

MERRIAM DRAINAGE DISTRICT
OF JOHNSON COUNTY, KANSAS
MONTHLY BOARD MEETING
June 2, 2025

The regular monthly meeting of the Merriam Drainage District of Johnson County, Kansas, was called to order at 7:00 P.M. by Mr. Leap at Higdon & Hale 6310 Lamar Ave #110, Overland Park, KS.

Dan Leap, Secretary
Jeff Weisbender, Treasurer

John Martin, CPA
Steve Roth, Engineer
Jim Orr, Attorney
Rebecca Heatwole, Reporting Secretary
Guest: Billy Croan and Jason Silvers

Mr. Leap made a motion to approve May 5, 2025 meeting minutes as written; seconded by Mr. Weisbender; unanimously passed.

1) Engineering Report:

- At last count Catch-It has removed 15 groundhogs; the traps have been empty so they will pull the traps soon. Mr. Silvers mentioned that he has seen a lot of groundhogs in the stone wall near the Farmers Market and wonders if traps could be moved into that area. Mr. Roth mentioned they don't like for the traps to be on the path level as they are sometimes messed with in high traffic areas. Mr. Leap mentioned if the traps were set close to Guitar Lamp, he could watch them. Mr. Roth will contact Catch-It to move the traps.
- Mr. Roth informed the board that Max Rieke has cleared the creek from Shawnee Mission Parkway to Merriam Bridge. They will begin the other work soon.
- Mr. Roth provided a graphic to the Board showing the movement of the Waterfall (adjacent to Beacon Building Products at 6000 Merriam Drive) from 2008 – 2022 with is approximately 36 feet. Mr. Roth discussed this with the COE 6 weeks ago and provided the figure to them 2 weeks ago. COE is looking into putting these repairs into their 65% design plan. Mr. Roth thinks they should decide by the end of the year. If the COE does not include this in their design plan, Mr. Roth believes MDD should take care of it. He estimates the cost to be between \$250K - \$350K. Mr. Martin believes MDD would have the funds and budget authority to complete this repair.
- Mr. Roth provided the 2026 CIP for budgeting purposes. Reviewed the wall repair project that is still pending from 2020 and 2021 CIP (\$215,000) these wall repairs are contingent on the COE design plan. Mr. Roth estimates the new maintenance projects for 2026 to be \$62,500.00 for hole repairs/clearing trees and spraying/clearing ditch along the trail.

2) Attorney Report:

- Mr. Orr spoke with First State Bank and was informed that we should only be seeing a \$15/month fee for all accounts, not \$150. We should watch this to make sure we are not charged more. He was also informed that First Interstate Bank was just purchased by Enterprise Bank and Trust.
- Mr. Orr also mentioned that he spoke with Jolene and found that she is not pushing the liability insurance for contractors at this time.

3) Accountant Report:

- Mr. Martin informed the Board that we should have the new Revenue Neutral Rate (RNR) by June 15th. Mr. Martin reviewed a proposed 2026 Budget with RNR and projected expenses. He will provide the board with the proposed 2026 Budget at the July meeting.

4) Mr. Leap made a motion to approve the June bills as presented; seconded by Mr. Weisbender; unanimously passed.

- 5) Mr. Leap would like to investigate the possibility of Board Members being able to call in to a meeting to be present on a live video feed. Mr. Orr will look at the regulations to see if this is possible.

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:27 P.M. was made by Mr. Leap; seconded by Mr. Wiesbender; unanimously passed.

cc: Board and staff

Respectfully submitted,
Rebecca Heatwole
Recording Secretary