MINUTES
NORTHEAST OHIO REGIONAL SEWER DISTRICT
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
JULY 3, 2025

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District (NEORSD) was called to order at 12:30 p.m. by Darnell Brown.

I. Roll Call

Present: Darnell Brown
Timothy DeGeeter
Sharon Dumas
Marjorie Chambers

Absent: Ronald Sulik
Jack Bacci
Samuel Alai

The Secretary informed the President that a quorum was in attendance.

II. Approval of Minutes

MOTION – Ms. Chambers moved, and Ms. Dumas seconded, to approve the Minutes of the June 5, 2025 Board Meeting. Without objection, the motion carried unanimously.

III. Designation of Interim Officers

President Brown noted that pursuant to the Board of Trustees Bylaws, the Board Officers should be elected at the first Board meeting in July of each year; however, because three members were unable to attend, including Vice President Sulik, the officer elections will be held at the second meeting in July.

For the purposes of the current meeting, President Brown continued in his current role as President, Ms. Dumas as Acting Vice President, and Mayor DeGeeter continuing as Secretary.

MOTION – Ms. Dumas moved, and Ms. Chambers seconded, to approve rescheduling the annual officer elections to July 17, and, in the interim, for President Brown to continue as President, Mayor DeGeeter to continue as Secretary, and Ms. Dumas so serve as Acting Vice President for today's meeting. Without objection, the motion carried unanimously.

IV. Public Session

There were no items.

V. Chief Executive Officer's Report

Kyle Dreyfuss-Wells, Chief Executive Officer, informed the Board that on May 14th Angela Jones, Senior Manager of Government Affairs, was honored by ACE Cleveland with the Volunteer of the Year Award at their spring celebration. ACE Cleveland is a long-standing mentorship program for students interested in architecture, construction, and engineering. Ms. Jones has led NEORSD's participation in the program, serving as lead mentor for 12 years and participating on the advisory and career pathways committees as well as their Board of Directors. Ms. Dreyfuss-Wells congratulated Ms. Jones for receiving the award.

One June 12th NEORSD welcomed Ohio Secretary of State Frank LaRose to the Southerly Wastewater Treatment Center for a tour of the Renewable Energy Facility (REF). The visit was prompted by Secretary LaRose's "Are you Cyber Safe?" initiative, which focuses on assisting private and public entities in protecting themselves from cyber incidents. Mohan Kurup, Director of Information Technology, and Bob Meholif, Senior Manager of Processor Controls and Automation, provided a high-level presentation of NEORSD's work and Brian Flanagan, REF Superintendent, gave a tour of the facilities. Secretary LaRose was complementary and interested in learning more about NEORSD's public engagement and social media strategies. Ms. Dreyfuss-Wells thanked Danielle Giannantonio, Senior Manager of State and Federal Affairs and Grants, for organizing the event.

Ms. Dreyfuss-Wells recognized Jason Peskar, Manager of Talent Acquisition, and Lydia Stump-Hartman, Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Manager, for completion of the National Association of Clean Water Agencies (NACWA) 2025 Emerging Leaders training program. The program provides a months-long training course in leadership skills, self-awareness and strategic tools through a combination of virtual and in-person learning sessions at the NACWA conferences and mentoring facilities. The 2025 program included 89 participants across 24 utilities from 14 states.

With heavy hearts, NEORSD marks the passing of colleague and friend, Jacqueline Muhammad, Director of Government and Customer Relations. Ms. Muhammad joined NEORSD in 2019 and was promoted to the leadership team in 2024. As Constance Haqq, Chief Administrative Officer, noted at Ms. Muhammad's services on June 26th, Ms. Muhammad held herself to a very high standard and NEORSD staff grew from this relationship. Ms. Muhammad's work ethic and commitment to public service in her leadership of the Good Neighbor Ambassador and Job Training Program and in her creation and growth of the Utility Assistance Resource Fairs, her deep commitment to public service, and leadership in the community advanced staff focus on customer core values. NEORSD

has sent its deepest condolences to all whose lives she touched, including NEORSD staff who will miss her very much.

President Brown echoed Ms. Dreyfuss-Wells' sentiments and added that, as he discussed with Minister Roland Muhammad, and as Minister Muhammad discussed in the service, Ms. Muhammad taught everyone at NEORSD to love, embrace, and serve the community. It was a moving tribute to a very special member of our community. NEORSD will carry on in her stead.

Action Items

Authorization to Advertise

Resolution No. 128-25	Authorization to publish notice calling for bids, in accordance with Ohio Revised Code Section 6119.10, for a three-year requirement contract for industrial cleaning services with an estimated probable cost of $305,000.00.
Resolution No. 129-25	Authorization to publish notice calling for bids, in accordance with Ohio Revised Code Section 6119.10, for the Southerly Regulators and Relief Sewers project, with an estimated probable construction cost of $15,900,000.00.

MOTION – Ms. Dumas moved, and Ms. Chambers seconded to adopt Resolution Nos. 128-25 through 129-25. After the following discussion, without objection, the motion carried unanimously.

President Brown noted, regarding Resolution No. 129-25, that NEORSD will not approve any bids in excess of 20% of the engineer's estimate and requested a brief explanation of the project. Robin Rupe, Director of Engineering and Construction, explained that the project is part of Control Measure 21 and will allow for improvements within the Southerly Tunnel System, which as a whole will help to reduce 760 million gallons of CSO in a typical year. Specifically, the project will reduce activations at 6 CSOs via improvements to regulators and sewers in this area.

Authorization to Issue Request for Qualifications (RFP)

Resolution No. 130-25	Authorization to issue an RFQ, in accordance with Ohio Revised Code Chapter 153, for professional services for the Stormwater Model Data Management and Supporting Services 3 project.

MOTION – Ms. Chambers moved, and Ms. Dumas seconded to adopt Resolution No. 130-25. Without objection, the motion carried unanimously.

Authorization to Purchase

Resolution No. 131-25	Authorization of $300,000.00 to purchase as-needed spare parts from sole source vendor Schwing Bioset, Inc. to repair and maintain Schwing Bioset material handling equipment at the Southerly and Westerly Wastewater Treatment Centers.
Resolution No. 132-25	Authorization to renew annual software license, maintenance, and support services from sole source vendor StarTex Software, LLC for the District's Health and Safety application, EHS Insight, for the period July 23, 2025 through July 22, 2026, in an amount not-to-exceed $83,216.00.
Resolution No. 133-25	Authorization to purchase PC desktops, laptops, monitors, and accessories from Dell Marketing L.P., under the State of Ohio Cooperative Purchasing Program, in an amount not-to-exceed $351,745.00, including a $20,000.00 allowance.

MOTION – Ms. Dumas moved, and Ms. Chambers seconded to adopt Resolution Nos. 131-25 through 133-25. Without objection, the motion carried unanimously.

Authorization to Enter Into Agreement

Resolution No. 134-25	Authorization to enter into a billing and collection of wastewater service charges agreement with the City of Cleveland for the continued performance of such services by the City, for the initial five-year period ending December 31, 2029, and automatically renewing each year thereafter under the same terms and conditions until a new agreement is entered into with the City, in a total amount not-to-exceed $70,000,000.00 for the initial five-year period or until subsequent exhaustion of funds, with additional funds for renewal years requiring further Board authorization.
Resolution No. 135-25	Authorization to enter into a professional services agreement with the consultant discussed in the privileged and confidential security memo, for an information security project, in an amount not-to-exceed $124,331.00.
Resolution No. 136-25	Authorization to enter into a professional services agreement, including software, with the consultant discussed in the privileged

and confidential security memo, for an information security project, in an amount not-to-exceed $195,239.88.

MOTION – Ms. Chambers moved, and Ms. Dumas seconded to adopt Resolution Nos. 134-25 through 136-26. After the following discussion, without objection, the motion carried unanimously.

President Brown noted that the renewal of the billing agreement with the City of Cleveland, Division of Water has been ongoing for quite some time and NEORSD should continue to assess from a billing perspective what happens when the City makes upgrades to their system. Ken Duplay, Chief Financial Officer, indicated that NEORSD looks forward to continuing its work with the City of Cleveland, as there is a collaborative relationship with staff and continued improvements to systems for customers.

Authorization to Enter Into Contract

Resolution No. 137-25	Authorization to enter into a two-year requirement contract with Great Lakes Petroleum for fuel delivery and monitoring services at all District facilities in an amount not-to-exceed $713,337.47.
Resolution No. 138-25	Authorization to enter into a two-year requirement contract with Environmental Remediation Contractor, LLC for spill remediation services in an amount not-to-exceed $259,721.00.
Resolution No. 139-25	Authorization to enter into a public improvement contract with Plibrico Company LLC for the Southerly Fluid Bed Incinerator No. 1 Refractory Replacement project in an amount not-to-exceed $1,953,619.33.

MOTION – Ms. Dumas moved, and Ms. Chambers seconded to adopt Resolution Nos. 137-25 through 139-25. Without objection, the motion carried unanimously.

Authorization of Contract Modification

Resolution No. 140-25	Authorization to modify Contract No. 23009596 with Industrial Furnace Company, Inc. for refractory inspection and repair services, by increasing the contract amount by $21,310.00 for unanticipated repairs to the refractory in Waste Heat Boiler #3's superheater, thereby bringing the total contract amount not-to-exceed $265,361.65.

Resolution No. 141-25	Authorization to modify Public Improvement Contract No. 22002520 with Shook Construction Company for the Westerly Chemically Enhanced High-Rate Treatment project, by increasing the contract by $1,400,000.00 for differing and unforeseen site conditions and additional work required to complete the project, thereby bringing the total contract amount not-to-exceed $81,375,400.40, including increasing the general allowance to an amount that exceeds more than ten percent (10%) of the base contract price bid, excluding specific allowances.

MOTION – Ms. Chambers moved, and Ms. Dumas seconded to adopt Resolution Nos. 140-25 through 141-25. After the following discussion, without objection, the motion carried unanimously.

President Brown requested additional information regarding Resolution No. 141-25. Ms. Rupe explained that the original estimate of probable construction cost for the project was $84.4 million; average of the three bids received was $83.5 million; the contract was awarded just below $80 million with a general allowance slightly over $7 million. To date, authorized work orders are approximately $6 million. Ms. Rupe provided a graphic demonstrating a breakdown of the reasons additional funding is required and explained that change orders predominantly were due to design errors and omissions, differing or unforeseen site conditions, and owner requested changes. There was a buried waste destroyer building discovered along with contaminated soils, resulting in one of the largest work orders , as it relates to the general allowance. There were other underground obstacles that were unknown until excavated. There were owner requested changes related to dewatering the northwest interceptor to prevent odors. Additionally, it became necessary, due to time constraints, to hire a contractor to remove grit from the tanks.

<u>Authorization to Close Out Public Improvement Contract</u>

Resolution No. 142-25	Authorizing the Final Adjusting Change Order to close out Public Improvement Contract No. 24001291 with RAM Construction Services of Cleveland, LLC for the George J. McMonagle Administration Building South Entrance Stairs Masonry Repairs Project, to decrease the contract amount by $9,245.00, thereby bringing the total contract amount to $77,820.55.
Resolution No. 143-25	Authorizing the Final Adjusting Change Order to close out Public Improvement Contract No. 24001237 with Jadco Construction Services, Inc. for the George J. McMonagle Administration Building Masonry Wing Wall Repairs project, to decrease the contract amount by $4,299.75, thereby bringing the total contract amount to $55,125.00.

Resolution No. 144-25 — Authorizing the Final Adjusting Change Order to close out Public Improvement Contract No. 22001170 with Kokosing Industrial, Inc. for the Shoreline Consolidation Sewer project, to decrease the contract amount by $9,734,163.74, thereby bringing the total contract amount to $45,759,336.26.

MOTION – Ms. Dumas moved, and Ms. Chambers seconded to adopt Resolution Nos. 142-25 through 144-25. After the following discussion, without objection, the motion carried unanimously.

President Brown requested additional information regarding Resolution No. 144-25. Ms. Rupe explained that there were several items that resulted in reduction of costs to the project including some base scope items, as well as general and specific allowances. Additionally, there was value engineering identified approximately 3 years ago as part of the first change order for this project, in the amount of $2.1 million.

Authorization to Accept Application and Enter Into Amendments to Agreements

Resolution No. 145-25 — Authorization to accept the application of the Lorain County Board of Commissioners for inclusion of certain unincorporated territory of Lorain County, located in Columbia Township, within the territory of the Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District, pursuant to Section 6119.05 of the Ohio Revised Code, and for further authorization to enter into a Seventh Amendment to *"Service Agreement No. 3162 By and Between the Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District and Lorain County Board of Commissioners Providing for the Inclusion of Columbia Township into the Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District,"* and for further authorization to enter into a Fourth Amendment to *"Regional Stormwater Management Program Service Agreement No. 3733 By and Between the Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District and Columbia Township"* to add the same territory to the Stormwater Service Area.

MOTION – Ms. Chambers moved, and Ms. Dumas seconded to adopt Resolution No. 145-25. After the following discussion, without objection, the motion carried unanimously.

President Brown asked if this Resolution is to include additional territory to NEORSD's service area. Eric Luckage, Chief Legal Officer, answered affirmatively and explained that this has been done a number of times in Columbia Township to add newly developed territory to the NEORSD service area and amend the sanitary and stormwater service agreements as necessary.

VI. Information Items

Matt Scharver, Director of Watershed Programs, provided an update regarding the Regional Stormwater Management Program (RSMP), beginning with Key Performance Indicators (KPI). The goal of delivering 70% of planned 2025 Stormwater Design and Construction Plan Cashflow was exceeded at 75% to date.

The Business Opportunity Program (BOP) goal of 18% has been exceeded and is currently at 21% BOP participation.

As for cashflow through June, the actual spend is $8.1 million, equating to 75% of planned, and on track to achieve $22 million to $23 million for 2025, in line with the strategic approach for 2025. Watershed Programs will see increased spending in 2026 and 2027. BOP spending for June is at approximately 10% and is expected to increase throughout the year.

Mr. Scharver provided ongoing project highlights beginning with the Dell Haven Regional Stormwater Basin in the City of Parma. This project area is located within the Baldwin Creek Watershed and is a substantial construction site. The project will bring 21 acre-feet of stormwater storage volume to address long-standing flooding in the area. The Veteran's Basin is located in the City of Parma in the West Creek Watershed. This project will provide approximately 48 acre-feet of storage volume to reduce basement and roadway flooding in the area. The River Road Flood Reduction Project in the City of Brecksville is a road raising project in an area that drains to the Cuyahoga River. There is a significant amount of earthwork involved with all three of these projects and despite consistent rain, the contractors have stayed on pace and in some cases are ahead of schedule, driving cashflow.

As for Stormwater Inspection and Maintenance (SWIM) activities, there has been frequent and consistent rainfall in the area that has generated minimal debris, allowing staff to keep the 489 miles of stream network ready to receive the next rainfall events. Cleveland Hopkins International Airport is listing April, May, and June all as above average rainfall totaling 3.7 inches above average, generating significant stormwater runoff. The ground and stream corridors are saturated and susceptible to storms.

President Brown asked whether the above-average rainfall is an anomaly or new normal. Mr. Scharver explained that there is a consistent amount of high-level moisture in the atmosphere, but it is unclear whether it is an anomaly. The SWIM team continues to inspect and clean stream areas and is ready for what may come.

Mr. Scharver recognized staff in attendance from the Environmental Assessment Group: Mark Matteson, Justin Telep, Brittany Dalton, Christina Miller, Jeff Harrison, Shawn Robinson, Matt Johnson and Chris Abraham, all of whom are Environmental Specialist who were recently promoted

and put a significant amount of work into the Biological Restoration by Fish Translocation project. Mr. Scharver invited Justin Telep to discuss the project.

Mr. Telep advised the Board that the State of Ohio has the most robust biological water quality monitoring program in the country. The standards are based on the aquatic life in streams using criteria and scores generated from the fish community biology and macroinvertebrate communities within the stream and those scores are the foundation for the total maximum daily load program. Once the total maximum daily load is established the water quality based effluent limitations are derived.

There have been vast improvements in the water quality in Northeast Ohio over the last 50 years, attributable to NEORSD's wastewater infrastructure upgrades and the construction of its interceptor sewers.

There are two streams in the service area that remain impaired due to natural causes, Tinkers Creek and Plum Creek Gorge, both due to natural waterfalls that prevent small fish from swimming upstream. The Ohio EPA recommended a fish translocation effort to get native fish back upstream in Plum Creek. NEORSD began the project in 2021 and selected both Plum Creek and Tinkers Creek for the project, with a goal of reestablishing a reproducing and viable fish population of these species that would not have been possible in prior decades due to the levels of pollution.

NEORSD first identified the missing fish species native to the area, collected fish from nearby streams, and applied a visual color tag in order to track their health and reproduction. The fish are color coded by year. Any fish collected that are not color coded are the spawn of the fish that NEORSD introduced to the streams.

In terms of results, from 2021 through 2023, 10,304 fish were moved upstream in Plum Creek and while the original fish numbers have started to decline, this is expected due to their short life expectancy, the newly spawned fish numbers continue to increase. Similarly, Tinkers Creek's two-year totals have surpassed 13,000 fish.

This is a new type of project for NEORSD and a new approach to biological restoration efforts nationwide, as it has not been performed at this scale before.

Because this project was recommended by the Ohio EPA, the organization is closely monitoring its progress, as it may inform them on how to address similarly affected streams across the State.

Mr. Telep recognized NEORSD's internal and community partners who assisted in the project.

Mayor DeGeeter asked how the fish are collected. Mr. Telep explained that for this project, the team uses low pulse electrofishing and netting.

Ms. Chambers asked if NEORSD is tagging untagged fish. Mr. Telep explained that only the introduced fish are tagged. Fish are not being tagged in the new locations because it is the lack of tagging that indicates that they are newly spawned fish. The tag is injected under the skin similar to a tattoo and does not ware away.

VII. Open Session

There were no items.

VIII. Public Session (any subject matter)

There were no items.

IX. Executive Session

There were no items.

X. Approval of Items from Executive Session

There were no items.

XI. Adjournment

MOTION – President Brown stated business having been concluded, he would entertain a motion to adjourn. Ms. Chambers moved, and Ms. Dumas seconded the motion to adjourn at 1:15 p.m. Without objection, the motion carried unanimously.

Timothy J. DeGeeter, Secretary
Board of Trustees
Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District

Darnell Brown, President
Board of Trustees
Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District