

MERRIAM DRAINAGE DISTRICT  
OF JOHNSON COUNTY, KANSAS  
MONTHLY BOARD MEETING  
March 4, 2024

The regular monthly meeting of the Merriam Drainage District of Johnson County, Kansas, was called to order at 7:01 P.M. by Mr. Jackson at Higdon & Hale 6310 Lamar Ave #110, Overland Park, KS.

Eric Jackson, Chairman  
Jeff Weisbender, Treasurer

James Orr, Attorney  
Steve Roth, Engineer  
John Martin, CPA  
Rebecca Heatwole  
Visitors: Jason Silvers

During a brief discussion Mr. Jackson and Mr. Orr requested corrections to the minutes of February 5, 2024:

- Remove the following line left in error, “Drainage, Fairfax Drainage, Topeka Drainage District...”
- Mr. Orr requested the addition of “if” in his statement, “however, if they will be required to maintain”

A motion was made by Mr. Jackson to approve the minutes of February 5, 2024, as amended: seconded by Mr. Weisbender; unanimously approved.

1) Engineering Report:

- Mr. Roth informed that Catch-It has been removing groundhogs. They have been releasing animals that are not burrowing. Mr. Roth mentioned that they could keep the traps out if groundhogs are being caught. Mr. Jackson reminded Mr. Roth that Merriam Public Works was informed traps would only be out for 3 weeks, Mr. Roth will review.
  - a) MDD received an mail from Whitney Yadrich forwarding a form submission on city council website from Joyce Patterson, who is concerned about the traps and has questions regarding what happens to the animals. Mr. Jackson will reach out to Whitney Yadrich and Joyce Patterson to address her concerns.
- Mr. Roth informed the board that COE held a project status meeting last Tuesday and will hold a Design Meeting tomorrow. He anticipates the meeting tomorrow will revolve around hydraulic models from the last meeting. There were 2-3 alternatives that seemed feasible. A majority of existing channel limestone wall will remain for the majority of the designs. COE doesn’t consider existing rock wall to be stable enough to hold their concrete wall.

2) Attorney Report:

- Mr. Orr informed the board that he spoke with Johnson County and was informed they are contributing storm sewer monies to the COE Turkey Creek Project.
- Mr. Orr spoke with Katrina Marx, COE Turkey Creek Project Manager, she has requested a list of questions for the meeting with Mr. Roth, Mr. Jackson, and Mr. Orr. Mr. Orr informed that Ms. Marx was receptive to his response regarding who will be responsible for maintaining the channel once the COE project is complete. Mr. Orr will work with Mr. Roth to compile a list of questions; the meeting should take place within the next week or two.
- Mr. Orr suggested that MDD begin thinking about maintenance costs from the budget standpoint.

3) Accountant Report:

- Mr. Martin had nothing to report. He said he would be looking at the quarterly financials but doesn’t expect there to be any surprises.

- 4) Mr. Jackson made a motion to approve the bills as presented; seconded by Mr. Weisbender; unanimously approved.
- 5) Mr. Jackson mentioned he spoke with EZ Mowing and Mr. Maldonado is willing to begin mowing when we need him at the rate of \$50/hour. Mr. Jackson made a motion to continue with EZ Mowing at the rate of \$50/hour; seconded by Mr. Weisbender; unanimously approved.

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn at 7:30 P.M. was made by Mr. Jackson; seconded by Mr. Weisbender; unanimously approved.

cc: Board and staff

Respectfully submitted,  
Rebecca Heatwole  
Recording Secretary