

within the District, unless specifically exempt therefrom, it automatically comes under the jurisdiction of the Board of Commissioners of the Lower Heart River District.

The Lower Heart River Water Management District includes the lands in the lower drainage area of the Heart River, and also the plains lying east of the Heart River and west of the Missouri River between the Northern Pacific's main line bridge which spans the Missouri River and the confluence of the Heart and Missouri Rivers.

The Lower Heart River Water Management District has jurisdiction therefore of a portion of the area which is the subject of the proposed bank stabilization works.

Shortly after its creation, the Lower Heart District cooperated with the Corps of Engineers in the construction of the flood protective works and levees which protect the city of Mandan and the plains lying south and east of the city from the ravages of the flooding Heart River. These works as constructed terminate near the confluence of the Heart and Missouri Rivers. The total amount spent on that project, including both federal, state and local sums on the maintenance now exceeds three million dollars.

Since the construction of the Garrison Dam and particularly in recent years due to the erratic fluctuation of the river in the vicinity of the Lower Heart District the natural course of the Missouri River has changed preceptably and erratically and at present is endangering the flood protective works which I referred to above. This threat comes about in several manners.

First, near the confluence of the Heart and Missouri Rivers there is the constant cutting away of the right bank near the toe of the present flood control levee. If this cutting continues the District will lose the lower portion of its levee system.

Second, the river has caused a cutting away of the area at the mouth of the channel cutting deeply into the Ft. McKean State Park and causes sand bars to develop at the mouth of the Heart River which causes the waters of the Heart to divert further against the banks causing further degradation.

Third, during the high flow of the Missouri the high waters are backed up into the present Heart River channel causing a flushing action both during back up and the release which occurs when the Missouri is lowered. This flushing or surging action is causing serious erosion of the banks of the Lower Heart River and is threatening to cut through the protective banks of the newly constructed channel of the Heart and may result in the loss of our levee system in the area and would destroy the effectiveness of the levee.

Fourth, when the Missouri is at high flow the water surges into an old channel of the Heart River at a point where years ago it entered into the Missouri several miles upstream from the present mouth of the Heart River. This surging action may reopen this old channel and permit the high waters of the Missouri to flow up against the city of Mandan's sewage lagoon system.

Finally, the Missouri River is cutting into the right bank all along the area between the N.P. Bridge and the mouth of the Heart. This erosive action is erratic shifting and unpredictable, both as to location and extent of damage. The loss of land is accelerating at an alarming rate.

Because of the problems on this stretch of the Missouri River are so acute and require prompt corrective measures, the Lower Heart River Water Management District respectfully urges this Committee to recommend the passage of H.R. 3402.

The Board of Commissioners of the Lower Heart River Water Management District has duly adopted a resolution supporting the proposed remedial works and has and does hereby stand ready, willing and able to give the federal government all necessary assurances so that the project may be undertaken without delay.

STATEMENT OF ALBERT STEFFENSON, DIRECTOR OF THE OLIVER COUNTY, NORTH DAKOTA WATER MANAGEMENT BOARD, AND RANCHER, FARMER, IRRIGATOR, IN SUPPORT OF H.R. 3402, JUNE 20, 1968

My name is Albert Steffenson. My wife and I live on a farm and ranch in Oliver County, North Dakota approximately 26 miles north of Mandan, North Dakota on the west side of the Missouri River. I am a member of the Oliver County, North Dakota Water Management Board.