

MERRIAM DRAINAGE DISTRICT
OF JOHNSON COUNTY, KANSAS
MONTHLY BOARD MEETING
May 3, 2021

The regular monthly meeting of the Merriam Drainage District of Johnson County, Kansas, was called to order at 7:02 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
John Martin, CPA
Rebecca Heatwole
Visitors: Jason Silvers

A motion was made to approve the minutes of the April 5, 2021 as presented by Mr. Jackson; seconded by Mr. Matier; Mr. Becker abstained.

1) Engineering Report:

- Mr. Roth informed the board that he received another name of a rock quarry, Keith Scott & Company, from Mr. Orr after the last meeting. Mr. Roth presented the board with 3 quotes for stone:
 - House of Rocks - \$100+/ton
 - Flint Hills Stone - \$95/ton plus \$500 to haul stone from McFarland, KS to Merriam, KS; quote total \$135,250.00
 - Keith Scott & Company - \$83/ton + free shipping; quote total \$120,725.00

Mr. Roth contacted Keith Scott & Company and requested an engineer report on the stone to verify the quality of the stone is the same as we have used in the past. He also confirmed, they do have the needed 300 tons of stone needed by MDD.

Mr. Roth reminded the board it was going to take 200 ft to concrete block the section south of Johnson Drive Bridge with a total quote of \$200,000.00.

Mr. Roth doesn't believe the bottom slab of stone will need to be replaced as it doesn't usually move as much as the stone above it; shifting causes the stone to move and crack. Max Reike will remove all broken/damaged rock but will use the good stone again.

Mr. Roth informed that the wall further south that needs repair, which is on the CIP, will benefit from the broken/damaged stone as riprap.

After a general discussion, this item was tabled until next meeting when Mr. Roth has the findings of the report on the stone.

- Mr. Roth provided a copy of the MDD Boundary Map to the board during a general discussion he was asked to add the location labels to the map.
- Mr. Roth informed the board he has asked for a quote from Max Reike for spray sections of the rip rap on the rock wall east of Merriam Drive Bridge as he has been seeing weed growth there.
- Mr. Jackson noticed litter north 67th Street Bridge and wondered if this is additional litter after Max Reike's cleaning or if they haven't yet been able to clean the area; Mr. Roth was unsure of the answer.
- Mr. Roth informed the board that Mr. Matier had reached out for an update on the Upper Turkey Creek Project. Mr. Roth reached out to Mr. John Grothaus for an update and received the following information:

Regarding the Upper Turkey Creek project, we have submitted budget requests through the normal process for the 2022 and 2023 Energy & Water Development Appropriations to initiate project design. Further, the City prepared a budget request to Congresswoman Davids' Office, and her staff were recently in contact with us to verify

some factual information about the budget request process. I believe that they submitted a request from their office to the Energy & Water Committee in the House of Representatives. We had a conference call recently with the City of Merriam and Johnson County Stormwater & Public Works who were asking us about the status and some questions on the project, and all were supportive of getting funding. I encouraged the City to reach out to the Drainage District for added support, and also to MOARC (Tom Kimes and Tom Poer) who are advocating for regional water resources projects in the Energy & Water budget. The project has a lower benefit-cost ratio (BCR) at the 7% interest rate that administrations use to screen projects for budget development (1.1 to 1), but it should be noted that at the current water project interest rate the BCR is closer to 2:1. The problem on Upper Turkey Creek is not just about economic damages, but also about life safety due to the flash flooding risk in an urban area. The Senate may be making budget submissions in the future. I suggested to the City and Johnson County that it may be helpful for someone to contact Senator Moran's and Senator Marshall's offices to inquire if they will want to put in any budget submissions for 2022.

2) Attorney Report:

- Mr. Orr informed the board that the underwriter questioned why MDD would want sexual abuse coverage; MDD would need a procedure for dealing with abuse before they are able to write a policy.
- Mr. Orr informed based on the state and federal laws he would recommend at least doing a risk analysis and he could provide names of employment lawyers that could help with this. After a general discussion, Mr. Matier informed that he believes MDD should have a sexual abuse policy and Mr. Becker agreed. Mr. Orr will provide Mr. Jackson with names of employment lawyers for him to interview.

3) Accountant Report:

- Mr. Martin informed the board that current expenses seem fine and on target for budget.
- There is a major change this year regarding budget timing; dates have been extended out further. The calendar will come out later this week. There are also some new changes and updates; Mr. Martin will attend a budget seminar on May 25th and will provide the details to the board after that webinar.
- Mr. Martin also informed that Mr. Esau Maldonado will need to begin sending MDD invoices for his mowing work; we are no longer able to pay based on an email of hours.

4) Bills were approved as presented for payment a motion was made by Mr. Jackson to approve bills; seconded by Mr. Matier; unanimously approved.

There being no new business, a motion was made by Mr. Jackson to adjourn at 7:36 P.M.; seconded by Mr. Matier; unanimously approved.

cc: Board and staff

Respectfully submitted,
Rebecca Heatwole
Recording Secretary