

MERRIAM DRAINAGE DISTRICT
OF JOHNSON COUNTY, KANSAS
MONTHLY BOARD MEETING
July 1, 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
John Martin, CPA
Steve Roth, Engineer
Rebecca Heatwole
Guests: Jason Silvers

A motion was made by Mr. Jackson to approve the minutes of June 3, 2024, as written; seconded by Mr. Leap; unanimously approved.

1) Engineering Report:

- 2025 Budgeting: Mr. Roth asked the Board if they had any questions regarding his proposed budget shared at the last meeting; there were no questions.
- Mr. Roth informed the Board that Catch-It pulled their traps after a week of catching nothing. Over the time they were out there were 5 groundhogs caught.
- Mr. Roth attended the COE meeting on June 18, 2024 at that meeting they discussed the design; current design is set back from the existing channel wall and will not use it for stability. An earthen berm is planned that would run through MDD storage yard; Mr. Roth asked them to reconsider the placement. The COE had not considered the effect of the water velocity caused by narrowing the channel; faster water erodes the bottom of the channel at a faster rate. Due to this, COE may consider adding a concrete wall and placing rip rap over the current rock wall in addition to the earthen berm; this option does not narrow the channel.
- Mr. Roth walked the channel with Raymond Lowe of Max Rieke; a picture was provided to the Board of a section North of the Farmer's Market where the rock is bowed forward. Mr. Roth suggests replacing the rock in this section. In addition, there were 20 holes that need to be filled along the channel. Max Rieke provided a quote of \$15,750.00 to repair the holes and \$9,800.00 to repair the section of the wall. Mr. Roth also asked for a quote to clear growth in the channel from Merriam Drive to storage yard which would take place in the Fall or Winter. After a general discussion, the Board requested that Mr. Roth contact other contractors to get a bid for the hole and wall repair.
- Mr. Roth mentioned to the Board that there was an issue that came up with another drainage district he works with regarding an MOU. He questioned, when doing plan reviews what is the authority? Mr. Orr will review MDD's proposed MOU with the City of Merriam, but he doesn't believe it had this in the plan and he is unsure of regulatory jurisdiction.

2) Attorney Report:

- Mr. Orr informed the Board that he sent MDD Foundational documents to Ryan Denk, Legal Counsel for City of Merriam. Mr. Orr suggested that City of Merriam might want to go get the actual documents from Johnson County.

3) Accountant Report:

- Mr. Martin prepared a budget draft based on the 2024 Budget. If nothing changes as we look forward, Mr. Martin believes there is no reason to increase the mil levee over the Revenue Neutral Rate (RNR) of 1.356.

- Mr. Martin informed the Board if they continue not to increase the mil levee above the RNR, they will lose money as the RNR does not take inflation into account. If MDD kept the mil levee the same as 2024 budget, 1.461, ad valorem would increase \$16,502.33. Not exceeding the RNR will net the same amount as 2024 budget. After a general discussion, Mr. Jackson made a motion to inform the county that MDD does not intend to exceed the Revenue Neutral Rate of 1.356; seconded by Mr. Leap; unanimously approved.
 - The Budget Hearing is set for August 5th; Mr. Martin will notify The Legal Record for publication of the Budget Hearing.
- 4) Mr. Jackson made a motion to approve the bills as presented; seconded by Mr. Leap; unanimously approved.
 - 5) Mr. Weisbender informed the Board that he will not be in attendance at the August board meeting.
 - 6) Miss Heatwole informed the Board that she was not be in attendance at the August board meeting, she will request all vendors submit their invoices by July 20, 2024 and will meet Mr. Jackson on July 22, 2024 to give him the checks for the August meeting.

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn at 7:47 P.M. was made by Mr. Jackson; seconded by Mr. Leap; unanimously approved.

cc: Board and staff

Respectfully submitted,
Rebecca Heatwole
Recording Secretary