

MERRIAM DRAINAGE DISTRICT
OF JOHNSON COUNTY, KANSAS
MONTHLY BOARD MEETING
February 2, 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 January 5, 2026 as written; seconded by Mr. Weisbender; unanimously passed.

1) Engineering Report:

- Mr. Roth informed the board that Max Rieke has completed the removal of debris at Waterfall Park. They have not yet started removing gravel from the other three areas, but that work should be completed in the next week or two.
- Mr. Roth spoke with Catch-It Wildlife and found that they are willing to set traps and remove groundhogs for the same rate as last year, \$600.00 fee to set traps and \$100/groundhog removed. After a discussion, Mr. Weisbender made a motion to continue using Catch-It Wildlife to set traps and remove groundhogs for 2026; seconded by Mr. Jackson; unanimously approved.
- Mr. Roth said at the last status meeting for the COE (January 13th) they were continuing to work on the 65% Design Plan which is still projected to be finished by April. The City of Merriam has requested that the Turkey Creek Project be put on hold until January 2027 while they issue an RFQ for plans to update the downtown. Progress meetings will come to a halt April 2026.
 - Mr. Roth informed the board that due to the hold, this project will not be added to the PACR and thus will not be included in the 2026 WRDA bill. Which means it will have to wait to be added to the 2028 WRDA bill.
 - Mr. Roth mentioned that it is possible for the City to say they no longer want to sponsor the work. The project will die and the appropriation will lapse and the money will be reallocated.
 - Halting of the Turkey Creek Project should have no impact on the bridge study. City will need a permit from FEMA to build in the flood plain. Mr. Roth explained if they bring in dirt to raise the ground in one area, they will need to remove from another area to ensure the channel's flow remains the same. The work on the bridges is estimated to begin 2029 and finish in 2031.
 - Mr. Roth will review the 65% Design Plan and determine if MDD should move forward with the previously proposed Capital Campaign Wall Repairs.

2) Attorney Report:

- Mr. Orr mentioned that the City of Merriam will not share the 65% Design Plan with MDD immediately after they receive it, but this may now be a moot point.
- Mr. Orr assisted with putting together a packet for the Insurance Audit. Mr. Orr spoke to Jolene at Aspire Insurance Company about the audit and was informed that the company is worried about MDD subcontracting work to uninsured entities.

3) Accountant Report:

- Mr. Martin informed the board that 2025 was on budget with revenue received. Operating expenses were lower than the budgeted \$120,000; MDD spent \$40,000. Mr. Martin said that the board can wait to encumber funds until the bills for Max Reike's work are received.

- 4) A concerned citizen reached out with pictures of debris in the creek bed N. of 51st Terrace behind Brown Park. After review, it was determined that this area is not in MDD jurisdiction. Mr. Roth said that as with all debris if it is not removed it will cause issues with the channel. Mr. Roth will reach out the City.

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:29 P.M. was made by Mr. Jackson; seconded by Mr. Weisbender; unanimously passed.

cc: Board and staff

Respectfully submitted,
Rebecca Heatwole
Recording Secretary