

MINUTES
NORTHEAST OHIO REGIONAL SEWER DISTRICT
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
APRIL 16, 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
Timothy DeGeeter
Samuel Alai
Jack Bacci
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 April 2, 2026 Board Meeting. Without objection, the motion carried unanimously.

III. Public Session

There were no items.

IV. Chief Executive Officer's Report

Kyle Dreyfuss-Wells, Chief Executive Officer, advised the Board of Trustees that on April 6th and 7th, Matt Scharver, Director of Watershed Programs, and Robin Halperin, Deputy Director of Watershed Programs, with the assistance of Angela Jones, Senior Manager of Government Affairs, provided updates to the Cleveland Heights and Shaker Heights City Councils regarding NEORS's work at the Shaker Lakes. Those efforts include the minor maintenance at the Lower Lake Dam within the Doan Brook Watershed, and the larger Doan Brook Restoration at Horseshoe Park project. The purpose of both of these projects is to assist the Cities in addressing compliance issues at the dams within the parameters of NEORS's Regional Stormwater Management Program. The Cities have not yet decided how they will address the larger dam safety and compliance issues at Lower Lake.

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The minor maintenance at the Lower Lake will begin later in April and take approximately three to five days. NEORSD previously performed maintenance there in 2020, wherein rock was placed on the dam toward the lake in order to minimize erosion. That rock has since worn away and NEORSD will be replacing it pursuant to obligations under the Regional Stormwater Management Program and in relation to the permit from the US Army Corps of Engineers.

As for the Doan Brook Restoration at Horseshoe Park, NEORSD is awaiting permits from the US Army Corps of Engineers and Ohio EPA. Ms. Dreyfuss-Wells provided slides depicting the location of the Doan Brook Restoration at Horseshoe Park project, wherein the dam would be partially removed, and the north and middle branches of Doan Brook would be restored. The project will remove the dam hazard and approximately 180,000 cubic yards of sediment that has accumulated behind the dam in the lakebed. NEORSD will restore 5,700 linear feet of Doan Brook and provide significant environmental uplift in this watershed.

The project will require significant tree removal, which the Cities were updated about by Mr. Scharver and Ms. Halperin during last week's meetings. NEORSD's team, led by the nationally renowned landscape architecture firm of Stimson of Cambridge, Massachusetts, has been very strategic in the tree removal and has surveyed more than 3,000 trees in the 60-acre park. The tree removal plan is focused on minimizing the impact to trees while restoring the stream to address the significant sediment. It will be necessary to remove just over 1,000 trees: 158 dead standing trees; 344 smaller trees of less than 10-inch diameter; and 563 larger, more than 10-inch diameter trees. NEORSD will replant more than 1,100 native trees and almost 7,000 shrubs which it will maintain in perpetuity, as part of the restoration.

On April 14th and 15th, Mr. Scharver, Ms. Halperin, and Donna Friedman, Manager of Community Watershed Coordination, presented at two meetings in the City of Cleveland, at the request of City Council President Griffin and area residents on the status of the dams and possible implications of a dam failure. NEORSD was asked to present at the Ward 6 meeting and at the neighbor-to-neighbor meeting, primarily for Wards 6 and 9 residents. Both meetings focused on the status of the dams and provided a high-level overview of the emergency action plans in case of dam failure. Staff from the Cuyahoga County Office of Emergency Management also participated in the meetings as they would have a central role in a catastrophic event.

Ms. Dreyfuss-Wells invited Mr. Scharver to go through the emergency action plan slides presented at the meetings.

Mr. Scharver explained that there is an emergency action plan for all Class 1 high-hazard dams throughout the State of Ohio, meaning that both dams have a plan and the Cities of Cleveland, Cleveland Heights, and Shaker Heights are coordinated in the plan. The purpose of the emergency action plans, which are required and approved by the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, the regulatory agency responsible for ensuring that action plans are in place, is simply to protect human life and prevent significant downstream property damage.

Mr. Scharver provided a map of the areas within the Doan Brook Corridor that are of concern. Immediately adjacent to the dam is where a catastrophic failure would be of greatest concern. The roadways immediately downstream and into the Ambler Park area would be of concern, as would the Case Western Reserve University Campus, University Circle, all the way out to Lake Erie, and all of Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive would likely flood, as it is already prone to flooding.

Mr. Scharver provided additional graphics that were presented during the meetings demonstrating the pathways of flood flows if a catastrophic flood event occurred, outlining the 100-year storm event and the probably maximum flood event, which is modeling required by the ODNR of dam break analysis to understand where the water, sediment, and debris would go in such an event.

Probable maximum flood models for a catastrophic dam failure demonstrate that Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard near Fairhill Road intersection would be under nearly 17 feet of water within 9 minutes, at a rate of 19,000 cubic feet of water per second, moving across the roadway. Flood flows moving through Ambler Park and into the University Circle area at the CSX rail crossing, there would be a 5-foot-deep inundation on the road surface under the railroad crossing. The Case Western Reserve University campus buildings would be inundated at the lower levels of their buildings.

Mr. Scharver explained that this information and an explanation of how emergency warnings would be issued and the emergency plan activated were provided in this week's meetings. Additionally, it is worth noting that Michigan and Wisconsin are both facing potential dam failure and emergency plans have been activated due to rainfall this week in the Great Lakes area.

Ms. Dreyfuss-Wells added that NEORSD appreciated the opportunity to present this information to interested residents and council members.

President Brown added that he attended the meeting for a number of reasons, as much of his personal and professional life have been spent in the Doan Brook Watershed, through his professional roles with the City of Cleveland and the Doan Brook Watershed Partnership, as well as residing on Fairhill Boulevard for a number of years. President Brown noted that it is worth mentioning that the Stimson firm which is leading this project is world-renowned. Ms. Dreyfuss-Wells agreed and added that she would encourage people to visit Stimson's website to see projects that they have performed around the country.

President Brown added that NEORSD realizes the importance of the project and the landscape architect has led the design with the support of a civil engineer to manage the engineering aspects and the landscape architect to manage the park design and amenities. It is important for NEORSD to say publicly that it does not take this project lightly. Some people may think that NEORSD is only working on sanitary sewer issues. The fact that NEORSD has been in stormwater for a while brings many other aspects of the engineering to the forefront. While NEORSD has sharpened its

toolset internally, it is recognized that it is necessary to bring the best and brightest to all design projects. Perhaps in the future NEORS D will spend more time discussing the expansion of its role and responsibility, in addition to how the organization goes about delivering services and how seriously the responsibility is taken.

Ms. Dreyfuss-Wells agreed and added that not only is the project landscape architect led, when a stream restoration is performed, it must be designed for the specific stream and watershed conditions. The Doan Brook Watershed has been heavily impacted with development throughout its history. The stream needs to be designed to be stable in order to provide significant ecological uplift, which is exactly what NEORS D's team has put together. NEORS D is launching a series of public tours that will be held on May 5th, May 19th, and June 9th, with additional dates to be added, if necessary, wherein members of the public can walk through the project with a small group to gain understanding about the project. Preregistration will be required through www.NEORS D.org/DoanBrook.

V. Action Items

Authorization to Advertise

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| Resolution No. 56-26 | Authorization to publish notice calling for bids, in accordance with Ohio Revised code Section 6119.10, for the purchase of a grease trailer and various vehicle-related components, including installation services, as presented, with an estimated probable cost of \$297,000.00. |
| Resolution No. 57-26 | Authorization to publish notice calling for bids, in accordance with Ohio Revised Code Section 6119.10, for a public improvement contract for the Big Creek Tunnel project with an estimated probable construction cost of \$300,000,000.00. |
| Resolution No. 58-26 | Authorization to publish notice calling for bids, in accordance with Ohio Revised Code Section 6119.10, for a public improvement contract for the Westerly Trickling Filters and Solids Contact Tanks Aeration Improvements project with an estimated probable construction cost of \$30,000,000.00. |

MOTION –Mayor Bacci moved, and Ms. Dumas seconded to adopt Resolution Nos. 56-26 through 58-26. After the following discussion, without objection, the motion carried unanimously.

President Brown requested an overview of the Big Creek Tunnel project. Robin Rupe, Director of Engineering and Construction, explained that this project will begin the work that NEORS D is performing under Control Measure 22 of the Consent Decree under Project Clean Lake. The tunnel

will capture 550 million gallons of annual CSO control through four miles of 20-foot diameter tunnel, with an estimated construction cost of \$300 million, and a Small Business Enterprise goal of 15%, over an approximate 51-month construction period. Ms. Rupe invited Gina Miller, Project Manager, to provide an overview of the project.

Ms. Miller explained that the project site will extend through the Cities of Cleveland and Brooklyn, as well as the Village of Linndale, primarily along Memphis Avenue, from West 130th Street to West 24th Street, approximately 4 miles. There will be six shaft sites labeled BCT-1 through BCT-6, with BCT-1 being the downstream end of the tunnel where the boring machine will be retrieved, and BCT-6 being the upstream end where the boring machine will launch.

There will be various diversion structures and consolidation sewers added to collect water from existing sewers and direct them through consolidation sewers into the shafts and to the tunnel. BCT-6 as the main mining site will remain in active construction for approximately 5 years, which includes time that will be spent on a future BCSO-3 project, which has not yet begun the design phase. The project will require work being performed 24 hours per day, 6 days per week, with hauling only taking place between 7:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. Additionally, NEORSO will install sound reduction material to the fencing surrounding the project site. A left-turn lane and an additional traffic signal will be added to West 130th Street in an attempt to limit traffic disruptions. Work is also ongoing to ensure proper electricity is provided at the construction site, the contract for which will be presented to the Board at a later date.

There will be additional construction sites at Brookside Reservation and Estabrook Park. NEORSO is working with the City of Cleveland and Cleveland Metroparks to limit the impacts of construction, including work being performed only between Labor Day 2029 through Memorial Day 2030 at Brookside Reservation so that the ballfields can remain open during the summer, and ensuring that the contractor is not performing work during the Dominican Cultural Festival in August. NEORSO will also enlist the help of its Good Neighbor Ambassadors to perform public outreach in the area.

As for the scheduling of the project, NEORSO will be advertising to bid next week, with the pre-bid meeting to be held on May 14th, and the bid opening on June 25th, followed by the notice to proceed being issued in September. Control Measure 22 requires construction to begin by the end of 2026, and construction will last approximately 51 months, with the final completion date in March of 2031.

Ms. Dumas asked if this is the last large scale Consent Decree project to follow the \$200 million Easterly Chemically Enhanced High-Rate Treatment Facility project and whether the financing is already in place. Ken Duplay, Chief Financial Officer, explained that it is the last of such projects and it is anticipated that the project will be loan funded. Ms. Dumas asked if the entire amount will be loan funded. Mr. Duplay explained that current modeling shows that the project will likely be fully loan funded, with other loans on smaller projects.

President Brown noted that the project will involve 11 CSOs and capture 550 million gallons of annual CSO, which is more than 10% of the entire target under Project Clean Lake, making this a significant project for the program as well as to reduce basement and roadway flooding in this area, which has been a problem for many years. Presumably, NEORSD will have discussions with the community regarding what is left behind and benefits the residents. Ms. Rupe answered affirmatively and explained that NEORSD has worked with several community agencies to ensure that what NEORSD leaves behind in restoration is in line with NEORSD's end goals and what is needed for the project in terms of maintenance in the long-term.

President Brown requested additional information regarding the project associated with Resolution No. 58-26. Ms. Rupe explained that the Westerly Trickling Filters and Solids Contact Tanks Aeration Improvements project is the first project from the facility plan that was completed in 2020 that is now being implemented. NEORSD is performing various upgrades to facilities that were built in the early 1990s. Ms. Rupe provided a photo of one of the existing trickling filters that will be upgraded with new media, control arms and possible dome improvements as necessary. Also included in the project are improvements to the structural integrity of the solids contact tank to allow for better flow to the final settling tanks. There will also be improvements to the blowers and the odor control facility to ensure optimized function and energy efficiency.

President Brown summarized that there was a master plan devised and items that have met or exceeded their useful life have been prioritized, and this is just the initial part of the larger project. Ms. Rupe answered affirmatively and explained that the trickling filters and media are amongst the oldest in use in the entire country and have presented ongoing problems. The remaining projects will roll out of the facilities plan for the next several years.

Authorization to Purchase

Resolution No. 59-26	Authorization to purchase vehicles through the OhioBuys Cooperative Purchasing Program and the Sourcewell Cooperative Purchasing Program, as presented, in a total amount not-to-exceed \$1,455,800.00.
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MOTION –Mr. Sulik moved, and Ms. Chambers seconded to adopt Resolution No. 59-26. After the following discussion, without objection, the motion carried unanimously.

President Brown asked if this is a replacement of in-kind vehicles that have exceeded their useful life. Matt Gaugler, Director of Operation and Maintenance, explained that this purchase is to replace like-kind vehicles. The average age of the vehicles being replaced is 17 years old. Mr. Gaugler recognized the Fleet Services Department for keeping the vehicles in good condition to extend their useful life. NEORSD will be following the normal protocol of purchasing on the State Cooperative OhioBuys Program with one modification that NEORSD will obtain the components

listed in Resolution No. 56-26 through advertisement of bid. This will allow NEORS to ensure configuration and quality meet our needs, while not hindering our ability to maximize the lifecycle of the new vehicles.

Authorization to Enter Into Agreement

Resolution No. 60-26 Authorization to enter into a professional services agreement with Bolton Partners, Inc. for a comprehensive compensation study in an amount not-to-exceed \$113,600.00.

MOTION – Mayor Alai moved, and Mr. Sulik seconded to adopt Resolution No. 60-26. Without objection, the motion carried unanimously.

Authorization to Enter Into Contract

Resolution No. 61-26 Authorization to enter into a two-year requirement contract with Ohio Bulk Transfer Company, Inc. for sludge cake removal services for the Southerly and Westerly Wastewater Treatment Centers in an amount not-to-exceed \$2,345,431.80.

Resolution No. 62-26 Authorization to enter into a public improvement contract with Marks Construction, Inc. for the Nine Mile Debris Rack near Belvoir Boulevard project in an amount not-to-exceed \$386,754.40, and authorizing a general allowance in excess of ten percent of the base contract price bid, excluding specific allowances.

MOTION –Ms. Dumas moved, and Ms. Chambers seconded to adopt Resolution Nos. 61-26 through 62-26. Without objection, the motion carried unanimously.

Property Related Transaction

Resolution No. 63-26 Declaration of intent to appropriate one permanent stormwater easement at the property known as PPN 552-11-097, located at 3243 Forest Overlook Drive, in the City of Seven Hills, owned by Barry R. and Leigh Ann Piendl, trustees of the Piendl Family Trust, created November 13, 2020, necessary for the access and maintenance of the Hemlock Basin in Seven Hills project, and to provide for the consideration of \$7,250.00 determined by the fair market value to be deposited with the Cuyahoga County Probate Court.

Resolution No. 64-26 Declaration of intent to appropriate one permanent stormwater easement at the property known as PPN 552-11-104, located at 6970 Linda Lane, in the City of Seven Hills, owned by Deborah K. and Patrick Kelly Corbin, necessary for the access and maintenance of the Hemlock Basin in Seven Hills project, and to provide for the consideration of \$2,100.00 determined by the fair market value to be deposited with the Cuyahoga County Probate Court.

Resolution No. 65-26 Declaration of intent to appropriate one permanent stormwater easement at the property known as PPN 552-11-098, located at 3253 Forest Overlook Drive, in the City of Seven Hills, owned by Dennis M. and Linda S. Kane, necessary for the access and maintenance of the Hemlock Basin in Seven Hills project, and to provide for the consideration of \$6,700.00 determined by the fair market value to be deposited with the Cuyahoga County Probate Court.

MOTION – Ms. Chambers moved, and Mr. Sulik seconded to adopt Resolution Nos. 63-26 through 65-26. Without objection, the motion carried unanimously.

Hearing Officer Findings and Recommendations

Resolution No. 66-26 Adopting the findings and recommendations of the Hearing Officer with regard to the sewer account of Darlene Carmicle ending in 0255, Sewer District Hearing No. 26-001, that no further adjustments be made.

MOTION – Mr. Sulik moved, and Ms. Chambers seconded to adopt Resolution No. 66-26. Without objection, the motion carried unanimously.

Authorization to Grant Credit

Resolution No. 67-26 Authorizing the District to issue a credit adjustment against sewer charges on the account ending in 0740 to Fairmont MF Portfolio I LLC and Fairmont MF Portfolio II LLC, 12485 Cedar Road, Cleveland Heights in the amount of \$36,595.80.

Resolution No. 68-26 Authorizing the District to issue a credit adjustment against sewer charges on the account ending in 0003 to Shaker Heights Board of Education, 3115 Woodbury Road, Shaker Heights in the amount of \$76,818.55.

MOTION – Ms. Chambers moved, and Mayor Alai seconded to adopt Resolution Nos. 67-26 through 68-26. Without objection, the motion carried unanimously.

VI. Information Items

Ms. Rupe provided the Capital Improvement Program update for March 2026, beginning with cashflow. Cashflow is currently behind at 62% of planned, due in part to delayed invoices and unspent budget from 2025 that was rolled into 2026 and appears on the front end in 2026. When reviewing the top largest projects in 2026, Southerly Tunnel and Consolidation Sewer and the Southerly Second Stage Aeration projects are two examples where we are trailing behind in Q1. Spending will even out as we move into Q2 and Q3 without any concern.

As for key performance indicators (KPIs), both the Westerly Trickling Filter and Solids Contact Tank Aeration Improvements project and the Big Creek Tunnel project completed design within 60 days of planned, meeting that KPI. Bids for the District-wide HVAC Equipment and Systems Upgrade Phase 5 project were within 10% of the engineer's estimate and the construction contract was awarded within 60 days of planned, meeting both of those KPIs. The Easterly Actuator and Skimmings Collect Trough Replacement project, a \$2.2 million project, achieved substantial completion within 90 days of contract, meeting that KPI. The Easterly Stockroom Relocation project did not close within 95% of the original; however, the Business Opportunity Program (BOP) goal of 25% was exceeded at 36.42%. This project had \$900,000 worth of work orders, with the most significant portion assigned to design errors and omissions totaling 4.4% of the work.

Ms. Rupe highlighted construction projects beginning with the Southerly Second Stage Aeration Improvements project, a \$38.2 million project being performed in the western portion of the Southerly WWTC, where there are 10 3.7-million-gallon tanks that need rehabilitation, in addition to several valves, gates, and blower replacements.

Another project at the Southerly WWTC is a multifaceted project involving Incinerator No. 1. The bricks surrounding the inside of the incinerator become cracked and degraded over time due to heat. The bricks are currently being replaced by hand. The bricklaying portion of the project should be completed by July, and the incinerator will be brought back online later in the year.

The Westerly Sludge Handling Improvements project will provide two advantages; one is focused on solids management with bringing the new Westerly tunnel system and Westerly Tunnel Dewatering Pump Station online and the Chemically Enhanced High-Rate Treatment System nearing completion. This will allow the Westerly WWTC to manage increased solids handling with upgrades to thin this process area, including the centrifuges. Additionally, the incinerators located at the WWTC have since been decommissioned so in order to provide the WWTC with the ability to have a backup system for hauling solids, a liquid loading facility is being installed. This will

provide NEORSD with a backup to haul solids if needed in the future. This project is expected to be completed in the fall of 2027.

Regarding the collections system, the Mill Creek Interceptor and some of the surrounding areas have continuous challenges with flooding and basement backups. Under the MCT-3 Shaft 13 Flow Drop project, flow is being brought into the system sooner therefore providing alleviation further downstream into the system, thereby reducing the existing flooding and backups. The existing shaft is located at McCracken Road and Broadway Road at the border of Garfield Heights and Maple Heights. A future connection Adit is being installed for Maple Heights to utilize in the future to alleviate local flooding in the community. This project is scheduled to conclude this summer.

The CSO Culvert Outfall Inspection and Repair project is an \$11.1 million project to perform manhole rehabilitation, spot repairs and pipe relining at 30 different locations throughout the collections system. Ms. Rupe provided photographs of some of the project sites and explained that this project will also be completed this summer.

VII. Open Session

There were no items.

VIII. Public Session (any subject matter)

Ms. Dreyfuss-Wells advised that Ms. Boyle and Ms. Chappelle were in attendance and wished to address the Board.

Ms. Boyle provided the following statement:

“President Brown, with an apology for not being dressed appropriately for reading for your esteemed Board members. I will be brief. I apologize for being late. I really enjoy particularly listening to the capital projects. It brings back some very good memories and challenging ones.

So, I heard part of CEO's Dreyfuss-Wells' report. On the issue I just wanted once again to clarify if clarification is needed that we are a group of neighbors from the Cleveland Heights, Cleveland and Shaker Heights corner of the Doan Brook and we are simply asking to our elected officials in Shaker Heights, Cleveland Heights and Cleveland to take time to consider the 100 acres that are the parklands and that doesn't include Southerly. Take time to think about the whole entity before any of the permanent changes, including some of those that the CEO spoke about today are underway because they in effect would change, potentially change, what the parklands should be. When you started, you started with a smaller part of the parklands under consideration for action by NEORSD. Now, there is a much bigger part of the parklands that is now in play and under consideration by all of you.

And so, we're just asking for in this case time for the cities to be clear about how the parklands will ultimately come out. So, I thank you for that and I appreciate your fitting me in and I apologize for being late. Thank you."

Ms. Chappelle provided the following statement:

"Good afternoon. Again, I apologize, was passing out fliers to save the lakes. So here we are. There is a big question in the neighborhood about basements leaking as a result of stormwater management. Nobody seems to know the difference of what is what on Cormere there is 16 houses and this week nine houses have had plumbers snaking and blowing out basements because everybody is flooding. If the lakes are gone and we have the Lower Lake under our homes, how much worse is this going to be? Thank you."

IX. Executive Session

Mayor Bacci, pursuant to Ohio Revised Code Section 121.22 (G)(3), moved, and Mayor DeGeeter seconded, to enter into executive session to consult with the District's legal counsel concerning disputes involving the District that are subject of pending or imminent court action. By roll call vote, the Board voted unanimously to enter into executive session at 1:30 p.m.


The Board returned to open session at 2:29 p.m.

X. Approval of Items from Executive Session


There were no items.

XI. 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 2:30 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