item. Construction is continuing on this phase of the flood control project and is expected to be ongoing for several years.

*Action 5: Phase MI-2 Napa Valley Project - earthen levees starting at west edge of Minot*

Levee construction began in 2018 on the west side of Minot as part of the MREFPP. This action is new in the 2018 update to the Plan. Phase MI-2 will take several years to complete and will be an ongoing item in the Plan.