

MERRIAM DRAINAGE DISTRICT  
OF JOHNSON COUNTY, KANSAS  
MONTHLY BOARD MEETING  
June 1, 2020

The regular monthly meeting of the Merriam Drainage District of Johnson County, Kansas, was called to order at 7:00 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: Jason Silvers  
Juliana Garcia

A motion was made to approve the minutes of the May 4, 2020 as amended to state that Mr. Roth was going to check to verify if all 2020 CIP Projects were approved by the Board by Mr. Jackson, seconded by Mr. Matier; unanimously passed.

1) Engineering Report:

- a. Mr. Roth mentioned that Max Rieke is looking for rock to be able to finish the remaining 4 projects from 2019 and 2020. There is an over burden for the rock from the original quarry, they will not be able to provide rock until beginning of the year. The new quarry was inspected by Mr. Roth, the rock does look to be high quality. The only issue is the quarry is surrounded by private property and there is no place to park the large truck(s); they would be about a mile away. Reike estimates it would cost about \$100K to get enough rock to finish the projects; most of this cost is labor and transportation of the rock since it is relatively close to the surface. Mr. Roth suggested an alternative solution using manufactured concrete rock. This would require removing the existing limestone rock, pulling out the rock that can be salvaged and excavating down to solid rock the concrete contractor would then pour a concrete slab to build the wall on. Mr. Roth mentioned that we would have construct a gravity retaining wall, the weight of the blocks themselves keep the wall from shifting. A tie back wall would interfere with the future work the COE will be doing. The limestone looking concrete stone will be held together with a ball and socket connection, there will be no rebar. Mr. Roth suggests beginning on the North end by Merriam Drive on the West side of the wall. Both limestone and concrete stone should both last more than 20 years. There was a general discussion wherein Mr. Becker questioned the possibility of getting more rock at the new quarry to help with the cost of the transportation. Mr. Roth was unsure how much more we could get and if it would be cost effective. In addition, the board questioned would we be paying more money for the installation of the concrete stone, thus hitting the same dollar amount as limestone? Mr. Matier questioned if we have exhausted all limestone prospects. Mr. Roth informed he has reached out to three contractors that Benesch has used in the past. Quarries have been located, but the slab size seems to be the limiting factor. Not many quarries are able to meet the required size. The board requested that Mr. Roth provide a cost benefit analysis at the July meeting.
- b. Mr. Roth provided the board with the 2021 Capital Improvements plan, total is \$155,625.00. Mr. Becker would like for Area D to be completed as soon as possible or at least fenced off so that no one could fall into the hole. Mr. Roth mentioned it would be possible to do a temporary fix, but it would cost probably \$7,500.00 due to equipment fees; he will contact Max Reike to set up construction fencing. Mr. Becker is concerned if we have another rain event like we did recently we might have a failure. Mr. Jackson questioned if we could go ahead and prioritize the hole fixing which might allow them to do a cheaper temporary fix on Area D. After a general discussion, Mr. Becker made a motion to approve A, I, J and a

temporary fix on D as suggested by Mr. Roth; seconded by Mr. Matier; unanimously approved.

- c. Of the 2020 CIP, Mr. Roth believes that we should fix area I to repair the wall. The board would like to wait until July meeting to have hard numbers for the remaining 2020 CIP projects.
- 2) Attorney Report:
    - a. Mr. Orr spoke with Juliana Garcia from the Shawnee Mission Post regarding the history of Merriam Drainage District. Mr. Orr mentioned during that conversation she mentioned that it did seem that it was difficult to find information on the board and suggested that a website might be good for MDD to have.
  - 3) Fencing Stakes near MDD and Mr. Bell's property update: Mr. Roth provided an AIMS Map for the Board. Mr. Roth is having issues getting a quote for the fence, because of the gap for a street right of way. Mr. Roth informed we do have a survey from when the City did the work to put in the driveway. Mr. Roth mentioned that we should get a sign that says no dumping/no trespassing as well as painted orange stakes to delineate the property line. Before doing this work, Mr. Roth believes we should speak with Mr. Bell to let him know what we are planning to do. Mr. Jackson requested that Mr. Orr speak with Mr. Bell to inform him of our intentions. Once Mr. Orr has spoken with Mr. Bell, Mr. Roth will take care of getting someone out there to put the stakes in.
  - 4) Mowing Along Turkey Creek Trail – Mr. Jackson was notified a section along Turkey Creek Trail near Warner Park needed mowed, Mr. Becker indicated in the past the City took it upon themselves to mow this area. Mr. Maldonado is now aware that he needs to mow this area regularly.
  - 5) Preliminary Budget 2021 Discussion: Expectation of less income due to Covid-19, it would be good to discuss this now. Mr. Orr gave the board information regarding decreased income two meetings ago. Mr. Matier believes that we might not be affected by Covid-19 sales tax revenue, because MDD receives Ad Valorem due to property tax. Mr. Orr believes we need to be mindful that real estate values might slump do to Covid 19, in addition people might not be able to pay their property taxes if they are not rolled into their mortgage payments. Mr. Becker and Mr. Jackson agree that we might need to dip into our Emergency Fund to take care of the upcoming projects.
  - 6) Bills were approved as presented for payment: Mr. Becker made a motion to approve bills; seconded by Mr. Matier; unanimously approved.

There being no further business, a motion was made by Mr. Becker to adjourn at 8:16 P.M.; seconded by Mr. Matier; unanimously approved.

cc: Board and staff

Respectfully submitted,  
Rebecca Heatwole  
Recording Secretary