

MINUTES
NORTHEAST OHIO REGIONAL SEWER DISTRICT
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
DECEMBER 19, 2019

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District was called to order at 12:34 p.m. by Darnell Brown.

I. Roll Call

PRESENT: D. Brown
R. Sulik
R. Stefanik
T. DeGeeter
J. Ciaccia
J. Bacci
S. Dumas

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

II. Approval of Minutes

MOTION – Mayor Bacci moved, and Mr. Ciaccia seconded to approve the Minutes of the December 5, 2019, Board Meeting. Without objection, the motion carried unanimously.

III. Public Session

There were no items.

IV. Chief Executive Officer's Report

CEO Kyle Dreyfuss-Wells acknowledged Kathryn Crestani, Enterprise Biosolids and Residual Superintendent at the Southerly WWTP, and congratulated her for obtaining a Class-4 Wastewater Operator Certification, which is the highest level of certification attainable from the Ohio EPA.

Ms. Crestani began working at the District in 2004 as an Investigator in WQIS. She was promoted to the Supervisor of Enforcement in WQIS in 2008, Unit Process Manager at Southerly in 2012, Assistant Superintendent of Plants at Southerly in 2015, and Enterprise Biosolids and Residuals Superintendent in 2017.

V. Action Items

Authorization to Issue Request for Proposal (RFP)

Resolution No. 335-19 Authorization to issue an RFP, in accordance with Ohio Revised Code Chapter 153, for the Big Creek Stream Restoration Upstream and Downstream of Ridge Road in Parma project.

MOTION – Mayor Stefanik moved, and Mr. Sulik seconded to adopt Resolution No. 335-19. After the following discussion, without objection, the motion carried unanimously.

President Brown asked for clarification regarding what the District is looking to accomplish at Big Creek, and whether the District is attempting to gain additional floodplain area.

Frank Greenland, Director of Watershed Programs, explained that the District has been monitoring the area for several years and recently studied the area under the Cuyahoga North Master Plan. There is a lot of stream erosion impacting structures, infrastructure, gas lines, and loss of property. There are several sites that the District would like to move to a preliminary or predesign phase to identify the best holistic solution.

This RFP is to contract with a firm for predesign services. If the firm performs well, the intention would be to engage them for final design and construction.

Authorization to Enter into Agreement

Resolution No. 336-19 Authorization to enter into a professional services agreement with HDR for the Easterly PLC Replacement project in an amount not-to-exceed \$9,492,201.00.

Resolution No. 337-19 Authorization to enter into a professional services agreement with CDM Smith for the Collections PLC Replacement project in an amount not-to-exceed \$10,487,860.00.

Resolution No. 338-19 Authorization to enter into a professional services agreement with CDM Smith for the Southerly PLC Replacement project in an amount not-to-exceed \$16,589,775.00.

Resolution No. 339-19 Authorization to enter into a professional services agreement with HZW Environment Consultants, LLC. for Environment Assessment Services in support of the District's Capital Improvement Project and Regional Stormwater Management Program, as needed, in an amount not-to-exceed \$1,500,000.00.

- Resolution No. 340-19 Authorization to enter into agreements with ten watershed organizations as technical service providers under the 2020 Watershed Partners Service Agreement Program, in amounts as presented, for a total amount not-to-exceed \$375,000.00.
- Resolution No. 341-19 Authorization to enter into a project reimbursement agreement with West Creek Conservancy for the Stickney Creek Floodplain Restoration project in Veterans Memorial Park in the City of Brooklyn in an amount not-to-exceed \$461,175.00.
- Resolution No. 342-19 Authorization to enter into a project reimbursement agreement with the Village of Bratenahl for the Nine Mile Creek Restoration project in the Village of Bratenahl in an amount not-to-exceed \$445,000.00.
- Resolution No. 343-19 Authorization to enter into an agreement with RSM US, LLP for professional services for the IT Response and Recovery project in an amount not-to-exceed \$192,500.00.

MOTION – Mr. Sulik moved, and Mr. Ciaccia seconded to adopt Resolution Nos. 336-19 through 339-19 and 341-19 through 343-19. Without objection, after the following discussion, the motion carried unanimously.

MOTION – Mr. Ciaccia moved and Mayor Bacci seconded to adopt Resolution No. 340-19. Without objection, after the following discussion, by roll call vote, the motion carried with all present members voting yes and abstention by President Brown.

With respect to the PLC Projects, President Brown inquired as to the reason for the programming costs being higher than the project capital. Devona Marshall, Director of Engineering and Construction, introduced Robin Rupe, E&C Project Manager, to explain how these agreements differ from the typical professional services agreements, and how they compare to the construction costs.

Ms. Rupe explained that there are three projects for which the District is seeking approval: PLC replacement at Southerly, PLC replacement at Easterly, and Collections PLC replacement. There are five phases of the professional services agreements: Task 1/pre-design, Task 2/design, Task 3/bidding services, Task 4/construction administrative services, and Task 5/closeout. Ms. Rupe used a chart to demonstrate that costs for Tasks 1, 2 and 4 are 40 to 45 percent higher than those of a typical design project related to the field investigations alone.

Regarding control strategies, the District is developing detailed design documents both in pictorial and verbal representation, which is 20 to 25 percent higher than the District's typical design projects due to the level of effort associated with them. The programming service is 40 to 50 percent higher than typical because there are over 350 sites involved. Ms. Rupe showed a photograph of a large cabinet as an example of the work that will need to be performed and

explained that many of the wires shown are either not labeled or not labeled properly. Task 1 will involve working with the consultant to trace the wires, evaluate the existing PLCs, HMIs, and operator screens to identify and document what equipment the District has and what it looks like.

Task 2 will involve taking the field investigation information and putting the documents onto paper. The documents will be used by the contractor and consultant to construct and program everything and will be used long term by the Operation and Maintenance staff as documentation of what the District has in its system for maintenance going forward.

There will be a lot of time spent on programming, as there are 350 sites District-wide which will be tested using the standards established on the automation program to ensure that everything is consistent between the plants and collection system.

The benefit of completing this project is replacing aging and obsolete infrastructure and to work with O & M to determine what is needed in terms of what can be automated and what can be performed manually.

There will be thorough documentation and standardization so staff will have consistent programming from plant to plant. It will also provide a foundation when it is time to replace equipment in the future.

President Brown asked for clarification and Ms. Rupe confirmed that the useful life of this equipment is approximately 15 years.

President Brown asked whether this equipment would provide additional data points and real-time information in terms of what is happening in the system. Ms. Rupe confirmed that is the intent, to make ease in operation. The equipment should provide useful information such as early warning of events and flows.

President Brown asked whether this is integrated within the state of development enhancement opportunity and Ms. Rupe confirmed that it is.

Mr. Ciaccia asked for O & M to address what it means from an operational standpoint. Frank Foley, Director of Operation and Maintenance, stated that it will help the District achieve consistency in data management. The District is also evaluating the alarms that come through the SCADA system and right-sizing them to eliminate nuisance alarms. Mr. Foley noted that there is a 15-year useful life term on this equipment and there will be a large cost to replace and rehabilitate it from time to time.

President Brown stated that he believes that this is a good opportunity for the District but voiced concerns about operational readiness to ensure that the technology is efficiently and effectively utilized. Ms. Dreyfuss-Wells stated that Mr. Foley and James Bunsey, Chief Operating Officer, are working closely on operational readiness and Mr. Foley will address the issue in his O & M update to the Board in early 2020.

Authorization to Amend Agreement and Ratify Expenditures

Resolution No. 344-19 Authorizing the District to enter into a Third Amendment to Agreement No. 17003660 with Improve Consulting and Training Group to extend the term of the agreement through exhaustion of the funds to perform additional consulting and training services in an amount not-to-exceed \$32,607.00 and ratifying expenditures in the amount of \$7,393.00 that were incurred above the current not-to-exceed agreement amount, thereby bringing the agreement amount not-to-exceed \$89,500.00.

MOTION – Mr. Ciaccia moved, and Mayor Bacci seconded to adopt Resolution No. 334-19. Without objection, the motion carried unanimously.

Authorization of Contract Modification

Resolution No. 345-19 Authorizing the final adjusting change order for Contract No. 17000705 with Ward & Burke Tunneling, Inc. for the Westerly Low-Level Relief Sewer project by decreasing the contract amount by \$948,899.01, thereby bringing the total contract amount to \$8,662,800.99.

MOTION – Mr. Sulik moved, and Ms. Dumas seconded to adopt Resolution No. 345-19. After the following discussion, without objection, the motion carried unanimously.

President Brown asked for clarification as to how the unused funds were saved. Ms. Marshall explained that most of the unused funding is from the general allowance and specific allowances, however, there is \$23,000 being saved from the base scope of work. After the contract was awarded, the contractor came back with a realignment change that eliminated one of the shafts, which resulted in the \$23,000 savings. This also allowed the District to avoid some utilities and potential contaminated soil resulting in a reduction of the specific allowance usage.

Authorization to Grant Credit

Resolution No. 346-19 Authorizing the District to issue a credit adjustment in the total amount of \$84,496.69 against sewer charges on NEORSD account ending in 0002 for Middleburg Heights Properties LP at 18600 East Bagley Road, Middleburg Heights.

Resolution No. 347-19 Authorizing the District to issue a credit adjustment in the total amount of \$380,066.94 against sewer charges on NEORSD account ending in 0210 for Brush High School at 4875 Glenlyn Road, Lyndhurst.

Resolution No. 348-19 Authorizing the District to issue a credit adjustment in the total amount of \$159,408.36 against sewer charges on NEORS account ending in 0001 for Faith United Church of Christ at 575 Richmond Road, Richmond Heights.

MOTION – Mayor Stefanik moved, and Mr. Ciaccia seconded to adopt Resolution Nos. 346-19 through 348-19. Without objection, the motion carried unanimously.

Property Related Transaction

Resolution No. 349-19 Authorizing the District to acquire one permanent stormwater easement on a portion of PPN 822-15-034, located at 5591 Wilson Mills Road, in the City of Highland Heights, owned by 5591 Highland Co., LLC necessary for the construction and maintenance of the Euclid Creek East Branch, Highland Heights Streambank Repair project with total consideration of \$1.00.

MOTION – Mr. Sulik moved, and Mayor Stefanik seconded to adopt Resolution No. 349-19. Without objection, the motion carried unanimously.

Stormwater Use Code Matters

Resolution No. 350-19 Adopting the findings of the Hearing Officer with regard to stormwater charges on the account of Donald Landriscina, Sewer District Hearing No. 19-027, that the customer’s request be denied.

MOTION – Mayor Stefanik moved, and Ms. Dumas seconded to adopt Resolution No. 350-19. Without objection, the motion carried unanimously.

Authorization of Pay Classifications

Resolution No. 351-19 Approval of two additional pay classifications for hourly non-union District employees, known as “W09” and “W10” and approving the pay ranges for said classifications in 2020, as presented, with the salary and hourly rates of pay for all other classifications to remain unchanged and approved for 2020.

MOTION – Mr. Ciaccia moved, and Mayor Bacci seconded to adopt Resolution No. 351-19. Without objection, the motion carried unanimously.

Authorization to Purchase

Resolution No. 352-19 Authorization to purchase one primary settling tank collector drive from sole source manufacturer DBS Manufacturing under the

Westerly Primary Settling Tank No. 1 Drive Replacement project in an amount not-to-exceed \$95,715.00.

MOTION – Mayor Stefanik moved, and Mayor Bacci seconded to adopt Resolution No. 352-19. Without objection, the motion carried unanimously.

Resolutions of Acknowledgement

Resolution No. 353-19 Resolution of Acknowledgement presented to Robert A. Stefanik in recognition of his years of outstanding services and noteworthy contributions to the Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District.

Resolution No. 354-19 Resolution No. 354-19 Resolution of Acknowledgement presented to Julius Ciaccia in recognition of his years of outstanding services and noteworthy contributions to the Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District.

MOTION – Mayor Bacci moved, and President Brown seconded to adopt Resolution No. 353-19 and Ms. Dumas moved, and President Brown seconded to adopt Resolution No. 354-19. After the following discussion, without objection, the motions carried unanimously.

President Brown acknowledged Mr. Ciaccia for his nearly three years on the District’s Board of Trustees and his preceding nine years as Chief Executive Officer of the District.

Mr. Ciaccia expressed his gratitude for his time spent at the District as CEO and serving on the Board of Trustees.

Mr. Ciaccia stated that when he joined the District in 2007 the organization was faced with critical programmatic challenges. Negotiations were needed to reach a federal and state consent decree to carry out the long-term control plan and reduce CSO overflows. As that was ongoing, the District had to enhance its staff to carry out a large and complex engineering and construction program over 25 years. The District had to overcome legacy contracting practices, construction contract litigation, and a criminal matter. There were significant rate implications that both the staff and Board would have to face. There was a growing need for the District to enter a regional stormwater management program. The District had invested millions of dollars in studies and it was time to get into a development and implementation effort. This finally came to fruition after five years of litigation where the District prevailed in the Supreme Court of Ohio.

While Mr. Ciaccia expressed pride in the leadership role he had in these efforts in both capacities, he stated that he was just one of the 800 employees of the District.

Mr. Ciaccia explained that while there was a good staff of employees when he began at the District, there were two large programs to carry out, and the team had to be enhanced in numbers and skill

set to be successful. Because of the District's unique governance structure, it was achievable without hiring consultants. The District had the ability to be competitive in attracting and retaining talent to carry out long-term substantial programs. Mr. Ciaccia noted that the District has great engineers and great people in Operations, but it includes many critical support individuals and teams such as: the Finance Department; Communications under Constance Haqq, which is nationally recognized; the Legal Department that Eric Luckage has been building and now is going to handle the federal advocacy in-house; Regulatory Compliance under Robin Halperin; Contract Compliance under Tiffany Jordan; Human Resources; Information Technology; Procurement; the environmentalists and everyone in the Stormwater Program; and the Good Neighbor Ambassador Program which produced great outcomes.

Mr. Ciaccia stated that he is proud to see how everyone stepped up. The nonunion employees of over 50 percent embraced a performance management system that has accountability unlike many governmental organizations. The unionized workforce is doing the same through new work practices within their Collective Bargaining Agreement.

Mr. Ciaccia acknowledged the Board of Trustees and Ms. Dreyfuss-Wells for their outstanding work.

He stated that this Board of Trustees showed much courage with a unanimous vote supporting the last rate increase, but most of all he is thankful for every employee he got to meet and work with. His hope is that this organization continues to progress and not find reasons for regressing, and that the District management and Board will embrace the future. Mr. Ciaccia thanked everyone for their support.

Mr. Ciaccia introduced Terry Joyce, who will be serving his unexpired term on the Board.

President Brown stated that Mr. Ciaccia has been a good friend for many years and thanked him for his work.

President Brown acknowledged Mayor Stefanik for his five years of service on the Board of Trustees. President Brown stated that it has sincerely been a pleasure to work with Mayor Stefanik when dealing with difficult tasks, whether administrative, the Consent Order, long-term control plan process or capital planning, he is always insightful. President Brown stated that Mayor Stefanik clearly understood the mission of this District and its role in the greater community and spoke and in a very strong voice of advocacy, clarity, resolve and reason.

Mayor Stefanik expressed his appreciation to the Board, the District, its employees and department heads for their support and work in the community.

Mayor Stefanik highlighted the importance of the Stormwater program to his city and surrounding communities, further stating that there used to be 1,000 homes that would flood during a two-inch rain and now there may be two dozen homes that flood during a four-inch rain.

Mayor Stefanik thanked the Cuyahoga County Mayors and Managers Association (the Suburban Council of Governments) for voting him into the Board and introduced Mayor Sam Alai, who will be serving his unexpired term on the Board.

VI. Information Items

1. Chief Legal Officer Claims Report to Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District Board of Trustees, June 2019 – December 2019

2. Information Technology Update

Mohan Kurup, Director of Information Technology, provided an update on five of the larger ongoing projects: the information security program, the wide-area network migration project, some improvements in IT service delivery that center around the Cherwell implementation, and Phase II of the data warehouse and UltiPro HR application.

The information security program sets the governance structure for protecting data, mitigating risks, and implementing policies that accomplish those things. It covers both the control network run by PC&A and the business at work that is handled by IT.

The information security workgroup meets monthly and is comprised of members of various departments. Oversight is provided by the Audit Committee and the executives, to identify risks and monitor how the District mitigates them. The District follows the National Institute of Standards and Technology's cyber security framework.

The primary areas addressed by the program are to identify risks and protect assets from viruses, malware and cyber-attacks, and mitigate any potential damages.

The second project update is for the wide-area network migration. This was a large project that was done primarily to increase network bandwidth for the District. The District greatly increased its internet speeds to meet the demands of its databases and applications.

In addition to increased bandwidth, it allows the hardware such as the firewall and routers to process information more efficiently and securely.

The scope of the project was to replace 35 routers, switches, and firewalls, as well as all Internal WAN circuits and Internet connections. It was a complicated effort with a lot of partners. The District maintained its existing WAN, and kept it running in parallel with the new system and then the team executed a very orderly cut-over to the new network. There were no unscheduled downtime events for the network and only minor interruptions after business hours that were well communicated ahead of time.

In addition to the cut-over, the system put in place has a fully redundant WAN network that can be brought online should there be a failure with the primary system. It is kept at a very low bandwidth so it is very low cost but that can be dialed up should something happen to the primary

network. Mr. Kurup noted that this was a collaborative effort between IT, PC&A and outside vendors at Black Box, AT&T, and Verizon. The result was new controls, new methodology, new hardware, and a much more robust security framework.

The IT service delivery improvements were centered around the implementation of Cherwell. One aspect is asset management. Cherwell allows the District to increase control and improve tracking. Each computer in the District, of which there are nearly 800, has software that reports back to Cherwell so that the District has a dynamic list of what is in the field, who is logged in, what software is installed. This can improve cost management by preventing overbuying of software, as an unused existing license can be transferred to a new user. Additionally, it helps to ensure the District is not running any unlicensed software.

Mr. Kurup showed a screenshot of the IT information self-service portal. The portal offers services such as an IT solution search tool, the ability to enter a trouble ticket, and check the status of an existing trouble ticket.

Change control is very important. The District has automated the system and categorized the types of changes based on what system is being affected and who gets notified of those changes so that it does not interfere with any department's work. There are records of all changes which is very helpful from an audit standpoint and prevents unauthorized changes to the system.

The Data Warehouse Phase II project is very complex. It takes data from multiple sources including the Cleveland Division of Water(CWD), the District's own Oracle EBS finance system, the census, the Board of Elections and the Cuyahoga County Fiscal Office, and normalizes it through an ETL, an extract transformation and load process, and puts it into an Oracle database that allows the District to run reports, do visualizations, graphs, and business intelligence in general. The result is an easily repeatable process that is no longer manual.

The Data Warehouse project provides the ability to view trends history. This used to be incredibly labor intensive. Taking information provided by four outside entities all in different formats, not normalized, and putting them together in spreadsheets to extract meaningful data would take extraordinary effort. Now, with the click of a mouse, one can generate information like the total number of CWD accounts with aged AR, potential candidates eligible for a cost saving program, and how many accounts are enrolled in cost savings programs. The information can be organized in many ways, such as by city or geographical information.

The next project Mr. Kurup discussed was UltiPro, the District's centralized HR capital system. It reduces the need for manual entry and duplication. It is comprised of eight modules, six of which are completed and in production now. The remaining modules are performance management and compensation management.

UltiPro has a learning module which allows the District to deliver content to its employees for computer-based training. It records the employees' training history and test scoring.

UltiPro also has an applicant tracking system which provides information regarding candidates and open positions that hiring managers can view and obtain information regarding the status of filling their open positions.

The upcoming projects for the IT Department include finalization of its 2020 project list, reviewing with the Senior Staff to prioritize the list, finalizing the budget, and scheduling hardware procurement. The District replaces about 20 percent of all computers each year, which is a large undertaking in addition to its other IT projects.

3. Program Management Status Report and Update – November 2019

Devona Marshall provided her monthly update of the Capital Improvement Program for November 2019.

Regarding cash flow, the District ended November at 85 percent of planned and is hopeful that it will close the year at 85 percent of planned to meet the KPI. As for actual dollar amounts, \$12 million was paid out in November, bringing the year-to-date total to \$185 million.

For the construction level KPIs, there were three projects that achieved substantial completion in November all within 90 days of planned, meeting the KPI. That includes the Dugway Regulators and Relief Sewers Project, the Southerly Building Heat Boilers System Upgrades Project, and the Westerly CSTOF Boiler Replacement Project.

In November, the construction contract was closed on the District-Wide Uninterruptible Power Supply Project within 95 percent of planned, meeting the KPI, and the District also met the KPI as it relates to the Business Opportunity Program goals. The District goal on this project was set at 15 percent MBE/WBE and the projected actual is over 69 percent.

Total work orders on this project came in at 8.27 percent equating to \$118,000. There were two categories, differing or unforeseen conditions and owner-requested changes. Ms. Marshall explained that the work orders categorized under differing or unforeseen conditions could have been captured under owner-requested changes. There were two UPSs that failed during construction that were not a part of the scope that were replaced under the general allowance.

Also, in the month of November, the District closed the construction contract for the Westerly Continuous Admissions Monitoring System Upgrade Project, a one-step design/build project which was closed within 95 percent of the contract amount, meeting the KPI. There were not any Business Opportunity Program goals or work orders on this project. This was very specialized work and the contractor itself performed the work. The District did explore performing this project as a traditional design/bid/build. The estimate for design was \$120,000. Using the design/build method, it was fully constructed for \$111,000.

As for construction, there are five active design/build contracts. Two are in the pre-construction design, pre-guaranteed maximum price (GMP) development phase. That includes the Dille Road/Barberton Creek Pump Station Improvements Project and the Southerly Disinfection Solids

Handling Improvements Project. Three are post-GMP and in the construction phase: The Easterly Bar Screen Conveyer Rehabilitation Project, the Southerly Building Heat Boiler System Upgrade Project, and the Easterly/Westerly Low-Voltage Replacement Project.

The Southerly Building Heat Boiler System Upgrade Project has a GMP of \$8.8 million. This project involves replacing the old steam boiler heating system that had reached its effective useful life and was oversized as a result of decommissioning some of the processes of the Southerly plant. The old system is being replaced with eight high-efficiency hot water boiler plants.

The Easterly/Westerly Low-Voltage Equipment Replacement is in the early stages of construction and has a GMP of \$11.1 million. Under this project, the District is replacing the obsolete electrical distribution equipment system at the Easterly and Westerly plants. It includes 116 distribution panels and transformers as well as 54 motor control centers.

A progressive design/build delivery approach was adopted for this project because of the extensive field verification to verify existing wire locations and estimate required quantities of the new equipment. This allowed for better coordination of the design and construction effort and minimization of the unforeseen and differing site conditions during construction. This project is scheduled to achieve substantial completion in July of 2021.

Ms. Marshall introduced Andrea Remias, Project Manager of Engineering and Construction, to provide an update on the local sewer evaluation studies.

The local sewer system evaluation studies (LSSSES) are planning level studies of the local communities' infrastructure focused on problems that are identified by the communities. These studies will confirm those problems, identify new and future problems and develop solutions to them. At the end of each study the communities will receive a community report and the findings will be presented to them in individual community meetings. Ideally, these findings would support the communities' CIP plans and potentially feed Member Community Infrastructure Program (MCIP) grant applications.

There are currently four studies across the service area: Heights Hilltop Interceptor study, which is complete, Mill Creek Interceptor and Combined Sewer study area, Southwest Interceptor study area, and Cuyahoga Valley Interceptor study area.

Ms. Remias provided an overview of the LSSSES program schedule. The studies are to be completed by the end of 2021. The Mill Creek interceptor and combined area evaluation will be complete at the end of 2020. This study looks at both the Mill Creek Interceptor system and the separate pocket areas within the combined sewer system. The separate pocket area evaluations have been completed and those results have been provided to the communities.

The Mill Creek Interceptor area evaluation is in process and findings are anticipated in 2020.

The Southwest Interceptor project is about halfway complete. It is being performed in two phases. The first phase will focus on Parma, Parma Heights, and Seven Hills where there have been

significant chronic basement flooding complaints. The team has begun alternative evaluations for the Phase-I communities and is continuing with testing and inspection in the Phase-II communities.

The Cuyahoga Valley Interceptor area was the last study to begin and is to be completed in 2021. The team is calibrating their models and will begin problem area evaluation in 2020.

All LSSSES teams and Watershed Team Leaders are actively reaching out to communities to see if and how they can provide any support for MCIP applications through further analysis or field work to start addressing these problems even before these projects are complete.

In the Heights Hilltop area, there are 15 communities, 27,000 acres, and 600 miles of sewer. Of that, 360 miles are common trench sewers, which are very old and have a lot of crossflow between the storm and sanitary sewers, leading to pollutants going into streams and sanitary sewers becoming overloaded and backing up into basements. There are 53,000 structures that have basements and of those, 14 percent are at risk of flooding based on the modeling that has been performed.

The Heights Hilltop study provided recommendations in three tiers. Tier 1, considered immediate needs, was focused on addressing existing basement backups and sanitary sewer overflows (SSO); Tier 2 recommendations focused on addressing areas of excessive inflow and infiltration (I & I); and Tier 3 addressed areas that have future predicted problems based on modeling. Tier 2 and 3 are considered long-term planning type projects.

In the Heights Hilltop area, to address the existing community reported problems would cost \$144 million. The District anticipates that would be over a five to ten-year period. To address excessive I & I under the Tier 2 improvements would cost another \$785 million, and for long-term planning purposes, Tier 3 would be another \$366 million.

Ms. Remias noted that merely relining mainline sewers to address I & I problems has not been very effective. These costs take into consideration addressing the laterals up to the public right-of-way, but a lot of the I & I is coming from private property. The further that the communities can go into private property the better the results would be.

Mr. Ciaccia asked for clarification regarding the \$144 million in Tier 1 costs and the potential timeframe in which the improvements would occur. He voiced concern that important repairs may not be possible to complete without new money coming into the region. Ms. Dreyfuss-Wells agreed and replied that this is the reason for performing the studies. The District has always put together studies to address the issues and work through funding to address the issues, but there is a gap between the funding that is available and problems to be addressed.

Mr. Ciaccia asked whether there could potentially be exposure when there are these kinds of numbers outside of the MCIP and not much funding available to address the problems.

Mr. Greenland stated that he does not know what the timeframe would be for these repairs. The total \$1.3 billion relates to a complete rebuild of very old common trench sewers. Ms. Marshall

added that there may be less expensive alternative solutions and the project is only at the planning level and focused on alternatives that remove I & I from the system.

Mr. Ciaccia stated that the I & I brings unmetered flows into the District's plant that it must process, and there is I & I that causes street flooding and I & I that causes basement flooding. He voiced concern that the basement flooding potentially exposes the District to liability and asked how much of the needed funding is related to potential basement flooding. Most of the Tier 1 projects are related to potential basement flooding. Tier 1 basement flooding is identified by community reporting, the others are model predicted. Ms. Dreyfuss-Wells noted that the Heights Hilltop area is the worst area.

Eric Luckage, Chief Legal Officer, stated that the Board could address Mr. Ciaccia's question regarding potential exposure in executive session, if necessary.

Ms. Dreyfuss-Wells noted that the District is in discussions with the Ohio EPA as they are interested in helping to address these problems. Mr. Ciaccia and Ms. Dreyfuss-Wells agreed that this is an issue for integrated planning and permitting.

President Brown noted that the January 2, 2020 Board meeting would likely be cancelled.

Open Session

There were no items.

VII. Public Session (any subject matter)

There were no items.

VIII. Executive Session

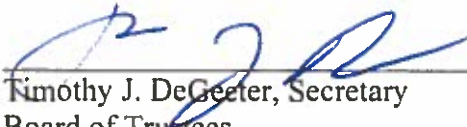
There were no items.

IX. Approval of Items from Executive Session


N/A

X. Adjournment

MOTION – Mr. Brown stated business having been concluded, he would entertain a motion to adjourn. Mr. Ciaccia moved, and Mayor Stefanik seconded the motion to adjourn at 1:54 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