

MINUTES
NORTHEAST OHIO REGIONAL SEWER DISTRICT
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
SEPTEMBER 16, 2021

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
Jack Bacci
Timothy DeGeeter
Sharon Dumas
Samuel Alai
Terence Joyce

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 September 2, 2021, 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's ongoing COVID-19 pandemic response and informed the Board that NEORS staff has four active COVID-19 cases, and one employee with COVID-19-like symptoms awaiting test results. There are currently no employees remaining at home because a member of their household tested positive. There has been a total of ninety-nine employees with confirmed diagnoses since the beginning of the pandemic, ninety-five of whom have recovered and returned to work.

Ms. Dreyfuss-Wells provided an update regarding the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) funding for customer assistance for water, sewer, and stormwater utility bills which was approved in the COVID-19 relief bills. The State of Ohio submitted its plan for the use of the funds to HHS on August 9, and approval is expected this fall. None of the money has yet become

available for customer assistance. NEORSD will continue working with the state, CHN Housing Partners, and others to assist eligible customers in obtaining assistance.

Regarding potential infrastructure funding, the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee's Reconciliation Bill contains approximately \$2 billion of direct appropriations to U.S. EPA's Sewer Overflow and Storm Water Reuse Municipal Grants Program. This is a grants program that has been around for quite some time and has always been funded at very low levels. This is a significant increase in funding to an existing grant program. NEORSD is working with the Ohio delegation to ensure that they understand the importance of moving the funds forward.

Regarding the bipartisan infrastructure bill that passed the Senate in August and is awaiting the House vote, there is approximately \$1 trillion in that package, of which \$55 billion is for water-related infrastructure. It is expected that much of the funding will run through the existing state-revolving loan fund program. NEORSD is working with Ohio EPA to determine how that money can come into the region for community projects and District projects.

V. Action Items

Authorization to Advertise

Resolution No. 287-21 Authorization to publish notice calling for bids, in accordance with Ohio Revised Code Chapter 6119.10, for the Chippewa Creek Stream Stabilization near Broadview Road project with an anticipated cost of \$1,738,000.00.

Resolution No. 288-21 Authorization to publish notice calling for bids, in accordance with
Withdrawn Ohio Revised Code Chapter 6119.10, for the Brookside Culvert Repair project with an anticipated cost of \$11,900,000.00.

MOTION – Mr. Sulik moved, and Mr. Joyce seconded to adopt Resolution No. 287-21. Without objection, the motion carried unanimously.

Authorization to Enter Into Contract

Resolution No. 289-21 Authorization to enter into a one-year requirement contract with Karvo Companies, Inc. for paving services at various District facilities in an amount not-to-exceed \$388,551.01.

Resolution No. 290-21 Authorization to enter into a six-month requirement contract with Pirc Company Landscaping & Snowplowing, LLC for snow removal services at various District facilities in an amount not-to-exceed \$95,835.30.

MOTION – Ms. Dumas moved, and Mayor Bacci seconded to adopt Resolution Nos. 289-21 through 290-21. Without objection, the motion carried unanimously.

Authorization of Contract Modification

Resolution No. 291-21 Authorization to modify Contract No. 21001932 with T&T Demolition & Recycling for property demolition services by increasing the contract amount by \$100,000.00 for additional asbestos abatement services, thereby bringing the total contract amount not-to-exceed \$508,875.00.

Resolution No. 292-21 Authorizing final adjusting change order for Contract No. 20005036 with North Bay Construction for the Westerly Steam Grease Handling Boilers Replacement project by decreasing the contract amount by \$66,788.43, thereby bringing the total contract amount to \$639,183.07.

MOTION – Mr. Joyce moved, and Mayor Alai seconded to adopt Resolution Nos. 291-21 through 292-21. Without objection, the motion carried unanimously.

Property Related Transaction

Resolution No. 293-21 Authorization to acquire one permanent stormwater easement and one temporary easement at the property known as PPN 581-01-053, located at 8060 West Ridge Drive, in the City of Broadview Heights, owned by Amy M. Modic and Michael Schmauder, necessary for the construction and maintenance of the Chippewa Creek Flood Reduction Project Near Echo Lane with total consideration of \$12,000.00.

Resolution No. 294-21 Authorization to acquire one permanent stormwater easement at the property known as PPN 481-07-020, located at 8217 Abbey Road, in the City of North Royalton, owned by Michael J. and Lucy A. Cepik, necessary for the construction and maintenance of the Baldwin Creek Stabilization Near Abbey Road project with total consideration of \$3,575.00.

MOTION – Mr. Sulik moved, and Ms. Dumas seconded to adopt Resolution Nos. 293-21 through 294-21. Without objection, the motion carried unanimously.

Authorization to Assign Agreement

Resolution No. 295-21 Authorization to assign Agreement No. 16004422 (formerly, Agreement No. 15004095) with MWH/HMM Westerly Joint Venture to Stantec/MM Westerly Joint Venture for design and construction-related professional engineering services for the Westerly Storage Tunnel and Dewatering Pump Station project, due to a company name change, with all current terms and conditions of the agreement to remain unchanged under the assignment.

Resolution No. 296-21 Authorization to assign Agreement No. 17004365 (formerly, Agreement No. 13000017) with MWH/HMM Joint Venture to Stantec/MM Joint Venture for design and construction-related professional engineering services for the Dugway Storage Tunnel project, due to a company name change, with all current terms and conditions of the agreement to remain unchanged under the assignment.

MOTION – Mayor Bacci moved, and Mr. Joyce seconded to adopt Resolution Nos. 295-21 through 296-21. Without objection, the motion carried unanimously.

Authorization to Implement

Resolution No. 297-21 Authorization to implement the 2022 Watershed Partners Service Agreement Program through the issuance of a Request for Proposals in a total amount not-to-exceed \$400,000.00.

MOTION – Ms. Dumas moved, and Mayor Bacci seconded to adopt Resolution No. 297-21. Without objection, the motion carried unanimously.

VI. Information Items

Devona Marshall, Director of Engineering and Construction, provided the August 2021 Capital Improvement Program Update.

Regarding cash flow, the month of August ended at 85% of planned, which is up from 80% in July. The increase is primarily due to commencement of the construction of the Shoreline Tunnel. Approximately \$18 million was paid out in August for a year-to-date total of approximately \$92 million.

As for Key Performance Indicators (KPIs), substantial completion of the Westerly Steam Grease Handling Boilers Replacement Project was achieved within 90 days of planned, meeting that KPI.

The construction contract for the Easterly Outfall Sewer Repairs Project closed in August within 95% of the original contract amount, meeting that KPI. Although this project did not have a Business Opportunity Program (BOP) Goal because of its limited scope, the projected actual BOP for the project is just over 22%. There were no work orders associated with the project.

Ms. Marshall provided construction highlights, beginning with the Westerly Steam Grease Handling Boilers Replacement Project, a \$706,000 construction contract which replaced two steam boilers that were beyond their useful life, as well as a failing gas-fired heating/ventilation unit. These upgrades will result in savings in natural gas costs and reduction in CO2 emissions. Ms. Marshall provided photographs from the project.

The Easterly/Westerly Low Voltage Equipment Replacement Project was an \$11.1 million design-build contract which replaced aging and obsolete electrical distribution equipment, including 25 local control panels, 101 panelboards, 50 motor control centers, and 10 variable frequency drives. It was determined that it was best to approach this project as a design-build because of lessons learned in a similar project at the Southerly Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP). The Southerly project was completed under a traditional design/bid/build platform and encountered many differing site conditions during construction. The design-build approach reduced the potential for encountering differing site conditions and resulted in less need for use of the general allowance in the contract. Ms. Marshall provided photographs from the project.

The Southerly Electrical Infrastructure Improvement Project was an \$18.4 million construction contract to construct a new switch gear building for the Southerly WWTP, upgrade substation HVAC systems at the Southerly WWTP, and replace controls associated with emergency generators at all three WWTPs. Ms. Marshall explained that the purpose of the project was to ensure electrical reliability by updating old equipment, as well as to eliminate potential risk of power loss due to flooding. Ms. Marshall provided photographs from 2011 demonstrating electrical equipment in standing water, following plant flooding. The generator upgrades are important to support the Power Curtailment Project, specifically the Emergency Load Reduction Program, which allows NEORSD to run the WWTPs on backup generators during peak energy usage times, resulting in money back to NEORSD.

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 12:52 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