

MINUTES
NORTHEAST OHIO REGIONAL SEWER DISTRICT
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
AUGUST 6, 2026

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District (NEORSO) was called to order at 12:30 p.m. by Darnell Brown.

I. Roll Call

Present: Darnell Brown
Ronald Sulik
Timothy DeGeeter
Jack Bacci
Sharon Dumas
Samuel Alai

Absent: 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 July 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 July 24th Cisco Rivera, Watershed Team Leader, and Donna Friedman, Manager of Community Watershed Coordination, joined leaders from the Cities of Cleveland and East Cleveland, the Cuyahoga County Land Bank, as well as Congresswoman Brown and County Executive Ronayne for the ribbon cutting at Circle East, which is a development project connecting East Cleveland to University Circle. The area includes several streets that had demolished homes. The goal of the project is to restore the infrastructure on these streets and engage developers to build more than 200 new homes. The City of East Cleveland has captured just under \$10 million from NEORSO's Member Community Infrastructure Program since 2023 to address the combined sewers in the redevelopment area through sewer separation and road restoration.

On August 1st NEORSD staff joined Mayor DeGeeter and Parma City Council for the ribbon cutting at the Veterans Stormwater Detention Basin, which will hold more than 15 million gallons of stormwater during heavy rains, in order to protect downstream homes and properties from basement and overland flooding. The project is a \$4 million investment under the Regional Stormwater Management Program and includes additional amenities such as a walking trail, signage, and city-funded benches. Several residents attended and expressed appreciation for the enhancements to the basin and to the neighborhood.

Regarding the Doan Brook Restoration at Horseshoe Park project, NEORSD has been notified by Ohio EPA that they will hold their planned public hearing on September 22nd at Shaker Heights Middle School. As Robin Halperin, Deputy Director of Watershed Programs, advised at the last Board meeting, this is part of Ohio EPA's review of NEORSD's application under Section 401 of the Clean Water Act. The Ohio EPA public comment period began on August 3rd and runs through September 29th. The materials from NEORSD's applications to Ohio EPA and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for this project, including the alternatives analysis are available on NEORSD's website, and the full permit application is also available on Ohio EPA's website.

At the National Association for Clean Water Agencies (NACWA) Leadership Conference last month, all NEORSD wastewater treatment plants were recognized for outstanding performance in 2025. Each year NACWA recognizes facilities across the country with their Peak Performance Awards and in 2025 the Southerly WWTC was awarded a Gold Peak Performance Award, acknowledging a full year without a permit excursion; the Westerly WWTC received a Platinum Peak Performance Award acknowledging five years of perfect permit compliance; and the Easterly WWTP received a Platinum Award for seven years of perfect compliance. Ms. Dreyfuss-Wells reminded the Board that there are more than 4,700 points of permit compliance across the three treatment facilities. Ms. Dreyfuss-Wells acknowledged Cathy Glisic, Superintendent of the Easterly WWTP, Travis Pitts, Superintendent of the Westerly WWTC, and Terry Robinson, Plant Manager of the Southerly WWTC, for their accomplishments.

President Brown and the Board congratulated each of the plant leaders and their staff for a job well done, noting that there is significant hard work required to achieve national recognition several years in a row.

V. Action Items

Authorization to Advertise

Resolution No. 117-26

Authorization to publish notice calling for bids, in accordance with Ohio Revised Code Section 6119.10, for the purchase of a grease trailer, with an estimated probable cost of \$113,000.00.

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| Resolution No. 118-26 | Authorization to publish notice calling for bids, in accordance with Ohio Revised Code Section 6119.10, for up to two 12-month requirement contracts for the delivery of up to 575,000 active pounds of liquid emulsion polymer solution to the Sewer District's Southerly and Westerly Wastewater Treatment Centers, with an estimated probable cost of \$1,725,000.00. |
| Resolution No. 119-26 | Authorization to publish notice calling for bids, in accordance with Ohio Revised Code Section 6119.10, for a public improvement contract for the Districtwide Elevator Modernization project, with an estimated probable construction cost of \$5,300,000.00. |
| Resolution No. 120-26 | Authorization to publish notice calling for bids, in accordance with Ohio Revised Code Section 6119.10, for a public improvement contract for the Sheldon Road Profile Raising and Bridge Replacement project, also known as the Abram Creek Flood Reduction project, with an estimated probable construction cost of \$7,081,000.00. |

MOTION – Mr. Sulik moved, and Mayor Bacci seconded to adopt Resolution Nos. 117-26 through 120-26. After the following discussion, without objection, the motion carried unanimously.

President Brown requested additional information regarding the project associated with Resolution No. 119-26. Greg Blatnik, Program Manager – Construction and Commissioning, explained that the Districtwide Elevator Modernization project involves the repair and upgrades to 13 elevators across all three WWTPs and the two administrative buildings. These elevators have had routine maintenance performed under separate contracts; however, due to the age and condition of the elevators, major repairs and replacements are required to ensure safety and reliability of the elevators, as well as bring them up to current code requirements.

President Brown requested additional information regarding the project associated with Resolution No. 120-26. Matt Scharver, Director of Watershed Programs, explained that this resolution is requesting authorization to call for bids for this estimated \$7 million project along Sheldon Road, between the Cities of Brook Park and Middleburg Heights. Currently, there is a box culvert that conveys Abram Creek underneath Sheldon Road, which provides less than a ten-year level of flood protection. This project will replace the box culvert with a single span, beam bridge approximately 60-feet in length that will reduce flooding and increase the level of service to the 100-year, 24-hour storm event level of service.

President Brown noted that the box culvert is the control mechanism for the flow and the inability for it to pass anything beyond where it is rated is leading to frequent flooding and asked what the modeling shows in terms of improving the level of service. Mr. Scharver explained that the modeling shows that the project will result in a 100-year level of flood protection.

Authorization to Enter Into Agreement

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| Resolution No. 121-26 | Authorization to enter into a professional services agreement with the Cuyahoga County Department of Public Works for the Sheldon Road Profile Raising and Bridge Replacement project, also known as the Abram Creek Flood Reduction project, to provide construction administration/resident project representation services and testing and inspection services for the project, in an amount not-to-exceed \$918,260.00. |
| Resolution No. 122-26 | Authorization to enter into agreements with 12 public entities to fund 19 Member Community Infrastructure Program projects for program year 2027, in a total amount not-to-exceed \$25,000,000.00. |

MOTION – Mr. Sulik moved, and Mayor Alai seconded to adopt Resolution No. 121-26. After the following discussion, without objection, the motion carried unanimously.

President Brown noted that this is the project that was just discussed and asked whether the intent is for the County to administer project oversight because bridges are their expertise, to ensure that the project is completed to their standards. Mr. Scharver answered affirmatively and explained that in addition to the bridge that will be built, approximately 1,000 feet of roadway will be raised. NEORS has been working with Cuyahoga County using Ohio Department of Transportation specifications to design the project, and the County will be overseeing the construction of the project. President Brown asked how long construction will last, and Mr. Scharver answered 300 days of on-site construction.

MOTION – Mayor Alai moved, and Ms. Dumas seconded to adopt Resolution No. 122-26. 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 DeGeeter, the motion carried.

President Brown requested an overview of the 2027 Member Community Infrastructure Program (MCIP). Mr. Scharver explained that this is the 11th year of funding under the MCIP. There are 19 projects this year, being awarded to 12 different entities, for a total of \$25 million. Mr. Scharver provided a table outlining the projects and noted that while there are both design only and construction only projects for 2027, more of the projects are construction only. Completion of

these projects will result in approximately 350 basement backups being eliminated or improved. Additionally, one wastewater pump station in Pepper Pike will be eliminated from the Pepper Creek sewershed.

More than 30 member communities have participated in the MCIP and NEORSD has invested nearly \$150 million in funding across 178 publicly owned sewer infrastructure improvement projects. Member communities have contributed \$123 million towards those projects, for a total of \$271 million in local sewer infrastructure improvements.

President Brown noted that several communities have community discharge permits established with NEORSD and this program helps in the planning process and funds projects that the communities would not otherwise be able to fund or construct. Each year, the MCIP provides significant benefits to the communities that NEORSD serves. President Brown thanked Mr. Scharver and his team for their work in managing the program.

Mr. Scharver added that NEORSD's \$40 million investment in the local sewer system evaluation studies drove the compliance plans and the updates to the community discharge permits. Each of the projects under the 2027 MCIP are included in Member Community compliance plans. The continued coordination between the Watershed Programs and Engineering and Construction Departments working together with the Member Communities is driving the program's success.

Authorization to Enter Into Contract

Resolution No. 123-26	Authorization to purchase vehicle components and installation services from Fallsway Equipment Company, Inc. in an amount not-to-exceed \$99,575.00, and from Shamrock Truck Equipment in an amount not-to-exceed \$90,010.00, as presented, for a total amount not-to-exceed \$189,585.00 for both contracts.
Resolution No. 124-26	Authorization to enter into a public improvement contract with Shook Construction for the Westerly Trickling Filters and Solids Contact Tanks Aeration Improvements project in an amount not-to-exceed \$34,995,200.00.
Resolution No. 125-26	Authorization to enter into a public improvement contract with Lake Erie Electric for the Easterly Fire Alarm System Replacement project in an amount not-to-exceed \$3,252,442.20.

MOTION – Ms. Dumas moved, and Mayor Bacci seconded to adopt Resolution Nos. 123-26 through 125-26. After the following discussion, without objection, the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Sulik requested information regarding the project associated with Resolution No. 124-26. Mr. Blatnik explained that the Westerly Trickling Filters and Solids Contact Tank Aeration Improvement Project includes upgrades to the three trickling filters, the solids contact tank aeration blower and odor control system. The upgrades are needed to maintain operations consistent with regulatory requirements and improve the efficiency of the aeration system. During the bidding process, there were multiple prime contractors that downloaded the bidding materials and made site visits; however, only one contractor submitted a bid. The other contractors were unable to supply bids due to the backlog of their current work. This is a three-year contract.

Property Related Transaction

Resolution No. 126-26

Authorization to acquire two parcels in fee simple known as PPNs 432-26-001 and 432-26-002, located at the intersections of Memphis Avenue and Ridge Road and Memphis Avenue and Rockland Drive, in the City of Brooklyn, owned by the Brooklyn Community Improvement Corporation, necessary for the construction and maintenance of the Big Creek Tunnel project, and to allow for the entirety of the payment to be disbursed to Ohio Real Title, LLC, with total consideration of \$78,800.00 plus closing costs.

MOTION –Mr. Sulik moved, and Mayor Alai seconded to adopt Resolution No. 126-26. Without objection, the motion carried unanimously.

Hearing Officer Findings and Recommendations

Resolution No. 127-26

Adopting the findings and recommendations of the Hearing Officer with regard to the sewer account of Enchante Drake ending in 2170, Sewer District Hearing No. 26-005, that no further account adjustments should be granted.

MOTION –Mayor Alai moved, and Mr. Sulik seconded to adopt Resolution No. 127-26. Without objection, the motion carried unanimously.

Authorization to Grant Credit

Resolution No. 128-26

Authorizing the District to issue a credit adjustment in the total amount of \$205,646.10 against sewer changes on the account of We Capital Noble, LLC, 2360 Noble Road, Cleveland Heights, ending in 4650.

Resolution No. 129-26 Authorizing the District to issue a credit adjustment in the total amount of \$28,150.48 against sewer charges on the account of Nicolae Manu, 2040 West 110th Street, Cleveland, ending in 1909.

Resolution No. 130-26 Authorizing the District to issue a credit adjustment in the total amount of \$26,267.68 against sewer charges on the account of Oakwood Commons LLC, 1954 Warrensville Center Road, South Euclid, ending in 2880 .

MOTION – Ms. Dumas moved, and Mayor Bacci seconded to adopt Resolution Nos. 128-26 through 130-26. Without objection, the motion carried unanimously.

Authorization to Close Out Public Improvement Contract

Resolution No. 131-26 Authorizing the Final Adjusting Change Order to close out Public Improvement Contract No. 25000227 with Independence Excavating, Inc. for the West Creek Veterans Basin Improvements project, to decrease the contract amount by \$238,409.60, thereby bringing the total contract amount to \$3,279,505.05.

MOTION – Mayor Alai moved, and Mr. Sulik seconded to adopt Resolution No. 131-26. Without objection, the motion carried unanimously.

VI. Information Items

President Brown advised the Board that the Financial Report and Investment Advisors Performance Report for the six-month period ending June 30, 2026, was contained in the meeting materials and any questions or concerns should be directed to Mr. Duplay.

Matt Gaugler, Director of Operation and Maintenance (O&M), provided the departmental update for Q2 2026 beginning with safety. Mr. Gaugler explained that there have been 93 lost workdays and 83 restricted workdays due to injuries including lacerations, slips, strains, fractures, a contusion, and a bruise. One employee injured their hand in a gate resulting in 26 lost workdays, and another injured their fingers under a manhole cover, resulting in 59 lost workdays. O&M has had 74 restricted workdays and 93 lost workdays. Districtwide, there have been 83 restricted workdays and 93 lost workdays. The NEORS internal limit for DART rate is 2.0. Currently, the DART rate is 1.67 Districtwide and 2.7 for O&M. The rate is decreasing as work hours increase.

Regarding effluent quality, all three WWTPs are well below permit limits. Mr. Gaugler provided a slide demonstrating disinfection numbers and explained that the recreation season adds additional

testing and chemicals to treatment operations to maintain permits. Mr. Gaugler acknowledged each of the WWTP superintendents for a job well done.

Mr. Gaugler provided photographs from various projects and explained that maintenance projects this quarter include repairs to the centrifuge at the Southerly WWTC with a cost of \$92,000; a collector in the Easterly Primary Settling Tank was repaired for \$59,000; a grit pump at the Westerly WWTC cost \$27,000; and repairs of the Easterly Tunnel Dewatering Pump Station roof cavern at a cost of \$21,000. Ongoing maintenance services projects include replacement of a water heater and HVAC repairs.

Mr. Gaugler advised that there was one dry weather overflow in the collections system. The automated system has been 100% operational during wet weather.

The adopted O&M budget for 2026 totals \$75.9 million and to date, \$33 million has been spent. This is approximately 5% below budget and spending is on track to be 2% to 3% below budget by the end of the year. Much of the variance is driven by the Peak Performance Program, which saved almost \$1.7 million in energy costs last year, as well as \$1.1 million for ash hauling.

As for staffing, ten O&M staffers have been promoted, many through the Maintenance Training Program, and there have been five new external hires.

Mr. Gaugler invited Josh Jeffi, O&M Construction Coordinator, and Nate Ledbetter, Supervisor of Sewer System Maintenance & Operations (SSMO), to discuss the Westerly Tunnel Dewatering Pump Station (WTDPS) rig system.

Mr. Jeffi explained that the Westerly Storage Tunnel (WST) captured 582.83 million gallons of CSO discharge in 2025, and as of the end of July, 263.24 million gallons have been pumped through the WTDPS and to the Westerly WWTC for processing. Mr. Jeffi provided photos of Walworth Run, CSO-80, which would discharge into the Cuyahoga River prior to the WST coming online.

SSMO cleans and maintains the surrounding structures of the WST and the WTDPS and in 2025, there were 15 work orders totaling 963 labor hours, requiring a crew of ten to twelve staff with their PPE and down gear, as well as trucks and cranes, to remove a total of 171,260 pounds of debris.

Mr. Ledbetter advised that the WTDPS was constructed over the course of four years at a cost of \$27.1 million, and consisting of five 9-million-gallon pumps, that can dewater the WST in a 24-hour period. Mr. Ledbetter provided photographs of the WTDPS and its components to demonstrate how cleaning and debris removal is performed.

Operators at the Westerly WWTC inform SSMO staff when pumping operations are needed and they operate in conjunction with various sensors which are monitored remotely through SCADA. Mr. Ledbetter provided a video demonstrating operations at the WTDPS and explained that in

2025, there were 42 work orders totaling 1,042 labor hours to remove 69,768 pounds of debris, which is transported by truck to landfill. SSMO staff performs routine maintenance and cleaning to the WTDPS in order to keep it running smoothly.

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) and (G)(4), 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 the subject of pending and immanent court action and to prepare for and review negotiations or bargaining sessions with District employees concerning their compensation and other terms and conditions of employment. By roll call vote, the Board voted unanimously to enter into executive session at 1:21 p.m.

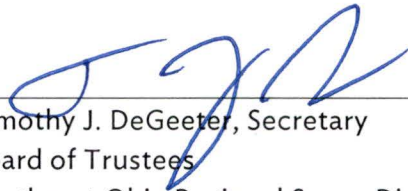
The Board returned to open session at 1:48 p.m.

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 1:49 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