



**Board of Drainage and Flood Control**  
**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES OF JANUARY 27, 2026**  
**CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS**  
**7:00 PM**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Meeting called to order by Ms. Eavenson at 7:00 p.m.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**ROLL CALL**

Ms. Eavenson welcomed Cori Cook, Katie Rogerson and Paul Wolanski to the board. Copies of NRCO Section 1442 were provided for members to reference when needed.

Board members present: Mr. Abens, Mr. Balog, Ms. Cook, Ms. Eavenson, Mr. Ford, Mr. Gontkovsky, Ms. Rogerson, Mr. Stevens, Mr. Weaver, Mr. Winkel, Mr. Wolanski

Board members absent: Mr. Cleveland, Mr. Scott

**ELECT OFFICERS**

Mr. Ford nominated Ms. Eavenson to be appointed Board Chair. Mr. Ford moved, seconded by Mr. Gontkovsky, motion approved 11-0.

Mr. Gontkovsky nominated Mr. Ford to be appointed Board Vice Chair. Mr. Gontkovsky moved, seconded by Ms. Rogerson, motion approved 11-0.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Ms. Rogerson moved, seconded by Mr. Ford, to approve the minutes of October 28, 2025. Motion approved 12-0.

**OLD BUSINESS**

Mills Creek Flood Control Basin Project Update

Ms. Eavenson briefly reviewed the project's history. It is a regional stormwater project intended to alleviate flooding along the Mills Creek watercourse area. The project includes a wetland disturbance of approximately two acres along the creek with some stream impacts. The plans show onsite mitigation re-establishing a total of 8.25 acres of wetlands with a new re-routed stream. This project requires EPA and U.S. Army Corp of Engineers approval. The EPA has approved the project but final approval from the Army Corp should be received soon. After working with the Army Corp for about two years, the city was able to obtain the permit for the project without having to pay for offsite mitigation. The project will cost approximately \$6,000,000.

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An ordinance was recently presented to Council requesting to increase the project budget by \$157,700 to cover costs for needed additional design services. There is a conflict with TC Energy's high-pressure gas main that runs through the project. If the City would like to have TC Energy lower their line to accommodate the project, it would cost an additional \$2,000,000. The project engineers will alter the plans to have an underground channel installed under the pipeline to eliminate the need for the gas main to be moved.

**Fortune Ditch Update**

A ditch maintenance project for Fortune Ditch is being administered by Lorain County. The project limits are from the county line just north of Sprague Road proceeding west crossing Reed Road and Island Road until it drains into Carpenter Ditch at SR-83. Only a portion of this project is located within North Ridgeville and the impacted residents have already been notified. Unfortunately, the project is currently on hold as there was an appeal to the courts from one of the property owners that was taking issue with the project.

**SR-83 Culvert over Phelon Ditch Update**

Ms. Eavenson said the existing bridge is an original sandstone block channel dating back to the 1950's and it has been widened over the years and is in need replacement. Engineering inspectors discovered that some of the blocks have become dislodged. Staff are currently working with an Engineering firm to prepare plans to replace the culvert and are looking for potential funding sources for this replacement.

**Sugar Ridge Road Bridge over Ridgeway Ditch Update**

This is a county bridge that was recently given a 3 out of 9 rating for general appraisal during a routine inspection which is not a very good rating. The county imposed weight restrictions on the bridge to limit further damage to the structure. The existing bridge was originally a sandstone block channel and has been added onto over the years. The county has submitted a request to NOACA for potential funding for the project and it is anticipated to start in 2028-2029.

**Storm Sewer Replacement/Extension South of Crossing at French Creek on SR-83**

Ms. Eavenson explained that approximately 800 feet of 36-inch pipe and another 150 feet of 30-inch pipe was installed along the right-of-way in front of the new Crossing at French Creek subdivision. Stormwater from the neighboring properties historically was channeled through the property at 5791 Avon Belden Road without an easement to the city. When Drees decided to build the subdivision, the city took the opportunity to work with them to build a public storm sewer on their property that would drain to French Creek.

**Bridge Replacement over Mills Creek on Center Ridge (SR-20)**

ODOT recently completed their project to replace the stone arch bridge constructed in 1932 with a three-span bridge under Center Ridge Road. The new bridge is constructed of reinforced concrete slabs supported on reinforced concrete capped pile abutments and capped pile piers.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Service Department Review of Ditch Maintenance**

Mr. Ford shared a few photos of projects completed by the Public Works Department since the last meeting. First he shared an infographic showing the flow of stormwater to the lake and how easily pollutants contaminate the water.

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He went on to explain that multiple residents on Case Road were concerned about the odor and color the water they found discharging from their septic systems. Lorain County Public Health inspected the area and was not concerned about it as it is believed to be dye that someone put in their system to find out where the system discharged. LCPH will follow up with the residents to ensure their systems are functioning properly.

Mr. Stevens said he maintains the ditch at the rear of his property. He asked if staff could try to inform residents about the need to refrain from dumping their dogs' waste in ditches. Mr. Ford said the Public Works Department has stencils that they are planning on painting around the city to remind residents not to pollute the waterways. The city is trying to share more information to help educate the residents as well. Ms. Eavenson said she could have staff visit the property to see if it would be a violation, but Mr. Stevens said he would try to speak with them first. Ms. Eavenson also shared that testing has shown high phosphorus in the stormwater, so the city would like to prioritize campaigns directed to local farmers regarding the proper use of pesticides. The city will also include information about the proper disposal of organic matter to the campaign as well.

Ms. Rogerson asked about who is responsible for maintaining retention ponds in subdivisions. Ms. Eavenson said it depends on the location of the basin and what was determined when the original plat was approved. Unfortunately, none of the situations are the same, but the more recently approved subdivisions' basins are maintained by the HOAs. Mr. Abens added that there are some detention basins around the city that are maintained by the city but that is not true for every situation.

**Stormwater Ordinance Updates**

Ms. Eavenson shared Ordinance 2025-157 updating NRCO Chapter 1226 to add language giving staff the ability to require that developers put wetlands or easements in common areas rather than sublots. There have been many cases where structures were built in easements causing damage to the utilities underneath that needed to be resolved. Other residents have complained about their yards staying wet because they were not aware that their property included designated wetlands. This ordinance went into effect January 14, 2026.

**Public Comments**

Michael Russo, 5192 Manchester Circle, said Mr. Reitz visited his house to discuss the possibility of a retention pond behind his home as he has previously requested. He has lived in his home since 1977 and is concerned about the stormwater coming from the recently constructed subdivisions along SR-83. His home has flooded twice and he now has to disclose that information if he tries to sell his house. He believes his neighbors agree that a retention basin should be constructed on the leased farmland and went on to describe how other residents put up barricades when they see that water is starting to back up. Ms. Eavenson thought the stormwater upgrades done along SR-83 should help this situation, but she will need to revisit this idea since the main focus has been on the Mills Creek Flood Control project.

Mr. Gontkovsky asked about the status of the Chestnut Ridge Road and SR-83 roundabout project. Ms. Eavenson said the utility relocation and coordination was completed at the end of last year and the land needed has been acquired. Staff are waiting to get final approval of the project from ODOT but they hope to start construction in the summer.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:57 p.m.

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A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Eavenson", written over a horizontal line.

Christina Eavenson, City Engineer

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "N. Rambo-Ackerman", written over a horizontal line.

Nicole Rambo-Ackerman, Acting Secretary

7/28/24  
Date

The next Board of Drainage and Flood Control regular meeting is scheduled for April 28, 2026, at 7:00 p.m.