

MINUTES
NORTHEAST OHIO REGIONAL SEWER DISTRICT
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
June 1, 2023

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 Ronald Sulik.

I. Roll Call

Present: Ronald Sulik
Timothy DeGeeter
Jack Bacci
Sharon Dumas
Samuel Alai
Marjorie Chambers

Absent: Darnell Brown

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

II. Approval of Minutes

MOTION – Mayor Bacci moved, and Mayor Alai seconded to approve the Minutes of the May 18, 2023 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 that on May 22 and 23, NEORS hosted workshops for member communities to provide information about the Water Pollution Control Loan Fund (WPCLF). The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) will contribute additional funds to WPCLF over the next four years, with approximately half of those funds required to be administered as grants to disadvantaged communities. Twenty-two of NEORS's member communities are designated as disadvantaged communities under the program.

The workshops were open to all NEORS member communities and included question and answer sessions with Ohio EPA's Division of Financial and Environmental Assistance, which manages the WPCLF program. The seventeen member communities in attendance were a combination of disadvantaged and non-disadvantaged. NEORS's goal is to maximize the use of the funds

available to the member communities over the next four years and beyond. NEORSD will reach out to communities to discuss their upcoming projects and offer assistance with completing applications for funding, which are due to Ohio EPA on August 31, 2023.

On May 24, NEORSD joined the Cleveland Metroparks, Ohio EPA, U.S. Coast Guard, the Lake Carriers' Association, and other organizations to kick off the start of summer on the Cuyahoga River and Cleveland's waterfront at the Share the River event. The event also celebrated the Cuyahoga River being named the 2023 best urban kayaking location by USA Today readers. NEORSD was able to highlight its role in improving the water quality of the Cuyahoga River and in the region.

Beginning May 21, and continuing until September 3, NEORSD is participating with Cleveland Metroparks and other stakeholders in the Forest Hill Park Fun Days. East Cleveland invited Cleveland Metroparks to get involved in the East Cleveland portion of Forest Hill Park and potentially assume the day-to-day park maintenance, infrastructure management, and resource management. Forest Hill Park is split between the Cities of East Cleveland and Cleveland Heights. These events are part of an effort to connect with park users, and NEORSD is participating specifically because there is an ODNR Class 1 dam on Dugway Brook in the park that NEORSD is responsible for the inspection and maintenance of under the Regional Stormwater Management Program, and the Dugway Brook Forest Hill Park Dam Modification Project is underway.

V. Action Items

Authorization to Purchase

Resolution No. 142-23 Authorization to purchase Polychem metallic sludge collector replacement parts, as-needed, from sole source vendor Pelton Environmental Products for the Primary Settling Tanks used at the Easterly and Southerly Wastewater Treatment Plants in a total amount not-to-exceed \$220,000.00.

Resolution No. 143-23 Authorization to purchase postage and business reply mailings for Cost-Saving Program mailings and annual mailings from sole source vendor United States Postal Service for the period June 1, 2023 through December 31, 2023 in an amount not-to-exceed \$75,000.00.

MOTION – Ms. Chambers moved, and Ms. Dumas seconded to adopt Resolution Nos. 142-23 through 143-22. Without objection, the motion carried unanimously.

Authorization to Enter Into Agreement

Resolution No. 144-23 Authorization to enter into a two-year agreement with JSI Janitorial, LLC for janitorial services at the George J. McMonagle building, Environmental and Maintenance Services Center, and Fleet Services facilities in an amount not-to-exceed \$625,000.00.

Resolution No. 145-23 Authorization to enter into the General Engineering Services – Civil, Structural and Architectural (GES-12) professional services agreement with Osborn Engineering for task-order based, as needed, evaluation and design services, in an amount not-to-exceed \$1,500,000.00.

MOTION – Mayor Alai moved, and Ms. Chambers seconded to adopt Resolution Nos. 144-23 through 145-23. After the following discussion, without objection, the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Sulik noted that, regarding Resolution No. 144-23, there were nineteen prospective vendors that could bid on the project but only four bids were received and asked if there was any follow-up to determine why some vendors did not bid.

Frank Foley, Director of Operation and Maintenance, explained that it is not clear in the resolution request that there are only eight BOP certified firms that were available for this contract, but each of them is certified in multiple ways, which makes the count confusing. NEORS sent the proposal to those eight firms as well as another four firms. Staff reached out to the nonresponsive firms to ask why they did not submit proposals. Four firms indicated that they did not have staff dedicated specifically to janitorial and cleaning services, one was unable to take on additional work, one missed the deadline to submit, and one believed that the level of work required under the contract would make their rates too high to be competitive.

Authorization to Enter Into Contract

Resolution No. 146-23 Authorization to enter into a two-year requirement contract with Star Concrete & Construction Company for Westside Stream Sediment and Debris Removal services west of the Cuyahoga River in an amount not-to-exceed \$1,263,893.40.

Resolution No. 147-23 Authorization to enter into a construction contract with Sterling Professional Group for the Southerly Training Center Renovation project in an amount not-to-exceed \$718,940.00.

MOTION – Mayor Bacci moved, and Ms. Dumas seconded to adopt Resolution Nos. 146-23 through 147-23. After the following discussion, without objection, the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Sulik noted that, regarding Resolution No. 146-23, twenty-eight vendors were notified of the upcoming project but only three bids were received and asked whether there was any follow-up to determine why more contractors did not submit bids.

Frank Greenland, Director of Watershed Programs, explained that there has been no follow-up with potential contractors on this project because sediment and debris removal is highly specialized work. Since 2018, this contract has been bid out five times and NEORS D typically receives three to four bids. NEORS D notified BOP vendors that the Office of Contract Compliance identified which could provide the services. Since 2018, nineteen total bidders, eleven of which are BOP certified, have submitted bids for the project. Each of the contract winners are BOP certified. Mr. Sulik added that maybe more could be done to extend opportunities for these companies.

Authorization to Modify Contract

Resolution No. 148-23 Authorizing final adjusting change order for Contract No. 22005883 with Eclipse Co., LLC for the Stafford Basin Inlet Modifications project to decrease the contract amount by \$26,574.26, thereby bringing the total contract amount to \$289,963.04.

MOTION – Mayor Bacci moved, and Ms. Dumas seconded to adopt Resolution No. 148-23. Without objection, the motion carried unanimously.

Property Related Transaction

Resolution No. 149-23 Authorization to acquire one permanent stormwater easement at the property known as PPN 455-27-001, located on Sierra Oval, in the City of Parma, owned by the West Creek Conservancy, necessary for the construction and maintenance of the Big Creek Restoration Near Ridge Road in Parma project with total consideration of \$10.00.

Resolution No. 150-23 Authorization to acquire one permanent stormwater easement at the property known as PPN 455-27-024, located at 7612 Hidden Valley Circle, in the City of Parma, owned by Stan Gabric, also known as Stanley Gabric and Heidi Gabric, necessary for the construction and maintenance of the Big Creek Restoration Near Ridge Road in Parma project with total consideration of \$154,000.00.

Resolution No. 151-23 Authorization to acquire one permanent stormwater easement and one temporary easement at the property known as PPN 455-26-022, located at 7576 Hidden Valley Lane, in the City of Parma, owned by Mary M. Heckelmoser, necessary for the construction and maintenance of the Big Creek Restoration Near Ridge Road in Parma project with total consideration of \$50,000.00.

MOTION –Ms. Chambers moved, and Mayor Alai seconded to adopt Resolution Nos. 149-23 through 151-23. Without objection, the motion carried unanimously.

Hearing Officer Findings and Recommendations

Resolution No. 152-23 Authorization to adopt the findings and recommendations of the Hearing Officer with regard to the sewer account of Annie Joyce Evans ending in 0001, Sewer District Hearing No. 23-002, that no adjustments be made.

MOTION – Ms. Dumas moved, and Mayor Bacci seconded to adopt Resolution No. 152-23. Without objection, the motion carried unanimously.

Authorization to Grant Credit

Resolution No. 153-23 Authorizing the District to issue a credit adjustment in the total amount of \$44,135.92 against sewer charges on the account ending in 0001 to Lukuch Investments, LLC at 6611 Smith Road, Cleveland.

Resolution No. 154-23 Authorizing the District to issue a credit adjustment in the total amount of \$39,897.62 against sewer charges on the account ending in 6323 to Pinecrest Development at 211 Park Avenue, Orange Village.

MOTION – Mayor Bacci moved, and Ms. Chambers seconded to adopt Resolution Nos. 153-23 through 154-23. Without objection, the motion carried unanimously.

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 – Vice President Sulik stated business having been concluded, he would entertain a motion to adjourn. Mayor Bacci moved, and Ms. Dumas seconded the motion to adjourn at 12:45 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