MERRIAM DRAINAGE DISTRICT
OF JOHNSON COUNTY, KANSAS
MONTHLY BOARD MEETING
July 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	Steve Roth, Engineer
	Rebecca Heatwole, Reporting Secretary
	Guests: Jason Silvers

After a general discussion, it was decided to table the minutes until next meeting as there were some errors that needed to be corrected and a few details that were left out from the Shockey Consulting portion of the meeting.

1) Engineering Report:
   - Mr. Roth has not received a reply to his email asking the project manager how the COE improvements will impact areas downstream.
     Mr. Leap confirmed that the COE project stops just downstream of the Merriam Drive Bridge. In 2025, the historical area didn't flood, the flooding occurred north of this area near the railroad bridge. Mr. Leap believes the railroad bridge is the bottleneck and would like Mr. Roth to address this with the COE.
   - Mr. Roth informed the board that he can put together cost estimates for the repair N. Campbell Park as part of the CIP 2027, but it will take time and will increase cost because he will need to bring in a structural engineer.
     a) Mr. Roth requested the whole topographical survey from the COE. The way that the COE designed their improvements, the waterfall won't have any impact on the COE Project.
     b) Mr. Roth will speak to the COE to see if is possible to add the work on the waterfall to their plan, if MDD designs the project. The hope is this would save money to add it to the project. Mr. Roth does not believe the repair is imminent. Mr. Leap mentioned that at a City Council meeting with the COE, they said nothing was going to happen until late 2030. In this case, Mr. Roth said MDD should look at getting the work done by late 2028 because design and permitting (needed due to making changes in the creek) will take time.
     c) Mr. Roth informed the board that he has a couple of ideas and wants to do a cost level analysis which will take 3 – 4 days. Once cost analysis is complete, they would then move on to the actual design. The board requested that the work be bid out due to the scale. Mr. Roth said there are other wall repairs needed, but he doesn't think they need to be added to the bid. The waterfall work is more important.
     d) Mr. Martin informed the board that there is money, if the project needs to be completed earlier.
2) Attorney Report:
   - Mr. Orr presented the board with Resolution 26-2 adding additional meetings for the attendance of the Steering Committee meetings. This will need to be published in the Johnson County Post. Mr. Jackson made a motion to approve Resolution 26-2; seconded by Mr. Leap; unanimously approved.

3) Accountant Report:
   - Mr. Martin explained the 2027 Budget to the board. He mentioned that 25% of the MDD's budget is reduced due to TIF. He reminded the board that MDD has a fixed number of properties that can be taxed and at some point, it will be hard to keep the mil levee the same. Mr. Martin mentioned that assessments are up to $9M but next year MDD will see a decrease due to buildings that were demolished or purchased by the city. Mr. Martin told the board he would research what the amount of decrease will be.
   - Mr. Martin informed the board that the Revenue Neutral Rate (RNR) is 1.210; rate for the 2027 proposed budget is 1.208 with the public budget authority of $614,785. After a general discussion, Mr. Jackson made a motion not to exceed RNR or the max budget authority of $614,785; seconded by Mr. Leap; unanimously approved.

4) Mr. Jackson made a motion to approve the bills as presented; seconded by Mr. Leap; unanimously approved.
5) Mr. Jackson informed the board that UMKC in conjunction with Johnson County Stormwater would like to put an autosampler into the creek for two years for the purpose of testing the level of plastics in the water. After a general discussion and an unanswered phone call to Micah Wyssmann to obtain answers, Mr. Leap made a motion to table the decision until next meeting to find out more details; seconded by Mr. Jackson; unanimously approved.
6) Mr. Jackson reminded the board that at the August meeting, the budget hearing will begin at 7pm after which the general session will begin.

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:56 P.M. was made by Mr. Jackson; seconded by Mr. Leap; unanimously passed.

Respectfully submitted,
Rebecca Heatwole
Recording Secretary

cc: Board and staff