

MINUTES
NORTHEAST OHIO REGIONAL SEWER DISTRICT
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
MAY 7, 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. Dumas seconded, to approve the Minutes of the April 16, 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 14th and 15th, she and Danielle Giannantonio, Senior Manager of State and Federal Legislative Affairs and Grants, traveled to Washington D.C. for the National Water Policy Fly-In. Each year, the event brings together clean water professionals, elected officials, and regulators from around the country. During meetings with Ohio's Congressional Delegation, they discussed the need for permanent funding for the Low-Income Household Water Assistance Program and continued support for the State Revolving Fund. They met with Senators Moreno and Husted, Congresswoman Brown, and staff from the offices of Congresswoman Sykes and Congressman Miller. The dialog was productive and Ms. Dreyfuss-Wells invited attendees to tour NEORS facilities and project sites.

On April 27th, NEORSD hosted representatives from the Government Accountability Office, an independent agency that supports Congress by providing objective research as well as technical and legal analysis. They requested a visit to observe NEORSD's water-related sensors and monitoring equipment as part of an ongoing study they are performing at the request of Congress for a water quality sensor technology assessment nationwide. The tour included stops at the NEORSD-owned water quality sensor in the Doan Brook watershed led by Scott Broski, Superintendent of Environmental Services, and Seth Hothem, Assistant Manager of Environmental Assessment, and the U.S. Geological Survey for Water Quality sensor also in the Doan Brook, led by George Remias, Manager of Stormwater Strategic Support. NEORSD staff also demonstrated its online GIS tools and sensor camera systems while discussing the challenges of developing and implementing this technology. Ms. Dreyfuss-Wells thanked NEORSD staff who participated in the event.

NEORSD's Customer Relations Department, as part of ongoing efforts to reduce barriers to applying for cost savings programs, has partnered with Cuyahoga Community College for Customer Relations staff to be on campus the first and third Thursdays of each month to assist customers with registering for cost savings programs as well as answer any billing questions.

On March 17th, NEORSD received the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada's Award for Excellence in Financial Reporting for the Annual Comprehensive Financial Report ending December 31, 2024. This is the 30th consecutive year that NEORSD has received this prestigious award. Ms. Dreyfuss-Wells congratulated Ken Duplay, Chief Financial Officer, and Majlinda Marku, Manager of Accounting and Reporting, on their achievement.

V. Action Items

Authorization to Advertise

Resolution No. 69-26	Authorization to publish notice calling for bids, in accordance with Ohio Revised Code Section 6119.10, for odor control facilities media replacement services at the Southerly Wastewater Treatment Center Southwest Interceptor Odor Control and Euclid/Green Odor Control Facilities with an estimated probable cost of \$295,000.00.
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MOTION –Mr. Sulik moved, and Ms. Chambers seconded to adopt Resolution No. 69-26. Without objection, the motion carried unanimously.

Authorization to Issue Request for Proposal (RFP)

Resolution No. 70-26	Authorization to issue an RFP for one or more professional services agreements for historic and cultural resource consulting
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services in support of the District's Regional Stormwater Management Program and the Capital Improvement Program.

MOTION – Ms. Chambers moved, and Mr. Sulik seconded to adopt Resolution No. 70-26. After the following discussion, without objection, the motion carried unanimously.

President Brown requested additional information regarding the services to be provided. Matt Scharver, Director of Watershed Programs, explained that the requested services are not intended for a specific project under the Regional Stormwater Management Program (RSMP) or the Wastewater Capital Improvement Program, although the services apply to both programs. Typically, the historic and cultural consulting services are within the ecological assessment contracts, which are larger contracts and often performed by a subconsultant. It was determined that, based on the need to have continuity of the task orders, at this time, it makes sense to make a separate request for proposals for historic and cultural resources contract administration.

President Brown noted that it appears that the request is to provide the services over several years. Mr. Scharver responded affirmatively and explained that the goal is to obtain a three-to-four-year contract at a cost of \$125,000.

President Brown added that there can be discussions in the future as to the areas of concern specific to this resource requirement and how some requirements have changed between NEORS and property owners, necessitating discussions regarding respective responsibilities. Mr. Scharver agreed that the information could be provided in a future update and under the RSMP, NEORS encounters historic and cultural resources in places such as the Euclid Creek and Doan Brook Watersheds, for which Watershed Programs will continue to rely on these services in navigating water resource projects.

Authorization to Purchase

Resolution No. 71-26 Authorization to purchase two Rotork Fluid Systems Electro-Hydraulic Failsafe Valve Actuators from sole source vendor Northcoast Process Controls Co. in an amount not-to-exceed \$149,424.00.

Resolution No. 72-26 Authorization to purchase a Flygt Model 3301.185 Submersible Pump for the Westerly Wastewater Treatment Center from sole source supplier Buckeye Pumps, Inc. in an amount not-to-exceed \$95,576.00.

MOTION – Mayor Alai moved, and Ms. Dumas seconded to adopt Resolution Nos. 71-26 through 72-26. Without objection, the motion carried unanimously.

Authorization to Enter Into Agreement

Resolution No. 73-26 Authorization to enter into a professional services agreement with HDR Engineering, Inc. for Support Services for Automation Controls in an amount not-to-exceed \$800,000.00.

MOTION – Mr. Sulik moved, and Ms. Chambers seconded to adopt Resolution No. 73-26. Without objection, the motion carried unanimously.

Authorization to Enter Into Contract

Resolution No. 74-26 Authorization to enter into a one-year requirement contract with Generator Systems, LLC for maintenance and repair services for Caterpillar brand standby generator equipment in an amount not-to-exceed \$951,899.87.

Resolution No. 75-26 Authorization to enter into a public improvement contract with GovTrust Partners LLC for the District Wide Space Improvements, Phase 1 project in an amount not-to-exceed \$225,961.40.

MOTION – Ms. Dumas moved, and Mayor Bacci seconded to adopt Resolution Nos. 74-26 through 75-26. Without objection, the motion carried unanimously.

Authorization to Assign Agreement

Resolution No. 76-26 Authorization to Assign Professional Services Agreement No. 23001518 with Herbein Watterson Talent Solutions to Watt Talent Solutions, LLC for succession plan assessment services, due to a company acquisition, with all current terms and conditions of the Agreement to remain unchanged.

MOTION – Mr. Sulik moved, and Mayor Alai seconded to adopt Resolution No. 76-26. Without objection, the motion carried unanimously.

Property Related Transaction

Resolution No. 77-26 Authorization to acquire one parcel in fee simple known as PPN 457-34-012, located at 10825 W. Pleasant Valley Road, in the City of Parma, owned by Anthony J. Bernardo and Sandra J. Bernardo, necessary for the construction and maintenance of the SWMP Project Area 6 – Flood and Erosion Reduction Near York and Pleasant Valley Roads project, and to enter into a six-month no-

cost lease agreement with the Bernardos, and to allow for the entirety of the payment to be disbursed to Innovative Title and Escrow Services, LLC with total consideration of \$235,000.00 plus closing costs.

Resolution No. 78-26

Authorization to acquire two parcels in fee simple known as PPN 702-26-009 and PPN 702-26-010, located at 4577 Emerson Road, in the City of South Euclid, owned by the Estate of John B. Palmer, Alan J. Rapoport, Executor, necessary for the construction and maintenance of the EWSE05 – Euclid Creek West Branch Subwatershed – Problem Area 5 project, and to enter into an Assignment and Assumption Agreement with the Western Reserve Land Conservancy, and to allow for the entirety of the payment to be disbursed to Ohio Real Title, LLC with total consideration of \$199,000.00 plus closing costs.

MOTION – President Brown noted that the 78-26 Resolution Request in the Board packet erroneously stated that the acquisition is one parcel, PPN 702-26-010, but it should have stated two parcels, also including PPN 702-26-010. Mayor Alai moved, and Ms. Chambers seconded to adopt Resolution No. 77-26 and the revised 78-26. Without objection, the motion carried unanimously.

Ratification of Expenditures and Authorization to Retain Legal Counsel

Resolution No. 79-26

Ratification of payments of \$19,381.50 made to McDonald Hopkins LLC for outside legal counsel on intellectual property matters in excess of the \$75,000.00 limit authorized under the existing engagement, and to authorize the continued retention of McDonald Hopkins LLC to provide ongoing legal services and advisory counsel on intellectual property matters, questions, and , if necessary, litigation, all as deemed necessary by the Chief Legal Officer to best represent the District, and to further authorize payment of costs for the same in excess of those authorized herein.

MOTION – Mr. Sulik moved, and Ms. Dumas seconded to adopt Resolution No. 79-26. After the following discussion, without objection, the motion carried unanimously.

President Brown requested additional information regarding this Resolution. Eric Luckage, Chief Legal Officer, explained that NEORSD retained McDonald Hopkins to provide counsel regarding intellectual property matters primarily to trademark NEORSD's name and logo, as well as to patent

the Probable Annual Risk Assessment methodology, which was developed by NEORSO Stormwater Programs staff.

NEORSO retained the firm a couple years ago to ensure that no one was using NEORSO's name or logo in a commercial way that would require NEORSO to purchase its own name. Additionally, NEORSO wanted to ensure that it is not infringing on other intellectual property rights. The engagement under Mr. Luckage's authority was limited to \$75,000. Those fees eventually exceeded the agreement in the amount of \$19,381.50, were invoiced and subsequently paid. Thereafter, District staff realized that the payment exceeded the authorized amount. I am asking to ratify those payments and authorize continued engagement and fees for these matters.

VI. Information Items

President Brown advised the Board that the Financial Report and Investment Advisor Performance Report for the three-month period ending March 31, 2026 was contained in the meeting materials and any questions should be directed to Mr. Duplay or his staff.

Matt Gaugler, Director of Operation and Maintenance, provided the O&M Quarterly Update for Q1 2026, beginning with safety. To date, there have been 8 lost workdays and 88 restricted workdays caused by 5 events which included 2 slip and falls, 2 lacerations, and 1 strain. All of the lost workdays are within O&M, as are 74 of the restricted workdays. NEORSO is maintaining its target DART rate of 2 or less.

Regarding effluent quality, all three WWTPs met their permits for the first quarter with the exception of one mercury excursion at the Southerly WWTC in February. It was fractions of a point over in parts per trillion. The cause was not identified, which is unsurprising with the exceedance being so minimal. Suspended solids, phosphorus, and biochemical oxygen demand were all within normal limits.

Mr. Gaugler then presented various maintenance projects that were performed at the WWTPs including the rehabilitation of centrifuges at the Southerly and Westerly WWTCs; primary settling tank flight and chain collector repairs at the Easterly WWTP; replacement of a very large broken overhead door at the Southerly WWTC, replacement of a large motor in a rooftop heating and ventilation unit at the Southerly WWTC; and Jetvac service and repairs.

As for the collections system, there were zero dry weather overflows. The automated systems were fully operational and available during wet weather events.

From a budget perspective, O&M spent \$15.8 million of its \$75.8 million budget in Q1, approximately 4% under budget on a linear basis; however, spending will increase during the summer months because of increased chemical costs during disinfection season. This is a narrower variance than Q1 2025.

Regarding staffing, there were 18 promotions within O&M, and 8 new external hires, some in hard-to-fill skilled trade roles.

Mr. Gaugler invited Mark Black, Assistant Superintendent, Plant Maintenance, to discuss the Computerized Maintenance Management System (CMMS) update.

Mr. Black explained that the maintenance teams rely on the CMMS to plan, schedule, perform, analyze, and report on maintenance activities and keep operational assets performing as expected. A CMMS captures asset information including operating manuals, planned maintenance, performance within cost analysis, and maintenance records. It also sends automated messages when maintenance is due for the 44,000 District-wide assets maintained by the program, including the 13,356 assets across the WWPTs. The CMMS software is run on the NexGen platform, and has been active for five years, requiring collaboration from various O&M and Technical Services Group staff.

Mr. Black provided examples of the information stored in the CMMS and used to create various checklists and work orders to maximize productivity and explained that a total of 10,768 preventative maintenance work orders were completed in the recent 12-month period at the WWTPs. The CMMS can be used in coordinating maintenance to multiple assets at the same time, for example if an asset requires a shutdown process, in order to minimize process disruptions.

Corrective work orders are issued when an asset fails either completely or partially, and performance reports are used to identify recurring problems and trends. Predictive maintenance includes sampling and testing to determine the condition of an asset, allowing for an asset to be restored before reaching functional failure.

Some of NEORS D's contractors also rely on NexGen and use checklists created from the contract language to generate work orders. The work orders are assigned using the NexGen contractor portal to facilitate efficient communication between NEORS D staff and contractors.

President Brown asked if the difference in downtime before CMMS and after, with preventative maintenance efficiencies being tracked for a better understanding of cost and time efficiencies. Mr. Black answered affirmatively and explained that much of that information shows up in cost tracking. There has been a downward trend in corrective maintenance with improved preventative maintenance through the CMMS.

VII. Open Session

There were no items.

VIII. Public Session (any subject matter)

There were no items.

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 1:13 p.m.

The Board returned to open session at 2:01 p.m.

President Brown stated that every five years, NEORSD conducts a rate study to determine the cost of providing sanitary sewer and stormwater services.

One April 7th, NEORSD staff presented the rate study findings the recommended rates to the Board for the period 2027 through 2031. This recommendation included the rate study draft report, which provided detailed information about NEORSD's planned investments in sanitary sewer and stormwater infrastructure as well as several rate scenarios designed to balance the needs to invest in these projects while minimizing the financial impact on customers.

Of the alternative rates presented to the Board, NEORSD staff recommended a 2.25% annual increase for sanitary sewer and a 3.5% annual increase in stormwater over a five-year rate cycle. Based on this scenario, an average monthly customer bill would be increased annually by just under \$3 per month over the five-year rate cycle but would delay the implementation of several impactful stormwater projects.

After further discussion in executive session during the April 16th Board meeting, President Brown and his fellow Board members asked NEORSD staff to reduce the sanitary sewer rate increase from 2.25% to 2% and working with Mayor DeGeeter and President Brown, to examine further how to build on their good work of minimizing the financial impact to customers while still providing necessary funding for stormwater projects in the community. That goal was accomplished; NEORSD was able to maintain the quarter of a percentage reduction in the sanitary sewer rate increase and established a stormwater rate schedule that includes 4% increases in 2027 and 2028, reducing that percentage to 3.5% in 2029, 2030 and 2031.

The proposed rate structure will lessen the total impact on customers to just under \$2 per month annually over the five-year rate cycle while allowing NEORSD to move forward with several stormwater projects that would have been delayed under the original proposal. This will benefit NEORSD customers, community and the region.

President Brown added that last week, he and Mayor DeGeeter, Ms. Dreyfuss-Wells, Mr. Duplay, Angela Jones, Senior Manager of Government Affairs, met with County Executive Ronayne. This week, President Brown, Ms. Dreyfuss-Wells, Mr. Duplay, and Ms. Jones met with Mayor Bibb and Cleveland City Council President Griffin for the purposes of informing them about the rate study and proposed increases and NEORSD's focus on minimizing the financial impact to customers while providing vital services to the region. NEORSD appreciates the opportunity to have these productive conversations.

The next steps include public outreach during the week of May 18th and a presentation to the Suburban Council of Governments on June 5, 2026.

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 2:05 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