MERRIAM DRAINAGE DISTRICT
OF JOHNSON COUNTY, KANSAS
MONTHLY BOARD MEETING
March 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	John Martin, CPA
Dan Leap, Secretary	Jim Orr, Attorney
Jeff Weisbender, Treasurer	Rebecca Heatwole, Reporting Secretary
	Guests: Billy Croan and Jason Silvers

A motion was made by Mr. Jackson to approve the meeting minutes of February 2, 2026 as written; seconded by Mr. Leap; unanimously passed.

1) Engineering Report Email from 2/27/2026:
   - Max Rieke has completed the debris removal at all the locations. They called me last week and said that they believe they had overrun their contract and would be making a request to the Board to increase the contract amount. I explained to them that since we hadn't surveyed the areas, I could understand why the level of effort may have been greater than they originally anticipated, but I would need a full accounting of the amount of material removed and their overages before I could present them to the Board for consideration. As of this morning, I have not received an invoice for any of the work they have completed, nor an accounting of how much they went over budget.
   - I will setup a site visit with Catch-It Wildlife during March to discuss trap locations. If you know of any areas you've seen groundhogs, please let me know and I'll be sure to have them set traps there.
   - The Corps of Engineers did not hold any progress meetings during February, so I do not have any updates for you on their progress.
   - Mr. Jackson went down to the channel to look at the work; the channel looks good the section near the church. He has not been able to walk the channel near Waterfall Park or Mr. Leap's building.

2) Attorney Report:
   - Mr. Orr shared an email he received from Mr. Chris Engel which seems to contradict what the COE said about the Turkey Creek Project being on hold. There was a general discussion in which Mr. Leap mentioned that the City approved the purchase of the KC Strings building at their meeting last Monday. This in conjunction with the Pet Grooming and Mechanical Art building, it seems the City is getting rid of the whole block. For complete transparency, MDD should receive the same information as the City since MDD will be paying for maintenance after the project is complete. Mr. Orr will discuss Mr. Engel's email with Mr. Roth to see what is going on.

3) Accountant Report:
   - Mr. Martin proposed waiting until Max Rieke invoices have been received before encumbering money. MDD will need to be looking at future capital expenses to begin discussions for 2027 Budget.

4) TracFone plan needs to be renewed; Mr. Jackson made a motion to renew the TracFone plan for one year for under $300.00; seconded by Mr. Leap; unanimously approved.

5) Mr. Jackson made a motion to approve the bills as presented; seconded by Mr. Leap; unanimously approved.
6) Mr. Jackson mentioned that he spoke with Esau Maldonado regarding 2026 mowing. Mr. Maldonado has increased his price to $60/hour. There was a general discussion during which Mr. Jackson mentioned that 75% – 80% of the terrain is done by weed eating; the price seems within reason for this type of work. Mr. Jackson made a motion to approve the rate increase and to use Mr. Maldonado for the 2026 mowing work; seconded by Mr. Leap; unanimously approved.

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:20 P.M. was made by Mr. Jackson; seconded by Mr. Leap; unanimously passed.

Respectfully submitted,
Rebecca Heatwole
Recording Secretary

cc: Board and staff