

MERRIAM DRAINAGE DISTRICT  
OF JOHNSON COUNTY, KANSAS  
MONTHLY BOARD MEETING  
May 2, 2022

The regular monthly meeting of the Merriam Drainage District of Johnson County, Kansas, was called to order at 7:00 P.M. by Mr. Jackson at GuitarLamp 5848 Merriam Drive Merriam, KS 66203.

Eric Jackson, Chairman

Dan Leap, Secretary

James Orr, Attorney

John Martin, Accountant

Rebecca Heatwole

Guests: Jason Silvers and Jeff Weisbender

The request was made to make the following change to the minutes:

1. In Engineer Report change “hold” to hole.

A motion was made to approve the minutes of the April 4, 2022, as amended, by Mr. Leap; seconded by Mr. Jackson; unanimously approved.

- 1) Engineering Report: Mr. Roth was not in attendance at the meeting, but sent along the following email update to be discussed at the meeting:

1. *We have invited three construction firms to provide bids for the wall project just east of the Merriam Drive bridge. In addition to Max Rieke & Bros., we have also requested quotes from Redford Construction, Inc. and Wiedenmann, Inc. I have a long history with both Redford and Wiedenmann and feel comfortable that all three firms have the knowledge and experience to do this type of work. Per the conditions of the solicitation, the firms are to submit their bids by noon on Monday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>. Since I will be out, you can expect to receive an email from Kendall Hayward (cc'd on this email) with the results of the bid. I would ask that after considering the bids, that you provide me the authority to issue a Notice of Award letter to the lowest bidder. Once the Notice of Award has been issued, we will work with the contractor to obtain all the necessary bonds, insurance, etc. so the Project Manual will be ready for your signature at the June Board Meeting. Once the contract has been executed, we will be able to issue a Notice to Proceed, and work with the contractor on scheduling the work.*
2. *The US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) has received funding in the recent infrastructure bill for the construction of the Upper Turkey Creek Flood Risk Management Project. This project includes several improvements along Turkey Creek from Shawnee Mission Parkway north to the Merriam Drive Bridge. You can access a presentation that was prepared by the USACE in 2017 at this [web site](#). I have contacted Katrina Marx, the USACE's Project Manager for this project, and learned the following.*
  - a. *Since the project was first planned and developed several years ago, the USACE is currently reviewing the plan and reacquainting themselves with the recommendations.*
  - b. *They anticipate beginning to field surveying the area and collect soil borings starting early next year.*
  - c. *Design is planned to start in the Fall of 2023 and continue for two years. Design will include property acquisition all along Turkey Creek which will be a time-consuming process.*
  - d. *Construction is tentatively scheduled to begin in 2026.*

*While Ms. Marx won't be available for the June Board meeting, she is going to provide a representative to attend and discuss the project with the Board. I was also able to confirm with Ms. Marx that while the Merriam Drainage District will not provide any funding for the project, the District will be responsible for the long-term operation and maintenance of the improvements. As such, I did request that the District*

*have the opportunity to review and provide input on the design as it progresses over the next couple of years.*

3. *Based on information provided by Mr. Jackson, we have added the mowing areas along Turkey Creek to the online map. You can access the map from the District's website and select the mowing area layer to display them on the map. The areas are based on written descriptions, so they may require some refinement.*

There was a general discussion regarding the bid project when the project was budgeted the estimate was \$132K and has now increased to \$177K which is considerably more. Mr. Jackson also raised the concern that beginning the work on the west side as proposed by project I, there is a chance that it might be destroyed when the Corps of Engineers begins their work on the east side of the channel. In light of this, he would like to put a hold on awarding the bid or add a contingency based on the based on the Corps' response. Mr. Jackson made a motion to table project I bid award until the June meeting; seconded by Mr. Leap; unanimously approved.

2) Attorney Report:

- Nothing to report.

3) Accountant Report:

- Mr. Martin informed the board that MDD could fund project I, but it would be the only item that could be done. There won't be funds for the additional items.
- Mr. Martin informed the board that he has not been able to get 1<sup>st</sup> Qtr financials together but everything looks good.

- 4) A motion was made to approve the bills as presented by Mr. Jackson; seconded by Mr. Leap; unanimously approved.

- 5) There was a discussion regarding filling the Treasurer position, during which Mr. Jackson nominated Mr. Paul Roy for the position and Mr. Leap nominated Mr. Jeff Weisbender. Neither Mr. Jackson nor Mr. Leap conceded to the other's nominee. Mr. Leap made a motion to appoint Mr. Jeff Weisbender to Treasurer of the Board; not seconded; not passed. Mr. Jackson mad a motion to appoint Mr. Paul Ray to Treasurer of the Board; not seconded; not passed. The candidate search will continue, but the position will need to be filled soon.

- 6) Mr. Jackson asked Miss Heatwole to make sure the website was up to date with the past board meeting minutes.

There being no new business, a motion to adjourn at 7:25 P.M. was made by Mr. Jackson; seconded by Mr. Leap; unanimously approved.

cc: Board and staff

Respectfully submitted,  
Rebecca Heatwole  
Recording Secretary