

MINUTES
NORTHEAST OHIO REGIONAL SEWER DISTRICT
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
JANUARY 2, 2025

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
Sharon Dumas
Marjorie Chambers

Absent: Jack Bacci
Samuel Alai

The Secretary informed the President that a quorum was in attendance.

II. Approval of Minutes

MOTION – Ms. Chambers moved, and Mr. Sulik seconded, to approve the Minutes of the December 19, 2024 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, informed the Board that the 2025 NEORS desk calendar, which is provided to all employees, was provided for the Board at their seats. The calendar features a team of sewer heroes called the Lake Erie League, which was created by NEORS Communications and Community Relations staff with the assistance of local artist Miguel Hernandez and North Royalton High School science teacher Joe Sieracki. Mike Uva, Communications Production Lead, John Gonzalez, Senior Manager of Communications, Jessica Shutty, Public Information Specialist, Danny Neelon, Strategic Partnership Lead, Donna Friedman, Manager of Community Watershed Coordination, and Nicole Harvel, Communications Specialist, collaborated on this project to expand NEORS's scholastic materials to engage middle schoolers in NEORS's work.

Each character represents an aspect of the work performed by NEORS. The characters are placed in scenarios to meet challenges related to pollution, erosion, flooding, and maintenance. The sewer heroes were featured in the Fall 2024 Collective Arts Network Journal and made an appearance at Clean Water Fest. Ms. Dreyfuss-Wells thanked the team for their creative efforts.

On December 13th, NEORS's Business Opportunity Program and Engineering and Construction Department teams hosted a pre-bid meeting for the \$105 million Kingsbury Run Consolidation Sewer Project, part of Project Clean Lake, at Cuyahoga Community College's Jerry Sue Thornton Center. This was a successful networking event with 77 attendees and wide-ranging interest from bidders.

On December 18th, NEORS was notified that it was selected by Ohio EPA to receive a \$20,000 grant to continue studying phosphorus removal from wastewater plant effluent. Ohio EPA is encouraging wastewater utilities in the Lake Erie Watershed to continue evaluating new and alternative technologies and methods to further reduce total phosphorus loads in effluent and potentially implement the approaches. NEORS will perform its biological phosphorus removal study at the Westerly Wastewater Treatment Center because of its higher dosage and more continual usage of ferric chloride, which is used to remove phosphorus from effluent; however, ferric chloride can be costly and corrosive to equipment. The study will evaluate enhanced biological phosphorus removal, and the grant funds will help to build and maintain bench-scale experiments. The results of the study are expected to be available later this year. Ms. Dreyfuss-Wells thanked the staff in the Operation and Maintenance and Legislative Affairs for their efforts in obtaining this funding.

V. Action Items

Authorization to Advertise

Resolution.No. 01-25 Authorization to publish notice calling for bids, in accordance with Ohio Revised Code Section 6119.10, for up to four 12-month requirement contracts for grounds maintenance services with an estimated probable cost of \$170,000.00.

MOTION – Ms. Chambers moved, and Mr. Sulik seconded to adopt Resolution No. 01-25. Without objection, the motion carried unanimously.

Authorization to Purchase

Resolution No. 02-25 Authorization to purchase Wonderware software maintenance and support services for a one-year period from sole source vendor Q-Mation, Inc. in an amount not-to-exceed \$368,233.00.

Resolution No. 03-25 Authorization to purchase Rockwell Automation maintenance and support services from sole source vendor Rexel USA, Inc., for the term March 13, 2025 through January 31, 2026, in an amount not-to-exceed \$204,101.73.

MOTION – Mr. Sulik moved, and Ms. Dumas seconded to adopt Resolution Nos. 02-25 through 03-25. Without objection, the motion carried unanimously.

Authorization to Enter Into Agreement

Resolution No. 04-25 Authorization to enter into a professional services agreement with Osborn Engineering Co., for design and construction administration/resident project representation services for the Districtwide Elevator Modernization project in an amount not-to-exceed \$936,579.42.

MOTION – Ms. Dumas moved, and Ms. Chambers seconded to adopt Resolution No. 04-25. Without objection, the motion carried unanimously.

Authorization to Enter Into Contract

Resolution No. 05-25 Authorization to enter into a 12-month requirement contract with PVS Technologies, Inc. for the delivery of up to 2,500,000 wet pounds of sodium bisulfite solution for all District wastewater treatment plants in an amount not-to-exceed \$343,750.00.

Resolution No. 06-25 Authorization to enter into a public improvement contract with Cold Harbor Building Co. for the construction of the Easterly Actuator and Skimmings Collection Trough Replacement project in an amount not-to-exceed \$2,221,000.00.

Resolution No. 07-25 Authorization to enter into a public improvement contract with Spisak's Outdoor Creations for the E. 140th Green Infrastructure Vegetation Improvements project in an amount not-to-exceed \$63,800.00.

MOTION – Ms. Chambers moved, and Mr. Sulik seconded to adopt Resolution Nos. 05-25 through 07-25. After the following discussion, without objection, the motion carried unanimously.

President Brown requested an overview of the project associated with Resolution No. 06-25. Doug Lopata, Program Manager of Planning and Design, explained that the project is essentially a replacement and renewal project for existing equipment in the Easterly Wastewater Treatment

Plant that will include the replacement of 67 gate and valve actuators. It was designed in-house, and three good project bids were received. The low bidder, Cold Harbor, is currently working onsite, reducing mobilization costs and likely leading to the bid being lower than the estimate. President Brown asked how long the project is expected to take and Mr. Lopata explained that the project should be completed in approximately 1.5 years.

Authorization to Close Out Public Improvement Contract

Resolution No. 08-25 Authorizing the Final Adjusting Change Order to close out public improvement Contract No. 24000009 with DRS Enterprises for the Southerly Tunnel Dewatering Pump Station Electrical Service project to decrease the contract amount by \$122,016.89, thereby bringing the total contract amount to \$2,264,103.91.

MOTION – Mr. Sulik moved, and Ms. Dumas seconded to adopt Resolution No. 08-25. Without objection, the motion carried unanimously.

Authorization of Appointment

Resolution No. 09-25 Reappointing Kenneth Koncilja to a two-year term of the Board of Trustees' Audit Committee, commencing February 1, 2025, and concluding January 31, 2027.

MOTION – Mr. Sulik moved, and Ms. Chambers seconded to adopt Resolution No. 09-05. After the following discussion, without objection, the motion carried unanimously.

President Brown asked Mr. Sulik, as the Chairperson of the Audit Committee, to comment on the current Audit Committee arrangement.

Mr. Sulik advised that Mr. Koncilja is a very knowledgeable person to have on the Audit Committee, which has done well over the years. The Committee is glad to have him be reappointed.

VI. Information Items

There were no items.

VII. Open Session

There were no items.

VIII. Public Session (any subject matter)

There were no items.

IX. Executive Session


There were no items.

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. Mr. Sulik moved, and Ms. Dumas seconded the motion to adjourn at 12:46 a.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