

MERRIAM DRAINAGE DISTRICT
OF JOHNSON COUNTY, KANSAS
MONTHLY BOARD MEETING
June 3, 2024

The regular monthly meeting of the Merriam Drainage District of Johnson County, Kansas, was called to order at 7:01 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
Guests: Jason Silvers

A motion was made by Mr. Jackson to approve the minutes of May 6, 2024, as written; seconded by Mr. Leap; unanimously approved.

- 1) Engineering Report: Mr. Roth was not in attendance at the meeting but provided the following update via email to the MDD Board:
 - USACE Upper Turkey Creek Project: The design progress meeting in May was cancelled, so I don't have any design updates since my report at the last Board meeting. The next progress meeting is currently scheduled for Tuesday, June the 4th.
 - Groundhogs: The traps were set on Friday, May 24th for the area between Johnson Drive and Merriam Drive, and I have notified the Merriam Public Works Director of our activities. As of Wednesday, May 29th, one groundhog has been caught and the door of another trap was found blocked open with a stick. Since the trap hadn't been damaged, it was reset with new bait.
 - 2025 Budgeting: I have attached a proposed budget for 2025 for your consideration. Until we receive additional information from the USACE regarding their design, I would continue to recommend that we not proceed with any large capital improvement projects, but just continue to budget for annual maintenance. The maintenance list is the same as last year, but I have increased the cost estimates to account for inflation.
 - 2024 Maintenance Activities: I am currently working with Max Rieke to schedule a time either the 2nd or 3rd week of June to discuss maintenance activities for this year. My goal is to have a quote ready for the Board's consideration at the July 1st meeting.

- 2) Attorney Report:
 - Mr. Orr provided details of the meeting he, Mr. Jackson, and Mr. Roth had with Katrina Marx regarding the Upper Turkey Creek Project. Mr. Ryan Denk and Mr. Chris Engel from the City of Merriam were also in attendance. The meeting was cordial between all groups and the following items were discussed:
 - When originally proposed, the project was estimated to cost MDD \$42K annually to maintain; however, at this time Ms. Marx is estimating \$200K to maintain the project each year.
 - The goal of the project is that no one will be left in the flood plain when it is finished.
 - Economics seems to be the guidepost for the project, if they have to take property because it is cheaper, they plan to do so.
 - There were 4 properties listed on the 2015 feasibility study.
 - Ms. Marx informed MDD that a failure of the project beyond normal wear and tear, would be taken care of by the Federal Government.

- There was a discussion regarding the jurisdiction of MDD, which did not seem to be known by those in attendance. Mr. Denk, Attorney for City of Merriam, requested to review the founding document of MDD.
- MDD requested to have a seat at the table, if they will be responsible maintaining the project.
- The next follow up with the Corps of Engineers will be January 2025.

Mr. Orr recommends that the board stay on top of the project to be aware of how the project is progressing.

- Mr. Orr informed the board that the Underwriter for MDD insurance renewal requested that our mowing company, EZ Mowing, have their liability coverage of at least \$1M. Mr. Maldonado (EZ Mowing) was able to get this worked out. The next follow up for insurance should be January 2025

3) Accountant Report:

- Mr. Martin informed the board that revenue neutral rates will be coming out June 15, 2024. This is when he plans to begin the budgeting process. He will have budgeting numbers worked out by the July meeting.
- Based on Mr. Roth's 2025 CIP, he doesn't believe there is anything that would warrant MDD increasing the mil levee and he doesn't see any major changes to the 2025 budget.

4) 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 7:21 P.M. was made by Mr. Jackson; seconded by Mr. Leap; unanimously approved.

cc: Board and staff

Respectfully submitted,
Rebecca Heatwole
Recording Secretary