

MERRIAM DRAINAGE DISTRICT
OF JOHNSON COUNTY, KANSAS
MONTHLY BOARD MEETING
December 4, 2023

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 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
Visitors: Billy Croan and Jason Silvers

A motion was made by Mr. Jackson to approve the minutes of November 6, 2023, as presented: seconded by Mr. Leap; unanimously approved.

1) Engineering Report:

- Mr. Roth received a call from Randy Fine, Merriam Public Works Superintendent, informing him the city has hired Max Rieke and wanted to know if MDD has every had any issues with their work. Mr. Roth told him that MDD is pleased with the work Max Rieke has done for us over the years.
- Mr. Roth informed the COE Turkey Creek Project meeting for tomorrow has been cancelled. They are still awaiting information from Johnson County's project, and they are still awaiting details regarding the hydraulics. The Design meeting for the Turkey Creek project has tentatively been rescheduled for March 2024.
- Mr. Roth reached out to Bryan Dyer, Merriam Community Development Director, regarding the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). Mr. Dyer informed that Mr. Roth would have to speak with Chris Engel, Merriam City Administrator, regarding the MOU, but he would be willing to give Mr. Roth a few pointers for that conversation.
- Mr. Roth spoke with Catch-It they informed it wasn't worth putting out the traps at this time since groundhogs begin to hibernate in October. Mr. Roth has made an action item to contact Catch-It in February to get the traps out by March 2024. As a side note, Catch-It uses cages not snares, they have experience working in public areas.

2) Attorney Report:

- Mr. Orr provided the board with details regarding a lawsuit against the City of Mission Hills for using traps to kill coyotes. There have been a couple of dogs seriously injured by the traps. The lawsuit was provided as a reminder that we should always use live traps and they should be checked often.
- Mr. Jackson asked if a written notice would be needed for the traps being set by Catch-It. Mr. Orr suggested signage in proximity informing to "Stay Away from the Traps" might be a good idea. Mr. Roth is going to speak with Catch-It to see if this is something they can supply or if MDD would need to print and place them.
- Liability Insurance is not being renewed as the current company is no longer writing this type of policy. Jolene at Aspire is shopping around to find a new company, she doesn't think this will be an issue, but we will have to fill out new paperwork. After a general discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Weisbender to allow Eric to bind new coverage once it has been found to avoid a lapse in coverage; seconded by Mr. Leap; unanimously approved.

3) Accountant Report:

- Mr. Martin informed the board that all revenue has been collected except for delinquent taxes. Based on November and December expenditures the board will not exceed the budget limits. Year-end financials will be presented to the board in February 2024 at that time encumbrances will also be discussed.
- 4) Miss Heatwole informed the board that after a discussion with Mr. Martin a check in the amount of \$315,175.63 has been written to transfer the General Fund from Southern Bank to First Interstate Bank leaving \$9,385.90 in the Southern Bank account for the bills for this month and additional funds for anything that hasn't yet cleared the account. After a general discussion, Mr. Jackson made a motion to approve the bills as written and the funds transfer; seconded by Mr. Leap; unanimously approved.
 - 5) Mr. Jackson informed that all monies from the Emergency Fund have been transferred to First Interstate Bank.
 - 6) Miss Heatwole presented a signature card for the board to sign for the additional ICS Account created to sweep funds in excess of \$250K from the General Fund to ensure all funds are secured by FDIC.
 - 7) Miss Heatwole informed the board that she spoke with Howard at HPG Enterprises and learned that he missed the emails to renew the domain merriamdrainagedistrict.info which will now cost \$150.00 to purchase the domain again. As this was not the boards first choice for domain names originally, Miss Heatwole suggested they discuss changing the domain name if they desire. After a general discussion, Mr. Jackson made a motion for the domain name to be changed as 1st choice: merriamdrainage.gov; 2nd choice: merriamdrainage.com; and 3rd choice: merriamdrainage.org; seconded by Mr. Leap; unanimously approved.

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn at 7:40 P.M. was made by Mr. Jackson; seconded by Mr. Weisbender; unanimously approved.

cc: Board and staff

Respectfully submitted,
Rebecca Heatwole
Recording Secretary