

MERRIAM DRAINAGE DISTRICT
OF JOHNSON COUNTY, KANSAS
MONTHLY BOARD MEETING
August 7, 2023

The regular monthly meeting of the Merriam Drainage District of Johnson County, Kansas, was called to order at 7:04 P.M. by Mr. Jackson at Higdon & Hale 6310 Lamar Ave #110, Overland Park, KS.

Eric Jackson, Chairman
Dan Leap, Secretary
Jeff Weisbender, Treasurer

James Orr, Attorney
Steve Roth, Engineer
John Martin, CPA
Rebecca Heatwole
Guests: Jason Silvers Christina Stokes
Amy Rider Rose Gerringer

Mr. Weisbender requested that the date of the minutes be updated to reflect “July” instead of “June”. A motion was made to approve the board meeting minutes of July 3, 2023, as amended by Mr. Jackson; seconded by Mr. Weisbender; unanimously approved.

1) Engineering Report:

- Mr. Roth was able to reach out to a few municipalities to determine how they handle burrowing animal issues:
 - a) Kaw Valley Drainage District – They have a similar problem with burrowing animals. Their staff takes care of trapping and moving the animals out of the area. The holes are backfilled with cement per COE requirements. They did note that their trail is not open to the public.
 - b) Johnson County Park and Rec – They don’t do anything with regard to trapping and removing burrowing animals.
 - c) KCK Parks and Rec – They have a similar issue with moles. Their staff traps and discards the animals. They then use a chemical to deter the moles from coming back.

Mr. Roth informed the board that he did not receive feedback from the animal removal contractors. He will reach out again to the previous contractors to ask them the same questions he sent to True Tech. After a general discussion, Mr. Leap and Mr. Weisbender were in favor of trapping and removing animals. Mr. Jackson would like to do whichever option is most cost effective.

Mr. Weisbender questioned if Max Rieke could walk the channel to identify holes while they are already working on the channel instead of having Benesch walk the channel to locate holes. Mr. Roth is not sure that Rieke is on site with any frequency to accomplish this. Mr. Leap would like to verify which option would be cheaper, Rieke or Benesch walking the channel to spot holes.

- The Corps of Engineers meeting still doesn’t have much to report. They have put together their report on changes needed to the original plan. They should be getting cost estimates in November. They are currently getting soil samples, working on obtaining survey easements from companies, and their conceptual design.

2) Attorney Report:

- Mr. Jackson requested that MDD begin talks regarding the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the City of Merriam. It was left in the hands of previous counsel for the City of Merriam. Mr. Orr informed the board that he would reach out the new counsel to begin talks.
- Mr. Orr informed the board that insurance has been bound and is in place.

- 3) Accountant Report:
 - Mr. Martin presented (4) copies of the budget to be signed by each board member.
 - Mr. Martin informed the board that revenue is on target for 2023 Budget. MDD will receive some motor vehicle funds throughout the remainder of the year, but the majority of funds have been received.
 - Mr. Martin informed that MDD is financially in good shape, and he doesn't foresee any issues for this year or 2024.
- 4) Miss Heatwole informed the board of the issues she and Mr. Jackson have been having with Southern Bank. Miss Heatwole explained she was on the phone with customer service trying to get her debit card authorized and a payment made to Aspire for the insurance policy for 8 hours. In addition, the bank statements are incorrect as they do not include monies from the sweep account on our general account statement. Overall customer service has been lacking since Southern Bank purchased Citizens Bank.
 - Mr. Jackson would like Mr. Orr to begin searching for a new bank. Mr. Martin informed that MDD should be looking at collateralization with the banks. He will work with Mr. Orr to come up with a list.
- 5) Mr. Jackson made a motion to approve the bills as presented for payment; seconded by Mr. Leap; unanimously approved.

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn at 7:38 P.M. was made by Mr. Jackson; seconded by Mr. Weisbender; unanimously approved.

cc: Board and staff

Respectfully submitted,
Rebecca Heatwole
Recording Secretary