

MERRIAM DRAINAGE DISTRICT  
OF JOHNSON COUNTY, KANSAS  
MONTHLY BOARD MEETING  
April 6, 2020

The regular monthly meeting of the Merriam Drainage District of Johnson County, Kansas, was called to order at 7:06 P.M. virtually by Chairman Eric Jackson with the following persons attending the electronic conference via the Blue Jeans Meeting:

Eric Jackson, Chairman  
Gerald Becker, Secretary  
Sam Matier, Treasurer

James Orr, Attorney  
Steve Roth, Alfred Benesch  
Rebecca Heatwole  
Visitors: Billy Croan  
Juliana Garcia

A motion was made by Mr. Becker to ratify the Resolution of Declaration of Emergency allowing the Chairman to undertake any actions necessary to meet the coronavirus issues; seconded by Mr. Matier; unanimously passed.

Mr. Matier made a motion to approve the electronic meeting protocol being used in today's meeting; seconded by Mr. Becker; unanimously passed.

Mr. Becker made a motion that while current coronavirus "stay-at-home" orders are in effect, the Board of the Merriam Drainage District will meet remotely by electronic conferencing; seconded by Mr. Jackson; unanimously approved

Mr. Matier made a motion to publish the notice of the future meetings in the Legal Record during such time as the Board continues to meet electronically and the Board will publish notice in the Legal Record of the date and time of the next meeting when the Board can meet in person; seconded by Mr. Becker; unanimously passed.

Mr. Becker made a motion that during the time that current coronavirus "stay-at-home" orders are in effect, or until the Board decides otherwise, we suspend the current check writing practice requiring multiple signatures on checks and require that only the Chairman needs to sign any checks, provided that all checks must continue to be approved by the Board; seconded by Mr. Matier; unanimously approved.

Mr. Becker made a motion that the Chairman in authorized to coordinate the safe signing and distribution of all checks, including exchanging and delivering them by U.S. Mail, or as is otherwise safe and effective; seconded by Mr. Matier; unanimously approved.

A motion was made to approve the minutes of the March 2, 2020 as written by Mr. Becker, seconded by Mr. Matier; unanimously passed.

1) Engineering Report:

- a. Mr. Roth informed the board that the work along the trail to cut a ditch south of the Farmer's Market (site k) has been completed; the board was provided before and after pictures. Reike also cleared all debris from the corrugated pipes. Mr. Becker mentioned that during a walk along the creek he noticed that the water flow looked good. Mr. Becker will also ask the mowing crew to keep an eye on the debris to keep everything clear.
- b. Mr. Roth mentioned the remaining projects from the 2019 CIP are I & J which are the pipe extension and wall repair south of Johnson drive on the east side of the channel.

- c. Mr. Roth informed in looking at his notes he was not able to find where the 2020 CIP were approved by the board. Mr. Becker and Mr. Matier asked that this be tabled until the next meeting as they did not have the list in front of them. Quote from Reike including the cost of rock is \$132,130.00 for 2020 CIP.
  - d. Mr. Roth informed the board that Reike went to the quarry in Lawrence and found that the rock was not high enough quality for MDD needs. Reike plans to contact the previous quarry and hopes to be able to proceed within the next 4 weeks.
- 2) Attorney Report:
- a. Mr. Orr spoke with Mr. DeMasters regarding cost of defense being included in our policy. Mr. Demasters believes that it is included but will get confirmation.
  - b. Mr. Orr informed the board that the state is considering delaying the payment of real estate taxes due to the coronavirus, so it is possible tax receipts will be delayed. He will continue to monitor this situation. Also, there is some speculation that real property tax receipts may drop longer term if the general economic downturn caused by the coronavirus significantly depresses real estate values.
  - c. Mr. Orr informed there is also a possibility that the budget process may be modified or delayed due to coronavirus as well.
- 3) New Meeting Location: This has been tabled due to current electronic meetings.
- 4) Storage Solution for MDD Files: We are unable to get our files until the state at home order has been lifted. Mr. Orr informed the board that the District may keep digital copies of records. He recommends having a record retention policy that includes that includes keeping some paper or hard copies of certain key records. Requirements for archiving and accessing the records needs to meet Open Records and other legal requirements. A discussion with the State Records Board should be part of this effort. Mr. Orr recommends storing the paper copies now and moved to digital only as necessary.
- 5) Citizens Bank and Trust Interest Rate: Mr. Orr spoke with Joe Christofano, Executive Vice President & Treasurer, Citizens Bank has placed an interest rate floor of 10 basis points on the District's accounts. Because interest rates are so low, this will result in an effective current increase compared with our previous arrangement of receiving the T-bill rate, or the more recent rate of 40 basis points below the T-bill rate with a floor of 0% interest. However, the District will still be receiving reduced interest payments at present. Mr. Orr recommends that the board keep an eye on the rates and make a decision at a future time.
- 6) Website Information: Miss Heatwole did some research into website design and found that it would cost between \$850.00 - \$5000.00 to have a website built for MDD. The site would cost roughly \$22 - \$39/mo depending on support package selected; as well as another \$12.99/month for hosting the site. The domain name merriamdrainage.org is available for \$10.99. Mr. Jackson requested that everyone take a look at the Fairfax Drainage District site before making a decision on the website at the next meeting.
- 7) Bills were approved as presented for payment: Mr. Becker made a motion to approve bills; seconded by Mr. Matier; unanimously approved.
- 8) Mr. Becker informed the board that there would be considerably more mowing for Mr. Maldonado this year. Mr. Maldonado has confirmed that he will be able to keep up with the demand.
- 9) Mr. Becker informed the board that he noticed debris on pilings of Johnson Drive Bridge and he will call the City of Merriam to make them aware.

There being no further business, a motion was made by Mr. Becker to adjourn at 8:13 P.M.; seconded by Mr. Matier; unanimously approved.

cc: Board and staff

Respectfully submitted,  
Rebecca Heatwole  
Recording Secretary