

MINUTES  
NORTHEAST OHIO REGIONAL SEWER DISTRICT  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING  
JULY 17, 2025

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

I. Roll Call

Present: Darnell Brown  
Timothy DeGeeter  
Ronald Sulik  
Jack Bacci  
Samuel Alai  
Sharon Dumas

Absent: Marjorie Chambers

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

II. Approval of Minutes

**MOTION** – Ms. Dumas moved, and Mayor Alai seconded, to approve the Minutes of the July 3, 2025 Board Meeting. Without objection, the motion carried unanimously.

I. Election and Installation of Officers

Mr. Brown asked for the report on the election of officers for the 2025/2026 term.

**MOTION** – Mayor Alai moved, and Ms. Dumas seconded to reappoint Mr. Brown as Board President, Mr. Sulik as Vice President, and Mayor DeGeeter as Secretary of the Board of Trustees. Without objection, the motion carried unanimously.

President Brown expressed appreciation to the Board for their support and teamwork.

President Brown invited Eric Luckage, Chief Legal Officer, to administer the Oath of Office to the Board officers. Mr. Luckage administered the Oath of Office to Mr. Brown, Mayor DeGeeter and Mr. Sulik.

II. Public Session

There were no items.

III. Chief Executive Officer's Report

Kyle Dreyfuss-Wells, Chief Executive Officer, informed the Board that from June 9<sup>th</sup> through June 11<sup>th</sup>, NEORSD hosted its first Clean Water Teacher Academy in partnership with Teaching Cleveland. Teachers from the Beachwood, Mayfield, Rocky River, Wickliffe, and Buckeye School Districts attended the Academy, which was designed to highlight NEORSD's work and build connections to the Ohio State Education Standards to assist teachers in bringing the work of NEORSD to their students. Several departments provided their expertise, tours and field trips, with Contance Haqq, Chief Administrative Officer, greeting attendees on the first day. . The teachers expressed appreciation for the work that NEORSD performs and provided positive feedback for the Academy. Ms. Dreyfuss-Wells provided a sampling of positive quotes from attendees, which referenced the many employment opportunities at NEORSD, NEORSD's commitment to the environment, and the passion of NEORSD team members for public service.

NEORSD celebrated Pride in the CLE on June 7<sup>th</sup>, and Brecksville/Broadview Heights Pride on June 14<sup>th</sup>, with employees representing the LGBTQ+ Employee Resource Group marching in the parade and staffing a booth.

NEORSD's African American Professional Network hosted a Juneteenth celebration on June 18<sup>th</sup>, at EMSC, where 95 employees gathered to celebrate and learn the history of Juneteenth. Ms. Dreyfuss-Wells thanked staff for organizing and attending these events.

The U.S. Water Alliance hosted their One Water Summit from July 8<sup>th</sup> through July 11<sup>th</sup>, in Pittsburgh. NEORSD staff was well represented at the event, with Angela Jones, Senior Manager of Government Affairs, and Raquel Gregory, Customer Relations Supervisor, participating in the day-long Water Equity Network, including a panel discussion titled "Advancing Equitable Water Access through Utility Policy". Additionally, Danielle Giannantonio, Senior Manager of State and Federal Legislative Affairs, moderated a panel titled "Driving State-Level Action with Public Awareness and Coalitions", and John Gonzalez, Senior Manager of Communications, joined a panel called "Narrative Change and How Water Communicators Can Connect". Ms. Dreyfuss-Wells thanked staff for their participation in the event.

President Brown expressed appreciation for the collaboration with teachers to highlight the career opportunities at NEORSD, as well as NEORSD's DE&I efforts. President Brown added that it is up to organizations such as NEORSD to continue to demonstrate the value of DE&I, because when the community is reflected in the workplace, it results in improved success in meeting the community's needs.

Action Items

Authorization to Advertise

- Resolution No. 146-25      Authorization to publish notice calling for bids, in accordance with Ohio Revised Code Section 6119.10, for a 12-month requirement contract for the delivery of liquid emulsion polymer solution to the Southerly and Westerly Wastewater Treatment Centers with a total estimated probable cost of \$1,550,000.00.
- Resolution No. 147-25      Authorization to publish notice calling for bids, in accordance with Ohio Revised Code Section 6119.10, for a two-year requirement contract for refractory inspection and repair services with an estimated probable cost of \$500,000.00.
- Resolution No. 148-25      Authorization to publish notice calling for bids, in accordance with Ohio Revised Code Section 6119.10, for a two-year requirement contract for centrifuge rebuilding services at the Southerly Wastewater Treatment Center with an estimated probable cost of \$770,000.00.

**MOTION** – Mayor Alai moved, and Mr. Sulik seconded to adopt Resolution Nos. 146-25 through 148-25. Without objection, the motion carried unanimously.

Authorization to Issue Request for Qualifications (RFP)

- Resolution No. 149-25      Authorization to issue an RFP, in accordance with Ohio Revised Code Chapter 153, for design and construction administration/resident project representation services for the BC SO-2 Bellaire Tunnel and BC Regulators project.

**MOTION** – Mayor Bacci moved, and Mr. Sulik seconded to adopt Resolution No. 149-25. After the following discussion, without objection, the motion carried unanimously.

President Brown requested additional information regarding the project. Robin Rupe, Director of Engineering and Construction, explained that the BC SO-2 Bellaire Tunnel and BC Regulators project falls under Control Measure 22 of Project Clean Lake and, in conjunction with the Big Creek Tunnel, will help to control and reduce 580 million gallons of CSO annually. The project will include the elimination of one CSO, regulator modifications, and new sewer and tunnel installations.

Authorization to Purchase

Resolution No. 150-25      Authorization to purchase Nearmap Aerial Imagery Hosted Services, including aerial imagery flight captures to use in all District GIS applications, for two years, from Nearmap US, Inc., under the U.S. General Services Administration Cooperative Purchasing Program, in an amount not-to-exceed \$383,504.00.

**MOTION** – Mayor Bacci moved, and Ms. Dumas seconded to adopt Resolution No. 150-25. Without objection, the motion carried unanimously.

Authorization to Enter Into Agreement

Resolution No. 151-25      Authorization to enter into a professional services agreement with Nexinite, LLC, including software, maintenance and support services, to develop and implement a system to effectively manage data needs related to the District’s Industrial Pretreatment Program under the Pretreatment Information Management System Solution and Implementation project, in an amount not-to-exceed \$517,968.00.

Resolution No. 152-25      Authorization to enter into a Water Pollution Control Loan Fund Agreement with the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency and the Ohio Water Development Authority to accept Principal Forgiveness Funding up to \$600,000.00 under the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act for the purchase of a Liquid Chromatograph Tandem Mass Spectrometer.

Resolution No. 153-25      Authorization to enter into a Memorandum of Agreement with Local Union 2798, American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, AFL-CIO (AFSCME), which amends Appendix B of the current collective bargaining agreement between the District and AFSCME effective January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2026, to clarify the methodology used to calculate wage increases for the Maintenance Training Program.

Resolution No. 154-25      Authorization to enter into an agreement with the Great Lakes Science Center (GLSC) for sponsorship of GLSC’s Water Technology Exhibit focusing on various technologies used to manage water and monitor water quality, for a five-year period, in the amount of \$50,000.00 per year, for a total amount of \$250,000.00.

**MOTION** – Mr. Sulik moved, and Mayor Alai seconded to adopt Resolution Nos. 151-25 through 154-26. After the following discussion, without objection, the motion carried unanimously.

President Brown requested additional information regarding Resolution No. 152-25. Matt Scharver, Director of Watershed Programs, explained that funding for the purchase will be obtained via a principal forgiveness loan from the Water Pollution Control Loan Fund, because by statute the funds cannot be received in the form of a grant. Mr. Scharver invited Cheryl Soltis-Muth, Manager of Analytical Services, to provide more information regarding the instrument.

Ms. Soltis-Muth explained that the LC-MS/MS is a powerful analytical tool that NEORSD will use to measure PFAS compounds in environmental samples to the part per trillion level. There are two components: the liquid chromatograph which will take the samples and separate them into the specific PFAS compounds; and the tandem mass spectrometer which will measure those compounds to the part per trillion level. Ms. Soltis-Muth provided an example of one part per trillion being akin to filling the entire Cleveland Browns Stadium with tennis balls and being able to isolate one of those tennis balls.

President Brown requested additional information regarding Resolution No. 154-25. Jean Smith, Director of Administration and External Affairs, explained that NEORSD partners with various organizations in order to educate the public about its work. NEORSD has partnered with the Great Lakes Science Center (GLSC) since 2009, on a number of initiatives and exhibits. GLSC is creating a new exhibit called Water Technology, which is designed to educate the public about the role of water technology in addressing challenges. With this sponsorship, NEORSD will be able to highlight gray and green infrastructure's interface with watersheds. The partnership aligns with NEORSD's public engagement and DE&I goals, as defined by the Strategic Plan. Additionally, there is a high school located within the GLSC, allowing NEORSD to interface with CMSD students.

Authorization to Enter Into Contract

Resolution No. 155-25                      Authorization to enter into a two-year public improvement requirement contract with Nerone & Sons, Inc. for Eastside stream sediment and debris removal services in an amount not-to-exceed \$1,287,303.60.

Resolution No. 156-25                      Authorization to enter into a contract with EnviroScience, Inc. for invasive plant species treatment services at the Doan Brook Restoration at Horseshoe Park Project site in an amount not-to-exceed \$209,304.50.

**MOTION** – Mr. Sulik moved, and Ms. Dumas seconded to adopt Resolution Nos. 155-25 through 156-25. Without objection, the motion carried unanimously.

Authorization to Reject and Rebid

Resolution No. 157-25      Authorization to reject all bids and re-bid, in accordance with Ohio Revised Code Section 6119.10, for the Fire Suppression Maintenance and Repair Services project for District-wide fire suppression systems, with an estimated probable cost of \$200,000.00.

**MOTION** – Mayor Bacci moved, and Mayor Alai seconded to adopt Resolution No. 157-25. Without objection, the motion carried unanimously.

Authorization to Assign

Resolution No. 158-25      Authorization to assign Professional Services Agreement No. 24006370 with Moss Adams LLP to Baker Tilly Advisory Group, LP, for 2025-2027 strategic plan consultancy services, due to a corporate acquisition, with all current terms and conditions of the agreement to remain unchanged.

**MOTION** – Mayor Bacci moved, and Mr. Sulik seconded to adopt Resolution No. 458-25. Without objection, the motion carried unanimously.

IV.    Information Items

Ms. Rupe provided the Capital Improvement Program mid-year update, beginning with contract management. There are 85 active contracts, totaling more than \$1.3 billion. Nearly \$1 billion is in construction, predominantly in the large tunnels of the collection system, with the remaining in design for WWTP and District-wide improvements.

As for contract management actuals to date, there have been three professional services contracts awarded totaling more than \$12 million, including the CSO Consent Decree at NPDES Performance Compliance Phase 3, under Project Clean Lake.

There have been seven construction contracts awarded, totaling \$131 million, the largest of which is \$104 million for the Kingsbury Run Consolidation Sewer. There have also been seven construction contracts closed to date, including the Southerly Secondary Effluent Capacity Improvements under Project Clean Lake.

Ms. Rupe provided a graphic demonstrating Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) mid-year actuals and explained that most KPIs have been met with the exception of the KPI for average of lowest three bids received coming within 10% of the engineer's estimate, due to a large bid received for

the Kingsbury Run Consolidation Sewer project. Additionally, the KPI for substantial completion of construction within 90 days of planned was exceeded with an average of 172 days.

For the seven projects closed through 2nd Quarter 2025, the Business Opportunity Program (BOP) goal of 18.25% has been exceeded at 23.43% to date.

Of the \$47 million spent in contracts closed in 2025, 7.3% of the dollars have been work orders, primarily due to design errors and omissions, differing site conditions, and owner requested changes.

Under Project Clean Lake, there are 75 projects that are either active or complete, and 16 of 25 Control Measures have achieved full operation. Total spending to date is approximately \$2.44 billion, with more than \$500 million in 2009 dollars in value engineered savings. The current CSO reduction is 2 billion gallons annually.

Project Clean Lake progress to date in 2025 includes the Easterly District Capacity Improvements, which is underway to alleviate capacity issues in the combined sewers for the Easterly service District. Construction of the Kingsbury Run Consolidation Sewer has commenced, as has the mining operation for the Southerly Storage Tunnel. Control Measure 23, the Pearl Jennings Pump Station and Storage Tank Project, has achieved full operation. Post-construction compliance activities have commenced for Control Measures 5-1, 14, 15, 16, and 23.

Still to come in 2025, the design process of the BCS0-2 Bellaire Tunnel and BC Regulators project will begin. The redesign of the Easterly Chemically Enhanced High-Rate Treatment Facility will be complete. Construction of the Southerly Regulatory and Relief Sewers Project will begin; and construction of the Southerly High-Rate Treatment Upgrades project as well as the Shoreline Consolidation Sewer project will be completed.

V. Open Session

There were no items.

VI. Public Session (any subject matter)

There were no items.

VII. Executive Session

Mayor Bacci, pursuant to Ohio Revised Code Section 121.22(G)(1) and (G)(3), moved, and Mayor DeGeeter seconded, to enter into executive session to consider the appointment, employment and compensation of public employees and to consult with District legal counsel concerning disputes involving the District that are subject of pending and immanent court action. By roll call vote, the Board voted unanimously to enter into executive session at 1:02 p.m.

The Board returned to open session at 1:41 p.m.

VIII. Approval of Items from Executive Session

There were no items.

IX. Adjournment

**MOTION** – President Brown stated business having been concluded, he would entertain a motion to adjourn. Mayor Bacci moved, and Ms. Dumas seconded the motion to adjourn at 1:41 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