

RESOLUTION NO. 3566

A RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT FOR THE RESTORATION OF MINOT'S NATURAL MEANDERS OF THE MOUSE RIVER FOR THE PURPOSES OF COMMUNITY BETTERMENT, HABITAT RESTORATION, AND PUBLIC SAFETY

WHEREAS, the meanders of the Mouse River through Minot -- known locally as 'dead loops' -- are unintended consequences of Minot's existing federal flood protection project.

WHEREAS, the meanders are sections of natural river channel through Minot.

WHEREAS, the meanders support limited aquatic life and fish due to degraded habitat and water quality.

WHEREAS, annual duckweed blooms on the river and in the meanders negatively impact perception of the Mouse River and may be reduced by restoration of natural current in the meanders.

WHEREAS, section 23-73 of the City of Minot Code of Ordinances prohibits boating or swimming within three hundred feet of a dam or any structure within the river which creates dangerous currents or other hazardous water conditions, effectively limiting the ability to canoe, swim, or recreate on the Mouse River.

WHEREAS, with rising flood insurance costs and many citizens still recovering from the 2011 flood, it is reasonable for the City of Minot to pursue projects and concepts that may improve property values in flood-impacted neighborhoods near the river and natural meanders.

WHEREAS, engineering firm Ackerman-Estvold, at the request of the City of Minot's former City Manager, developed the Magic City Waterway concept to restore the ecological and recreational quality of our natural meanders, improve our riverine habitat, and allow those recreating on the river to bypass the cofferdams safely.

WHEREAS, the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers (U.S.A.C.E.) has a program and funding for ecosystem restoration projects that address unintended negative consequences of past U.S.A.C.E. infrastructure projects such as the Minot area's existing federal flood protection project.

WHEREAS, as part of the Mouse River Enhanced Flood Protection Project (MREFPP) the Souris River Joint Board (SRJB) is required to mitigate project impacts to wetlands through habitat restoration programs.

WHEREAS, the meanders, in conjunction with Minot's current flood protection infrastructure, serve the role of storm water detention.

WHEREAS, the protection of life and property are the primary purpose of Minot's ongoing flood protection efforts through the SRJB and the MREFPP.

WHEREAS, it is appropriate and expected that Minot's City Council provide guidance and direction for future and potential projects within the City of Minot.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City of Minot, North Dakota to support restoration of Minot's natural meanders of the Mouse River through Minot for the purposes of community betterment, habitat restoration, and citizen safety.

BE IT RESOLVED by the City of Minot, North Dakota that if wetland mitigation activities are required as a result of the MREFPP project activities within Minot, the City of Minot supports the SRJB's exploration of options to mitigate wetland impacts through restoration of the meanders of the Mouse River.


BE IT RESOLVED by the City of Minot, North Dakota hereby supports the SRJB's pursuance of a federal or state partner in ecosystem restoration through the ongoing U.S.A.C.E. feasibility study activities.

BE IT RESOLVED by the City of Minot, North Dakota that the Magic City Waterway or similar future concept is hereby adopted as a goal of the City of Minot.

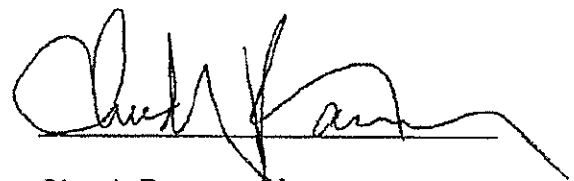
WHEREUPON, the motion was declared duly passed and adopted this 21st day of July, 2017.

ATTEST:

APPROVED:



Kelly Matalka, City Clerk



Chuck Barney, Mayor