

Exhibit A: Executive Summary

City of Minot, North Dakota

ExhibitA_ExecutiveSummary.pdf



EXHIBIT A: EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

PROVIDE, POWER, and PROTECT. Located in northwest North Dakota near the Canadian border and sixty miles from the geographic center of North America, in the heartland of agriculture and energy and home to Minot Air Force Base's global strike and nuclear deterrence resources, Minot is strategically important to the United States and the world due to its ability to Provide for the World (agriculture), Power the World (energy), and Protect the World (defense).



At the peak of the June 2011 flood, 12,000 people were evacuated from their homes in Minot. There were fewer than 300 people in the shelters that had been set up, however, and they were there for only a short period of time. Families, friends, coworkers, and even strangers who became like family shared their homes, their dinner tables, and their compassion with neighbors who had lost everything. That is the story of Minot. We're a community that works hard every day to provide, power, and protect, and when we're faced with great adversity we step up and help one another. We hope this proposal reflects our earnest commitment to help everyone in our community recover from the flood. We realize now that we must dedicate ourselves to a legacy of resilience so this region will continue to build on what we've learned through this NDRC process.

Minot has proposed an integrated set of NDRC projects: *reduce flood risk and improve water management, build affordable resilient neighborhoods, and foster economic resilience and diversification.* These three projects address our unmet recovery needs using innovative, science-based decision support tools; inclusive communication and outreach strategies that will continue to involve people from across our community in the implementation of these projects; and an annual Report to Minot that will recount our progress toward achieving the

objectives outlined in our approach. The projects were developed in consultation with residents, partners, and city officials who worked together over the past 13 months to determine the most critical unmet needs, how we could best address those needs, and how we can use the best science to protect our region, including our agricultural assets, in order to create a more resilient future. We are confident that our proposal will enable us to do that.

This has truly been a regional collaboration—and it does not stop at the U.S. border. We have begun communicating more frequently with federal regulatory agencies and with our international partners in Canada, and are meeting regularly with our regional partners and state agencies to consider flood risk reduction options that will benefit us all. Our resilience is grounded in a regional approach. We have asked the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and the International Souris River Board to adopt and implement a one-foot-lower normal water level control for Lake Darling, located 20 miles northwest of Minot, by next spring. That single action could provide 10,000 acre-feet of additional water storage upstream of Minot, increasing public safety and reducing flood risk from smaller events. It isn't the total solution, but it is one layer in a more resilient vision for our region.

Remember the old saying, “put your money where your mouth is?” Minot has done just that. Because our city is the trading center for the region, and because we recognized the smaller communities in our region have limited financial capabilities, Minot has committed to fund the local cost share for the regional flood protection system for all communities along the Souris River in North Dakota. That means Minot will provide a minimum of \$337 million dollars over the next 30 years to help protect the entire region. For a city of just under 50,000 residents, that's a pretty powerful example of regional cooperation. We recognize, however, that resilience is not achieved in a vacuum. Minot's environmental, social, and economic

resilience is intrinsically linked to the resilience of our entire region.

Minot was faced with devastating flooding of the Souris River (also known as the Mouse River) and a simultaneous economic shock from the Bakken oil boom. We've learned valuable lessons from these very diverse events, and we recognize the challenge posed by the economic volatility of the oil industry. We have reached out to other areas of the country that have faced similar economic peaks and valleys to identify lessons they've learned that could be helpful to us, and we want to share the lessons and best practices from our experience. As the effects of climate change, economic globalization, transformative technologies, and other environmental challenges continue, more regions will face concurrent disasters, hazards, and shocks that can significantly complicate the process of developing the best recovery responses, as has been the case in Minot. We believe our experiences can help others consider these scenarios in their planning efforts, and think differently about the best solution strategies.

This is a bold proposal, but it is one that Minot and its partners are fully capable of implementing. Minot has come a long way since the historic flood in 2011, but available resources are insufficient to complete our recovery or invest in becoming a more resilient city and region in the future. Our proposal focuses on critical unmet recovery needs: moving people in low-lying flood prone areas out of harm's way, because the flood protection system will not be completed for many years; developing affordable housing that is so critically needed for our vulnerable residents; and providing access to the skills and training required to maintain and enhance our economic diversity, so we do not become even more reliant on the oil industry. We are confident these projects can be completed within the schedule we have outlined, and will produce the benefits we've described. We sincerely appreciate the NDRC process and your consideration of our application for the National Disaster Resilience Competition.