MINUTES
NORTHEAST OHIO REGIONAL SEWER DISTRICT
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
OCTOBER 1, 2026

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District (NEORSD) was called to order at 12:30 p.m. by Ronald Sulik.

I. Roll Call

Present: Ronald Sulik
Timothy DeGeeter
Sharon Dumas
Samuel Alai
Jack Bacci
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 Ms. Chambers seconded, to approve the Minutes of the September 17, 2026 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 of Trustees that on September 16th NEORSD received a NorthCoast 99 Legacy Award, as a 10-year award recipient. Award selections are informed by survey feedback from top performing employees across an organization and in the 2026 survey, NEORSD staff highlighted feeling empowered to take on new challenges and understanding how their contributions help sustain essential services for their community.

On September 18th, Kim Colich, Stormwater Program Manager, presented the Doan Brook Restoration at Horseshoe Park Project at the National Conference of the American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA). Each year, ASLA selects projects through a competitive process to present at the national conference. Ms. Colich was joined by designers Matt Langdon and Glenn

Valentine of Stimson, the firm that led the design for the project. Ms. Dreyfuss-Wells thanked Ms. Colich and ASLA.

On September 19th, NEORSD hosted its annual Clean Water Fest. More than 1,600 visitors joined NEORSD for tours of the Southerly Wastewater Treatment Center and its laboratory, games, and exhibits, including 90 students beginning their Student Technical Enrichment Program (STEP). STEP is a joint program of NEORSD and City of Cleveland, Division of Water, to bring 6th through 9th graders and their families into STEM fields. It begins each year at Clean Water Fest. Mayor Alai, Mayor Wheeler of Richfield Village, Mayor Nikolic of Oakwood Village, Mayor Ward of Lyndhurst, Cleveland City Councilwoman Gray, and Cleveland City Councilwoman Santana's Executive Aid were also in attendance at Clean Water Fest and joined a tour of the Southerly WWTC. In total, there were 1,652 attendees from 33 zip codes across four states and 39% were first time attendees. Ms. Dreyfuss-Wells thanked Jean Smith, Director of Communications and Customer Relations, and her team for their work organizing the event.

On September 22nd, NEORSD hosted a media day highlighting the Doan Brook Restoration at Horseshoe Park project. Media from WKYC Channel 3, WEWS Channel 5, Ideastream Public Media, Spectrum 1 News, and Cleveland Scene were in attendance. Matt Scharver, Director of Watershed Programs, and Robin Halperin, Deputy Director of Watershed Programs, took press on an abbreviated version of the tour that NEORSD has been providing to interested residents over the summer, highlighting various aspects of the project and permitting status. Ms. Dreyfuss-Wells thanked Jenn Elting, Senior Manager of Strategic Partnerships and Media Relations, and her team for organizing the event.

Also on September 22nd, Ohio EPA held their public meeting regarding the Clean Water Act permit for the Doan Brook Restoration at Horseshoe Park project and it was well attended and well organized.

V. Action Items

Authorization to Advertise

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| Resolution No. 169-26 | Authorization to publish notice calling for bids, in accordance with Ohio Revised Code Section 6119.10, for up to three two-year requirement contracts for grounds maintenance services, with an estimated probable cost of $245,000.00. |
| Resolution No. 170-26 | Authorization to publish notice calling for bids, in accordance with Ohio Revised Code Section 6119.10, for a three-year requirement |

contract for industrial gases, with an estimated probable cost of $250,000.00.

Resolution No. 171-26 — Authorization to publish notice calling for bids, in accordance with Ohio Revised Code Section 6119.10, for a nine-month requirement contract for steam boiler tube descaling services at the Easterly and Southerly Wastewater Treatment Plants, with an estimated probable cost of $135,000.00.

Resolution No. 172-26 — Authorization to publish notice calling for bids, in accordance with Ohio Revised Code Section 6119.10, for a five-year requirement contract for rubbish and recycling services, with an estimated probable cost of $300,000.00.

Resolution No. 173-26 — Authorization to publish notice calling for bids, in accordance with Ohio Revised Code Section 6119.10, for a public improvement contract for the CSO-203 Relocation project, with an estimated probable construction cost of $6,250,000.00.

**MOTION** – Mayor Alai moved, and Ms. Chambers seconded to adopt Resolution Nos. 169-26 through 173-26. After the following discussion, without objection, the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Sulik requested additional information regarding the project associated with Resolution No. 173-26. Robin Rupe, Director of Engineering and Construction, explained that there is an aging pipe near the East 55th Street Marina in the City of Cleveland that NEORSD has been unable to inspect due to its depth; however, it is known that it is aged and in need of replacing.

NEORSD is taking the opportunity to relocate the pipe to a new location with an outfall right by the existing outfall CSO-202, allowing for easier maintenance and allowing for future development in the area. Ms. Rupe provided a graphic demonstrating current and future locations of the sewer and explained that it is being relocated closer to North Marginal Road.

Authorization to Issue Request for Proposal (RFP)

Resolution No. 174-26 — Authorization to issue an RFP, in accordance with Ohio Revised Code Chapter 6119, for one or more agreements to provide temporary staffing services for various District departments to address workforce needs.

**MOTION** – Ms. Chambers moved, and Mayor Alai seconded to adopt Resolution No. 174-26. Without objection, the motion carried unanimously.

Authorization to Pay Dues

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| Resolution No. 175-26 | Authorization to renew the District's Water Research Foundation subscription for 2026-2027 and to pay dues in the amount of $118,603.00. |

**MOTION** – Ms. Chambers moved, and Mayor Alai seconded to adopt Resolution No. 175-26. Without objection, the motion carried unanimously.

Authorization to Enter Into Agreement

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| Resolution No. 176-26 | Authorization to enter into an agreement with the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) for the USGS operation and maintenance of eleven existing District-funded rain gages and 32 District-funded stream gages in the District's Regional Stormwater Service Area, and other ancillary technical support services, for a 12-month period, in an amount not to exceed $394,700.00. |

**MOTION** –Mayor Bacci moved, and Ms. Dumas seconded to adopt Resolution No. 176-26. After the following discussion, without objection, the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Sulik requested an explanation as to how the gages are used by NEORSD staff. Matt Scharver, Director of Watershed Programs, displayed a map of the service area and the locations of the rain gages within the area and explained that they provide information regarding rainfall amounts. A similar map showed stream gage locations which assist with understanding flooding conditions that are arriving to the service area. The gages help staff to understand the impacts of the stormwater assets across the service area, and to improve modeling and flooding solutions. NEORSD relies on the USGS data because it is accessible and accurate data accepted across multiple organizations.

Mr. Sulik asked if NEORSD has relied on the gages for several years and Mr. Scharver answered affirmatively.

Authorization to Enter Into Contract

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| Resolution No. 177-26 | Authorization to enter into a 12-month requirement contract with Polydyne Inc. for the delivery of liquid emulsion polymer solution to the Southerly and Westerly Wastewater Treatment Centers, in a total amount not-to-exceed $1,506,500.00. |

**MOTION** – Ms. Dumas moved, and Ms. Chambers seconded to adopt Resolution No. 177-26. Without objection, the motion carried unanimously.

Authorization to Assign Agreement

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| Resolution No. 178-26 | Authorization to assign Professional Services Agreement No. 24009776 with Experis US LLC, for its Jefferson Wells Division, to Sikich LLC, for internal auditing consulting services, due to a company name change effective August 1, 2026, with all current terms and conditions of the agreement to remain unchanged. |

**MOTION** – Mayor Alai moved, and Mayor Bacci seconded to adopt Resolution No. 178-26. Without objection, the motion carried unanimously.

VI. Information Items

Mr. Scharver provided the final update for the Regional Stormwater Management Program (RSMP) for 2026, beginning with construction key performance indicators (KPIs). In July, the Stormwater Construction Plan met its spending goal of 70% but is now at 50%; however, the other metrics are meeting their goals.

Mr. Scharver acknowledged Kristen Buccier, Manager of Stormwater Design, and her team for continuing to have projects designed and ready to move into construction as they encounter various obstacles and delays on current projects, assisting in keeping construction goals on track.

There are three projects that are the primary cause of the spending deficit: The Rehabilitation of Culverted Streams IIA project near Marymount Hospital has experienced contractor delays followed by a delay in the needed pipe arriving from Dubai; the Doan Brook Restoration of Horseshoe Park project is awaiting permitting approvals; and there is a project in Middleburg Heights that has had some delay in spending that NEORSD is anticipating by the member community which has not yet come to fruition.

Planned construction related activities for the remainder of the year include issuing the request for proposals for detailed design for the Doan Brook Conveyance Improvements at University Circle project, which is nearing the end of predesign activities. Additional projects that will be advertised include the Sheldon Road project with the Cities of Middleburg Heights and Brook Park, the Mill Creek Restoration Near Cricket Lake project, and the Baldwin Creek Renewal of Culverted Streams project.

Completed projects include the Baldwin Creek Cedar States Basin Rehabilitation project in the City of North Royalton.

Mr. Scharver moved on to discuss extreme weather events and indicated that, as validated by the Cleveland Hopkins Rain Gage, average annual rainfall totals have been increasing in recent years.

In the 1960s, average annual rainfall in Cleveland was approximately 37 inches per year and currently, average annual rainfall is 43.1 inches per year. This is important context to managing rainfall under the Regional Stormwater Management Program.

Ohio's current population is nearly 12 million people. Prior to 1980, most of the landscape had been developed without stormwater regulations or flood control regulations, which stormwater practitioners now must work against in addition to increasing rainfall totals, to increase resiliency and stormwater improvements into the hardscape.

Mr. Scharver provided a graphic demonstrating rainfall trends over the last 14 years and explained that in addition to average annual rainfall increasing, the frequency of severe storms is increasing. A storm generating two-inches rainfall over a 24-hour period is now twice as frequent as it was, according to recent rainfall gage data collected by the District as compared to the National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Atlas 14 data. NOAA will be releasing Atlas 15 soon, which will be more advanced. The data also demonstrates increasing intensity of significant amounts of rainfall in a shorter period, which is problematic when trying to manage hardscape under the RSMP.

NEORSD Stormwater Programs' ongoing commitments include monitoring, modeling, District collaboration, research collaboration, regional collaboration, and measuring risk. The monitoring and synthesizing of weather data is performed via the 126 monitors and 41 USGS rain gages discussed earlier in the meeting, NEORSD's Sewer System Maintenance and Operation (SSMO) and Systems Integration workgroups manage additional gages and monitors, and the District also incorporates data from private vendor gages such as Hyfi level sensors.

Mr. Scharver provided an example of one of the high visibility cameras deployed by USGS on Big Creek near Brookpark Road, which floods frequently, and explained that the ability to watch the flooding happen improves understanding of how to address the flooding issues.

NEORSD continues to refine the data that it collects and every mile refined within the regional stormwater system generally equates to four miles within the local stormwater system. This allows NEORSD to understand the influence that the local system brings to the regional system, which is important to understanding how to bring an appropriate solution to any regional problem.

NEORSD also collaborates with various institutions, including academia, and has been working with MIT to determine best use of flood management tools and datasets, including the 2D mesh modeling used to better understand how water moves across the landscape and into the regional system.

In addition to attending conferences across the country to discuss these findings, NEORSD has also been working with Virgina Tech University and the University of Cincinnati, who performed a Big Creek study with an Ohio Sea Grant award on climate resiliency, which improved the understanding

of how Big Creek is reacting to changing weather patterns. These findings have been presented in Washington DC and a stormwater conference in Sandusky, Ohio.

Local partners including member communities, Cuyahoga Soil & Water Conservation District, Cleveland Metroparks, and Cuyahoga County Engineers have all contributed data relating to the individual stormwater control measures across the service area. There have been more than 3,500 stormwater control measures compiled and NEORSD has added that information to its GIS data system to refine stormwater models.

NEORSD developed and became partners with the Northeast Ohio Storm Event Collaborative. Other partners include the Rocky River Wastewater Treatment Plant, State of Ohio Emergency Management Agency, Ohio Department of Transportation, USGS, National Weather Service, and NOAA. This is important in terms of data sharing and analysis.

As for artificial intelligence, George Remias, Manager of Stormwater Strategic Support, along with support and oversight from the IT Department, has been working to analyze the collected data using if/then AI prompts to assess early warning notification processes that NEORSD could provide to member communities to provide appropriate notice when flood conditions will be occurring or are changing.

These efforts are incorporated into NEORSD's overarching goal to assess risk as a business program and a delivery of services to its member communities and ratepayers. NEORSD has developed a probable annual risk tool that has been effective in helping to prioritize execution of stormwater projects. NEORSD has taken this tool that Mr. Remias is credited with inventing to the U.S. Utility Patent Office and filed for a patent. NEORSD will be working with the East Boston area through coordination with MIT to provide support for the PAR tool to the City of Boston.

This work is performed with the intent of protecting rate payers' assets, whether it be their homes, businesses, or public roadways and sewers because water quality is critical to the region.

Mayor Alai asked if there will be significant changes to the data points in transitioning from NOAA's Atlas 14 to Atlas 15, and how that will affect NEORSD's modeling. Mr. Scharver explained that NEORSD is anticipating the changes and it will help to further validate the data that NEORSD is collecting. Climatologist have been reporting a 20% increase in precipitation. Warmer weather is holding more moisture in the atmosphere. The Atlas 15 data is a significant piece of the dataset that is specific to confirming the changing rainfall patterns throughout the region.

Mr. Sulik added that he must emphasize the importance of NEORSD's Regional Stormwater Management Programs with the increased rainfall and it is very important that these studies are performed to be able to remediate the most urgent problems. Mr. Sulik complimented Mr. Scharver and his team for a job well done.

Mayor DeGeeter suggested that some of this information should be presented at the next Suburban Council of Governments meeting to demonstrate to the communities the work that is being done beyond the local projects and that the data collection and pending patent are impressive.

VII. Open Session

There were no items.

VIII. Public Session (any subject matter)

Tamera Chappell addressed the Board:

"Good afternoon. Thank you. I have one quick question:

"Has there been any additional consideration to put in perhaps a two-acre lake at Horseshoe Lake? It is on the national registers as having a lake. We've had a lot of neighborhood community meetings and one of the questions that constantly comes up is why can't we have a lake at Horseshoe Lake?

"So, we would like you to give some consideration to put in a lake maybe the size of the Lower Lake at Horseshoe Lake instead of just having a bog because that is just something that the community does not want, as you saw witnessed at the Ohio EPA meeting when we had 450 people in attendance in a 500-seat auditorium. So just a thought. Thank you."

Ms. Dreyfuss-Wells thanked Ms. Chappell for her comments and explained that the design for the Doan Brook Restoration at Horseshoe Park project is complete and awaiting approval. There is no contemplation for an additional impoundment at the Horseshoe Park location.

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 1:05 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