

MINUTES  
NORTHEAST OHIO REGIONAL SEWER DISTRICT  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING  
SEPTEMBER 17, 2020

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

President Brown opened the meeting by addressing the COVID-19 pandemic, and read the following statement:

Due to the COVID emergency, we are again conducting our Board meeting via live stream video conference using the Zoom Video Communications tool and pursuant to House Bill 197.

Members of the public may have access to the meeting using the Zoom login link found on the top of the District website, and those who wish to address the Board were able to make that request through the Zoom system prior to the start of the meeting.

I. Roll Call

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

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

II. Approval of Minutes

**MOTION** – Mr. Sulik moved, and Mr. Joyce seconded to approve the Minutes of the September 3, 2020, 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, began her report by providing an update regarding the District's ongoing COVID-19 pandemic response. Ms. Dreyfuss-Wells informed the Board that as of September 16, the District has had a total of 10 employees with confirmed diagnoses, unchanged from the prior Board Meeting. Of the ten, nine have recovered and one is still

symptomatic. Of the nine who have recovered, six have returned to work at District facilities and three are in various stages of the return-to-work process. The District wishes these employees a complete and speedy recovery.

The District is continuing a slow and gradual reconstitution process across District facilities. Directors are finalizing their plans to bring back some employees with offices by October 5 and will thereafter consider bringing back a limited number of employees with cubicles no earlier than November 1. Ms. Dreyfuss-Wells addressed the plan with District staff last week in her weekly update video.

Ms. Dreyfuss-Wells introduced Jake Altman from the Auditor of State's Office to present two awards to the District.

Mr. Altman stated that he is pleased to present the District with the Auditor of State Award with Distinction, noting that it is an elite award, with only 3% of the over 6,000 entities audited being eligible. Mr. Altman added that it speaks to the dedication of District staff as well as the fiscal integrity and audit excellence from the Board and District staff. Mr. Altman commended the professionalism of the Chief Financial Officer and Finance staff and congratulated them for a job well done.

Additionally, the District has received a four-star rating for public records, which is the highest possible rating indicating the "Highest Achievement in Open and Transparent Government". The District employed all seven of the recommended best practices, exceeding the requirement of five or more best practices. Mr. Altman noted that the District's record keeping practices go above and beyond what is required and again commended the staff for a job well done.

President Brown thanked Mr. Altman and indicated that the District appreciates receiving the awards. President Brown added that it speaks to the dedication and resolve of the financial team and their ability to work collaboratively with the various managers and branches of the government to ensure that the District continues to provide timely and accurate reporting.

Ms. Dreyfuss-Wells acknowledged Ken Duplay, Chief Financial Officer and Eric Luckage, Chief Legal Officer, and invited them to recognize department staff for their accomplishments.

Mr. Duplay thanked Mr. Altman and acknowledged Majlinda Marku, Accounting Manager, for her work as the Project Manager for the audit and CAFR, noting that she sets a great example to staff with her commitment to strong financial reporting. Mr. Duplay thanked Ms. Marku and the Finance Department staff and others who compile the CAFR and the various aspects involved with that task.

Mr. Duplay noted that this is the third time in four years that the District has received this award and the District is proud of the achievement. The District sets goals to maintain very high standards.

Mr. Luckage thanked Mr. Altman for presenting the award and acknowledged the District's Records Management Specialist, Donald Forrest, for his achievement. Mr. Luckage added that when Mr. Forrest heard of the creation of the four-star system, it immediately became his goal to ensure that the District achieved each of the recommended practices. Mr. Luckage added that Mr. Forrest already had a robust system in place and commended him for his hard work and a job well done.

Ms. Dreyfuss-Wells expressed her appreciation to Mr. Altman and added that the District is also a NorthCoast 99 award recipient for the fourth year. The NorthCoast 99 is an annual recognition that honors 99 Northeast Ohio workplaces for top talent, and examples of that talent were provided in the presentation of the two awards from the Auditor of State. Consideration for NorthCoast 99 recognition is based on an application assessing the District's HR practices and feedback from the District's top performing staff. Ms. Dreyfuss-Wells added that this is a wonderful acknowledgement of the hard work from District managers, employees, and the HR team, and congratulated them for this achievement.

Ms. Dreyfuss-Wells advised the Board that last week the District concluded its first virtual Clean Water Fest, which drew over 2,000 views over five live broadcasts and eight video features. It provided an opportunity to see the importance and variety of the District's work and can be viewed at [www.CleanWaterFest.com](http://www.CleanWaterFest.com). Those who tuned in saw twenty different experts across the District and were able to participate in live panel interviews. Ms. Dreyfuss-Wells added that this event required significant effort from District staff and congratulated Constance Haqq, Chief Administrative Officer, as well as Communications and Community Relations and all of the employees who participated for a successful event.

Ms. Dreyfuss-Wells invited Frank Greenland, Director of Watershed Programs, to address the Board regarding the significant rain events occurring over Labor Day weekend.

Mr. Greenland explained that this rain event was different than the large rain event that occurred in March. The March event involved brief intervals of very intense rain while the Labor Day rain event was a prolonged event spanning seven hours. Mr. Greenland provided graphics demonstrating rain totals across the service area, with some areas reaching as much as 4.5 inches of rain and depending on the area, some were approaching 100-year and 200-year storm levels with an average of 25-year storm level rainfall across the service area.

Mr. Greenland explained that the District employs USGS stream gauges across the service area in the Regional Stormwater Management Program to know where to mobilize forces during flood events. Big Creek was the only creek in the major flood stage, the Cuyahoga River and Mill Creek reached moderate flood stage. Several other creeks such as Doan Brook, flooded but do not have stages defined.

In terms of historic crests, at Big Creek, four of the top ten flooding events have occurred in the last twenty years, with two of those occurring this year, one during the rain event in March and the other during Labor Day weekend. Similarly, the Cuyahoga River has had seven of its highest crest

events occur within the past 20 years, with two of those occurring this year, one during the rain event in March and the other during Labor Day weekend.

Mr. Greenland commended District staff for their response to the rain event, noting that the District was receiving several calls and was in the field on Labor Day monitoring and reacting to the event. The District was also expecting the storm and went out prior to the event to perform inspections and clear debris racks.

Mr. Greenland provided images from September 7 and explained that the District was out in 90 areas and generated 26 work orders, removing 685 cubic yards of debris, with more still to be done. There were more work orders and more debris to be removed following the March storm event, presumably due to debris accumulating over the winter months.

Mr. Greenland provided photographs demonstrating flooding at the Cleveland Metroparks Zoo over Labor Day weekend, which was due to flooding in Big Creek at Jennings Road where high rainfall amounts occurred. The zoo has had repetitive flooding, as it is at a low elevation and 40% of the Big Creek watershed area includes impervious surfaces. The District has performed master planning in the area and intends to continue to implement projects to lessen the impacts of these big floods.

President Brown noted that during the Labor Day storm, the flooding at Doan Brook was so severe that the City of Cleveland closed the Doan Brook area to thru traffic from the freeway exit to East 105<sup>th</sup> Street and all of the other ramps going down through the park. President Brown added that he has never before seen that level of water along the road at Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard.

President Brown stated there was too much rainfall over a significant period of time and that overloaded the system, adding that these weather events seem to be the new normal with nothing the District can do to combat it at this time. President Brown added that it would be helpful to add signage or other indicators to these areas as people were attempting to drive through the water in the area and had to be rescued from their vehicles. President Brown additionally noted that there are some instances where Doan Brook flows very close to the road.

Mr. Greenland indicated that President Brown is correct that these weather events do appear to be the new normal and the District is working to help address that. Doan Brook is at the forefront of the District's Stormwater Master Planning efforts and different areas of Doan Brook have different carrying capacities that the District is working to increase. Although the District is striving for a 100-year level of flood protection on Doan Brook, that may not be achievable. The District is working to balance the upstream flows with the downstream carrying capacities and has almost completed alternative evaluations. The District has installed early warning systems in University Circle which have been working while the District continues to fine tune the system and look for more opportunities to utilize it. Cleveland Hopkins International Airport recorded the Labor Day storm to be the third highest level of precipitation on record, going back to the 1800s. The District will continue to work within the master plans to attempt to reduce the impact of these heavy rains.

Ms. Dreyfuss-Wells introduced Frank Foley, Director of Operation and Maintenance, to address the operations response to the Labor Day storm.

Mr. Foley provided a graph demonstrating the average daily effluent flow at each wastewater treatment plant in 2019. The amount of flow that goes into and leaves each plant is generally the same on an average day. Mr. Foley then demonstrated the amount of influent flow at each plant on Labor Day. Westerly had the highest amount it has had in the last year. Southerly had the third highest amount in the last year. At Southerly and Easterly, a portion of the flow that came into the plants did not receive full treatment. Some of that flow was bypassed after primary treatment at Southerly. At Easterly, there is an overflow just downstream of the headworks and there was also a primary bypass.

On September 7, Easterly approached one billion gallons per day in peak flow rate coming into the plant. This number was surpassed once in May of this year. At Southerly, the rate of flow entering the plant increased from approximately 300 million gallons per day to just under 800 million gallons per day in a short period of time.

There were some impacts on District facilities due to this weather event. At Southerly, two headworks bar screens faulted on overload. A shovel came in through the collection system and lodged in a third bar screen. These issues caused wastewater to come out of conduits at the plant. The basement of an out-of-service screen building filled with approximately six feet of water. The bar screens at the CVI lift station at the south end of the plant jammed with debris. There were no injuries or damage to District property associated with this incident. The Southerly staff is working on a post-incident analysis report, which should be completed next week.

Regarding the collection system, there was an overflow at Edgewater Park. There were pump faults at the Mary Street and Division Avenue Pump Stations, which were resolved the same evening. Field staff found an open hatch on the Cuyahoga Valley Interceptor at Fuhrmeyer Road, upstream from the plant in Independence, which was closed immediately upon discovery. President Brown inquired as to the specific location and Mr. Foley advised that is in the system at Fuhrmeyer Road in Independence, near the cloverleaf.

A stormwater outlet dam at East 94<sup>th</sup> Street and Kinsman lost pressure but was resolved that afternoon. Several manhole covers at various locations were dislodged and replaced immediately upon discovery. At East 116<sup>th</sup> and Shaker Boulevard, water discharged through the casing of a surcharged manhole because the manhole lid was stuck in place. This caused some damage to the surrounding pavement, which was repaired by September 11.

In summary, Mr. Foley added that this was a very large event. There were no issues at the Easterly or Westerly plants, but there were some issues with the collection system and at Southerly.

President Brown added that each of these events bring their own nuances to the District and offered his appreciation for the update.

Ms. Dreyfuss-Wells emphasized that Mr. Greenland and Mr. Foley did a wonderful job of summarizing the issues associated with this significant rain event and added that the District staff and infrastructure functioned very well in this situation given the large volume of rain.

V. Action Items

Authorization to Advertise

- |                       |   |
|-----------------------|---|
| Resolution No. 248-20 | Authorization to publish notice calling for bids, in accordance with Ohio Revised Code Chapter 6119, for Skimmings Removal Service at all Wastewater Treatment Plants with an anticipated expenditure of \$70,000.00. |
| Resolution No. 249-20 | Authorization to publish notice calling for bids, in accordance with Ohio Revised Code Chapter 6119, for the Hemlock Creek Streambank Stabilization project with an anticipated expenditure of \$79,000.00.           |
| Resolution No. 250-20 | Authorization to publish notice calling for bids, in accordance with Ohio Revised Code Chapter 6119, for the CSO Outfall Protection project with an anticipated expenditure of \$495,000.00.                          |

**MOTION** – Mayor Bacci moved, and Mr. Joyce seconded to adopt Resolution Nos. 248-20 through 250-20. After the following discussion, without objection, the motion carried unanimously.

President Brown noted that Resolution No. 250-20 addresses the CSO Outfall Projection Project and it seems that more facilities along the shoreline are becoming susceptible to erosion. President Brown asked for additional information regarding this issue.

Devona Marshall, Director of Engineering and Construction, explained that when this project was initiated, the focus was on two locations, CSO-206 and CSO-207. However, earlier this year, the District advanced under an emergency repair contract the repairs at CSO-206. Over a short period of time, that erosion at this location extended to a point that it required immediate repair to the endangered netting facility.

The scope of the current project is CSO-207, which is just west of CSO-206. The implemented repair will be similar to that at CSO-206 one difference is that the contractor will have to perform the repairs from within the lake, which will be more costly and required more in terms of the permit process.

Ms. Marshall added that CSO-206 and CSO-207 are in close proximity and the only key locations that the District is currently tracking for extensive erosion.

Authorization to Purchase

Resolution No. 251-20 Authorization to purchase spare parts, as needed, from sole source manufacturer MSA Safety Sales, LLC necessary to repair and maintain Sierra Monitor Corporation gas detection and monitoring equipment in the total amount not-to-exceed \$150,000.00.

**MOTION** – Mayor Alai moved, and Ms. Dumas seconded to adopt Resolution No. 251-20. Without objection, the motion carried unanimously.

Authorization to Enter Into Agreement

Resolution No. 252-20 Authorization to enter into a loan agreement with the Ohio EPA and the Ohio Water Development Authority to accept WPCLF funding for construction costs related to the Dille Avenue/Barberton Creek Pump Stations Upgrades project for a total amount up to \$3,025,239.81.

Resolution No. 253-20 Authorization to enter into agreements to fund the seven Member Community Infrastructure Program projects presented for the 2021 round of funding, in the total amount not-to-exceed \$2,500,000.00.

Resolution No. 254-20 Authorization to enter into a one-year agreement with Paladin Protective Systems, Inc. for maintenance and support services for the District's access control and video surveillance security systems in an amount not-to-exceed \$106,616.52.

**MOTION** – Mr. Sulik moved, and Mr. Joyce seconded to adopt Resolution Nos. 252-20 and 254-20. Without objection, the motion carried unanimously.

**MOTION** – Mr. Sulik moved, and Mayor Bacci seconded to adopt Resolution No. 253-20. Without objection, by roll-call vote, with recusal from discussion and abstention from voting by Mayor DeGeeter, after the following discussion, the motion carried unanimously.

President Brown noted that, regarding Resolution No. 253-20, the project budget is \$2.5 million, and the entire 2021 program budget is \$15 million. President Brown asked for an explanation regarding program strategy.

Mr. Greenland explained that this is the fifth year of awards under the Member Community Infrastructure Program. This year is the first time the District is awarding design-only awards. They will establish projects for potential funding at a later time. The District awarded \$2.5 million rather than \$15 million because there are carryover projects and cashflow from previous award years. The budget was decided through discussions with the Finance Department, and it was determined that \$2.5 million gets the program close to the \$15 million commitment.

Mr. Greenland provided slides demonstrating the types of projects and scoring system. Many of them are the same types of projects such as unraveling common trench sewers, addressing sanitary sewer overflows and inflow and infiltration (I&I) around the service area.

Mr. Greenland noted that this is a very popular program with communities to help solve problems at a local level such as basement flooding, sewer rehabilitation projects, and reducing sanitary sewer overflows. The District has been able to get rid of three small package treatment plants as well as a number of failing home sewage treatment systems. The program continues to provide new infrastructure in communities where it is vitally needed.

#### Authorization to Enter into Contract

Resolution No. 255-20            Authorization to enter into a construction contract with Marra Services, Inc. for the Easterly Outfall Sewer Repairs project in an amount not-to-exceed \$313,750.00.

Resolution No. 256-20            Authorization to enter into a construction contract with Fabrizi Trucking & Paving Co., Inc. for the Burke Brook Open Channel Improvements project in an amount not-to-exceed \$4,142,520.00.

**MOTION** – Mr. Sulik moved, and Mayor Alai seconded to adopt Resolution Nos. 255-20 through 256-20. After the following discussion, without objection, the motion carried unanimously.

President Brown asked for additional information regarding the unusual scope of the project associated with Resolution No. 256-20, as well as an explanation of how the cost savings occurred when the engineer's estimate was \$6 million, and the project award is \$4.1 million.

Ms. Marshall explained that the District has continued to receive good bids for projects, receiving nine bids total for this project, with eight of them below the engineer's estimate. The bidding market in conjunction with the scope of the project being in the low bidder's area of expertise resulted in receiving a good bid. The District reviewed the bids and the capabilities of the contractor and is comfortable with the award.

Regarding the scope of the project, most commonly opportunities are sought to daylight culverted streams. This stream however is culverted for good reason as it carries combined sewer overflow. Under this project, the open stretches will be culverted to limit human exposure to raw sewage.

#### Authorization of Contract Modification

Resolution No. 257-20            Authorizing final adjusting change order for Contract No. 17001463 with RiverReach Construction for the Beecher's Brook, Pepper Creek and Baldwin Creek Bank Stabilization project by extending the term of the contract by 90 days and decreasing the contract amount by \$72,009.75, thereby bringing the total contract amount to \$5,205,287.67.



**MOTION** – Mr. Joyce moved, and Ms. Dumas seconded to adopt Resolution No. 257-20. Without objection, the motion carried unanimously.

Property Related Transaction

- Resolution No. 258-20      Authorizing the District to acquire one parcel in fee simple known as PPN 761-16-013, located at 4236 Cricket Lane, in the City of Warrensville Heights, owned by Henri W. and Sherry Tartt, necessary for the construction and maintenance of the Mill Creek Bank Stabilization project, to enter into a lease agreement with Henri W. and Sherry Tartt, and to allow for the entirety of the payment to be disbursed to Innovative Title and Escrow Services, LLC with total consideration of \$80,000.00 plus closing costs.
- Resolution No. 259-20      Authorizing the District to acquire one parcel in fee simple known as PPN 761-16-009, located at 4252 Cricket Lane, in the City of Warrensville Heights, owned by Jerome L. Cummings, necessary for the construction and maintenance of the Mill Creek Bank Stabilization project, to enter into a lease agreement with Jerome L. Cummings, and to allow for the entirety of the payment to be disbursed to Innovative Title and Escrow Services, LLC with total consideration of \$86,000.00 plus closing costs.
- Resolution No. 260-20      Authorizing the District to acquire one temporary easement on property known as part of PPN 132-20-024, located at 6925 Ottawa Road, in the City of Cleveland, owned by Jonathan Michael Conway and Lauren Conway, necessary for the construction and maintenance of the Morgana Burke System Improvement project with total consideration of \$300.00.
- Resolution No. 261-20      Authorizing the District to acquire one temporary easement on property known as part of PPN 511-15-003, located on Independence Road, in the Village of Newburgh Heights, owned by Clement and Rose Marie Kollin, necessary for the construction and maintenance of the Burke Open Channel Improvement project with total consideration of \$1,704.00.
- Resolution No. 262-20      Authorizing the District to acquire one permanent sewer easement on property known as part of PPN 108-05-091, located at 575 East 99<sup>th</sup> Street, in the City of Cleveland, owned by Eyvonne Davis and Layfayette Davis (aka Lafayette Davis), necessary for the construction and maintenance of the Shoreline Storage Tunnel project with total consideration of \$300.00.

Resolution No. 263-20 Authorizing the District to acquire one permanent sewer easement on property know as part of PPN 108-05-093, located at 560 East 99<sup>th</sup> Street, in the City of Cleveland, owned by 2000 Development, Inc., necessary for the construction and maintenance of the Shoreline Storage Tunnel project with total consideration of \$40,000.00.

Resolution No. 264-20 Authorizing funding in the amount of \$290,000.00 plus closing costs to acquire one parcel in fee simple known as PPN 552-11-052, located at 6980 Donna Rae Lane, in the City of Seven Hills, necessary for the construction and maintenance of the Hemlock Creek Bank Stabilization-Seven Hills project to be owned by the West Creek Conservancy at the time of transfer, and to further authorize an agreement with West Creek Conservancy to convey ownership of the property to the District, and to allow for the entirety of the funding payment to be disbursed to Innovative Title and Escrow Services, LLC.

Resolution No. 265-20 Authorizing the District to acquire two parcels in fee simple known as PPN 020-13-048 and 020-13-049, located at 12322 McGowan Avenue, in the City of Cleveland, owned by Aldea Investments, LLC, necessary for the construction and maintenance of the Big Creek West Branch Problem Area 10 project, and to allow for the entirety of the payment plus closing costs to be disbursed to Ohio Real Title Agency, LLC with total consideration of \$71,000.00 plus closing costs.

**MOTION** – Mayor Alai moved, and Mayor Bacci seconded to adopt Resolution Nos. 264-20 through 265-20. Without objection, the motion carried unanimously.

Authorization to Grant Credit

Resolution No. 266-20 Authorizing the District to issue a credit adjustment in the total amount of \$166,526.45 against sewer charges on NEORSD account ending in 0002 for Apex Paper Box, 3000 Quigley Road, Cleveland.

**MOTION** – Mr. Joyce moved, and Mayor Bacci seconded to adopt Resolution No. 266-20. Without objection, the motion carried unanimously.

Authorization to Implement

Resolution No. 267-20 Authorization to implement the 2021 Watershed Partners Service Agreement Program in a total amount not-to-exceed \$375,000.00.

**MOTION** – Mr. Sulik moved, and Ms. Dumas seconded to adopt Resolution No. 267-20. Without objection, the motion carried unanimously.

## VI. Information Items

Ms. Marshall provided the monthly update for the Capital Improvement Program for August 2020 and advised that the construction updates were provided in the Board materials.

Ms. Marshall advised the Board that regarding cashflow, the month of August ended at 73% of planned, which is down from the previous three months which had consistently tracked at 76%. The main reason being the delay to the start of a handful of construction projects.

Additionally, there was another partial shutdown on the Westerly Storage Tunnel Project. It is a two-shifts mining operation and one of the shifts had workers test positive for COVID-19, resulting in a two-week period of operating on one shift. It is anticipated that the mining will be complete by the end of the year.

There was a total of approximately \$11 million paid out in August and \$113 million year-to-date.

As for key performance indicators (KPIs), the design of the CSO Outfall Protection Project was completed within 60 days and met that KPI.

The construction contract was awarded for the Morgana and Burke System Improvements Project; however, it was not awarded within 60 days of planned and did not meet that KPI. The KPI for the engineer's estimate was also not met as the engineer's estimate was \$8.95 million and the contract was awarded at \$6.7 million. However, it resulted in a savings of \$2.25 million.

The development of the guaranteed maximum price (GMP) for the Dille Avenue/Barberton Creek Pump Stations Upgrades Project was completed. This is a Design-Build project and the GMP was established within 45 days of planned, meeting the KPI.

The Doan Valley Relief and Consolidation Sewer Project, which is a \$13.5 million construction contract, reached substantial completion within 90 days of planned, meeting that KPI.

Ms. Marshall invited Christine Umerley, Project Engineer, to provide the feature presentation regarding the Westerly Plant Facilities Plan recommendations.

Ms. Umerley began her presentation by reviewing recent work performed at Westerly. In May 2020, the District-Wide Solids Handling Study was completed, resulting in the Westerly Sludge Pump Station and Force Main project, recently awarded to Stantec Consulting for design.

Ms. Umerley reminded the Board of the Westerly Primary Settling Tank No. 1 Drive Replacement, which was fast-tracked into design and construction due to the failure of the drive on PST 1. The Westerly Chemically Enhanced High Rate Treatment (CEHRT) project is under design. This is a Consent Decree project which is going to address the CSO on plant property.

The Westerly Facilities Plan has been running for the past two years and is the focus of Ms. Umerley's presentation. This project is being completed by Brown and Caldwell. It is similar to the Southerly and Easterly facility plans that were completed in 2008 inasmuch as it takes a 20-year planning period and assesses current and anticipated needs as well as regulatory requirements. An additional goal for the project is to determine sustained treatment capacity and whether Westerly can pass 100 MGD through secondary treatment for a sustained period. While the results are being finalized, it appears to be possible with some caveats.

This project has a total of \$50.8 million in capital improvement recommendations over a twenty-year planning period, consisting of 35 projects.

The first category of projects is building projects which include building code improvements and structural repairs. There are 15 such projects that will cost \$5.4 million.

The remaining projects are related to plant process and fall under the categories of near-term, which would be completed within five years, accounting for six projects at a cost of \$4.7 million; mid-term would be completed within five to ten years, with eight projects totaling \$19.6 million; and long-term would be completed in ten to twenty years, with six projects and a total cost of \$21.1 million.

Separately, there is a \$30 million estimate for potential future regulatory requirements, specifically to address phosphorus limits, however, whether those updates will be needed remains to be seen.

One of the near-term process projects is the Westerly Settling Tank Rehabilitation, which is nearly ready to bid, and its completion is necessary ahead of the upcoming CEHRT project.

Another near-term project is the Screen Rehabilitation and Grit Handling Improvement Project, which includes rehabilitation and replacement of four headworks influent screens and grit handling equipment at the cost of \$2.9 million and is also necessary ahead of the upcoming CEHRT project.

There is another screen and grit equipment rehabilitation project with a cost of \$4.9 million included in the mid-term projects to address equipment not included in the near-term project such as screening and conveyors. This can be completed after CEHRT to minimize the amount of construction happening at one point.

Included in the mid-term projects is the Trickling Filter Replacement and Rehabilitation. There is testing being performed to assess whether the filter media has reached the end of its useful life and requires immediate replacement or whether it can be included with later equipment repairs.

The Final Settling Replacement and Rehabilitation project is estimated at \$8.8 million and while there is some interim rehabilitation underway, the goal of this long-term project is to help equalize the flow split between the three final settling tanks.

Open Session

President Brown asked Mr. Sulik, as the Audit Committee Chair, if he had any comments prepared.

Mr. Sulik advised the Board that the Audit Committee is comprised of one Board Member and two independent non-Board Members. The Committee's oversight and responsibility is to ensure the integrity of the District's compliance with legal and regulatory requirements, the independent auditor's qualifications and independence, and the performance of the independent auditors and the District's internal audit function.

The financial audit for the fiscal year ending 2019 was reviewed with the District's independent auditors. The District was in compliance with all government regulations and financial reporting standards. The independent auditors informed the committee that it was a clean audit.

The senior staff and the District's internal auditors are continuing to work together to implement recommendations of the audit staff to improve the operations of the District. It has been a very fruitful endeavor.

President Brown thanked Mr. Sulik for his guidance and leadership in the process, noted that it requires teamwork to complete these tasks and remain in good standing and good stead, and on behalf of the Board, thanked Mr. Sulik and the Committee for its service.

VII. Public Session (any subject matter)

There were no items.

VIII. Executive Session

There were no items.

IX. Approval of Items from Executive Session

N/A

X. Adjournment

**MOTION** – President Brown stated business having been concluded, he would entertain a motion to adjourn. Mayor Bacci moved, and Mr. Joyce seconded the motion to adjourn at 1:29 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