

MERRIAM DRAINAGE DISTRICT
OF JOHNSON COUNTY, KANSAS
MONTHLY BOARD MEETING

February 5, 2024

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: Jason Silvers
Billy Croan

A motion was made by Mr. Jackson to approve the minutes of January 2, 2024, as presented: seconded by Mr. Leap; unanimously approved.

1) Engineering Report:

- Mr. Roth informed that the Corps of Engineers Turkey Creek Project is moving slowly. Mr. Roth sent the past meeting minutes to Mr. Leap. After our last meeting Mr. Jackson reached out to Katrina, COE Turkey Creek Project Manager, she recommended MDD establish a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with City of Merriam. Mr. Roth will reach out to Kaw Valley.
 - a) Mr. Leap is concerned with the verbiage in Katrina Marx's email, when it states "We understand that the Merriam Drainage District has a special interest in the future operation and maintenance needs if the city plans for MDD to perform those duties for the project after construction." Mr. Roth and Mr. Orr will reach out to Katrina to discuss the purpose of MDD. They plan to work together to create a list of questions the MDD Board would like answered by COE.
 - b) Mr. Leap shared an email City of Merriam Attorneys informing of their intention to appraise and possibly purchase property along the channel.
 - c) Mr. Orr informed that MDD has not been invited to the COE meetings because they are not listed as a financial contributor of the project; however, if they will be required to maintain and upkeep channel once project is finished, which should allow them a seat at the table.
- Mr. Roth informed he reached out to Catch-It to get a copy of the certificate of insurance. Once received, they will begin to set the traps along the creek.
- 2024 CIP – Mr. Roth walked the channel North of Johnson Drive and recommends holding off on hole repairs until the groundhog traps have been set. Mr. Roth also mentioned that the CIP doesn't include any major repairs to the channel due to the COE project. He only added annual maintenance and brush clearing.

2) Attorney Report:

- Mr. Orr informed the board that he insurance renewal is complete. Jolene of Aspire Insurance Agency went above and beyond to get the renewal finished before the policy expired on 1/24/24.

3) Accountant Report:

- Mr. Martin informed the revenues are in line with previous years. Mr. Martin presented the financials to the board. After a general discussion, Mr. Martin recommended carrying over funds of \$117,479.47 to be used for 2024 projects. He doesn't think there is a need to encumber the funds. Mr. Jackson made a motion to carry over funds to 2024; seconded by Mr. Weisbender; unanimously approved.

- Mr. Martin was also asked to look into a raise for the Board Members as it was January 2012 the last time the board received an increase and Recording Secretary whose last increase was in 2017. Mr. Martin recommends increases be added to the budget cycle every 2 years to avoid large increases to keep with the market. After his research Mr. Martin recommended the Chairman's compensation increase from \$350 to \$475; Board Member's compensation increase from \$300 to \$400; Recording Secretary compensation increase from \$425 to \$525. During a general discussion Mr. Leap requested that Recording Secretary's increase be under a separate motion from the Board increases. A motion was made by Mr. Jackson to follow the recommendation of Mr. Martin to increase board salaries; seconded by Mr. Leap; unanimously approved. A second motion was made by Mr. Jackson to approve Mr. Martin's recommendation to increase the Recording Secretary's salary; seconded by Mr. Wiesbender; approved but Mr. Leap voted nay.
- 4) Mr. Jackson made a motion to approve the bills as presented; seconded by Mr. Weisbender; unanimously approved.

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn at 7:46 P.M. was made by Mr. Jackson; seconded by Mr. Leap; unanimously approved.

cc: Board and staff

Respectfully submitted,
Rebecca Heatwole
Recording Secretary