

MINUTES
NORTHEAST OHIO REGIONAL SEWER DISTRICT
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
FEBRUARY 3, 2022

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

I. Roll Call

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

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 January 20, 2022 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, provided an update regarding NEORS D's ongoing COVID-19 pandemic response and informed the Board that NEORS D staff has 1 active COVID-19 case, and no employees with COVID-19-like symptoms awaiting test results. There are no employees remaining at home because a member of their household tested positive. There has been a total of 205 employees with confirmed diagnoses since the beginning of the pandemic, 204 of whom have recovered and returned to work.

Due to the continued decline in COVID-19 cases, on Monday, February 7, 2022, the face covering voluntary opt-out provision will resume for employees with the appropriate vaccination status. The policy has been updated to include any applicable booster requirements. All of the relevant information is available to employees on the Intranet.

On January 20, 2022, Scott Broski, Superintendent of Environmental Services, and John Rhodes, Manager of Water Quality and Industrial Surveillance, spoke with the Ohio Association of Metal Finishers. NEORSD speaks annually at their January meeting. It has provided a great opportunity to speak with this group of industrial customers. Mr. Broski and Mr. Rhodes discussed various topics including the 2022 through 2026 rate schedule, changes to the Code of Regulations and Enforcement Response Plan, upcoming training opportunities, and potential emerging regulations from U.S. EPA and Ohio EPA, as well as informing the group that NEORSD regulates 83 companies within the Metal Finishers category and has a 95% compliance rate, the highest compliance percentage to date.

Ms. Dreyfuss-Wells reminded the Board that 2022 marks 50 years of service for NEORSD and invited Jean Smith, Senior Manager of Communications and Community Relations, to provide information regarding plans for celebrating the anniversary.

Ms. Smith advised the Board that the plan is to focus on the impact that NEORSD has had in the community with its investment in sewer and stormwater infrastructure and treatment plants, resulting in clean water. NEORSD wants its employees to see themselves in this story regardless of their length of service.

Another significant milestone is the 100th anniversary of the Easterly Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) which predates NEORSD but provides framework to the discussion of the progression of infrastructure. NEORSD will also be discussing Project Clean Lake and the ten years of improvements through that project.

NEORSD's celebration will span from March through September, and each month will have a theme. The message will be "Sparking Change" with discussions about how the fire on the Cuyahoga River forced change. In April, the message will be focused on healthier lakes and streams. In May, NEORSD begins its additional summer season water quality testing, so the focus will be on recreation and how NEORSD's work has improved recreation in the area. In June, the messaging will focus on protecting the lake and streams and the work performed under Project Clean Lake. In July, NEORSD will discuss resilience and its Regional Stormwater Management Program. In August, the focus will be on NEORSD's partnerships that have helped to make the work possible over the past fifty years. Everything will culminate in September with Clean Water Fest, which will be in-person for the first time since 2019. For each of the months, there will be an artistic emblem that reflects that month's message, which will be applied to a number of promotional items. NEORSD has started to release information regarding the campaign on its website and on social media.

NEORSD is asking its employees to share their stories about how their work has impacted them and NEORSD. NEORSD is working on the timeline, compiling stories, and an event schedule to share

the information with the community. By the end of February, there will be a page with a number of the stories available and the art and content will be completed.

The Board voiced approval of the theme “Sparking Change”.

V. Action Items

Authorization to Issue Request for Proposal (RFP)

Resolution No. 46-22 Authorization to issue an RFP, in accordance with Ohio Revised Code Chapter 6119, for asbestos abatement services.

Resolution No. 47-22 Authorization to issue an RFP, in accordance with Ohio Revised Code Chapter 153, for design and construction administration/resident project representation (CA/RPR) services for the Kingsbury Run Consolidation Sewer project.

MOTION – Mr. Joyce moved, and Mayor Alai seconded to adopt Resolution Nos. 46-22 through 47-22. Without objection, the motion carried unanimously.

Authorization to Enter Into Agreement

Resolution No. 48-22 Authorization to enter into a professional services agreement with Energy Edge Consulting, LLC to assist the Sewer District in developing short and long-term procurement strategies for electricity generation in an amount not-to-exceed \$274,000.00.

MOTION –Mr. Sulik moved, and Ms. Dumas seconded to adopt Resolution No. 48-22. Without objection, the motion carried unanimously.

Authorization to Enter Into Contract

Resolution No. 49-22 Authorization to enter into a four-year requirement contract with Building Integrated Services, LLC for substation preventative maintenance and repair services at all Wastewater Treatment Plants, the Environmental and Maintenance Services Center, and the Easterly Tunnel Dewatering Pump Stations in an amount not-to-exceed \$1,152,112.50.

Resolution No. 50-22 Authorization to enter into a three-year requirement contract with Industrial Furnace Company, Inc. for refractory inspection and repair services on the fluidized bed incinerators and refractory lined duct

work at the Southerly Wastewater Treatment Center's Renewable Energy Facility in an amount not-to-exceed \$202,551.30.

Resolution No. 51-22 Authorization to enter into a one-year requirement contract with PVS Technologies, Inc. for the delivery of ferric chloride solution to all Wastewater Treatment Plants in an amount not-to-exceed \$630,700.00.

Resolution No. 52-22 Authorization to enter into a construction contract with Tri Mor Corporation for the Big Creek Flood Reduction near Sprague Road project in an amount not-to-exceed \$672,900.70.

MOTION – Mayor Alai moved, and Mayor Bacci seconded to adopt Resolution Nos. 49-22 through 52-22. Without objection, the motion carried unanimously.

Authorization to Amend Agreement

Resolution No. 53-22 Authorization to amend professional services Agreement No. 20003905 with Stantec Consulting Services, Inc. for the Big Creek Stream Restoration Upstream and Downstream of Ridge Road in Parma project by extending the term of the agreement by approximately 41 months and by increasing the agreement amount by \$914,753.03 for design, bidding, construction administration/resident engineer, and closeout services, thereby bringing the total agreement amount not-to-exceed \$1,546,753.03.

Resolution No. 54-22 Authorization to amend project Agreement No. 21003624 with the Chagrin River Watershed Partners (CRWP) for the Nine Mile Creek Restoration project to permit District payments to CRWP based on CRWP's approval of its consultant/contractor invoices and concurrence of said consultant/contractor invoices by the District, replacing the original agreement's requirement that payments are made solely as reimbursement for paid invoices.

Resolution No. 55-22 Authorization to amend project Agreement No. 21002145 with the Doan Brook Watershed Partnership (DBWP) for the Doan Brook Sowinski Park Restoration project to permit payments to DBWP based on DBWP's approval of its consultant/contractor invoices and concurrence of said consultant/contractor invoices by the District, replacing the original agreement's requirement that payments are made solely as reimbursement for paid invoices.

Resolution No. 56-22 Authorization to amend professional services Agreement No. 20002631 with Insight Public Sector, for application hosting services for the District's 2010 SharePoint application platform by extending the term of the agreement by one-year through February 28, 2023, and increasing the agreement amount by \$99,080.52, thereby bringing the total amount not-to-exceed \$931,916.46.

Resolution No. 57-22 Authorization to amend design-build Agreement No. 19005267 with Cold Harbor Building Company for the Southerly Miscellaneous Disinfection and Solids Handling Improvements project to extend the term of the agreement by 92 calendar days, with no change in the agreement amount.

MOTION – Mr. Joyce moved, and Mayor Bacci seconded to adopt Resolution Nos. 53-22 through 54-22 and 56-22 through 57-22. After the following discussion, without objection, the motion carried unanimously.

MOTION – Mr. Sulik moved, and Ms. Dumas seconded to adopt Resolution No. 55-22. Without objection, by roll call vote, the motion carried with all present members voting yes and recusal from discussion and abstention from voting by President Brown.

President Brown asked for additional information regarding Resolution No. 53-22 and the process of going from the original proposal with a predesign-only contract to extending the contract term and scope of the contract.

Frank Greenland, Director of Watershed Programs, explained that there are a number of project areas along Big Creek in Parma requiring streambank stabilization and floodplain creation. The Master Planning study resulted in planning level recommendations with an estimated cost of \$12 million. This necessitated the predesign contract to sort out the details and have a full understanding of the exact project to be taken into the detail design phase.

The contract, as awarded in 2020, contains a stipulation to either continue on with Stantec Consulting Services, Inc. for the detailed design and construction administration or go out for a request for proposal. Stantec Consulting has performed well in the predesign phase, finding ways to tailor the project and reduce the total estimated costs to \$7 million. NEORS has chosen to continue on with Stantec Consulting for the design, and ultimately, construction administration.

President Brown asked whether Stantec Consulting identified a good approach to address the multiple problems in the area such as the narrowness and shallowness of the creek, bridge structures, and flooding issues. Mr. Greenland answered affirmatively and added that Big Creek also has significant impervious surface area and other problems. It was necessary to come out of

the master planning phase with detailed information and it was achieved through the predesign contract.

President Brown asked for additional information regarding Resolution No. 54-22. Mr. Greenland explained that NEORSD partners with various watershed organizations. There is an Ohio 319 grant program that provides grants for watershed-related activities. There is a need for a local match on these grants and NEORSD is happy to provide it because it benefits the Regional Stormwater System (RSS). Previously, once the award was made, the process was that the watershed entity would pay the invoices and NEORSD would reimburse them. This process was causing problems so it was decided that NEORSD would amend the agreements to allow the partnership entity to review and approve the invoices and send to NEORSD for direct payment to the contractor. The watershed entity is then required to provide proof of payment within thirty days.

Authorization to Assign Contract

Resolution No. 58-22 Authorize the District to assign Contract No. 20006143 with Jordan Industrial, LLC for Industrial Cleaning Services at all Wastewater Treatment Plants and Contract No. 21003490 with Jordan Industrial, LLC for Closed Circuit Television inspection services to Razor Lake Materials, Inc. with all current terms and conditions of the agreements to remain unchanged under the assignments.

MOTION –Mr. Joyce moved, and Mr. Sulik seconded to adopt Resolution No. 58-22. Without objection, the motion carried unanimously.

Property Related Transactions

Resolution No. 59-22 Authorization to appropriate one permanent sewer easement at the property known as PPNs 105-04-021, 105-04-022, 105-04-023, 105-04-024, 105-04-025, 105-04-026, and 105-04-027, located at 5444 and 5456 Lake Court, in the City of Cleveland, owned by The Davis Salvage Co., also known as Davis Salvage Company, necessary for the construction and maintenance of the Shoreline Consolidation Sewer project, and to deposit the compensation of \$5,300.00 with the Cuyahoga County Probate Court.

MOTION – Mr. Sulik moved, and Mayor Bacci seconded to adopt Resolution No. 59-22. After the following discussion, without objection, the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Joyce asked where the property is located. President Brown explained that Lake Court is off of East 55th Street near the Shoreway on-ramp.

Sewer Use Code Matters

Resolution No. 60-22 Authorization to adopt the findings of the Hearing Officer with regard to the sewer account of Fantajia Fayson, Sewer District Hearing No. 21-014, that the customer's request be denied.

MOTION –Mr. Joyce moved, and Mayor Bacci seconded to adopt Resolution No. 60-22. Without objection, the motion carried unanimously.

VI. Information Items

Frank Foley, Director of Operation and Maintenance, provided an update for the fourth quarter of 2021, beginning with safety. There was a total of 266 lost or restricted workdays for 2021, which is a significant improvement from the last several years, likely due to increased focus on safety since 2019. There were five incidents which led to the lost or restricted workdays including two strains, one burn, one cut, and one slip and fall. Mr. Foley provided a graphic demonstrating that one of those incidents was responsible for approximately 70% of those days off.

The DART rate, which is the number of incidents per 100 full-time employees, was 1.02 for 2021, well below the threshold of 2.0.

Regarding effluent quality, effluent suspended solids, carbonaceous biochemical oxygen demand, and phosphorus were below limits for each month of the fourth quarter at all three WWTPs. The *E. coli* densities for October were below NPDES permit limits. October is the only month of the fourth quarter with *E. coli* reporting, as it is only sampled from May 1 through October 31.

Mr. Foley provided an operational summary regarding WWTP effluents for 2021. NEORS D treated a combined total of 77 billion gallons of wastewater at its three WWTPs, down by approximately 10 billion gallons from the year prior. This number is based entirely on flow coming into the plants and weather. NEORS D removed approximately 85 million pounds of total suspended solids, 34 million pounds of carbonaceous biochemical oxygen demand, and 1.3 million pounds of phosphorus.

Effluents are monitored 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. NEORS D is required to meet permit limits 365 days per year. Throughout the course of the year, there are approximately 5,000 compliance points across the WWTPs. These are points in time where the effluent is compared to a standard in the effluent permit limits. For 2021, there were no permit excursions at any of the plants. Mr. Foley added that this is quite the accomplishment as it is not an easy feat. The staff does a great job year in and year out of preventing permit issues. Mr. Foley is anticipating that NEORS D will receive Peak Performance Awards from the National Association of Clean Water Agencies (NACWA) - Gold Awards at both the Easterly and Westerly WWTPs, and a Platinum Award at the

Southerly Plant. A Platinum Award is given only when a plant has zero permit excursions for five consecutive years.

Mr. Foley added that the O&M Department has excellent support from the Board, leadership, and other departments, and offered kudos to the hard-working people of the O&M Department who come to work every day, do their best, and take their jobs seriously.

President Brown offered kudos to O&M Department staff on behalf of the Board noting that this accomplishment is a credit to staff in managing the flows that are subjected to environmental challenges, whether it is heat, storms, or ice melting, and to maintain such a high level of operation is quite an accomplishment.

Mr. Foley then moved his presentation to discuss maintenance and dry weather overflows. During 2021, there were 9 dry weather overflows, down from 11 the previous year. Most of the events were caused by a blockage within the system. In tracking dry weather overflows back to 2009, the totals have been low over the last four years and 9 is the lowest annual total. This is attributable to improvements in the collection system and the maintenance efforts of staff.

The automated collection equipment performed very well in wet weather in 2021. With the exception of one event in April, the wet weather equipment was available 100% of the time in 2021.

Regarding budget performance, there are 10 budget centers within O&M, with a total operating budget of \$62 million, and through this week, approximately \$56.6 million has been spent. Spending for 2022 is in line with spending in 2021.

Mr. Foley invited Tom Madej, Deputy Director of Operation and Maintenance to provide an update.

Mr. Madej indicated that he would be discussing operations and maintenance of the tunnel flow control structures, specifically on the east side.

One of the benefits of Project Clean Lake and the tunnels associated with the Dugway and Euclid Creek Tunnels was the elimination of regulators. The regulators are involved in dry and wet weather overflows. The regulators provide a relief point during wet weather events and discharge into a waterway. Project Clean Lake eliminated that discharge. Now, as opposed to discharging to a waterway, it goes to a tunnel. This provides significant benefits to the environment and there are fewer assets for NEORS to maintain.

Project Clean Lake added an additional 197 assets. Dugway Storage Tunnel added 22, Doan Valley Tunnel has 25, and Euclid Creek Tunnel has 19. There are some ancillary projects, consolidated sewers, and other projects that added 131 assets related strictly to the tunnels.

One of the assets of the tunnels are flow control structures. The flow structures provide three benefits: an entry point to the tunnel; controlling the flow into the tunnel; and cleaning debris from the water going into the tunnel.

Mr. Madej provided images demonstrating how the flow goes through the primary bar rack, into the grit sump area, through the wedge and eventually, into the tunnel. The primary bar rack catches larger debris. The wedge wire catches smaller debris and if it gets covered with debris and blocked, there is a floatable bar rack that captures floatable debris and allows flow into the tunnel. There is also a gate at some locations that controls flow into the tunnel.

Mr. Madej provided photos depicting a bar rake and a tunnel dewatering pump station with staff removing debris from the rake as well as a jet vac removing debris. Maintenance and cleaning decisions are made by the supervisor as to when the debris needs to be removed. It is very labor and maintenance intensive. Mr. Madej next showed photos illustrating the size of the Euclid Creek Tunnel No. 2 Site and maintenance being performed.

In 2020, 63,000 pounds of debris was removed from the Euclid Creek Tunnel and 79,000 pounds of debris was removed from the Dugway Storage Tunnel. In 2021, 77,000 pounds of debris was removed from the Euclid Creek Tunnel and 115,000 pounds of debris was removed from the Dugway Storage Tunnel, stopping a total of 330,000 pounds of debris from being released into the environment during the two-year period.

The Tunnel Dewatering Pump Station is operated by the Easterly WWTP. In 2018, 156 million gallons of CSO was pumped from the tunnel, followed by 172 million gallons in 2019, 616 million gallons in 2020, and 434 million gallons in 2021.

The Dugway Storage Tunnel came online in 2020, followed by the Doan Valley Storage Tunnel in 2021. This resulted in 1.4 billion gallons of CSO being pumped from the tunnels during that timeframe.

President Brown offered that the CSO is getting a level of treatment rather than being dumped directly into the waterways as it was previously. Mr. Madej confirmed that is correct.

Mr. Madej provided photographs of the Dugway Storage site from the street level demonstrating the park-like amenities that the site provides to the community. Site maintenance is performed by the Sewer System Maintenance and Operation (SSMO) Department.

Kevin Zebrowski is the Superintendent of Maintenance Services and is the operator of record for the collection system, meaning that he has reporting responsibilities to the EPA. Karen Sokolow is the Assistance Superintendent of Maintenance Services. SSMO is a department within Maintenance Services, with Eric Tanko serving as the Department Manager, with five supervisors beneath him: Joshua Dress, Greg Mitchell, Dave Glisic, Brian Stapleton, and Stacy Juby, with 42

other staff. They are the group responsible for the maintenance and operations of the collection system. Mr. Madej offered kudos and appreciation to the group for the work that they perform, and a special thank you to Lou Zigmund for assisting with the presentation.

Mr. Foley recognized Tracey Phelps, Deputy Director of Operation and Maintenance at the Southerly WWTP, for his work in earning the Platinum Award for five consecutive years without permit compliance issues. President Brown offered kudos on behalf of the Board.

Open Session

There were no items.

VII. Public Session (any subject matter)

There were no items.

VIII. Executive Session

There were no items.

IX. Approval of Items from Executive Session


There were no items.

X. 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 1:18 p.m. Without objection, the motion carried unanimously.



Timothy J. DeGester, Secretary
Board of Trustees
Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District



Darnell Brown, President
Board of Trustees
Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District