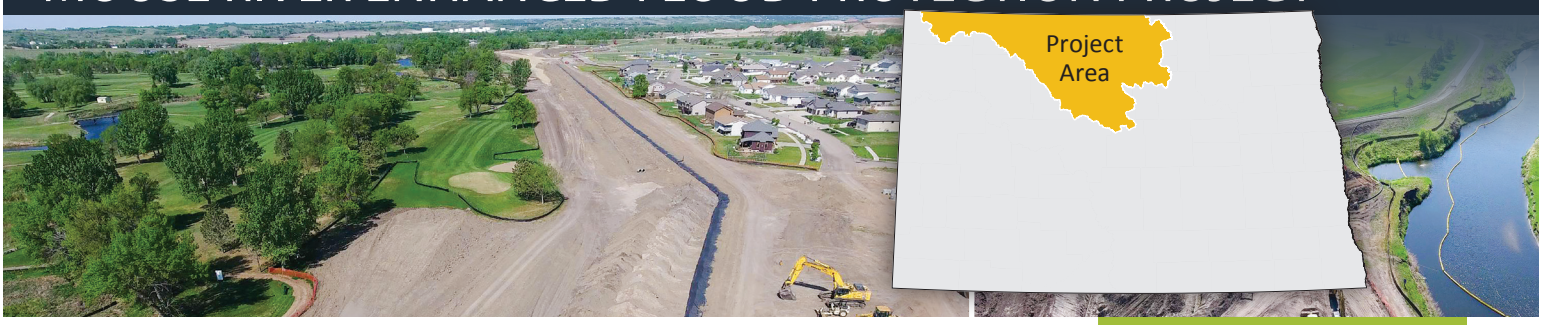
MOUSE RIVER ENHANCED FLOOD PROTECTION PROJECT



The Mouse River Enhanced Flood Protection Project (MREFPP) is designed to provide flood relief to Mouse River Valley residents - both urban and rural (See Map Appendix). The project was originally initiated by the State Water Commission in response to a request from the Souris River Joint Water Resource Board (SRJB) following the record-setting Mouse River flood of June 2011. The initial phases of the MREFPP involved developing flood risk solutions, first to the urbanized portions of the basin, and then for the rural reaches.

The current focus is on implementation of those solutions, with multiple phases through the city of Minot permitted and under construction. Of particular interest to Minot residents is FEMA's regulatory floodplain, which will carry a mandatory purchase requirement for flood insurance on homes with a mortgage loan. Following the construction of the initial phases of the MREFPP, the regulatory floodplain will be amended, removing approximately 60 percent of the homes affected in Minot.

Quick Facts

- 4 Counties
- 26 Combined Projects
- $1 Billion Project Cost
- Implementation Plan Through 2039

2017-2019 FUNDING & PROGRESS

To date, the MREFPP has been supported mostly by state and local funds. Funding through the State Water Commission has been provided in the form of 75 percent cost-share for property buy-outs, and 65 percent cost-share for other work. The MREFPP requested $127 million in state funding for the 2017-2019 biennium. House bill 1020, the Water Commission's funding bill passed by the Legislature in 2017, provided Legislative intent that the MREFPP receive no more than $193 million in state funding for work in Minot through the 2023-2025 biennium. As of October 2018, a total of $63.9 million has been committed to the project during the 2017-2019 biennium.

The city of Minot remains the primary source for the local funding share. Presently, Minot is collecting a 0.9 percent sales tax for flood control, which is generating approximately $9 million per year. Discussions are ongoing to examine the possibilities associated with increasing revenues through additional sales taxes, property taxes, or other fees. In addition, the city has received Disaster Recovery Assistance from the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The city has elected to utilize those funds for flood control acquisitions, as HUD funds may not be used for the construction of flood control features.

Marking a major milestone for the overall MREFPP, Minot's floodwall protecting the water treatment plant was completed in fall 2017. This project was identified as the first priority in the development of the MREFPP.

The Souris River Joint Board and the US Army Corps of Engineers have been working jointly on a feasibility study to determine the extent of federal interest in construction of the MREFPP. Based on the most recent information from the study, it appears there will be federal interest in the Maple Diversion and a tieback in the city of Minot. The project includes features expected to cost approximately $85 million. The feasibility study is scheduled to be delivered to Congress by December 2018.

Phases I, II, and III of the urban portion of the MREFPP have commenced, with construction beginning in early 2018. The 4th Avenue North Floodwall (Phase I) includes levees, approximately 2,250 feet of floodwalls, a major pump station, and two removable closure structures. Phases II and III (bid as one contract) in Minot involve flood protection along Napa Valley and Forest Road, respectively. The predominant features of these segments are earthen levees. The three construction phases will likely take two-to-three construction seasons to complete.

In addition to the works located in Minot, a number of projects in rural portions of the Mouse River Basin are moving forward. A portion of the flood protection in the city of Burlington is being fast-tracked, with the Colton Avenue Bridge ready for bid in early 2019. Similarly, design has begun on bridges in Renville, Ward, and McHenry Counties. The design of these bridges began in summer 2018 and are currently scheduled to be completed in summer 2019. Construction is dependent upon funding, but is projected to begin in spring 2020.

MOUSE RIVER ENHANCED FLOOD PROTECTION PROJECT FUNDING DATA

HISTORIC STATE FUNDING FOR MOUSE RIVER ENHANCED FLOOD PROTECTION PROJECT

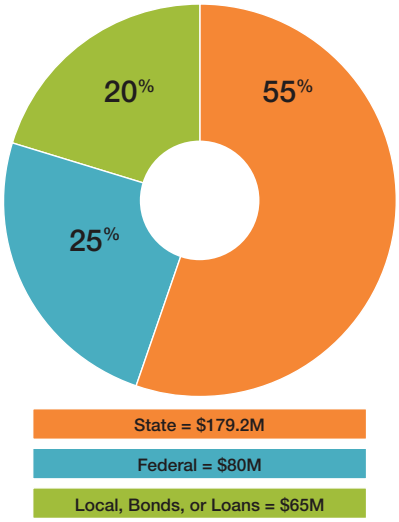
SOURIS RIVER JOINT WATER RESOURCES BOARD

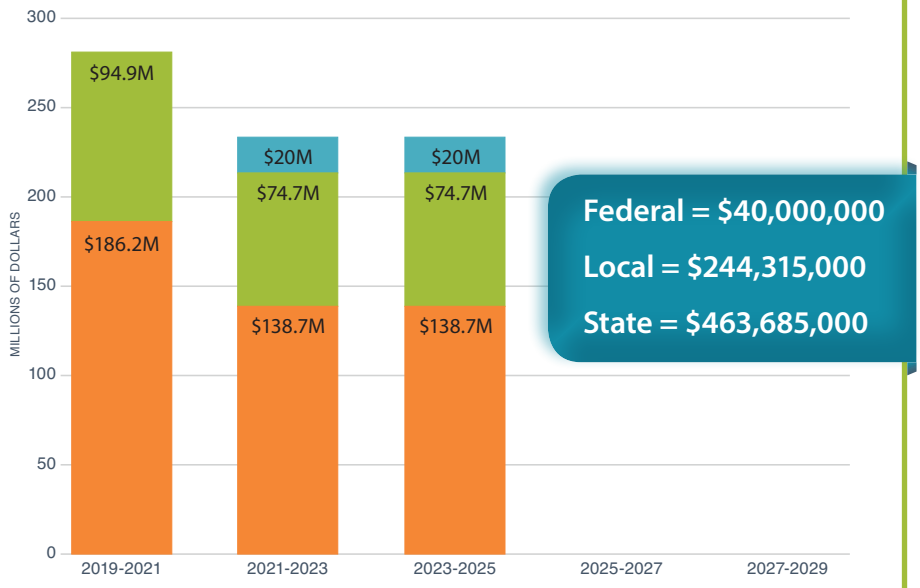
The Souris River Joint Water Resources Board (SRJB) oversees activities related to the Mouse/Souris River in North Dakota. The board is made up of one representative from each of the four member county water boards (Bottineau, McHenry, Renville, and Ward), and one representative from the City of Minot.

HISTORIC MREFPP FUNDING SOURCES

Total Funding as of October 2018

$324.2 Million



LOOKING AHEAD

MREFPP FORECASTED FUNDING NEEDS