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Flood protection project complete at Minot Water Treatment Plant

Minot, N.D. - "Today's finished flood protection project is the step in preventing future floods from contaminating and interrupting the water supply to Minot and dozens of communities throughout north central North Dakota," said Minot Mayor Chuck Barney at today's ribbon cutting for the HMGP-Water Treatment Plant project. "And this is just the first of many pieces of enhanced flood protection that will give those living in Minot and throughout the Souris River Basin additional protection, up to the 2011 flood of record."

Dignitaries from all levels of government cut the ribbon today to dedicate the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program-Water Treatment Plant flood protection project. Mayor Barney was joined by U.S. Sen. John Hoeven, U.S. Rep. Kevin Cramer, FEMA Region VIII Risk Analysis Branch Chief Ryan Pietramali, NDDDES Disaster Recovery Chief Cody Schulz and others in marking the end of a flood protection project that will provide permanent protection to prevent floods similar to that in 2011 from impacting the Minot Water Treatment Plant. The ribbon-cutting ceremony and speeches today marked the end of a two-year construction project, after an 18-month design period.

"We worked hard to secure \$22.5 million in federal funding for this project to protect the water treatment plant and ensure that the Minot community will have access to a clean water supply during high water events," said Sen. Hoeven. "This is an important part of our efforts to protect the Minot community from flooding and continue working to advance comprehensive flood protections."

"We are pleased to share in Minot's remarkable comeback from the 2011 floods," said FEMA's Acting Regional Administrator Nancy Dragani. "This grant demonstrates the agency's ongoing commitment to help Minot and the entire Souris Valley become more resilient, and a model of disaster recovery."

The finished project features the first floodwalls built in the Minot community. Concrete walls span 1,720 linear feet on the south side of the Mouse River. These floodwalls tie into two new temporary roadway closure structures at 16th Street SW and Water Treatment Plant Road (12th Street SW). Earthen levees, new lift stations, and the adjustment of intake structures at the treatment plant are also part of the finished project. Houston Engineering designed the project and Wagner Construction was the general contractor in charge of construction.

The \$30 million flood protection project was a true collaboration between local, state and federal partners. The cost share for the project was supported by 75 percent funding (\$22.5 million) from the Federal Emergency Management Agency budget, 15 percent funding (\$4.5 million) from the City of Minot, and 10 percent funding (\$3 million) from the North Dakota Department of Emergency Services budget.

At the ribbon cutting event, Mayor Barney also highlighted the City's efforts over the past six years in making our community more resilient and ready for any future floods:

- Multiple phases of home acquisitions, for future flood protection projects - taking 311 properties out of harm's way, at a cost of \$67.8 million. Many of these were made possible by state and Community Development Block Grant-Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) funding.
- The City of Minot has worked closely with the Souris River Joint Board, to push forward on enhanced flood protection - specifically the first three phases of that larger project. Just this week the City Council approved bid specifications for the first three phases of the Mouse River Enhanced Flood Protection Plan. These projects, combined with a fourth project that is close to starting its design phase, the Maple diversion, along with tie back levees on the east and west ends of these phases, would protect nearly 60 percent of those who flooded and take them out of the flood zone. Nearly \$200 million, or 65 percent of the cost for these initial projects was provided by the state legislature, helping make our community and valley safer.
- The City secured a \$74.3 million grant, made possible through the National Disaster Resilience Competition, to support four primary areas - buyouts/acquisitions of homes in the valley; a downtown gathering space; a family homeless shelter; and affordable housing initiatives.

For additional details on upcoming flood protection projects go to the www.mouseriverplan.com website.

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