

MINUTES  
NORTHEAST OHIO REGIONAL SEWER DISTRICT  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING  
FEBRUARY 20, 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  
Jack Bacci  
Sharon Dumas  
Samuel Alai  
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 February 6, 2025 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 NEORS has organized the Northeast Ohio Storm Event Collaborative as part of its ongoing efforts related to significant weather event readiness. The Collaborative was developed and is led by George Remias, Manager of Stormwater Strategic Support, and brings together NEORS, its member communities, and local partners such as the staff from the Rocky River Wastewater Treatment Plant, Ohio Emergency Management Agency, Ohio Department of Transportation, U.S. Geological Survey, and the National Weather Service, to share resources and improve insights to reduce public safety risks. NEORS hosted its second annual meeting on February 7<sup>th</sup> with approximately 20 participants. NEORS will continue to convene the group and invite new members into the conversation. Ms. Dreyfuss-Wells thanked Mr. Remias for his efforts.

On Saturday, February 8<sup>th</sup>, NEORSD held its first Utility Assistance Resource Fair of 2025 at Tri-C's Eastern Campus and served over 200 families. The event was staffed by 43 NEORSD employees who worked throughout the day to provide services in partnership with City of Cleveland Division of Water, Embridge, First Energy and other organizations. Ms. Dreyfuss-Wells thanked the customers, staff, partners, and Tri-C for the ongoing collaboration. The next Utility Assistance Resource Fair will be held on March 22<sup>nd</sup> at the Arnold Pinkey Professional Center.

NEORSD held its first employee recognition event of the year last week. Each quarter, employees and teams are recognized for their great work across the District with events at each facility. Additionally, new employees, promotions, and achievements are recognized and updates regarding projects and policies are provided. This quarter's event included recognition for support with IT issues, efforts to replace the deaeration tanks at the Easterly Wastewater Treatment Plant, updating the performance management software, managing high flow events, better tracking of data, construction management and coordination, and reducing downtime at the incinerators. Ms. Dreyfuss-Wells thanked Angela Smith, Employee Engagement Specialist, for organizing the events.

V. Action Items

Authorization to Advertise

Resolution No. 29-25                      Authorization to publish notice calling for bids, in accordance with Ohio Revised Code Section 6119.10, for the Easterly VRF Condensing Unit Replacement project with an estimated probable construction cost of \$200,000.00.

Resolution No. 30-25                      Authorization to publish notice calling for bids, in accordance with Ohio Revised Code Section 6119.10, for a public improvement contract to construct the MCT-3 Shaft 13 Flow Drop project with an estimated probable construction cost of \$2,000,000.00.

**MOTION** – Mayor Alai moved, and Ms. Dumas seconded to adopt Resolution Nos. 29-25 through 30-25. After the following discussion, without objection, the motion carried unanimously.

President Brown requested an explanation as to why there is a request to exceed the usual engineer's estimate target of 10% to 20% for the project associated with Resolution No. 30-25. Doug Lopata, Program Manager of Planning and Design, explained that the project will provide capacity relief to the interceptor along Broadway Avenue and the Mill Creek area, and will allow NEORSD to remove some facilities from its system and allow a connection from Maple Heights in the future. NEORSD's Bylaws allow for a bid within 20% of the engineer's estimate to be awarded and recently this has been the approach for smaller projects. This provides more flexibility in the event of an abnormal bid or changes in the bidding market. Recent projects have been awarded very close to the published estimates, and we encourage the engineers to keep their pencils sharp.

Authorization to Purchase

Resolution No. 31-25                      Authorization to purchase portable atmospheric gas meters from sole source vendor Blackline Safety, Inc. in an amount not-to-exceed \$180,000.00.

**MOTION** – Mr. Sulik moved, and Ms. Chambers seconded to adopt Resolution No. 31-25. After the following discussion, without objection, the motion carried unanimously.

President Brown asked why this is a sole source purchase from this vendor when there are other similar devices on the market. Matt Scharver, Director of Watershed Programs, explained that NEORS D committed to Blackline Safety with the purchase of the original 350 atmospheric gas monitors and software package and is requesting authorization for the replacement of 250 units. NEORS D currently has 350 monitors, which are important safety devices for staff working in the collection system, confined spaces, and at the wastewater treatment plants. NEORS D is satisfied with the software package and the customer service provided by Blackline Safety. Purchasing the 250 replacement units allows NEORS D to avoid disrupting our current system integration and having to purchase an entire new package of software and metering equipment monitors.

Authorization to Assign Agreement

Resolution No. 32-25                      Authorization to assign Agreement No. 23007753 with CT Consultants, Inc. for the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act-Funded Member Community Sewer Improvements project to Verdantas, LLC, following its acquisition of CT Consultants, Inc., with all current terms and conditions of the agreement to remain unchanged under the assignment.

**MOTION** – Mayor Bacci moved, and Ms. Dumas seconded to adopt Resolution No. 32-25. Without objection, the motion carried unanimously.

Authorization to Enter Into Contract

Resolution No. 33-25                      Authorization to enter into a public improvement contract with Ohio Paving and Construction Co., Inc. for Southerly Wastewater Treatment Center 2025 Paving Improvements in an amount not-to-exceed \$182,870.64.

Resolution No. 34-25                      Authorization to enter into a two-year requirement contract with Reworld Tron Corp. for regulated waste disposal services in an amount not-to-exceed \$215,198.23.

**MOTION** – Mayor Bacci moved, and Ms. Dumas seconded to adopt Resolution Nos. 33-25 through 34-25. Without objection, the motion carried unanimously.

Property Related Transaction

- Resolution No. 35-25                      Authorization to acquire one subterranean easement, two permanent sewer easements, one permanent access easement, and four temporary easements at the property known as PPN 125-13-001, located at 6880 Sidaway Avenue, in the City of Cleveland, and one temporary easement at the property known as PPN 124-21-007, located on Kinsman Road, in the City of Cleveland, and one permanent sewer easement and one temporary easement at the property known as PPNs 124-22-009 and 124-23-010, located on Grand Avenue, in the City of Cleveland, all owned by the Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority, necessary for the construction and maintenance of the Kingsbury Run Consolidation Sewer project with total consideration of \$93,544.00.
- Resolution No. 36-25                      Declaration of intent to appropriate one subterranean easement at the property known as PPN 125-12-138, located at 3077 East 67<sup>th</sup> Street, in the City of Cleveland, owned by Terry and Brianna Denham, necessary for the construction and maintenance of the Kingsbury Run Consolidation Sewer project, and to provide for the consideration of \$300.00 determined by the fair market value to be deposited with the Cuyahoga County Probate Court.
- Resolution No. 37-25                      Declaration of intent to appropriate one subterranean easement at the property known as PPN 125-12-137, located at 3081 East 67<sup>th</sup> Street, in the City of Cleveland, owned by Teresa M. Bragg, necessary for the construction and maintenance of the Kingsbury Run Consolidation Sewer project, and to provide for the consideration of \$400.00 determined by the fair market value to be deposited with the Cuyahoga County Probate Court.
- Resolution No. 38-25                      Declaration of intent to appropriate one subterranean easement and one permanent sewer easement at the property known as PPN 127-02-007, located at 3135 East 79<sup>th</sup> Street, in the City of Cleveland, owned by Abed Abuhamdeh, necessary for the construction and maintenance of the Kingsbury Run Consolidation Sewer project, and to provide for the consideration of \$1,550.00 determined by the fair market value to be deposited with the Cuyahoga County Probate Court.

**MOTION** – Mr. Sulik moved, and Ms. Dumas seconded to adopt Resolution Nos. 35-25 through 38-25. Without objection, the motion carried unanimously.

Hearing Officer Findings and Recommendations

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|----------------------|---|
| Resolution No. 39-25 | Adopting the findings and recommendations of the Hearing Officer regarding the sewer account of Alpha Plaza Investments, Ltd. ending in 0004, Sewer District Hearing No. 24-012, that the customer's request be denied.         |
| Resolution No. 40-25 | Adopting the findings and recommendations of the Hearing Officer regarding the stormwater accounts of B&B Property Development ending in 9336 and 7633, Sewer District Hearing No. 24-019, that no further adjustments be made. |
| Resolution No. 41-25 | Adopting the findings and recommendations of the Hearing Officer regarding the sewer account of Edward Turk ending in 0002, Sewer District Hearing No. 24-021, that the customer's request be denied.                           |

**MOTION** – Ms. Chambers moved, and Mayor Alai seconded to adopt Resolution Nos. 39-25 through 41-25. Without objection, the motion carried unanimously.

VI. Information Items

Mr. Lopata began the Capital Improvement Program (CIP) update for January 2025 with an overview of cashflow as it relates to the year ahead. Mr. Lopata noted that this year's planned cash flow of \$245 million is, to date, the highest throughout the program, which is above the ten-year average of \$195 million, and displayed a graphic showing ten years of projected cash flow. The cash flow is related to the prior year's contract awards, with the 2024 total contract award at \$400 million, which is being spent in 2025 on large projects such as the Southerly Tunnel and Consolidation project, the Westerly Chemically Enhanced High-Rate Treatment project, and the Shoreline Storage Tunnel, which is nearing completion in 2025. The planned contract awards for 2025 total \$192 million, which is close to the average of \$206 million over the prior ten-year period and is mostly driven by the \$105 million Kingsbury Run project that is anticipated to be awarded at the upcoming March 6<sup>th</sup> Board meeting.

Mr. Lopata moved on to Design and noted that two professional services projects have already been awarded: the District Wide Elevator Modernization project and the Easterly District Capacity Improvements project. In March, they will be followed by the CSO Consent Decree and NPDES Performance Compliance Phase III project, the Easterly Tunnel Dewatering and Division Avenue

Pump Station Improvements, the CSO-203 Relocation project, and the next project in the Big Creek Tunnel system, the BCSO-II Consolidation sewer project. Finally, the first tunnel inspection contract for the Mill Creek Tunnel is anticipated to be awarded towards the end of 2025.

In construction awards, \$172 million will be awarded, including the Easterly Actuators and the Westerly Admin Room and Window Improvements projects, as well as the Kingsbury Run Consolidation Sewer project, which will be around \$104 million, coming in right around the engineer's estimate. The Westerly Sludge Handling Improvements project was also recently bid with a low bid of \$17.6 million. Mr. Lopata noted other upcoming construction projects including the Southerly Regulators and Relief Sewer project, the final in the Southerly district, which will clean up regulators and relief sewers that go along with the Southerly Tunnel, and the Kingsbury Asset Renewal project that plans to rehabilitate the vast Kingsbury network for \$12 million. Also upcoming are the District Wide HVAC Upgrade Phase 3 project and the Southerly Fluidized Bed Incinerator No. 1 Refractory Replacement project, which is part of the Renewable Energy Facility.

Mr. Lopata moved on to Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) with the MCT-3 Shaft 13 Flow Drop project, which was completed within sixty days of planned, meeting the KPI, with an in-house design by a General Engineering Services consultant. The design intercepts flow and diverts it into the Mill Creek Tunnel with a construction cost around \$2 million. The Easterly Actuators and Skimmings Collection Trough project met the KPI for design completion within sixty days of planned and the KPI for the engineer's estimate being within 10% of the three lowest bids and was awarded at \$2.2 million. The West Park CSO Improvements project met the KPI for construction closeout within ninety days of the original contract date and eliminated one CSO as well as fixed some lateral sanitary connections and reduced stormwater by offloading it from the combined sewer system, achieving substantial completion in early January. Finally, the Southerly Tunnel Dewatering Pump Station Electrical Service project met the KPI for construction contract closeout within 95% of the original contract amount and will provide electrical services from the Southerly Wastewater Treatment Center to the Southerly Tunnel and Consolidation project and the Southerly Tunnel Dewatering Pump Station. The Southerly Tunnel Dewatering Pump Station Electrical Service project also met the KPI for Business Opportunity Program (BOP) goals, exceeding the 15% goal with MBE/WBE actuals at 16.13%. Mr. Lopata also noted that the project finished within 95% of the total contract amount with work orders of 4.47% due to differing site conditions in the excavation that was done on the EMSC property.

For the District Wide Electrical Repair project, it was not within 95% of the original contract value due to additional scope items that the Board approved relating to the Easterly Tunnel Dewatering Pump Station Air Handling Unit, and the KPI was not met. Additionally, it did not meet the BOP KPI due to a lack of SBE participation, despite a large MBE/WBE allocation. The work orders for the project finished at 15% of the construction value, which does include the \$400,000 Board authorized change order for an additional air handling unit at the Easterly Tunnel Dewatering Pump Station.

President Brown advised that the Investment Advisor Performance Report for the 12-month period ending December 31, 2024 was contained in the meeting materials and any questions should be directed to Ken Duplay, Chief Financial Officer. President Brown then invited Mr. Duplay to provide the 2024 Year-End Review and 2025 Budget Preview.

Mr. Duplay began by comparing the 2024 actuals to the rate study numbers. This was the third year of the rate study for the years 2022 through 2026, and the majority of the work for the rate study was completed in 2020 and 2021.

Beginning with revenue, NEORSD is approximately \$39 million over projections, primarily because this is the fourth consecutive year of consumption being better than the budgeted target. There is a historical decline of 2% per year in consumption, which is built into the projections. In 2024, there was a 0.95% decline in consumption. Mr. Duplay provided a graphic demonstrating consumption history going back to 1986 and explained that the last time there were four consecutive years with less than 2% reduction in consumption, 2014 to 2017, those years were bookended by 4% to 5% declines in consumption. It is very difficult to predict; however, the average is still 1.9% decline. This will be closely reviewed in the next rate study period, with a focus on the prior ten years and assumptions may be adjusted.

President Brown asked what the driving force is for the changes in consumption patterns. Mr. Duplay explained that it is not specific to a customer class and is likely due to the slower rate of decline in service area population. The number of customer accounts has been relatively flat for the past ten years. Additionally, especially early in this timeframe, there was a trend towards more efficient water fixtures.

In comparing operating expenses to the rate study, spending is nearly \$11 million below projected. Some areas are over rate study projections, such as salaries, which are approximately \$500,000 over, as the actual annual salary increases have been above the long-term year over year projected increase of 3%. This has been the case since coming out of the pandemic and the ensuing hiring environment. Similarly, electricity was over the projection by nearly \$1.5 million due to higher-than-expected rates in the current contract. Materials and supplies were \$4.1 million above the rate study projection due to inflation in costs of chemical supplies, general hardware, and inventory items. These costs are offset by the items that are under projection, the most significant being benefits at \$7.2 million less than the projection due to slower growth in healthcare claims. Additionally, professional services are \$4.7 million below projections and contractual services are approximately \$2.6 million below projections.

Capital expenditures in 2024 were approximately \$60.2 million below the rate study projection. This is primarily due to schedule adjustments related to the Easterly Chemically Enhanced High-Rate Treatment Facility project, which had \$40.7 million in construction costs allocated and has now gone back to redesign following negotiations with the EPA.

Debt service is approximately \$34 million lower than projected in the rate study, primarily due to securing very large loans for the Shoreline Storage Tunnel and Westerly Chemically Enhanced High-Rate Treatment Facility projects with interest rates below 2%, combined with refundings of bonds in 2021 and 2024 and bond defeasance transactions in 2021, 2022, and 2024.

Mr. Duplay then moved on to comparing the 2024 budget to actuals and explained that in 2024, NEORSD increased its billing rates by 4.2% and actual revenue is within 1% of budget. NEORSD's revenue is 99.4% customer charges, and a very small portion, roughly \$1.4 million, is generated by septic hauling fees.

Operating expenses are approximately \$12.8 million under the budget of \$150.4 million for sanitary sewer. This is net of capitalized labor charged to projects as well as indirect cost allocation to the stormwater program. Areas where there are variances from the budget for 2024 included salaries and wages, which are \$3.4 million below budget due to open positions from natural change in staffing levels. The biggest drivers were in the areas of maintenance hourly \$1.1 million under budget and protective services which was approximately \$400,000 under budget. Benefits were \$2.1 million lower than budgeted due to good healthcare claims results and unused OPERS budget for open positions. Utility costs overall were \$400,000 below budget despite electricity costs being \$400,000 over budget.

Professional services costs were \$3 million below budget, primarily due to the \$1 million budgeted for the Southerly Onsite Solar Study that was determined to be fiscally unsound and therefore not performed.

Contractual services spending was \$3.2 million under budget as collection fees were \$1 million under budget due to the pending contract renewal with the City of Cleveland to serve as NEORSD's collection agent. There were net savings in solids handling of \$700,000 due to dry weather and lower than anticipated actual sludge hauling rates.

Capitalized labor, which is engineering salary charged to our capital projects that reduces our operating expenses, was \$1 million over budget. Engineering and Construction charged more time to capital projects so that additional \$1 million also reduced the net operating expenses below budget.

Mr. Duplay provided a breakdown of the \$150 million gross operating expenses, with large categories including: salaries and benefits with a combined total of \$85.9 million, equating to 57% of the budget and consistent with prior years; utilities total \$14.7 million; professional services total \$5.3 million; contractual services total \$20.7 million; and materials and supplies totaling \$18.2 million. Mr. Duplay provided a graphic demonstrating historical budgeted to actual spending and explained that beginning in 2023 is where inflation impacting salaries and supplies becomes evident.



Regarding capital spending, just over \$225 million was spent on capital projects and 2024 was over budget for capital spending; however, that is not indicative of overspending. Rather, projects were moving ahead of schedule and funds were spent sooner than expected. Some of the largest expenditures for the year include the Southerly Storage Tunnel of about \$59.9 million, the Shoreline Storage Tunnel at \$37.0 million, and the Westerly Chemically Enhanced High-Rate Treatment Facility at \$34.4 million.

As is typical, the CSO long-term control plan drives the capital program with \$120.7 million. Just over 50% of the capital plan was for CSO long-term control projects. According to plan, this year NEORSD spent a significant amount of cash on the capital program. The combined CIP funding of NEORSD funds, interest income and the capitalized labor, all paid for with NEORSD cash, no borrowings, represented just under 70% of the capital expenditures for 2024. As for the loan-funded projects, the biggest projects there are the Shoreline Storage Tunnel and the Westerly Chemically Enhanced High-Rate Treatment Facility. The largest self-funded projects are the Southerly Storage Tunnel and the Southerly Second Stage Aeration Improvement projects. Additionally, NEORSD spent \$5.3 million on minor capital, which includes directly purchased vehicles, IT projects and other smaller capital projects.

In comparing debt service budget to actuals, it is slightly under budget. The Sewer District currently has just under \$1.9 billion in debt; \$900 million in bonds and \$1 billion in loans. The 2024 bond refunding activities resulted in net present value savings of \$4.1 million and eliminated \$10.3 million in future Build America Bonds (BABS) subsidy risk. NEORSD's strong bond ratings were affirmed this year by both Moody's and Standard and Poor's. Additionally, Standard and Poor's upgraded their outlook on the Sewer District to "Positive," indicating there is a chance that it could be upgraded to AAA in the future. As for the 2024 bond defeasance, NEORSD spent cash on hand of \$34.9 million to refund \$42.3 million of its 2020 bonds, resulting in an additional \$12.4 million net present value savings. NEORSD is well above its minimum targets for debt service coverage of 2 times for bond debt service and 1.5 times on total debt service.

President Brown noted that NEORSD is approximately halfway through its Consent Decree requirements which have heavily relied upon Water Pollution Control Loan Fund (WPCLF) funding and asked if that is going to continue to be the case going forward. Mr. Duplay answered affirmatively indicating that the State of Ohio has signaled that the WPCLF program will continue as planned. However, NEORSD does not intend to initiate a new loan until 2026 and will continue to monitor the program closely.

President Brown asked, as it relates to the Operation and Maintenance side of the Consent Decree, whether there are facility assessments and tasks of that nature budgeted for the next few years. Devona Marshall, Chief Operating Officer, explained that the CIP currently has some placeholders for repair and replacement type work at NEORSD facilities. There are still some projects to be completed from the 2008 facilities plan at the wastewater treatment plants and there will be

appropriate budgeting and planning included in the next rate study to ensure funding for the necessary projects in the coming years.

Ms. Dumas commented that it is wonderful to see revenue come in higher, and expenses come in lower than anticipated unless it is associated with the rate study, as the higher numbers are used to establish the rates, and this should be kept in mind going forward. Mr. Duplay explained that the next round of rate study activities will begin in the fall, and he anticipates presenting the proposed rates to the Board in early 2026.

President Brown added that the lessons learned about what impacts the rate structure has been positive and it is imperative to ensure that the assumptions made for the next rate study term are valid and NEORS is cognizant of the need not only to comply with the Consent Decree but also to be sensitive to the impact on the customers and organization, as there is still much work to be done.

Mr. Duplay added in response to Ms. Dumas that the 2025 proposed budget, which will be presented at the Finance Committee Meeting, is below the rate study number. Given the way that the actuals have trended over time, NEORS made a concerted effort to reduce the proposed budget to a lower level than the rate study number.

Mr. Duplay then transitioned to Stormwater, beginning by comparing spending to the rate study projections. Revenue is \$600,000 above the rate study projection. Operating expenses were \$28.9 million, which was lower than projected, but offset by higher expenditures in capital and an additional \$7.5 million in grant refunded expenditures.

In comparing Stormwater budget to actuals, revenue was slightly above budget. Total operating expenditures were \$15.1 million under budget, with professional services being \$2.7 million below budget and contractual services being \$12.4 million below budget due to a number of member community projects that were delayed for various reasons. In total, the operating expenses of \$28.9 million combined with \$7.5 million in grant funded expenses brings spending to 80% of planned operating expense budget.

Capital spending was \$16.1 million, or 7.2% below budget. The largest expenditures for Stormwater capital spending were the Chippewa Flood Reduction Project Near Echo Lane of \$7.4 million and then various land acquisitions of \$5.9 million.

Stormwater revenue totaled \$50.9 million, with \$50 million of that billed through billing agents and the remainder direct billed by NEORS.

Actual expenditures totaled \$24.4 million before \$4.5 million in indirect costs from sanitary sewer and approximately \$3,000 in capitalized labor. Contractual services totaled \$12.4 million primarily comprised of the West Creek Stabilization in Brooklyn Heights for \$9.8 million; Baldwin Creek

Bonnie Banks Basin for \$2.1 million; and the Upper Ridgewood Basin for \$460,000. Professional services totaled \$7.8 million with projects including the Doan Brook Restoration Horseshoe Lake project of \$1.5 million and Stormwater Model data Management project for \$1.3 million. These breakdowns are typical for prior years as well. When including the grant funding received in 2024, it brings the total to \$36.4 million, the highest year of expenditures for Stormwater since 2019.

Mr. Duplay provided financial overview summary slides and explained that, specifically for sanitary sewer, cash is down \$11.4 million in 2024 due to exceptional performance in the capital plan and the use of funds for the defeasance transaction; \$156.2 million of cash was spent on capital. The capital account balance is \$429.1 million.

Mr. Duplay advised that the Investment Advisory Report was included in the meeting materials and explained that NEORSD's investments total \$565.8 million with a 4.87% rate of return for 2024.

The key financial metrics are all on track and of note, NEORSD has been spending down its cash balance as planned, with the most significant spending to occur in 2025 and 2026 which anticipates spending \$470 million to cash fund a total of \$560 million in CIP projects and incur approximately \$100 million in debt. President Brown voiced approval of the spending plan.

President Brown noted that it is good to see revenues exceeding projection and expenses less than projected and he believes that 2025 will be a critical year for NEORSD financially. Mr. Duplay agreed and added that the 2025 plan will be outlined at the Finance Committee meeting.

Mr. Duplay closed with a brief preview of the 2025 proposed budget beginning with wastewater. NEORSD is anticipating a 2% increase in operating revenue; a 2.7% increase in operating expenses; a 25% increase in net capital expenditures; and debt service will increase to \$114.6 million.

As for stormwater, NEORSD is anticipating a 4.2% increase in revenue and a decline in operating expenditures and capital expenditures. There are several very large projects slated for 2026 and 2027 that will require a slow in spending to accumulate funds as NEORSD does not take out debt for stormwater projects.

NEORSD met all of its financial benchmarks for 2024. It continued its implementation of the plan to use more cash for CIP projects. The 2025 proposed budget is supported by revenue projections, and long-term, it is anticipated that the rate study projections will also be met.

The Finance Committee meeting will be held on Monday, March 10<sup>th</sup> and the proposed budget will be presented to the Board to request approval at the March 20<sup>th</sup> Board meeting.

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 the subject of pending and/or imminent court action. By roll call vote, the Board voted unanimously to enter into executive session at 1:38 p.m.


The Board returned to open session at 2:20 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 2:20 p.m. Without objection, the motion carried unanimously.



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



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