

MERRIAM DRAINAGE DISTRICT
OF JOHNSON COUNTY, KANSAS
MONTHLY BOARD MEETING
May 6, 2024

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
Jeff Weisbender, Treasurer

James Orr, Attorney
John Martin, CPA
Rebecca Heatwole

A motion was made by Mr. Jackson to approve the minutes of April 1, 2024, as amended with the correction of a grammatical error: seconded by Mr. Leap; unanimously approved.

1) Engineering Report:

- USACE Upper Turkey Creek Project - COE is still moving toward having 30% of the Design based on 2015 feasibility study complete by December 2024. It does appear that COE will have to make adjustments to the original design, but it won't go before the Planning Committee until funding. Mr. Roth informed the board that there shouldn't be an issue with the project getting funded since it was previously funded. The project had a 20% contingency add into the cost, which will likely become the final cost of the whole project. Mr. Roth informed the board the last meeting was cancelled as there was no new information to share. There was a general discussion of the board asking the following questions:
 - a) Mr. Leap was informed that the COE Planner for the Upper Turkey Creek Project was quitting and wondered if Mr. Roth had heard anything. Mr. Roth mentioned that John Groathaus, might be retiring but Mr. Roth doesn't believe this will affect the project at all.
 - b) Mr. Jackson asked Mr. Roth if we should we go ahead with some of the maintenance that MDD has been holding off on due to the Turkey Creek Project. Mr. Roth recommends that MDD hold off until the 30% Design plan is released. Based on the plan, MDD can determine if they want to move forward.
 - c) Mr. Roth will walk the channel and look for holes to be repaired.
- Mr. Roth provided the board with a graph from the Storm Watch Website. The graph shows that water levels in the creek rise quickly with less than an inch of rain, but it doesn't stay high for very long. The quick rise is attributed to the water run-off from all the pavement; there is no place of the rain to sink into the ground.
- There was a general discussion regarding ground hogs being seen again near the Johnson Drive Bridge, Mr. Roth will reach out to Catch It to get traps set again.

2) Attorney Report:

- Mr. Orr informed the board that a meeting has been scheduled with Katrina Marx of the COE on May 21, 2024. Mr. Jackson, Mr. Roth, and Mr. Orr will attend for MDD and Mr. Ryan Denk and Mr. Chris Engel will attend for the City of Merriam. The more information MDD has regarding the project, the better they can plan for maintenance in the future.

3) Accountant Report:

- Mr. Martin informed the board that nothing is out of the ordinary with the financials and all revenues seem to have come in correctly.

- Mr. Martin reminded the board that 2025 Budget is coming soon. The board needs to begin looking at Capital Expenditures to determine the carryover funds for the 2025 budget.

- 4) An additional check was added to close out the remaining funds in the Southern Bank account, as interest was not included in the previous check. Mr. Jackson made a motion to approve the bills as presented; seconded by Mr. Leap; unanimously approved.

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn at 7:28 P.M. was made by Mr. Jackson; seconded by Mr. Leap; unanimously approved.

cc: Board and staff

Respectfully submitted,
Rebecca Heatwole
Recording Secretary