

MINUTES  
NORTHEAST OHIO REGIONAL SEWER DISTRICT  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING  
DECEMBER 4, 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 Ronald Sulik.

I. Roll Call

Present: Ronald Sulik  
Timothy DeGeeter  
Jack Bacci  
Samuel Alai  
Sharon Dumas  
Marjorie Chambers

Absent: Darnell Brown

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

II. Approval of Minutes

**MOTION** – Ms. Chambers moved, and Mayor Alai seconded, to approve the Minutes of the November 20, 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 November 18<sup>th</sup> the Public Relations Society of America recognized NEORS's social media team with a Cleveland Rocks Gold Award. The annual event recognizes marketing agencies and in-house communications teams for public relations tactics and campaigns that garner attention. This award recognizes NEORS staff's creativity in engaging with customers. Ms. Dreyfuss-Wells acknowledged the communications team for their efforts.

On November 20<sup>th</sup> NEORS hosted members of the Institute for Journalism and Natural Resources for conversation and tours. There were 18 environmental reporters in attendance from across the Northeast and Midwest representing outlets as varied as the New York Times, Scientific America, and Great Lakes Now. Ms. Dreyfuss-Wells had an opportunity to engage with the attendees and

discuss a range of water quality topics along with NEORSD staff, including Scott Broski, Superintendent of Environmental Services, Nivia Torres, Advanced Instrumentation Supervisor, Leslie Vankuren, Supervisor of Sample Control, and Ben Tedrick, Assistant Superintendent of Plants, who took attendees on tours of the Southerly WWTC and lab. NEORSD received a follow-up email from external attendees stating that it was a highlight of their Lake Erie tour.

On November 18<sup>th</sup> NEORSD, Cleveland Metroparks, Port of Cleveland, and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and other community partners, participated in an update to eastside communities regarding the Cleveland Harbor Eastern Embayment Resilience Strategy (CHEERS) project to activate Cleveland's eastern lakefront through the beneficial re-use of dredge material. The project area spans from the East 55<sup>th</sup> Street Marina to the East 72<sup>nd</sup> Street launch ramp near Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard within the Metroparks lakefront park complex.

The CHEERS project will benefit from the Shoreline Storage Tunnel System, which will come online in the first quarter of 2026 and reduce combined sewer overflows directly to the lake by 350 million gallons annually across 12 outfall locations. NEORSD's repair and relocation of CSO-203 outside of the project area will also facilitate the work of its partners. Doug Lopata, Program Manager for Planning and Design, Donna Friedman, Manager of Community Watershed Coordination, and Dave Ritter, Manager of Watershed Technical Support, all attended the event and spoke with residents about NEORSD's role in water quality.

#### Action Items

##### Authorization to Issue Request for Proposal (RFP)

Resolution No. 273-25	Authorization to issue an RFP, in accordance with Ohio Revised Code Chapter 153, for design and construction administration/resident project representation services for the Edgewater Beach Surge Tunnel project.
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**MOTION** – Mayor Bacci moved, and Ms. Chambers seconded to adopt Resolution No. 273-25. After the following discussion, without objection, the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Sulik requested an overview of the project associated with this resolution. Robin Rupe, Director of Engineering and Construction, explained that the project will hopefully allow NEORSD to completely eliminate CSO-069 located at Edgewater Beach, with the installation of an approximately 1,350 linear-foot tunnel. Ms. Rupe invited Mr. Lopata to discuss the project in more detail.

Mr. Lopata explained that Edgewater Beach is within the Westerly Service area, which is highly impervious, leading to very high inflow at the Northwest Interceptor at the rate of 1,200 million gallons per day (MGD). The Westerly Storage Tunnel in this area has captured more than 500

million gallons of CSO this year and some projects performed in Lakewood are helping the area as well.

Mr. Lopata explained that the Northwest Interceptor runs underneath the beach and was the original CSO project implemented by NEORSD in the early 1970s. Since then, NEORSD has implemented technology to optimize the Northwest Interceptor; however, when the overflows occur it is a water quality and human safety issue, as well as reputational. The benefit of the EBST project is that it will improve the long-term operation of the local sewer system and eliminate CSO-069 after a period of validation monitoring. NEORSD will collaborate with the community as to what do to with the outfall in 2029 when the project is completed. This project would not be possible without the Westerly Chemically Enhanced High-Rate Treatment Facility project, which is scheduled to begin operation early next year.

NEORSD is still working through the final design with its engineers and stakeholders, including the Metroparks, as there will be two major work areas required for construction. The request for proposals for the design portion of the project will be issued immediately, followed by one year for design, followed by calling for bids for construction in 2027.

Mr. Lopata provided videos of CSO-069 surging onto the beach, followed by historical photographs of the beach and its original pavilion, which was constructed in the early 1900s.

Mr. Sulik added that this project will be a great improvement to the entire Edgewater Beach area.

#### Authorization to Enter Into Agreement

Resolution No. 274-25                      Authorization to enter into an agreement with the City of Olmsted Falls for the District's continued performance of billing and collection services for the City's local sanitary sewer charges.

**MOTION** –Ms. Dumas moved, and Mayor Bacci seconded to adopt Resolution No. 274-25. After the following discussion, without objection, the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Sulik requested additional information regarding Resolution No. 274-25. Ken Duplay, Chief Financial Officer, explained that in 2012, NEORSD took over billing of the Rural Lorain County Water Authority (RLCWA) customers who receive water service from RLCWA and sewer services from NEORSD because they were being billed by the City of Cleveland, Division of Water, but the RLCWA customers did not have a direct relationship with the City of Cleveland. Approximately 600 of those accounts were also being billed for City of Olmsted Falls local sewer charges as well as the related City of Cleveland, Division of Water billing fee. NEORSD also took over billing for these local charges in 2012.

This agreement is simply to memorialize the billing agreement with the City of Olmsted Falls, with no changes to the billing practices that have been in place since 2012.

Authorization to Enter Into Contract

- Resolution No. 275-25      Authorization to enter into a one-year requirement contract with PVS Technologies, Inc. for the delivery of up to 975,000 dry pounds of ferric chloride solution to all wastewater treatment plants in an amount not-to-exceed \$593,775.00.
- Resolution No. 276-25      Authorization to enter into a 36-month requirement contract with S.A. Comunale Co., Inc. for heating, ventilation, air conditioning and refrigeration maintenance and repair service at all District facilities in an amount not-to-exceed \$534,800.00.
- Resolution No. 277-25      Authorization to enter into a three-year requirement contract with Hannon Electric Company for predictive maintenance services in an amount not-to-exceed \$183,513.00.
- Resolution No. 278-25      Authorization to enter into a public improvement contract with Herbst Electric, LLC for the Southerly Electrical Repairs Project-2 in an amount not-to-exceed \$432,581.20.
- Resolution No. 279-25      Authorization to enter into a public improvement contract with Tucson, Inc. for the Baldwin Creek Cedar Estates Detention Basin Modifications project in an amount not-to-exceed \$522,397.60, and to authorize a general allowance in excess of ten percent of the base contract price bid, excluding specific allowances.
- Resolution No. 280-25      Authorization to enter into a two-year public improvement contract with Nerone & Sons, Inc. for stream sediment and debris removal services west of the Cuyahoga River in an amount not-to-exceed \$1,222,398.00.

**MOTION** – Ms. Chambers moved, and Mayor Alai seconded to adopt Resolution Nos. 275-25 through 280-25. After the following discussion, without objection, the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Sulik asked, regarding Resolution No. 279-25, what improvements will be made under that contract. Matt Scharver, Director of Watershed Programs, explained that in approximately 2013, Mayor Stefanik's administration approached NEORS D regarding the need for stormwater basins in the Cedar Estates neighborhood. Mr. Scharver provided a map of the service area and explained

that the residences along Baldwin Creek in and around Cedar Estates subdivision were experiencing overland and basement flooding.

The city designed and constructed the basins with some funding assistance from NEORSD. There are two regional stormwater detention basins positioned in line with a tributary to Baldwin Creek that provide 100-year level of service for flood reduction. The problem is that over the years, the stream has continued to erode, necessitating headwall, equalization pipe repairs along with streambank erosion repair. NEORSD will stabilize the stream erosion and return the two basins to full operation.

Mayor DeGeeter asked whether the project provides any relief to areas north of the city. Mr. Scharver answered affirmatively.

### III. Information Items

Mohan Kurup, Director of Information Technology, provided the IT update for December 2025, and advised that there was a continued uptick in projects this year, with 36 project nominations for 2026, which will be vetted and decided upon for selection in mid-January.

Mr. Kurup discussed completed projects, including the implementation of Angles for Oracle, a cloud-based reporting platform that supports EBS and potential future use of Oracle Cloud applications across several departments including Human Resources and Procurement. An application called the Funding Program Management Systems Database was newly implemented to track information related to NEORSD's grant programs. NEORSD installed server rack protection at EMCS, which are acrylic enclosures that provide protection to delicate equipment while allowing for proper airflow. The Process Data Management System (PDMS) quarterly audit report was created to ensure accurate water quality data is provided to the EPA. IT implemented a Good Neighbor Ambassador (GNA) request form to allow for requests for a GNA staff member to attend a community event, as well as a water leak digital intake form for customers to send information directly to WQIS via Salesforce.

Mr. Kurup discussed open projects, including the Pretreatment Information Management System (PIMS) for pretreatment program enforcement, which should be completed next year. The Member Community Access Community Cost-Share Information Portal is under construction. The stormwater fee tool is undergoing a platform change that should be active by the end of January. IT is also working on creating an application to track grant funding to NEORSD. The Cherwell Replacement Project is moving forward to replace the platform used for IT asset management and service desk needs.

The IT Department has participated in engagement activities such as supporting NEORSD's Asian Employee Resource Group, Utility Assistance Resource Fairs, and the Trinity High School Pre-professional Internship Program.

Regarding hardware and asset management, IT deployed 242 machines between new hires, break/fix and yearly refresh, in accordance with the five-year refresh cycle.

The IT Department continues to provide effective support for incident and service management. As of November 13<sup>th</sup>, the department has received 11,144 service request tickets, with a breakdown of 80/20 between new service requests versus incident requests. As for the satisfaction rating, the IT Department's score is 4.92 on surveys, exceeding the internal goal of 4.8; however, the scoring metric is currently fairly subjective, and the department is working to incorporate more objective metrics.

Mr. Kurup invited Satish Krishnan, Senior Oracle Technical Manager, to provide an update regarding the Direct Payment Solution.

Mr. Krishnan advised that NEORSD currently serves more than 2,800 direct bill customers, both residential and commercial and until now, the only payment option for these customers was to mail a check. In order to provide a digital solution, NEORSD selected the Paymentus solution, which is Level 1 compliant, the highest level of certification in order to protect customer data. Additionally, it provides several payment method options including ACH payment, debit card, a variety of credit cards, and mobile friendly payments such as Venmo, as well as providing payment options such as scheduled payments and recurring automatic payments.

After a month-long soft launch, the program was fully implemented in October. In addition to the inconvenience to the customer of mailing a check and waiting for confirmation that the payment had been received, there is significant manual effort required by NEORSD staff to process the checks, causing slow cashflow to NEORSD. The new program immediately confirms payments and there is no customer cost associated with electronic payments. Additionally, it improves accuracy, increases speed, and enhances the customer experience.

Mr. Krishnan provided a visual demonstration of the customer-facing portal and explained that within the first three weeks of fully launching the platform, NEORSD received electronic payments from 650 of the 2,858 direct bill customers, averaging 38 payments per day. This number is expected to increase over time. This level of engagement demonstrates that NEORSD is successfully achieving its goal of making digital bill payment more efficient for customers.

Mr. Krishnan acknowledged staff from the Customer Relations, Internal Audit, Communications and Community Relations, Finance, and IT Departments for their contributions to this project's success.

Mr. Sulik added that this is a helpful program to direct bill customers to allow them to pay digitally.

IV. Open Session

There were no items.

V. Public Session (any subject matter)

There were no items.

VI. Executive Session

Mr. Sulik, pursuant to Ohio Revised Code Section 121.22 (G)(3), moved, and Mayor DeGeeter seconded, to enter into executive session to consult with District's legal counsel concerning disputes involving the District that are the subject of pending and imminent court action. By roll call vote, the Board voted unanimously to enter into executive session at 1:09 p.m.

The Board returned to open session at 1:30 p.m.

VII. Approval of Items from Executive Session

There were no items.

VIII. Adjournment

**MOTION** – Mr. Sulik stated business having been concluded, he would entertain a motion to adjourn. Mayor Bacci moved, and Ms. Chambers seconded the motion to adjourn at 1:31 p.m. Without objection, the motion carried unanimously.



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



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