

MINUTES  
NORTHEAST OHIO REGIONAL SEWER DISTRICT  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING  
FEBRUARY 5, 2026

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  
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 January 15, 2026 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 January 20<sup>th</sup> she and Jenn Elting, Senior Manager of Community and Media Relations, spoke at the monthly meeting of Business Advisors of Cleveland, which is a volunteer organization of local businesspeople who help small businesses and entrepreneurs across Northeast Ohio. The group convenes monthly with a speaker to discuss a topic of interest, and many of their members reside in the Doan Brook Watershed. Ms. Dreyfuss-Wells and Ms. Elting presented on the Regional Stormwater Management Program and the work NEORS is doing with the Cities of Shaker Heights and Cleveland Heights to address the dam safety issues at Shaker Lakes.

On Wednesday January 28<sup>th</sup> NEORS's Health and Safety team held their annual Safety Summit at EMSC. The event included updates from the team and each site's Safety Committee discussed their 2025 accomplishments and 2026 goals. There were interactive games to test people's

knowledge and hands-on demonstrations of PPE, including a guest speaker who highlighted advancements in personal protective equipment. The event concluded with awarding the first ever Golden Hard Hat to the teams at EMSC for their demonstrated commitment to employee safety and health through the years. Ms. Dreyfuss-Wells thanked the staff who organized the event.

Ms. Dreyfuss-Wells acknowledged staff across NEORSD for their hard work in the last few weeks with record cold temperatures and snowfall. As Crystal Davis, Government Affairs Program Manager, pointed out, the Good Neighbor Ambassadors responded by clearing the sidewalks around the Scioto Green Infrastructure Basin, which is adjacent to Mayfair Elementary School in East Cleveland and the Buckeye Woodhill Green Infrastructure sites adjacent to the RTA station at Woodhill. Matt Gaugler, Director of Operation and Maintenance, pointed out that the O&M team maintained 24/7 service without disruption. The team's diligent oversight guaranteed the integrity of the critical infrastructure and uninterrupted conveyance and treatment of water. The absence of any major event serves as an indicator of NEORSD's commitment to operational success. Matt Scharver, Director of Watershed Programs, pointed out that every weekend staff picks up samples from each of the WWTPs to ensure permit compliance, while maintaining chain of custody handling, and preserving and analyzing the samples and this continued uninterrupted as well. Ms. Dreyfuss-Wells thanked staff for their great work.

#### Action Items

##### Authorization to Advertise

Resolution No. 14-26	Authorization to publish notice calling for bids, in accordance with Ohio Revised Code Section 6119.10, for a public improvement contract to construct the Easterly Chemically Enhanced High-Rate Treatment Facility, with an estimated probable construction cost of \$200,000,000.00.
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**MOTION** – Ms. Dumas moved, and Mayor Bacci seconded to adopt Resolution No. 14-26. After the following discussion, without objection, the motion carried unanimously.

President Brown requested an explanation as to what the modification to this project is and discussion regarding the engineer's estimate. Robin Rupe, Director of Engineering and Construction, explained that the Easterly Chemically Enhanced High-Rate Treatment (CEHRT) Project is required under the Consent Decree in order to meet the requirement to fully capture and treat 623 million gallons of annual CSO. The requirement for the project has not changed from its inception to present. What has changed is that through negotiations with the EPA, a recommendation was made to decrease the size of the tanks that were originally going to be at the WWTP. While there will still be the requirement for a CEHRT facility to be built, additional flow will now go into the Euclid Creek Tunnel via a shaft location at the WWTP site, where full treatment will be provided once the WWTP has capacity to process that flow along with other wet weather in

the tunnel. The redesigned CEHRT facility itself will be designed for 200 million gallons per day and 290 million gallons per day will go into the Euclid Creek Tunnel. The estimated project cost is \$200 million. NEORSD felt that the ability to award this contract at 10% over engineer's estimate was sufficient, given the size of the project.

Ms. Rupe provided renderings of what the completed project will look like and explained that NEORSD took into consideration the residents in the area when designing the project to not obstruct lake views, reducing any noise disturbance and vibrations, and moving structures farther from the road.

Ms. Rupe added that NEORSD issued a notice to potential bidders on January 20<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> to offer an opportunity to view the 90% bid documents and have discussions with the design consultants. The same timeframe and procedures previously provided to other contractors was followed for this opportunity.

As for scheduling, NEORSD is required to have retained the contractor by September 9, 2026 and must achieve full operation of the facility by March 9, 2031.

President Brown asked if the probable construction cost was impacted by the design changes. Ms. Rupe answered affirmatively and explained that due to the decreased need for concrete and equipment, initial estimates showed significant decrease in costs with the new design compared to the one completed in 2017; however, the exact savings in today's dollars have not been estimated.

Authorization to Issue Request for Proposal (RFP)

Resolution No. 15-26	Authorization to issue an RFP, in accordance with Ohio Revised Code Chapter 6119, for as-needed support services for changes, redesigns, and diagnostics of the Business and Control Networks.
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**MOTION** – Mr. Sulik moved, and Ms. Chambers seconded to adopt Resolution No. 15-26. Without objection, the motion carried unanimously.

Authorization to Purchase

Resolution No. 16-26	Authorization to purchase software maintenance and support services from sole source vendor Oracle America, Inc., necessary for the District's enterprise Oracle applications and databases, pursuant to multiple existing annual contracts, for a one-year term beginning June 1, 2026, in a total amount not-to-exceed \$1,310,364.11.
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**MOTION** – Mayor Alai moved, and Mr. Sulik seconded to adopt Resolution No. 16-26. Without objection, the motion carried unanimously.

Authorization to Enter Into Agreement

Resolution No. 17-26                      Authorization to enter into agreements with the Cuyahoga Soil and Water Conservation District and interested Member Communities for services in support of Member Community compliance with Minimum Control Measures #1 and #2 of the Ohio EPA National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System General Permit for Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems, for Years 2026 through 2030, in an amount not-to-exceed \$316,800.00 per year, for a total amount not-to-exceed \$1,584,000.00.

Resolution No. 18-26                      Authorization to enter into a Memorandum of Agreement with the United States Army Corps of Engineers and Ohio’s State Historic Preservation Office, pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, for mitigation measures to be carried out as part of the Doan Brook Restoration at Horseshoe Park project.

**MOTION** – Mr. Sulik moved, and Ms. Dumas seconded to adopt Resolution No. 17-26. After the following discussion, without objection, by roll-call vote, with all present members voting yes, and recusal from discussion and abstention from voting by Mayor Alai, Mayor DeGeeter, and Mayor Bacci, the motion carried.

President Brown requested additional information regarding Resolution No. 17-26. Mr. Scharver explained that this is the same programmatic delivery through NEORS D technical service providers, including Cuyahoga Soil and Water Conservation District. It is very similar to the agreements that NEORS D holds with the Summit County Soil and Water Conservation District, the Cuyahoga and Summit County Boards of Health, and Lorain County Stormwater Management District. This will be the second iteration of five-year agreements, opposed to the former arrangement of annual agreements. Public Education and Outreach and Public Participation and Involvement are Minimum Control Measures #1 and #2, which are the services that Cuyahoga Soil and Water Conservation District will deliver to NEORS D’s 48 member communities in Cuyahoga County. Mr. Scharver acknowledged Kristin Hall, Executive Director of the Cuyahoga Soil and Water Conservation District, who was in the audience and thanked her and her team for their service to the member communities.

**MOTION** – Mayor Bacci moved, and Ms. Chambers seconded to adopt Resolution No. 18-26. After the following discussion, without objection, the motion carried unanimously.

President Brown requested an explanation regarding the necessity of the agreement to facilitate improvements at Horseshoe Park. Mr. Scharver invited Robin Halperin, Deputy Director of Watershed Programs, to discuss the agreement.

Ms. Halperin explained that the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and Ohio State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) is a five-year agreement that provides NEORSD time to implement the mitigation actions that would be spelled out in the MOA, and there is no cost associated with the agreement. The MOA is necessary because the Doan Brook Restoration at Horseshoe Park project will have adverse effects on historic resources, as would any project that involves the removal of the dam or Horseshoe Lake in that location.

In advance of work performed by NEORSD, its environmental team assesses whether there are cultural resources, wetlands, streams, or endangered species habitats that may be negatively impacted by the project.

The Section 106 process is led by federal agencies and is not NEORSD's process. The process is initiated once federal action or funding is requested. The USACE works with the SHPO to determine how best to document and resolve those adverse effects.

Ms. Halperin provided a timeline depicting the steps of complying with Section 106, from NEORSD applying for the nationwide permit on May 13, 2025, through public notices in June and July 2025, the stakeholder consulting party 45-day open comment period, a consulting party meeting in October, 2025. On January 23, 2026, USACE initiated a 30-day public comment period for consulting parties to review the draft MOA, which closes on February 22, 2026. Once that final comment period has expired, USACE and SHPO will review any comments received from the stakeholders and if there are no substantive changes, will execute the MOA. NEORSD is an invited signatory to the MOA; all of the consulting parties are allowed to concur, though they are not required to concur. Once the MOA is executed, the USACE can issue the nationwide permit.

Much of what is being done at Horseshoe Park is preserving and protecting resources. For example, the grave of Jacob Russell, the Window Box Garden Club Monument, the woolen mill, and the Liberty Oaks are either outside of the project area or will be specifically protected during construction to avoid impacts. For the unavoidable impacts, NEORSD is proposing mitigation. There will be a virtual exhibit created in honor of the history of Horseshoe Park and Horseshoe Lake dam, with educational signage throughout the site. NEORSD has already made a Historic American Engineering Record of the resources at the site documenting the dam based on available information, how the dam was constructed. The stilling basin walls will be preserved in place to mitigate some of the impacts on cultural resources.

President Brown added that it is interesting to see the preservation in these areas, such as when work was performed on the lower channel of Doan Brook in Rockefeller Park and there was a

requirement that the stone retaining walls be stored safely and replaced once the work was complete.

Property Related Transaction

Resolution No. 19-26                      Authorization to acquire one parcel in fee simple known as PPN 018-27-056, located at 3721 W. 129<sup>th</sup> Street, in the City of Cleveland, owned by Deborah A. Lettrich and Joseph R. Lettrich, necessary for the construction and maintenance of the BCSO-3 Tunnels and Regulators project, and to allow for the entirety of the payment to be disbursed to Innovative Title and Escrow Services, LLC, with total consideration of \$170,000.00 plus closing costs.

**MOTION** – Ms. Chambers moved, and Mayor Alai seconded to adopt Resolution No. 19-26. Without objection, the motion carried unanimously.

Authorization to Grant Credit

Resolution No. 20-26                      Authorizing the District to issue a credit adjustment in the total amount of \$41,888.75 against sewer charges on the account of the City of Cleveland, Division of Water Pollution Control, 12302 Kirby Avenue, Cleveland, ending in 0000.

**MOTION** – Ms. Dumas moved, and Mayor Bacci seconded to adopt Resolution No. 20-26. Without objection, the motion carried unanimously.

III.     Information Items

Matt Gaugler, Director of Operation and Maintenance, provided the O&M Fourth Quarter 2025 update, beginning with safety. In 2025, there were 99 lost workdays and 20 restricted workdays District-wide. Within the O&M Department, 96 were lost workdays and 14 were restricted. This is an improvement from 2024. As for the types of events, there were six reportable events: three strain/sprain, two laceration/cut, and one fracture. The only reportable event from Q4 was a Stormwater Inspection and Maintenance employee who received an eye injury from a tree branch. The internal threshold of the DART rate is 2. The actual DART rate District-wide was .73 and in O&M it was .94. While zeros would be preferable, this is below industry standards.

Regarding effluent quality in the fourth quarter, all NPDES permits were met at all three WWTPs. Suspended solids, carbonaceous biochemical oxygen demands, and phosphorus were below limits at all WWTPs. October concluded the recreational season, and with it, the disinfection season. *E. Coli* densities were below limits. Mr. Gaugler congratulated the WWTP staff for a job well done, as disinfection adds another level of complexity to water treatment.

In 2025, NEORSD treated a total of 85 billion gallons of wastewater, averaging 233 million gallons per day, and met 4,750 compliance points with zero excursions. Accordingly, NEORSD anticipates receiving the National Association for Clean Water Agencies (NACWA) Gold Award for the Southerly WWTC; Platinum Award for the Westerly WWTC for five years without a single excursion; and Platinum Award Plus Two for the Easterly WWTP, which is awarded for seven years with no excursions. Mr. Gaugler again congratulated the team for the job well done and thanked NEORSD leadership and the Board for their support.

Mr. Gaugler then provided a slide demonstrating maintenance performed at the WWTPs with asset costs and went through various maintenance projects performed in 2025. Projects included repairing and rebuilding a sludge screw feeder at both the Southerly and Westerly WWTCs; and the generator switchgear at the Easterly WWTP underwent preventative maintenance. The bar rakes at the Westerly Tunnel Dewatering Pump Station underwent preventative maintenance, at a cost of \$10,000. Mr. Gaugler then highlighted some building maintenance projects, including elevator and HVAC services.

As for the collections system, there were 5 dry weather overflows, 3 caused by debris blockages and 2 from equipment failures. This is quite an improvement from the 40 or more overflows that occurred annually 12 years ago. This is due in large part to the SSMO staff consistently evaluating site conditions. As for the automation portion of the collection system during wet weather events in Q4, it functioned 100% of the time.

The adopted budget for O&M for 2025 was \$74.8 million and as of January 13, 2026, the actual spend was \$68.5 million. It is anticipated that this number will reach approximately \$71 million, equating to 95% of the adopted budget. This will track very closely to 2024 spending.

Regarding staffing, O&M promoted 21 people in Q4. There are several shift managers that have moved into the new role and several promotions within Sewer System Maintenance & Operation. Additionally, there were 10 new external hires in Q4, many of which were difficult to fill niche positions.

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 1:06 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