MINUTES
NORTHEAST OHIO REGIONAL SEWER DISTRICT
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
OCTOBER 15, 2026

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

I. Roll Call

Present: Darnell Brown
Ronald Sulik
Timothy DeGeeter
Sharon Dumas
Samuel Alai
Jack Bacci
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 October 1, 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 September 29th NEORSD was inducted into the Leading Utilities of the World Organization at the Water Environment Federation's Annual Technology Conference (WEFTEC) that brings together more than 20,000 water, wastewater, and stormwater professionals from around the world. Leading Utilities of the World is a global network of more than 80 innovative utilities from Virginia to Australia, providing a network for sharing ideas across utilities. Other inductees this year included Municipal District Services in Texas and Upper Occoquan Service Authority in Virginia. Ms. Dreyfuss-Wells thanked Marie Fechik-Kirk, Manager of Sustainability and Special Projects, for representing NEORSD at the ceremony and serving as the contact for this organization.

On October 2nd NEORSD celebrated 143 current employees and 14 retirees at its annual service awards ceremony. Each year, NEORSD acknowledges milestone anniversaries and retirements,

honoring the sustained commitment of its employees to public service. This year marks a record number of employees recognized for service milestones, reflecting the growing number of long-serving employees. Linda Shoman, Purchasing Manager, received the Lifetime Achievement Award for her work ensuring excellence in procurement practices. Additionally, Frank Schuschu, Industrial Compliance Specialist, was acknowledged for reaching 50 years of service at NEORSD, the first in its 54-year history. The event was emceed by Ruthie Spearman, Southerly Plant Clerk, and Travis Pitts, Westerly Superintendent. Ms. Dreyfuss-Wells thanked Lydia Hartman, Manager of Employee Experience and Engagement, and Angela Smith, Employee Engagement Specialist, for their work in organizing the event.

During the week of October 5th, NEORSD celebrated Customer Service Week, focusing on the importance of customer service across NEORSD and in particular, the Customer Relations Department. This year's theme was "The Extra Mile" and NEORSD wanted to ensure that Customer Relations staff understood the importance of their work and how much they are appreciated by NEORSD. The two newest members of the Customer Relations team, Rebecca Britt and Anthony Battle, will be featured in the upcoming internal newsletter, People in Progress. For 2026 through September 30th, Customer Relations answered more than 40,000 calls and 9,000 emails, webchats and live chats, spending over 2,000 on the phone, and helped more than 1,700 customers. Additionally, there have been 161 outreach events, including the Utility Assistance Resource Fairs, Clean Water Fest, and first Saturdays, where GJM is open and customers can call or come into the office. Ms. Dreyfuss-Wells recognized Pauletta Hubbard, Senior Manager of Customer Relations, and her team for their efforts.

President Brown added that he has attended every WEFTEC except one since 1988, for the opportunity to network with peers in the industry and talk with regulators. President Brown recalled a conversation with US EPA several years ago while NEORSD was in the midst of negotiating its Consent Decree, wherein they were discussing the fact that if Kansas City could have 25 years for a Consent Decree, NEORSD should as well, as Cleveland was one of the poorest large cities in the country at that time. Ultimately, NEORSD was also afforded 25 years in which to complete its Consent Decree. President Brown added that NEORSD has learned much from WEFTEC.

President Brown added that he attended the employee recognition event and was honored to receive his certificate for 25 years of service with NEORSD; essentially his second career following that with the City of Cleveland. The work that NEORSD does is important to the region and around the world. NEORSD has a great reputation in the industry due to the dedication and hard work of Ms. Dreyfuss-Wells and the staff with the support of the Board. Additionally, the fact that NEORSD is named one of the best places to work by Northcoast 99 each year speaks to NEORSD as an industry leader. President Brown encouraged NEORSD to continue the good work.

V. Action Items

Authorization to Advertise

Resolution No. 179-26	Authorization to publish notice calling for bids, in accordance with Ohio Revised Code Section 6119.10, for a 12-month requirement contract for the delivery of up to 975,000 dry pounds of ferric chloride solution to the Sewer District's wastewater treatment plants with an estimated probable cost of $633,750.00.
Resolution No. 180-26	Authorization to publish notice calling for bids, in accordance with Ohio Revised Code Section 6119.10, for a public improvement contract for tree removal at the upcoming Mill Creek Stream Restoration near Cricket Lane project site with an estimated probable cost of $150,000.00.

MOTION – Mr. Sulik moved, and Ms. Chambers seconded to adopt Resolution Nos. 179-26 through 180-26. Without objection, the motion carried unanimously.

Authorization to Issue Request for Proposal (RFP)

Resolution No. 181-26	Authorization to issue an RFP, in accordance with Ohio Revised Code Chapter 6119, for leadership coaching professional services in an amount not-to-exceed $300,000.00 to be allocated among one or more coaching providers, collectively referred to internally as a suite of coaches.

MOTION –Ms. Chambers moved, and Mayor Alai seconded to adopt Resolution No. 181-26. Without objection, the motion carried unanimously.

Authorization to Purchase

Resolution No. 182-26	Authorization to purchase an Inductively Coupled Plasma Optical Emission Spectrometer from Fisher Scientific Company LLC under the OMNIA Partners Cooperative Purchasing Program, for a total amount not-to-exceed $89,257.53.

MOTION – Mayor Alai moved, and Mayor Bacci seconded to adopt Resolution No. 182-26. Without objection, the motion carried unanimously.

Authorization to Enter Into Agreement

Resolution No. 183-26	Authorization to enter into an agreement with the Cleveland Metroparks for acquisition of PPN 485-12-039, a vacant parcel owned by Mary Schempp, located on Bennett Road in the City of North Royalton, necessary for the proper operation of regional stormwater assets within the East Branch of the Rocky River-North Royalton Problem Area 9, with total consideration of $50,000.00.
Resolution No. 184-26	Authorization to enter into an agreement with the Village of Mayfield to provide District funding to extend the stream stabilization portion of the Village's Worton Park Neighborhood Phase II Culvert Replacement project by 125 linear feet, in an amount not-to-exceed $50,000.00.

MOTION –Mr. Sulik moved, and Ms. Dumas seconded to adopt Resolution Nos. 183-26 through 184-26. After the following discussion, without objection, the motion carried unanimously.

President Brown requested additional discussion regarding these projects and NEORSD's partnerships with member communities to complete projects. Matt Scharver, Director of Watershed Programs, explained that the partnerships create great value for the region. The project related to Resolution No. 183-26 will be completed through NEORSD's long standing relationship with the Cleveland Metroparks. This particular project involves a property acquisition in the East Branch of the Rocky River in the City of North Royalton. The property is located in the 100-year floodplain and was identified under the Stormwater Master Plan. Acquisition of the property is important to maintain streamflow conveyance on the East Branch of the Rocky River. Cleveland Metroparks has acquired other properties in the immediate area totaling over 140 acres with significant amounts of 100-year floodplain. NEORSD will contribute $50,000 toward the $75,000 purchase of the parcel and the Metroparks will maintain the property and provide NEORSD with a permanent stormwater easement.

The following Resolution pertains to an agreement with the Village of Mayfield, with which NEORSD has had a longstanding partnership. The Village has been working diligently to improve its local stormwater system over the years and NEORSD assists through the Regional Stormwater Management Program. Beechers Brook is a tributary to the Chagrin River, and the Worton Park neighborhood was identified as a problem area under the Stormwater Master Plan. There are several culvert crossings, public roadway crossings and residential homes too close to the stream corridor. This project is phase two of two phases. NEORSD will contribute $50,000 for the design efforts and the Village will perform the construction. Mr. Scharver provided an overview of the project area as well as Phases I and II. These projects will raise the level of service in the area from a two-year level to a 100-year level of service in most instances. Overall, the Village is contributing approximately $3.2 million and NEORSD is contributing $900,000 for the streamflow conveyance improvements.

Authorization to Enter Into Contract

Resolution No. 185-26	Authorization to enter into a public improvement contract with The Murphy Contracting Company for the Districtwide Elevator Modernization project in an amount not-to-exceed $4,473,000.00.

MOTION – Mr. Sulik moved, and Ms. Dumas seconded to adopt Resolution No. 185-26. After the following discussion, without objection, the motion carried unanimously.

President Brown requested additional information. Robin Rupe, Director of Engineering and Construction, explained that the project will repair or replace elevators across 13 NEORSD facilities. Two of the bids were below the construction estimate of $5.3 million, and the contract will be awarded for $4.47 million.

Authorization to Amend Resolution

Resolution No. 147a-26	Amending Resolution No. 147-26, adopted September 3, 2026, which authorized the District to enter into a loan agreement with the Ohio EPA and the Ohio Water Development Authority to accept WPCLF funding for costs related to the Big Creek Storage Tunnel project for an amount up to Three Hundred Twenty Four Million Eight Hundred Twenty One Thousand One Hundred Thirty Dollars ($324,821,130.00), to instead authorize the Issuance of a Bond of the District in a Principal Amount Not To Exceed said amount for Sale to the Water Pollution Control Loan Fund of the State Of Ohio to Finance the Costs of Improvements to the District's Wastewater System; Pledging Certain Revenues from the District's Wastewater System on a Subordinated Basis to Secure the Payment of the Principal of and Interest on the Bond; and Authorizing the Execution and Delivery of the Bond and the Trust Agreement and Other Documents and the Taking of Other Actions Related to the Issuance and Sale of the Bond.

MOTION – Ms. Dumas moved, and Mayor Bacci seconded to adopt Resolution No. 147a-26. After the following discussion, without objection, the motion carried unanimously.

President Brown requested an explanation for the amendment of the agreement. Ken Duplay, Chief Financial Officer, explained that the original request was to enter into a loan agreement with WPCLF for the Big Creek Storage Tunnel project because under the rate study long-term financial plan, the intention is to loan fund the project. In moving forward with the loan process, OWDA reminded NEORSD that to utilize the 40-year term with structured payments for the loan, the

agreement must be in a different form. While it will functionally work the same as a loan agreement, it technically needs to be structured as trust agreement.

Authorization to Amend Agreement

Resolution No. 186-26 — Authorization to amend Agreement No. 23000635 with Governmental Policy Group for State advocacy services to extend the agreement for two years through December 31, 2028, in an amount not-to-exceed $144,000.00, reflecting no increase in the Agreement's monthly fees, thereby bringing the total Agreement amount not-to-exceed $432,000.00.

MOTION – Ms. Chambers moved, and Mayor Alai seconded to adopt Resolution No. 186-26. Without objection, the motion carried unanimously.

Authorization of Contract Modification

Resolution No. 187-26 — Authorization to modify Public Improvement Contract No. 3887 with Cuyahoga County for the disposal of grit at the District's Southerly Wastewater Treatment Center to extend the term of the contract through December 31, 2027, and to update the estimated disposal rate effective January 1, 2027 from $175.00 to $177.93 per ton of grit, or other subsequent adjusted rate as established by the District later in 2027, based on the District's grit disposal rates, 2027 AFSCME Local 2798 negotiated labor rates, and other District cost factors, with no increase in the total contract amount to be paid by the County.

MOTION – Mayor Bacci moved, and Mr. Sulik seconded to adopt Resolution No. 187-26. Without objection, the motion carried unanimously.

Authorization to Renew Agreement

Resolution No. 188-26 — Authorization to renew the District's employee benefits agreements, as presented, for an additional one-year term, beginning January 1, 2027, for a total amount, for all agreements, not-to-exceed $20,340,000.00.

MOTION – Ms. Dumas moved, and Mayor Bacci seconded to adopt Resolution No. 188-26. After the following discussion, without objection, the motion carried unanimously.

President Brown noted that this is an extension of an existing contract and asked for an explanation of the benefits of the services. Jeremy Short, Director of Human Resources, explained that this is a renewal of a three-year rate guarantee for the years 2026 to 2028. The most recent request for proposals was conducted by Willis Towers Watson (WTW). Any increases in the overall costs would be based on employee usage and adjustments to the offerings. Mr. Short introduced Laura Marshall, Manager of Health Benefits for WTW, to provide an overview of the one-year renewal.

Ms. Marshall presented the proposed 2027 employee benefits renewals. Medical Mutual of Ohio will continue to administer medical, prescription, vision, and hearing claims, with the stop-loss threshold remaining at $275,000. The proposed plan adds a fertility benefit with a $50,000 lifetime maximum and introduces the RxArmor medication-management program, which is intended to improve care and reduce prescription costs through a savings-based fee structure. Administrative and stop-loss fees are projected at $2.2 million, and medical, prescription, vision, and hearing claims are projected at $16.65 million; both amounts include a 10 percent contingency. WTW projects a 14.6 percent increase in healthcare claims for 2027, primarily attributable to higher stop-loss premiums, prescription drug costs, and the added benefit coverage. Dental claims and administration are projected at $490,000, reflecting a 1.2 percent decrease, while life, accidental death and dismemberment, and short-term disability coverage is budgeted at $1 million under rates guaranteed through December 2028. The total proposed 2027 benefit-plan agreements represent an increase of $2.955 million over 2026.

Authorization to Close out Contract

Resolution No. 189-26	Authorizing the Final Adjusting Change Order to close out Public Improvement Contract No. 25002956 with Independence Excavating, Inc. for the Flood Reduction at Riverview Road in Brecksville project to decrease the contract amount by $712,822.35, thereby bringing the total contract amount to $4,256,320.25.

MOTION – Mayor Alai moved, and Ms. Chambers seconded to adopt Resolution No. 189-26. Without objection, the motion carried unanimously.

Hearing Officer Findings and Recommendations

Resolution No. 190-26	Adopting the findings and recommendations of the Hearing Officer regarding the sewer account of Ms. Whitney Detchon ending in 1880, Sewer District Hearing No. 26-007, that no further adjustments be made to the account.

MOTION – Ms. Chambers moved, and Mr. Sulik seconded to adopt Resolution No. 190-26. Without objection, the motion carried unanimously.

Authorization to Grant Credit

Resolution No. 191-26	Authorizing the District to issue a credit adjustment in the total amount of $32,962.08 against sewer charges on the account of P&T Investment Pros, LLC, 20676 Southgate Park Boulevard, in Maple Heights, ending in 7037.
Resolution No. 192-26	Authorizing the District to issue a credit adjustment in the total amount of $78,463.08 against sewer charges on the account of Tigers Colorado, 15411 Chatfield Avenue in Cleveland, ending in 9918.

MOTION – Mr. Sulik moved, and Mayor Alai seconded to adopt Resolution Nos. 191-26 through 192-26. Without objection, the motion carried unanimously.

VI. Information Items

Ms. Rupe provided the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) Management Status Report and Update for September 2026 beginning with cashflow. Through the end of September, spending is at 91% of planned, with a total of $196.7 million spent to date. As for project level key performance indicators (KPIs), there were three associated with the Mill Creek MCT-3 Shaft 13 Flow Drop Structure. The KPI for closing construction contracts within 95% of the original amount was not met at 96% of the original contract. The Business Opportunity Program (BOP) goal was set at 20% and will be met at a projected 100%. Work orders made up 7.18% of the contract total and were primarily due to differing and unforeseen site conditions related to installing the drop pipe.

Ms. Rupe invited Ryan Krueger, Construction Supervisor I in the Plants Construction Group, to provide an update regarding the EMSC Laboratory Air Handling Unit Replacement project.

Mr. Krueger explained that the project replaces the laboratory's primary air handling unit and upgrades the building's cooling and exhaust systems. The improvements also include heat-recovery equipment, updated controls, and enhanced access for inspection, cleaning, and repairs. Because reliable ventilation is essential to laboratory testing, construction was carefully sequenced and coordinated with laboratory staff to maintain critical operations throughout the project.

Work requiring the laboratory exhaust system to be shut down was scheduled primarily on weekends. Laboratory staff adjusted testing schedules, and shutdowns generally began after 4:00 p.m. on Fridays. Crews worked through the weekend to restore the system in sufficient time to permit approximately 24 hours of monitoring before regular testing resumed. Equipment was positioned in advance of scheduled shutdowns to maximize the available construction window and allow time to address unforeseen conditions.

Temporary ductwork and exhaust equipment were installed to maintain the airflow necessary for laboratory testing while existing fans and ductwork were removed and permanent systems were installed. This approach allowed roofing, piping, heat-recovery, controls, and permanent ductwork activities to proceed while the laboratory remained operational. It also reduced the anticipated number of shutdowns from four to two, thereby limiting interruptions to laboratory services.

Mr. Krueger explained that the heat-recovery system captures a portion of the energy from exhausted air and reuses it to heat incoming air, reducing overall energy demand. The project also improves access to equipment, enabling maintenance staff to conduct inspections, cleaning, and repairs more efficiently and supporting the system's long-term reliability. The contractor, design team, and Engineering and Construction staff coordinated the installation sequence to advance the work while meeting the laboratory's operational requirements.

Most major construction has been completed, and the new system has supported laboratory operations for several weeks. Remaining work includes completion of piping installation, roof trim and flashing, final controls adjustments, and commissioning. Commissioning will verify that the equipment and controls operate together as intended. Integration with the building automation system will provide continuous visibility into equipment performance and generate alerts to help staff identify developing issues, plan maintenance, and reduce the risk of failures that could disrupt critical laboratory testing.

Mr. Scharver acknowledged Mr. Krueger and his team and added that air handling is critical for the laboratory to operate, and there is a lot of work that happens in the laboratory each day. Mr. Scharver thanked Ms. Rupe and Devona Marshall, Chief Operating Officer, for advancing the project and added that there was excellent communication throughout the project which avoided significant disruptions to the laboratory.

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)(1), moved, and Mayor DeGeeter seconded, to enter into executive session to consider the compensation of public employees. By roll call vote, the Board voted unanimously to enter into executive session at 1:20 p.m.

The Board returned to open session at 1:37 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 1:38 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