

MINUTES  
NORTHEAST OHIO REGIONAL SEWER DISTRICT  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING  
APRIL 2, 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  
Ronald Sulik  
Samuel Alai  
Jack Bacci  
Marjorie Chambers

Absent: Timothy DeGeeter  
Sharon Dumas

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 March 5, 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 March 21<sup>st</sup>, NEORS participated in World Water Day at the Watershed Stewardship Center at West Creek in Parma. This year's program focused on native Ohio aquatic wildlife and was a celebration of water with interactive activities and guided hikes. NEORS staff provided cost saving information and hand-on activities demonstrating the urban water cycle and the importance of water quality. Ms. Dreyfuss-Wells thanked NEORS staff for participating in the event and managing the stream table.

On March 24<sup>th</sup>, NEORS held open houses to engage with community members regarding the upcoming renewal of culverted streams project on Mill Creek in Garfield Heights. NEORS held morning and evening sessions at the Garfield Heights Civic Center to provide information to

residents and other interested stakeholders. There were 21 attendees including two council members. The City's engineer from OHM Advisors also attended to discuss an overlapping project on East 126<sup>th</sup> Street, which is a sanitary sewer extension. This project has received almost \$3 million in Member Community Infrastructure Program funding from NEORSD. Ms. Dreyfuss-Wells thanked C.J. Onyak, Project Manager, and Anne Schilling, Watershed Team Leader, for their efforts related to the event.

On March 26<sup>th</sup>, NEORSD continued its meetings with new mayors, in meeting with Michele Weiss of University Heights. Matt Scharver, Director of Watershed Programs, Francisco Rivera, Watershed Team Leader, and Ms. Dreyfuss-Wells met with Mayor Weiss, her Service Director, Allen Pennington, and City Engineer, Brenda Mockbee. The City of University Heights has used MCIP funding for the design and construction of their East Scarborough and Canterbury Relief Sewer project. Additionally, the City has used its Community Cost-Share funding under the Regional Stormwater Management Program as a match to address a sanitary sewer overflow to the local sewer system, which will improve the water quality in the Dugway Brook watershed.

On March 27<sup>th</sup>, NEORSD hosted the first 2026 meeting of the Suburban Council of Governments. Mayor Pat Ward of Lyndhurst led the meeting and conducted the election of the 2026 SCOG Officers as follows: Mayor Ward will continue as President; Mayor Kim Thomas of Richmond Heights will continue as the Vice President; and Mayor Chuck Brunello, Jr. of Highland Heights has now joined as the Secretary. In addition to the elections, Ken Duplay, Chief Financial Officer, and Ms. Dreyfuss-Wells provided an update regarding the NEORSD's major projects for 2026, the 2026 budget, as well as the ongoing rate study. Donna Friedman, Manager of Community Watershed Coordination, provided an overview of a new tool to assist member communities in accessing their Community Cost-Share account balances. Kevin Fitzgibbins, Project Coordinator Stormwater Inspection and Maintenance, provided a presentation regarding NEORSD's inspections and maintenance of 489 miles of streams, pipes, and culverts that make up the Regional Stormwater System.

### Action Items

#### Authorization to Advertise

- |                      |   |
|----------------------|---|
| Resolution No. 42-26 | Authorization to publish notice calling for bids, in accordance with Ohio Revised Code Section 6119.10, for the purchase of eight Hewlett Packard Enterprise Gen12 servers for the business (IT) and control (OT) networks. |
| Resolution No. 43-26 | Authorization to publish notice calling for bids, in accordance with Ohio Revised Code Section 6119.10, for a public improvement contract for the Southerly Tunnel Dewatering Pump Station                                  |

project, with an estimated probable construction cost of \$71,000,000.00.

**MOTION** –Mayor Alai moved, and Mr. Sulik seconded to adopt Resolution Nos. 42-26 through 43-26. After the following discussion, without objection, the motion carried unanimously.

President Brown requested additional information regarding the project associated with Resolution No. 43-26.

Robin Rupe, Director of Engineering and Construction, advised that this project will construct the last in the Southerly Tunnel System for the Consent Decree Item under Control Measure 21, and will allow NEORSD to pump flow from the tunnel and the consolidation sewers into the Southerly WWTC for treatment. The submersible pump station will be located at the existing mining shaft for Southerly Tunnel and Consolidation Sewer, located across the street from EMSC and comprised of seven submersible pumps with a 54 million gallons per day capacity. NEORSD has given the contractor one year once construction is authorized to begin, to order log lead equipment time items, but will not be able to gain access to the project site until July 2027.

Authorization to Implement Program and Issue Request for Proposal (RFP)

Resolution No. 44-26                      Authorization to implement the 2027 Member Community Infrastructure Program (MCIP) and to issue a request for proposals for project applicants.

**MOTION** –Mayor Bacci moved, and Ms. Chambers seconded to adopt Resolution No. 44-26. After the following discussion, without objection, the motion carried unanimously.

President Brown noted that the current round of spending has a \$25 million budget and requested a summarization of the spending and achievements of the program to date.

Mr. Scharver explained that the program is entering its 11<sup>th</sup> year and its current total value is \$240 million in infrastructure investment. Over the past ten years, \$131 million has been funded across 161 projects, with local match from communities totaling \$109 million.

Mr. Scharver provided a graphic demonstrating the program's achievements including 6,477 basement backup remediations and the elimination or control of 45 sanitary sewer overflows. The program has also resulted in the elimination of multiple home sewage treatment systems, which cause constant discharge of E. coli pollutants into local waterways.

President Brown noted that the master planning initiatives help to identify issues in the local system that communities are required to correct in order to maintain permit compliance, and

NEORSD shares the information with the member communities to assist them in prioritizing their projects for the greater impacts in the communities.

Mr. Scharver added that the efforts of the Engineering and Construction Department along with the Watershed Programs Department to develop the local sanitary sewer evaluation studies in years past was a \$40 million effort across the service area, to assign the projects to different tiers, with an estimated total cost of \$3 billion worth of needed local sanitary sewer infrastructure investment. Many of those projects that were identified at a planning level have been provided to the member communities and incorporated into the Community Discharge Permit Program, which is the gateway to MCIP funding.

Authorization to Purchase

Resolution No. 45-26                      Authorization to purchase nine Sorbent Polymer Composite media modules for the Renewable Energy Facility Mercury Scrubbers from sole source supplier EnviroCare International in an amount not-to-exceed \$122,040.00.

Resolution No. 46-26                      Authorization to purchase Cisco switch hardware from Presidio Network Solutions Group, LLC under the State of Ohio Cooperative Purchasing Program, for the 6840 Replacement Project, in an amount not-to-exceed \$275,000.00.

**MOTION** – Ms. Chambers moved, and Mayor Alai seconded to adopt Resolution Nos. 45-26 through 46-26. Without objection, the motion carried unanimously.

Authorization to Enter Into Agreement

Resolution No. 47-26                      Authorization to enter into a professional services agreement with Norstan Communications, Inc., dba Black Box Network Services for Support Services for Business and Control Networks in an amount not-to-exceed \$100,000.00.

**MOTION** – Mayor Bacci moved, and Mr. Sulik seconded to adopt Resolution No. 47-26. Without objection, the motion carried unanimously.

Authorization to Amend Agreement

Resolution No. 48-26                      Authorization to Amend the professional services agreements with Improve Consulting and Training Group, Pinnacle Leadership Solutions, Synergy International Limited, Inc. and Yan Maschke Group to provide additional leadership coaching services in an

additional amount of \$120,000.00, for a total amended amount not-to-exceed \$320,000.00 to be allocated among the agreements according to operational need.

**MOTION** – Mayor Alai moved, and Ms. Chambers seconded to adopt Resolution No. 48-26. Without objection, the motion carried unanimously.

Authorization to Enter Into Contract

Resolution No. 49-26                      Authorization to enter into a two-year requirement contract with CRH Industrial Water LLC dba Western Reserve Pure Water for Southerly Wastewater Treatment Center Water Purification Systems Lease and Maintenance Services in an amount not-to-exceed \$177,826.00.

**MOTION** – Mr. Sulik moved, and Mayor Bacci seconded to adopt Resolution No. 49-26. Without objection, the motion carried unanimously.

Authorization to Close Out Public Improvement Contract

Resolution No. 50-26                      Authorizing the Final Adjusting Change Order to close out Public Improvement Contract No. 25000458 with Chieftain Trucking & Excavation, Inc. for the Baldwin Creek Dell Haven Basin near York Road project, to decrease the contract amount by \$265,237.10, thereby bringing the total contract amount to \$3,845,130.90.

**MOTION** – Ms. Chambers moved, and Mayor Alai seconded to adopt Resolution No. 50-26. Without objection, the motion carried unanimously.

Property Related Transaction

Resolution No. 51-26                      Authorization to acquire one parcel in fee simple known as PPN 457-11-010, located at 7447 Ann Arbor Drive, in the City of Parma, owned by Naomi Feldman, Trustee, under the Ronald A. Deike & Naomi Feldman Living Trust, dated June 28, 1999, for the construction and maintenance of the SWMP Project Area 6 – Flood and Erosion Reduction Near York and Pleasant Valley Roads project, and to allow for the entirety of the payment to be disbursed to Innovative Title and Escrow Services, LLC, with total consideration of \$185,000.00 plus closing costs.

**MOTION** – Mayor Bacci moved, and Mr. Sulik seconded to adopt Resolution No. 51-26. Without objection, the motion carried unanimously.

Authorization to Grant Credit

Resolution No. 52-26                      Authorizing the District to issue a credit adjustment in the total amount of \$25,150.20 against sewer charges on the account of Trans Invest Group, LLC, 7603 Clinton Road, Cleveland, ending in 0000.

Resolution No. 53-26                      Authorizing the District to issue a credit adjustment in the total amount of \$60,716.90 against sewer charges on the account under the management of Michael Guggenheim, Receiver, 2820 Ludlow Road, Cleveland, ending in 3111.

**MOTION** – Ms. Chambers moved, and Mayor Alai seconded to adopt Resolution Nos. 52-26 through 53-26. Without objection, the motion carried unanimously.

Authorization to Retain Legal Counsel

Resolution No. 54-26                      Authorizing the Chief Legal Officer to retain Barnes & Thornburg LLP to provide ongoing legal services and advisory counsel on insurance coverage and claims subrogation issues related to the generator fire at the Southerly Wastewater Treatment Center, all as deemed necessary by the Chief Legal Officer to best represent the District, and to authorize payment of costs for the same in excess of \$75,000.00.

**MOTION** – Mr. Sulik moved, and Mayor Bacci seconded to adopt Resolution No. 54-26. After the following discussion, without objection, the motion carried unanimously.

President Brown requested additional information regarding the associated representation agreement and how it relates to a prior approved resolution regarding the generator fire.

Eric Luckage, Chief Legal Officer, explained that shortly after the generator fire last August, staff realized that this would be a very large claim, potentially several million dollars. Additionally, it was discovered that NEORS's insurance carrier also insurers a potentially responsible party to the fire. NEORS required assistance in navigating the process. The Legal Department reached out to the law firm Barnes and Thornburg because of prior positive experience working with them on insurance matters and because they have specialized expertise in that area of law. The initial engagement with the firm under Mr. Luckage's authority was capped at \$75,000, and since that

time, a number of issues have arisen, including NEORSD learning of another potential responsible party related to the fire.

The definitive cause and origin of the fire is still under investigation and there has been significant engagement from Barnes and Thornburg to ensure that NEORSD's interests are properly protected. NEORSD is approaching the \$75,000 in spending limitation the existing engagement and this resolution would authorize payments in excess of that limit.

#### Adopting Amended Policy

Resolution No. 55-26                      Adopting the revised Investment Policy of the Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District, as presented.

**MOTION** – Mayor Alai moved, and Mayor Bacci seconded to adopt Resolution No. 55-26. After the following discussion, without objection, the motion carried unanimously.

President Brown asked Mr. Duplay if he had any comment regarding the Resolution. Mr. Duplay explained that NEORSD goes through an annual process to review its investment policy with its investment advisor, Government Portfolio Advisors. This year, they recommended updates to some definitions of specific holding types. The most substantive change is reducing the percentage of total holdings that NEORSD can have as certificates of deposit from 25% to 10%. NEORSD does not currently hold any certificates of deposit, so this does not have a major impact on any investments.

#### Information Items

Tiffany Jordan, Manager of Contract Compliance, provided an update regarding the Business Opportunity Program (BOP), beginning with an overview of the program. The program's focus is economic impact. Firms may be certified by NEORSD into the BOP program every two years, which may involve an onsite audit visit to ensure compliance with program requirements. BOP firms may work as prime contractors, subprime contractors, or under direct contract. NEORSD has a BOP committee that discusses the data and program improvements. NEORSD's software system, B2Gnow, allows staff to track projects.

The BOP committee participate in 28 outreach events in 2025. At that time, there were 295 firms certified in the program, and the outreach events resulted in 21 new firms joining the program, for a total of certifications as: 140 construction firms, 18 for goods, 61 engineering firms, and 76 firms that provide services. BOP goals are set on a per-project basis and range from 5% to 20% of the total contract value. In 2025, 7 of the 14 projects concluded with the BOP goal met or exceeded for a total of \$42.7 million in 2025 and a five-year total of \$236 million.

The BOP program transitioned to the Small Business Enterprise (SBE) program in order to remain in compliance with federal guidelines, and authorized by the Board under Resolution Number 271-25 on November 20, 2025, to transition the program to race and gender neutral; however, all of the existing minority-owned business enterprises and women-owned business enterprises in the BOP also qualify as SBEs under the new format. NEORSD immediately sent letters to and amendments to each of the firms and held meetings with the firms informing them of the program changes. The necessary updates to program materials are approximately 80% completed.

President Brown asked how the success of the program is tracked. Ms. Jordan explained that the B2Gnow software maintains goal and result tracking.

Mr. Scharver invited Kevin Roff, Manager of Industrial Compliance, to provide an update regarding the Industrial Pretreatment Program.

Mr. Roff explained that NEORSD is required annually to publish any industrial users that are in significant noncompliance. The Clean Water Act requires that NEORSD operate the Industrial Pretreatment Program, which has been in place since the early 1980s and helps to protect NEORSD's WWTPs from pollutants, thereby improving water quality. If companies exceed limitations, NEORSD issues violations and continued violations escalate enforcement based in part on whether there are good faith efforts to remedy violations.

There are three types of noncompliance: two are related to sampling, with criteria from the EPA used to determine whether they are in technical review criteria (TRC) or chronic significant noncompliance; and the third being procedural noncompliance. Each quarter, NEORSD is required to determine industries that are in violation and whether they are in significant noncompliance.

In reviewing the past few years of data, the sampling violations are decreasing and procedural violations are increasing. In order to reduce the number of procedural violations, NEORSD is working to develop a pretreatment information management cloud-based systems with an industrial user portal to allow industries to receive and send notifications, as well as submit their reports to NEORSD electronically.

President Brown commended Mr. Roff and his team for a job well done and asked if a now defunct facility on London Road that was discharging Cobalt-60 has a long-term resolution. Mr. Roff explained that NEORSD does not have direct involvement with that location; however, cleanup operations are ongoing. There was a request for NEORSD to process water from the basement of the building, but NEORSD declined because of the possibility of Cobalt-60. Mr. Scharver added that the City of Cleveland and the Ohio Department of Health are nearing completion of the remediation of that site.

Rather than providing the quarterly update, Mr. Scharver provided a ten-year look back at the Regional Stormwater Management Program, beginning with providing historical photos of the

Cuyahoga River in the 1960s, and reminded the Board that NEORSD was created in 1972 as was the Clean Water Act. In 2010, NEORSD attempted to launch the RSMP, which finally began in earnest in 2016 following years of litigation and appeals.

Mr. Scharver provided several photos of project areas before and after conditions from across the service area over the years and reminded the Board that the Stormwater Master Plan activities spanned from 2016 through 2021, at a cost of approximately \$25 million, and that data is used to orchestrate the program's project delivery.

Mr. Scharver went through several more recent stormwater basin projects to increase the level of service across the service area, followed by stream restoration projects in the region.

Mr. Scharver reminded the Board that there are several culverted streams along the 489 miles of regional stormwater in the service area and the Rehabilitation of Culverted Streams Phase II project will begin soon to remediate issues in Garfield Heights and Cleveland.

Mr. Scharver reminded the Board that NEORSD owns and operates the Lake View Cemetery Dam and operates the Kerruish Park flood control dam in the City of Cleveland, under the RSMP. President Brown asked whether the latter is included in the next phase of master planning. Mr. Scharver answered affirmatively and explained that there is a significant sewer along Lee Road that has been modeled under the plan. Additionally, NEORSD is working with the City of East Cleveland to address its Class I high-hazard dam, Forest Hills Dam No. 2. The Horseshoe Lake Dam issues remain ongoing.

Mr. Scharver reminded the Board that the Stormwater Inspection and Maintenance Program is another aspect of the maintenance program with staff inspecting local waterways for debris and sediment, particularly following storm events.

Watershed Programs works with multiple community partners to complete projects in the region, including by way of the Community Cost-Share Program, with 25% of funds set aside for member community projects, with nearly \$70 million in investments.

The Regional Stormwater Management Program also provides Phase II services such as helping member communities maintain compliance with the Ohio EPA Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) Permit Programs.

President Brown added that many communities across the country do not have the urban stream networks that are in Cleveland, which can be challenging to manage, as it seems that the City of Cleveland is at the bottom of every hill and stream. The fact that NEORSD took on the regional stormwater is no small feat and he is reminded with each weather event that crews will be out after the storm inspecting debris racks, culverts, and other waterways to prevent flooding caused by debris. Additionally, there are so many corrugated pipe culverts in the area with a short useful life

that require repair and rebuilding. As much work has been done, there is always much more to do, due to what NEORS D has inherited in the service area.

Mr. Scharver agreed and added that the Master Planning has identified \$1.6 billion worth of work to be done across the 489 miles of regional network. The Regional Stormwater Management Program has nominated, scored and ranked 247 projects from the Stormwater Master Plans with a current estimated cost of \$587 million. There are hundreds more projects to come in the future; NEORS D is currently positioned to deliver roughly 26 of those projects over the next five years with an estimated cost of \$167 million.

While there is much work to be done, NEORS D is taking a holistic approach to delivering services, such as the debris inspection and removal mentioned by President Brown, to build resiliency into the system.

Ms. Dreyfuss-Wells added that part of performing stream bank restorations is ensuring minimized tree and sediment loss for the additive effect of preventing erosion and providing stable streams, floodplain, tree canopy, and sediment to protect the health of the streams. President Brown added that tree planting is also an important aspect of stream maintenance. Ms. Dreyfuss-Wells agreed and added that NEORS D also maintains the plants and trees that it plants.

III. Open Session

There were no items.

IV. Public Session (any subject matter)

There were no items.

V. Executive Session

There were no items.

VI. Approval of Items from Executive Session

There were no items.

VII. Adjournment

**MOTION** – President Brown stated business having been concluded, he would entertain a motion to adjourn. Mayor Bacci moved, and Ms. Chambers seconded the motion to adjourn at 1:40 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