

MERRIAM DRAINAGE DISTRICT
OF JOHNSON COUNTY, KANSAS
MONTHLY BOARD MEETING
April 1, 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
Dan Leap, Secretary
Jeff Weisbender, Treasurer

James Orr, Attorney
John Martin, CPA
Rebecca Heatwole
Visitors: Billy Croan

A motion was made by Mr. Jackson to approve the minutes of March 4, 2024, as amended with the corrected date: seconded by Mr. Weisbender; Mr. Leap abstained due to him not attending March 4th meeting; passed.

1) Engineering Report: Mr. Roth was not in attendance at the meeting, but emailed the board the following update:

- USACE Upper Turkey Creek Project - The USACE met with the city and other stakeholders on March 5th to review the Design Charrette alternatives, and the results of the USACE's hydraulic modeling for each alternative. In summary, each alternative still required a floodwall or levee that, at a minimum, was seven feet in height. Since the alternatives didn't result in a substantially lower floodwall/levee, the city didn't see any benefit to moving forward with any of the design alternatives discussed in the Charette. As a result, the USACE and the city mutually agreed to move forward with the design of the flood protection improvements as detailed in the recommended design in the 2015 Feasibility Study (see attached figure). While the alignment of the improvements will be consistent with the Feasibility Study, the USACE may need to adjust the extents of the floodwall and levee since the height of the floodwall/levee will be higher than originally planned.

The USACE also presented the following preliminary schedule for design, with the warning that it is highly likely that the design process will take longer than presented below.

30% Design Complete – December 2024
65% Design Complete – December 2025
95% Design Complete – December 2026

Lastly, it is also important to note that the Congressional Authorization for this project provided funding based on the 2015 Feasibility Study. Due to higher than anticipated inflation since that time, as well as the increased height of the improvements, the USACE doesn't believe they have sufficient funding to construct the project. Since USACE projects are funded by Congress under the Water Resources Development Act, which is only passed every two years, the USACE can't have need funds appropriated to the project until fiscal year 2026, at the earliest. However, since the project has already received funding, the USACE is confident that additional funding can be obtained. The lack of funding could either reduce the amount of the improvements that are initially constructed, the schedule for construction, or both.

- Groundhog Traps - The traps were pulled on Friday, March 15th due to a drop-off in activity in the areas around the sites. In total we have captured and removed 10 groundhogs from along Turkey Creek between Shawnee Mission Parkway and the Merriam Drive Bridge and were billed \$1,600 for these services. I intend on walking the

walls on or around April 11th to develop a list of holes we'll request a quote from Max Rieke & Bros. to address. Mr. Leap informed that he is still seeing ground hogs and is not sure we are finished with the traps.

2) Attorney Report:

- Mr. Orr informed that Mr. Jackson, Mr. Roth, and he met and created a list of questions for Ms. Katrina Marx, Corps of Engineers. Mr. Orr followed up with Ms. Marx to set up a meeting; she would like a member of the City of Merriam to attend the meeting as well. Mr. Orr believes there should be collaboration and will contact Mr. Ryan Denk, Attorney for City of Merriam, to let him know. Mr. Orr informed this is not currently a legal issue but he wants to keep everyone involved. The meeting should be set up for a time after Mr. Roth returns.

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.
- After a general discussion a motion was made to close the Southern Bank account by Mr. Jackson; seconded by Mr. Leap; unanimously approved.

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

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn at 7:18 P.M. was made by Mr. Jackson; seconded by Mr. Leap; unanimously approved.

cc: Board and staff

Respectfully submitted,
Rebecca Heatwole
Recording Secretary