
THE CORD REPORT

The official quarterly newsletter of CORD Ohio



REGIONAL DISTRICT IN CLEVELAND MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN STORMWATER MANAGEMENT

In September 2015, the Ohio Supreme Court ruled in favor of the Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District's (Sewer District) appeal concerning its Regional Stormwater Management Program (RSMP). The ruling reaffirmed the Sewer District's long-standing position that it was not only authorized to manage stormwater, but to impose a fee to fund RSMP projects, too.

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"The Ohio Supreme Court ruling was a great victory for the region," said Kyle Dreyfuss-Wells, Sewer District CEO. "Prior to the ruling, stormwater issues caused damage and inter-community flooding, and there wasn't a regional approach to managing these problems. Under the Regional Stormwater Management Program, the Sewer District is tackling those issues and seeing results."

Today, the Sewer District's success in developing and managing a regional approach to stormwater issues has led to the completion of 11 stormwater projects throughout its watershed service areas, which includes the Cuyahoga River, Rocky River, Chagrin River and direct tributaries to Lake Erie. For example, the Sewer District recently completed the Euclid Creek Flood Control Shoaling Removal project, which focused on the removal of accumulated sand, gravel and woody material that had accumulated in the creek. As a result, conveyance of stormwater in the channel has improved.

"Not only is there a regional benefit to the Sewer District's service area communities and customers, there is a benefit, to leveraging relationships to maximize various stormwater projects"

- Dreyfuss-Wells

In 2018, nine stormwater projects are in the works, including the Doan Brook Streambank Stabilization project, which is a \$5 million joint effort between the Cleveland Museum of Art and the Sewer District. The Sewer District's work includes relining and stabilizing portions of the brook, designed to reduce flooding and erosion, and enhance natural habitat. Once complete, the museum will add landscaping features to liven the space.

'Not only is there a regional benefit to the Sewer District's service area communities and customers, there is a benefit, to leveraging relationships to maximize various stormwater projects,' said Dreyfuss-Wells. 'The Art Museum is able to build on the Sewer District's work and will provide a visually appealing and usable space.'

Additionally, the Sewer District's Stormwater Inspection and Maintenance team continues to address problem areas, some of which have plagued the region for decades.

Inspections have identified structural integrity and erosion issues, which, for example, have resulted in exposed bridge supports and utilities. Other inspections have identified debris-laden infrastructure, impeding the ability for stormwater to flow freely during rain events. Once problems are identified, they are monitored, recommended for action or, in the case of debris, removed. Debris is removed to maximize the ability of the stream to flow during wet weather events, minimizing potential flooding and erosion. Since the Ohio Supreme Court ruling, the Sewer District has conducted 2,311 system inspections, and removed 12,965 cubic yards of sediment and debris.

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The Northwestern Water & Sewer District Operators are the Best in the State & Top in the Nation

Five Operators from the Northwestern Water & Sewer District have proved the lead Ohio and the country in taking care of our wastewater system safely, efficiently and responsibly. For the past five years, District employees, Claud Barringer, Bryan Martikan, Jarred Myers, Tom McGrain and Todd Saums, have participated in The “Ops Challenge”, an intense competition involving timed events in wastewater treatment operations, maintenance, laboratory, safety and collection systems.

This year, their team “Dirty Deeds”, finished in first place at the Ohio Water Environment Association’s (OWEA) Technical Conference & Expo statewide operations challenge.

“Dirty Deeds”, finished in sixth place overall in the national “Operations Challenge” at the Water Environment Federation’s Technical Exhibition & Conference (WEFTEC) in Chicago. This is the highest rank the team has placed in the overall competition since they started participating in the Challenge five years ago.

The team plans to compete again next year, with support from the OWEA, and their partners/competitors from the Cities of Columbus, Cincinnati, and The Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District.



TOLEDO AREA REGIONALIZATION

The city of Toledo, in northwest Ohio, has owned and operated a water and sanitary sewer plant for approx. 80-90 years. Through those years, they have provided treatment to outside contract communities as their "inside" use age has decreased and the "outside" suburb's use age has increased.

To-date for example, there are 8 contract communities who purchase water from the city, most of which are on 40 year agreements. All have varying surcharges for purchasing water from outside the city's corporate limits. A few also have tax-sharing requirements as well with Toledo. Both of which add to the cost of the water.

Since the city has had to make major capital improvements at the WTP since the algae crisis of 2014 totaling \$500 million dollars, their internal rates have gone up steadily. While at the same time, most of the contract communities contracts expire in 2024 and 2027. With expiring contracts and increasing rates, most of the communities are looking hard at alternatives other than Toledo.

Regionalizing the water plant into an ORC 6119 organization with a separate set of owners, board members, policies, etc is not new, but has now been done more in earnest and in detail. For example, The Toledo area Chamber of Commerce underwrote the cost of a consultant (a facilitator) who has completed 12 months of ongoing meetings with a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the 9 political subdivisions as a result.

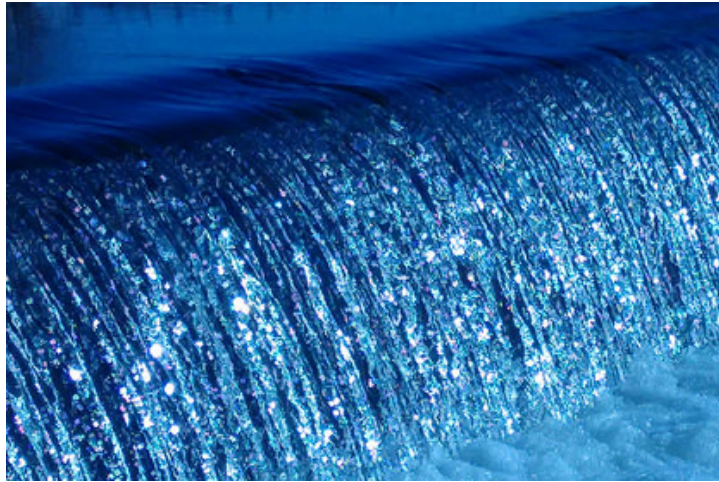
A deadline has passed on March 15 in which the parties had hoped to have agreement in order to file a petition before a judge (panel) to form an ORC 6119.

This has now passed with the parties still in discussion. And with alternatives still being discussed, should Toledo not be part of the area plan.



CORD 2018 EVENTS

**2018 SPRING REGIONAL MEETING SPONSORED BY
LE-AX WATER
APRIL 20TH 2018**



For more information on membership and member benefits please feel free to contact CORD's Director of Membership, Kevin Strang.

**Contact Information:
kevin.strang70@gmail.com**

