

MERRIAM DRAINAGE DISTRICT
OF JOHNSON COUNTY, KANSAS
MONTHLY BOARD MEETING
July 6, 2021

The regular monthly meeting of the Merriam Drainage District of Johnson County, Kansas, was called to order at 7:05 P.M. virtually by Chairman Eric Jackson with the following persons attending the electronic conference via the Blue Jeans Meeting:

Eric Jackson, Chairman
Sam Matier, Treasurer

James Orr, Attorney
Steve Roth, Engineer
John Martin, CPA
Rebecca Heatwole

Mr. Orr requested a correction of the spelling of the employment lawyers named in the minutes: Rick Guinn and Jennifer Kyner. A motion was made to approve the minutes of the June 7, 2021, as amended by Mr. Jackson; seconded by Mr. Matier; unanimously approved.

1) Engineering Report:

- Mr. Roth informed the board that Keith Scott Company would not be able to lock in current price with a deposit due to the volatile fuel charges.
- Mr. Roth spoke with Max Rieke Construction, and they informed they should be able to begin work on the section from Johnson Drive to reinforced box in August. Mr. Roth has requested a firm written quote for wall repairs 2019 CIP I & J and 2020 CIP F. He hopes to have the quote at August meeting.
- Mr. Roth provided the board with updated copies of 2020 and 2021 CIP updated with projects paid and the dollar amounts. He also provided the board with the 2022 CIP for budget purposes. Mr. Roth explained that he broke out 2022 CIP into two categories capital improvements and annual maintenance. The only capital improvement is the wall repair I from 2020 CIP the total cost of the project is estimated at \$132,000.00. Mr. Roth informed this project is over 200 ft long, it can be done in sections as budget allows. Mr. Roth will provide an updated list of priority repairs at the next meeting. He will also send a link to the MDD Map.

2) Attorney Report:

- Mr. Orr provided the board with the Harassment & Discrimination policy that he worked on with Mr. Blumenthal. After a general discussion, Mr. Matier made a motion to approve the Harassment & Discrimination policy; seconded by Mr. Jackson; unanimously approved.

3) Accountant Report:

- Mr. Martin reviewed the financials with the board, he believes Merriam Drainage District is in good financial shape. Mr. Martin informed the board that our Revenue Neutral Rate is 1.707; down from the 1.777 mill levied by MDD in 2021. Mr. Martin explained that if the board wanted to keep the same mill levee as last year, MDD will need to decrease \$50K and will require a budget hearing to take place.
- Mr. Martin reminded the board that they encumbered \$58,610 in 2020 for expenses in 2021 and could use these funds to complete 2019 CIP projects I & J and 2020 CIP project F. After a general discussion, Mr. Jackson made a motion for 2022 budget not to exceed the revenue neutral rate and to publish the notice; seconded by Mr. Matier; unanimously approved.

- 4) Website Updates – Mr. Jackson would like to update the website to include announcement of work to be completed and the status of the work while in progress on the website. Miss Heatwole suggested adding the before and after pictures to the site as well. Mr. Roth will provide the link to the MDD Map as well as photos to be added to the site. Miss Heatwole will reach out to HPG Enterprises to discuss the updates.
- 5) Board Meeting Location – Before the pandemic Mr. Jackson had investigated using Johnson County Library, Shawnee Branch (Pflumm and Johnson Drive) for our meetings. If the in-person meetings take place at this branch, Mr. Jackson would like to propose changing the meeting time to 6:30pm to ensure we finish our meeting before the library closes. Mr. Jackson would like to discuss moving the meeting from the 1st Monday of the month to the 2nd Thursday of the month to avoid changing the meeting dates due to holidays. After a general discussion, it was decided not to make a motion to change the meeting date/time until after the budget hearing on August 2, 2021. Mr. Orr informed that having one more virtual meeting will be fine so not to cause confusion with setting up the budget hearing. Mr. Orr will look into the statute to determine if MDD must publish the meeting day/time change.
- 6) Public Officials Policy must be renewed by August 9, 2021. Mr. Jackson would like to move this policy to Aspire as well to keep both policies with the same firm; Aspire is currently working to obtain a policy. Mr. Orr suggests going ahead and binding coverage as our policy will lapse as of August 9, 2021. After a general discussion, Mr. Matier made a motion to accept Aspire policy for the approximate amount stated on DeMaster's invoice; seconded by Mr. Jackson; unanimously passed.
- 7) 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 7:58 P.M.; seconded by Mr. Matier; unanimously approved.

cc: Board and staff

Respectfully submitted,
Rebecca Heatwole
Recording Secretary