MERRIAM DRAINAGE DISTRICT
OF JOHNSON COUNTY, KANSAS
MONTHLY BOARD MEETING
April 6, 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: Jason Silvers

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

1) Engineering Report:
   - Mr. Roth sent a map to Catch-It Wildlife to mark the locations where traps should be set. As of April 1st, 9 traps have been set. Mr. Roth notified City of Merriam Engineer and the Parks and Recreations Director about the traps. As of the meeting, 3 ground hogs have been caught. Mr. Leap provided a video of a ground hog behind his building. Mr. Roth informed that they can have a trap moved over to the "flume" area.
   - Mr. Roth provided the Board with a map of the locations where debris will be removed by Max Rieke area near the church N. of Johnson Drive; area N. of KC Strings and under the railroad bridge. Mr. Leap provided photos of another area that will need to be cleared, but it was not shown on the map. Mr. Roth will discuss with Max Rieke to add this location. Mr. Roth has pictures of the work and will send them to Miss Heatwole to have them added to the MDD website. Mr. Roth presented two invoices one in the amount of $65,905.00 which was the original quoted price and a second in the amount of $17,596.89 for overages.
     - There was a general discussion wherein Mr. Jackson pointed out that there are 20 line items on the original invoice that are being billed at .75 instead of .50. Mr. Jackson would like the invoice to be corrected or an explanation. The original quote stated, "not to exceed" and the board wants to know why a change order was not submitted. The overage is significant at roughly 25% of the original invoice. After the general discussion, Mr. Jackson made a motion to have Mr. Roth contact Max Rieke to ask them to charge MDD for cost only, not profit, on the overage. In addition, the board would like Rieke fix original invoice or give an explanation for the discrepancy in amounts; seconded by Mr. Leap; unanimously passed.
   - The Corps of Engineers should have 65% Design Plan late April or early May 2026. Mr. Roth asked Bryan Dyer with the City of Merriam to ask Mr. Chris Engel to provide the HNTB bridge report to MDD. Mr. Leap requested that Mr. Roth request the bridge report directly from COE.
2) Attorney Report:
   - Mr. Orr shared an email from Mr. Chris Engel with the Board. There is some confusion as to whey the City of Merriam and is just now looking at the Downtown Master Plan. Mr. Orr will keep looking for more data.
   - Mr. Orr suggests MDD look at having greater transparency by posting details about expenses and budget potentially using a Facebook page. The Board does not like the idea of getting a Facebook page but is interested in looking at a better design for the website to make information easier to access. Miss Heatwole will contact HPG Enterprises to discuss the possibility of a redesign of the site.

3) Accountant Report:
    - Mr. Martin proposed deferring encumbrances until Max Rieke invoices are updated. He also informed there would be no budget issues with the increased expense of Max Rieke invoice.
    - Quarterly report should be available at the May 2026 meeting. MDD will need to be look at future capital expenses in May to begin 2027 Budget discussions in June.
        a) Mr. Roth informed the board that the priority is the waterfall downstream of Campbell Park. He will work on getting details for this location.

4) Mr. Jackson made a motion to approve all bills as presented except for Max Rieke invoices; seconded by Mr. Leap; unanimously approved.

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:45 P.M. was made by Mr. Jackson; seconded by Mr. Leap; unanimously passed.

Respectfully submitted,
Rebecca Heatwole
Recording Secretary

cc: Board and staff