MINUTES
NORTHEAST OHIO REGIONAL SEWER DISTRICT
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
SEPTEMBER 18, 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
Ronald Sulik
Jack Bacci
Samuel Alai
Sharon Dumas
Marjorie Chambers

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

II. Approval of Minutes

MOTION – Mayor Bacci moved, and Ms. Chambers seconded, to approve the Minutes of the September 4, 2025 Board Meeting. Without objection, the motion carried unanimously.

I. Public Session

There were no items.

II. Chief Executive Officer's Report

Kyle Dreyfuss-Wells, Chief Executive Officer, advised the Board of Trustees that on August 11th NEORSD hosted staff from Ohio EPA's Division of Environmental and Financial Assistance for a tour of NEORSD's completed Hemlock Creek Stream Restoration project in Seven Hills. Ohio EPA provided $1 million in grant funding toward this project, which was completed in December 2024. The project had a total cost of $3,180,470, and required 8 voluntary property acquisitions, to improve stream function and reduce flooding and erosion along 1,318 linear feet of Hemlock Creek, by expanding the floodplain and upsizing two roadway crossings. Ms. Dreyfuss-Wells thanked Ohio EPA for their contributions to this project.

Ms. Dreyfuss-Wells advised that recent water quality data for the Cuyahoga River is available, as twice each summer NEORSD's Water Quality and Industrial Surveillance team performs electrofishing surveys to monitor the health of the fish community and determine if there are any

impacts from the Southerly Wastewater Treatment Center (WWTC) effluent or combined sewer overflow. This year all five testing sites that were assessed met Ohio EPA's biological criteria. This indicates significant improvement in the River's water quality since the inception of NEORSD. Ms. Dreyfuss-Wells thanked NEORSD staff for their efforts.

On September 11th NEORSD's Veterans Employee Resource Group organized a remembrance ceremony, including public address announcements recounting the events and bells that tolled in memory of the lives lost that day, followed by a closing ceremony held at GJM. Ms. Dreyfuss-Wells thanked staff for organizing the event.

NEORSD's Clean Water Fest will be held on September 20th from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at EMSC, with tours of the Southerly WWTC and laboratory, and more than 50 exhibitors in attendance. Ms. Dreyfuss-Wells will tour the Southerly WWTC in the morning with elected officials. NEORSD will unveil the Lake Erie League outreach comic book, and there will be a panel discussion of women in science with staff from Analytical Services. Ms. Dreyfuss-Wells thanked Mayor Bacci for allowing the event to be held in Cuyahoga Heights.

Ms. Dreyfuss-Wells invited Devona Marshall, Chief Operating Officer, to introduce NEORSD's next Director of Operation and Maintenance. Ms. Marshall advised the Board that Matt Gaugler, Superintendent of Maintenance Services, will take over the role of Director when Frank Foley retires on February 1, 2026. Mr. Gaugler has more than 19 years of experience in wastewater operations and utility management. He began as a frontline plant operator and worked through various roles to public utilities manager. Mr. Gaugler joined NEORSD in 2018, and under his current role, is responsible for multiple budget centers within O&M, including Sewer System Maintenance and Operations, Building Maintenance, Building Systems, Fleet Services, and Administrative Services. Mr. Gaugler also has experience within NEORSD wastewater treatment plants (WWTP), serving as Shift Supervisor and Unit Process Manager at the Southerly WWTC and as Assistance Superintendent at the Easterly WWTP. Senior staff are excited to have him as part of the leadership team. Ms. Marshall offered appreciation to Mr. Foley for his continued hard work leading up to his retirement.

Action Items

Authorization to Advertise

Resolution No. 202-25	Authorization to publish notice calling for bids, in accordance with Ohio Revised Code Section 6119.10, for a twelve-month requirement contract for the delivery of up to 8,200,000 wet pounds of sodium hypochlorite solution to all District wastewater treatment plants, with an estimated probable cost of $1,250,000.00.

Resolution No. 203-25	Authorization to publish notice calling for bids, in accordance with Ohio Revised Code Section 6119.10, for a three-year requirement contract for predictive maintenance services, with an estimated probable cost of $195,000.00.
Resolution No. 204-25	Authorization to publish notice calling for bids, in accordance with Ohio Revised Code Section 6119.10, for up to four one-year requirement contracts for grounds maintenance services, with an estimated probable cost of $135,000.00.
Resolution No. 205-25	Authorization to publish notice calling for bids, in accordance with Ohio Revised Code Section 6119.10, for the Southerly Electrical Repairs Project 2, with an estimated probable construction cost of $650,000.00.

MOTION – Mayor Alai moved, and Mr. Sulik seconded to adopt Resolution Nos. 202-25 through 205-25. Without objection, the motion carried unanimously.

Authorization to Issue Request for Proposal (RFP)

Resolution No. 206-25	Authorization to issue an RFP, in accordance with Ohio Revised Code Chapter 153, for one or more professional services agreements for GES-Treatment Plants (GES-14, GES-15), and GES-Architectural/Civil/Structural (GES-16, GES-17).
Resolution No. 207-25	Authorization to issue an RFP, in accordance with Ohio Revised Code Chapter 6119, for professional services agreements with one or more Ohio public university, college, Ohio technical center (OTC), or Joint Aspire/OTC to provide technical training coursework for Operation and Maintenance staff, in a total amount not-to-exceed $350,000.00 for all agreements.

MOTION – Mayor Bacci moved, and Ms. Dumas seconded to adopt Resolution Nos. 206-25 through 207-25. After the following discussion, without objection, the motion carried unanimously.

President Brown noted that the contract associated with Resolution No. 206-25 is anticipated to have a significant cost increase over the previous contract and requested an explanation. Robin Rupe, Director of Engineering and Construction, explained that NEORSD currently has two contracts for general engineering services, one for work performed in WWTPs in the amount of $3 million, and the other for architectural, civil and structural in the amount of $1.5 million.

NEORSD is looking to procure two new contracts to service the WWTPs at a cost of $2 million each, and two additional contracts to provide architectural, civil and structural services at a cost of $1 million each. There has been increased support provided by Engineering & Construction to Operation & Maintenance for smaller scale projects, resulting in the request for additional dollars associated with each of these task order-based contracts.

President Brown clarified that the increase in costs is due to increased demand for services. Ms. Rupe answered affirmatively.

Authorization to Enter Into Agreement

Resolution No. 208-25	Authorization to enter into a professional services agreement with Stantec Consulting Services, Inc. for design and construction administration/resident project representation services for the Easterly Tunnel Dewatering and Division Avenue Pump Stations Improvements project in an amount not-to-exceed $1,162,407.96.
Resolution No. 209-25	Authorization to enter into an agreement with Delta Institute for Stormwater Projects Grant Funding Exploration under a US EPA Technical Services grant at no cost to the District.
Resolution No. 210-25	Authorization to enter into the Stormwater Model Data Management and Supporting Services 3 professional services agreement with Wade Trim, Inc. in an amount not-to-exceed $4,000,000.00.
Resolution No. 211-25	Authorization to enter into a professional services agreement with HZW Environmental Consultants, LLC for Environmental Assessment Services in support of the District's Capital Improvement Program and Regional Stormwater Management Program in an amount not-to-exceed $1,500,000.00.

MOTION – Ms. Chambers moved, and Mr. Sulik seconded to adopt Resolution Nos. 208-25 through 211-25. After the following discussion, without objection, the motion carried unanimously.

President Brown requested additional information regarding the project associated with Resolution No. 208-25. Ms. Rupe explained that with the benefit of operational run time for the Division Avenue Pump Station and the Easterly Tunnel Dewatering Pump Station, staff have identified needed improvements in operating efficiency and life safety improvements. The work to be performed is very similar for both locations and has been combined into one project.

President Brown noted that Resolution No. 209-25 appears to be for services provided to NEORSD at no cost and requested additional information. Matt Scharver, Director of Watershed Programs, explained that Delta Institute is a nonprofit technical assistance group operating as an environmental finance center for US EPA Region 5 covering the Midwest states. Their objective under this agreement is to provide guidance to NEORSD in identifying grant opportunities specific to the Regional Stormwater Management Program over a six-month term. President Brown asked whether this contract may also identify funding opportunities for member communities. Mr. Scharver answered affirmatively and explained that NEORSD intends to familiarize itself with Delta Institute to first gain an understanding of what services are available and if helpful to member communities, would provide the information to member communities at the January 2026 Suburban Council of Governments meeting.

President Brown requested additional information regarding the contract associated with Resolution No. 210-25. Mr. Scharver explained that the contract is the third iteration of the Stormwater Model Data Management Professional Services agreement for a three-year period at a cost of $4 million. The agreement provides technical support for the 44 stormwater models that NEORSD administers. There were approximately 40 entities that downloaded the request for proposal for this agreement, including several firms that NEORSD works with regularly. Wade Trim was the vendor for the first two iterations of this agreement and has served as the primary contractor for NEORSD's Stormwater Master Planning, making them familiar with NEORSD's work and efficient at delivering model data.

Authorization to Enter Into Contract

Resolution No. 212-25	Authorization to enter into a two-year requirement contract with Andritz Separation Technologies, Inc. for centrifuge rebuilding services at the Southerly Wastewater Treatment Center in an amount not-to-exceed $707,506.80.
Resolution No. 213-25	Authorization to enter into a three-year requirement contract with C&K Industrial Services, Inc. for industrial cleaning services in an amount not-to-exceed $428,604.00.
Resolution No. 214-25	Authorization to enter into a two-year requirement contract with Industrial Furnace Company, Inc. for refractory inspection and repair services in an amount not-to-exceed $679,211.50.
Resolution No. 215-25	Authorization to enter into a public improvement contract with Nerone & Sons, Inc. for the Southerly Regulators and Relief Sewers project in an amount not-to-exceed $16,621,810.76.

Resolution No. 216-25	Authorization to enter into a contract with Shimadzu Scientific Instruments, Inc. for purchase of a Liquid Chromatograph Tandem Mass Spectrometer in an amount not-to-exceed $478,555.53, with the District reimbursed all such costs from federal Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act Principal Forgiveness Funding through the Ohio EPA.

MOTION – Mr. Sulik moved, and Ms. Dumas seconded to adopt Resolution Nos. 212-25 through 216-25. After the following discussion, without objection, the motion carried unanimously.

President Brown noted that only one proposal was received for the project associated with Resolution No. 215-25, though the award amount is aligned with the engineer's estimate, and requested additional information regarding the purpose of the project. Ms. Rupe explained that the project is related to achieving Control Measure 21 of the Consent Decree, the same Control Measure as the Southerly Storage Tunnel and Tunnel Dewatering Pump Station, as well as the Kingsbury Run Consolidation Sewer. Under this project, work on 6 CSO sites will achieve 54 million gallons of CSO control annually, for a typical year.

NEORSD reached out to other firms that downloaded the bid documents to ask why they did not submit bids for the project and found that the contractors are currently at capacity with this type of work.

Authorization to Amend Agreement

Resolution No. 217-25	Authorization to enter into an amendment to *"Service Agreement No. 1677 By and Between the Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District and Summit County Providing for the Inclusion of the City of Hudson into the Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District,"* and to enter into a First Amendment to *"Regional Stormwater Management Program Service Agreement No. 3762 By and Between the Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District and the City of Hudson"* to add certain territory within, and remove certain existing territory from, the sanitary service area and stormwater service area of the District.

MOTION – Mayor Bacci moved, and Ms. Dumas seconded to adopt Resolution No 217-25. After the following discussion, without objection, the motion carried unanimously.

President Brown requested an explanation of the amendment. Mr. Scharver explained that the amendment is essentially a cleanup of the service area map exhibit and adding new parcels to the stormwater service area. Ms. Dreyfuss-Wells clarified that the service area for stormwater and sanitary sewer services to the City of Hudson and Summit County is not changing; rather the map of the service area is being corrected to accurately reflect the entirety of the service area.

Authorization of Contract Modification

Resolution No. 218-25	Authorization to modify Contract No. 24007027 with Independence Excavating, Inc. for the Kinsman and East 149th Regulator and Relief Sewers project to authorize a general allowance in excess of ten percent of the base contract price bid, excluding specific allowances, and to increase the contract amount by $900,000.00 for differing and unforeseen site conditions, thereby bringing the total contract amount not-to-exceed $5,486,300.00.

MOTION – Ms. Chambers moved, and Mayor Alai seconded to adopt Resolution No. 218-25. Without objection, the motion carried unanimously.

Authorization to Close Out a Public Improvement Contract

Resolution No. 219-25	Authorizing the Final Adjusting Change Order to close out Public Improvement Contract No. 21007136 with The Great Lakes Construction Co. for the Pearl and Jennings Storage Tank and Pump Station Upgrades project, to extend the contract duration by 185 days, thereby extending the contract completion date to September 26, 2025, and to authorize reallocation of $30,717.42 to the general allowance to account for final reconciliation of remaining change management, thereby increasing the general allowance from the previously authorized 16.83% to 16.99% of the base contract price bid, excluding specific allowances, and to decrease the contract amount by $108,147.43, thereby bringing the total contract amount to $22,903,765.77.
Resolution No. 220-25	Authorizing the Final Adjusting Change Order to close out Public Improvement Contract No. 22005855 with Shook Construction Co. for the Southerly Chemically Enhanced High-Rate Treatment project to decrease the contract amount by $694,900.72, thereby bringing the total contract amount to $8,197,499.28.

MOTION – Mayor Bacci moved, and Ms. Dumas seconded to adopt Resolution Nos. 219-25 through 220-25. Without objection, the motion carried unanimously.

Hearing Officer Findings and Recommendations

Resolution No. 221-25	Adopting the findings and recommendations of the Hearing Officer regarding the sewer account of Greg Cielec ending in 0003, Sewer District Hearing No. 25-001, that no account adjustments or other actions are necessary.

MOTION – Mayor Bacci moved, and Ms. Dumas seconded to adopt Resolution No. 221-25. Without objection, the motion carried unanimously.

III. Information Items

Ms. Rupe provided the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) Monthly Update for August 2025, beginning with cashflow. Ms. Rupe provided a list of the seven largest CIP projects with their projected spend for the year and explained that cashflow is tracking very well, despite the Second Stage Aeration project and Southerly PLC Replacement project being slightly behind schedule and below the 85% goal.

As for Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) the Southerly Electrical Repairs project achieved design completion within 60 days of planned, meeting that KPI.

The Southerly Fluidized Bed Incinerator No. 1 Refractory Replacement did not meet the KPI for the engineer's estimate being within 10% of the lowest three bids received due to an error in one of the bids; however, the contract was awarded within 60 days of planned, meeting that KPI.

The Southerly Chemically Enhanced High-Rate Treatment project did not achieve substantial completion of construction within 90 days of planned, missing that KPI.

The Southerly Skimmings Decant and Storage Air Handling Unit Replacement Project met the KPI for closing the construction contract within 95% of the original contract and exceeded the Business Opportunity Program goal KPI of 15.94% with an actual projection of 89.64%. There was $34,000 worth of change orders for the project primarily due to design errors and omissions and owner-requested changes.

Ms. Rupe invited Charles Huse, Manager of Design, to provide a presentation regarding BCSO-1 Project Elimination Value Engineering.

Mr. Huse advised the Board that the BCSO-1 project is going away, eliminating the need to construct a diversion structure and 2,200 feet of consolidation sewer, and resulting in $25.6 million in value engineering savings.

The BCSO-1 project is part of Control Measure 22 of the Consent Decree, also known as the Big Creek Tunnel System, which consists of multiple projects, the primary of which being the Big Creek Tunnel, a 20-foot diameter, 4-mile long CSO storage tunnel, which will capture overflows and dewater to the Big Creek Interceptor. Control Measure 22 also includes several smaller associated projects, including consolidation sewers and shafts, and various improvements throughout the Big Creek collections system.

Mr. Huse went through the history of the BCSO-1 project beginning in 2002, with the Phase II Facilities Plan, through 2011 when the Control Measures were developed, and to the present day. Mr. Huse presented slides demonstrating the evolution of project design and the various project areas in the region. In 2020, NEORSD initiated the Stickney Creek Ridge Road Stream Relocation project to move an existing sewer to reduce infiltration into the collections system and to rehabilitate the stream.

Flow monitoring and hydraulic modeling were performed by several different projects to confirm that with the other projects in the area, the BCSO-1 project could be eliminated entirely. Work is still required to meet Control Measure 22 requirements. The Big Creek Tunnel project will construct a diversion structure tributary to CSO-054 to send flows through a baffle drop structure to the Big Creek Storage Tunnel, as well as the BCSO-2 project reconstructing Regulator BC-41 to control CSO-054 to achieve three or less overflows per year.

The Big Creek Storage Tunnel will be advertised for bids early in 2026 and will begin construction by the end of 2026. BCSO-2 will begin design next year and construction will be completed by the end of 2030. In 2032, post construction monitoring for the entire Big Creek System will be completed to confirm achievement and full operation for CM-22 and CM-25.

President Brown asked for clarification regarding the level of service in the area. Mr. Huse explained that modeling originally showed that there was surcharging during a five-year, six-hour level event. After improvement projects in the area were completed, modeling studies were performed again and confirmed that the level had gone down and was no longer surcharging, meaning that the BCSO-1 project is no longer necessary, delivering $25.6 million in savings.

IV. Open Session

There were no items.

V. Public Session (any subject matter)

There were no items.

VI. Executive Session

There were no items.

VII. Approval of Items from Executive Session

There were no items.

VIII. 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 1:13 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