

MERRIAM DRAINAGE DISTRICT  
OF JOHNSON COUNTY, KANSAS  
MONTHLY BOARD MEETING  
January 5, 2026

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 (over phone)  
Jeff Weisbender, Treasurer

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

A motion was made by Mr. Jackson to approve the meeting minutes of December 1, 2025 as written; seconded by Mr. Weisbender; unanimously passed.

1) Engineering Report:

- Mr. Roth spoke about the COE Progress meeting held on 12/16, at the meeting he found out that the COE is behind on their Design Plan and it will now be ready for COE internal review February 23, 2026 which means it won't be available to the City of Merriam until April 2026.
- Max Rieke will begin channel and tree clearing which will include the railroad bridge area on January 12<sup>th</sup> or 19<sup>th</sup>.
- Mr. Roth will contact Catch-It Wildlife to discuss them setting traps to catch the groundhogs along the channel. Mr. Roth should have an update at the February meeting.

2) Attorney Report:

- Mr. Orr spoke with Sandy Cox, COE and explained that MDD would be willing to sign off on the Right-of-Entry as long as MDD gets a copy of the 65% Design Plan when it was given to the City of Merriam. Ms. Cox said it wouldn't be a problem. After the COE did their research they seemed to have changed their mind as Mr. Orr received a letter from Haley Jones, COE Project Manager, saying that the COE would not be providing MDD a copy of the 65% Design Plan. Mr. Orr plans to speak with Mr. Roth to determine what might be able to be done. In addition, Mr. Orr would like to contact Johnson County Commissioner to see how they feel about not getting a copy of the plan. Mr. Orr was contacted by Chris Engel, City of Merriam, to inform that they would share a copy of the 65% Design Plan after the City reviews it.

3) Accountant Report:

- Mr. Martin informed the board that current financials are in line for the 2025 budget year. Mr. Martin said that MDD will need to begin to look at what their tax needs will be for the 2027 budget. This ties back into needing to know what work is included in the 65% Design Plan, to properly budget for channel maintenance needs not covered by the plan.
- Mr. Martin suggested waiting on encumbering funds until next meeting to give time for the 2025 expenses to clear through the account.
- Mr. Martin informed that all mail requiring a specific postmark will need to be done at the USPS counter. It will no longer be accepted through the mail slot.

4) Mr. Jackson spoke with Jolene at Aspire Insurance Agency and requested that she begin to shop the liability insurance. She provided Mr. Jackson a quote of \$8,343 for the same coverage with Scottsdale Insurance, which is cheaper than last year.

- Mr. Jackson made a motion to Scottsdale Insurance for the 2026 general liability coverage; seconded by Mr. Weisbender: unanimously passed.

- Mr. Weisbender made a motion to approve Mr. Jackson signing a check for insurance not to exceed what MDD paid for liability insurance last year; seconded by Mr. Jackson; unanimously approved.

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:22 P.M. was made by Mr. Jackson; seconded by Mr. Leap; unanimously passed.

cc: Board and staff

Respectfully submitted,  
Rebecca Heatwole  
Recording Secretary