



**CITY OF AVON LAKE**  
150 Avon Belden Road  
Avon Lake, Ohio 44012

**WORK SESSION**  
Council Chamber  
September 2, 2025  
7 p.m.

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**PUBLIC INPUT:** *Members of the audience shall be permitted to speak only once, up to five minutes on Work Session topic. [Code of Ordinance, Section 220.21(c)(1)]*

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**Central Lake Erie Regional Water Reclamation District (CLERWTR)**

A collaborative initiative under Ohio Revised Code Chapter 6119 to provide efficient, cost-effective wastewater treatment services for the eastern Lorain County region.

***Lou McMahon of McMahon DeGulis LLC***



## R.C. 6119 Sewer District and the Formation of CLERWTR

# Overview

- ❑ Ohio Revised Code Chapter 6119 Regional Sewer District explained.
- ❑ What CLERWTR will look like.
- ❑ CLERWTR is necessary and provides multiple benefits.
- ❑ CLERWTR is financially viable.
- ❑ The public processes and next steps.





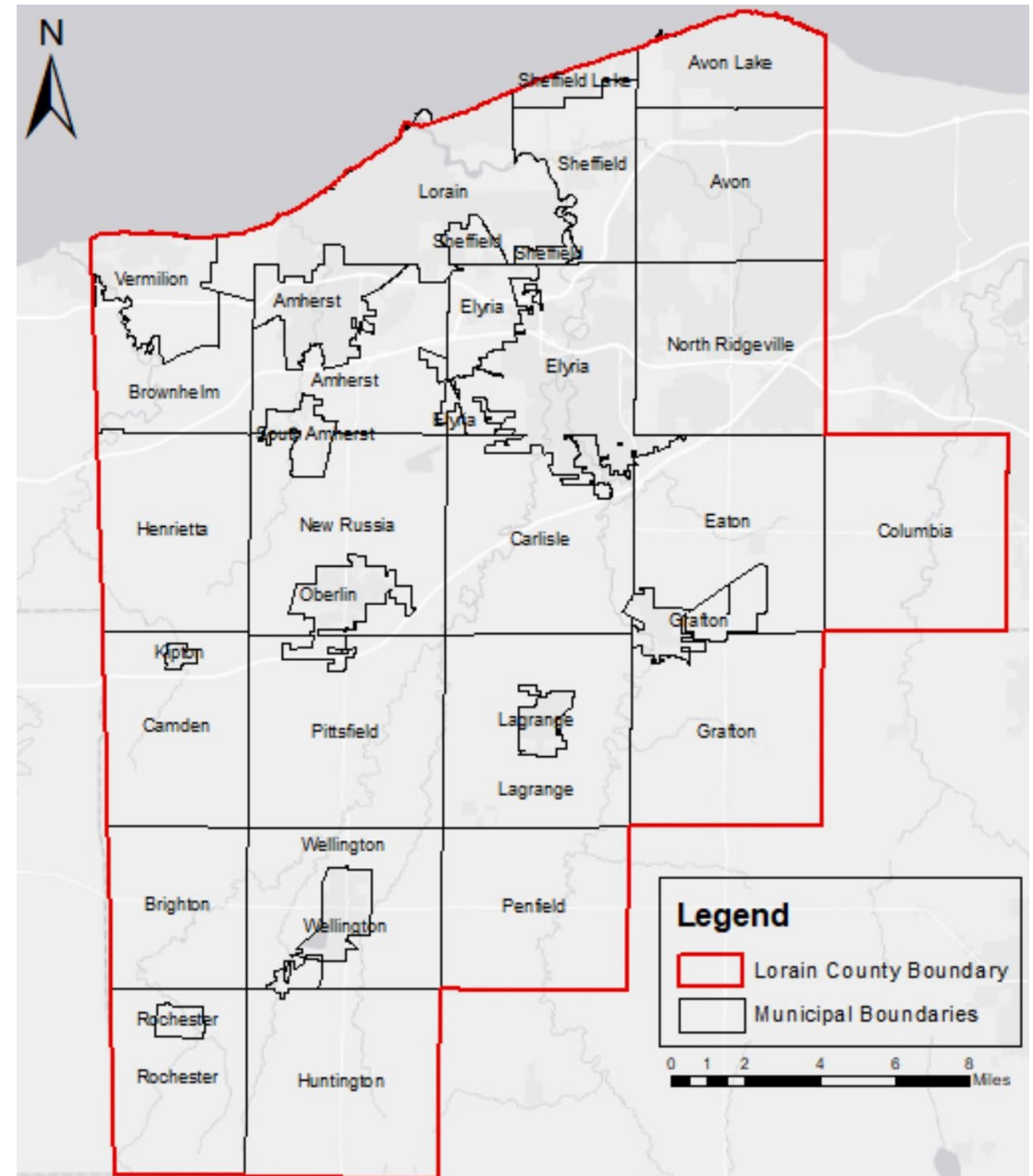
# Ohio Revised Code Chapter 6119 Regional Sewer District Explained

# What is an R.C. 6119 District?

Any area situated in any unincorporated part of one or more contiguous counties or in one or more municipal corporations, or both, may be organized as a regional water and sewer district in the manner and subject to the conditions provided in Chapter 6119 of the Revised Code, for *either or both* of the following purposes:

[...]

(B) To provide for the collection, treatment, and disposal of wastewater within and without the district.



# Statutory Process for Forming a Sewer District

**IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS OF LORAIN COUNTY  
PROBATE DIVISION**

**IN THE MATTER OF:**

**CENTRAL LAKE ERIE REGIONAL  
WATER RECLAMATION DISTRICT**

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**CASE NO.**

**JUDGE**

**PETITION FOR FORMATION  
UNDER R.C. 6119.02**

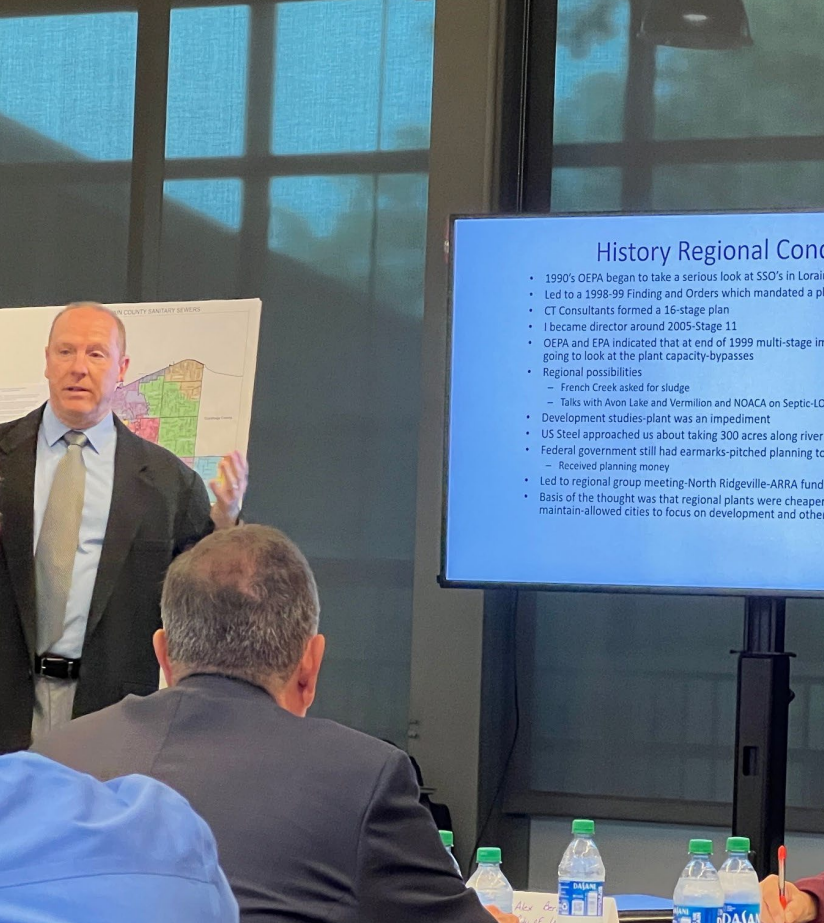
## Steps for forming:

1. Create the Petition and Plan of Operation
2. Hold a public hearing
3. File the Petition and Plan of Operation with the Court
4. Final hearing

# Central Lake Erie Regional Water Reclamation District (CLERWTR)

Created by Lorain County, Avon Lake Board of Municipal Utilities, by and through the City  
of Avon Lake, and Lorain County Rural Wastewater District





Longtime Efforts from Lorain County Entities

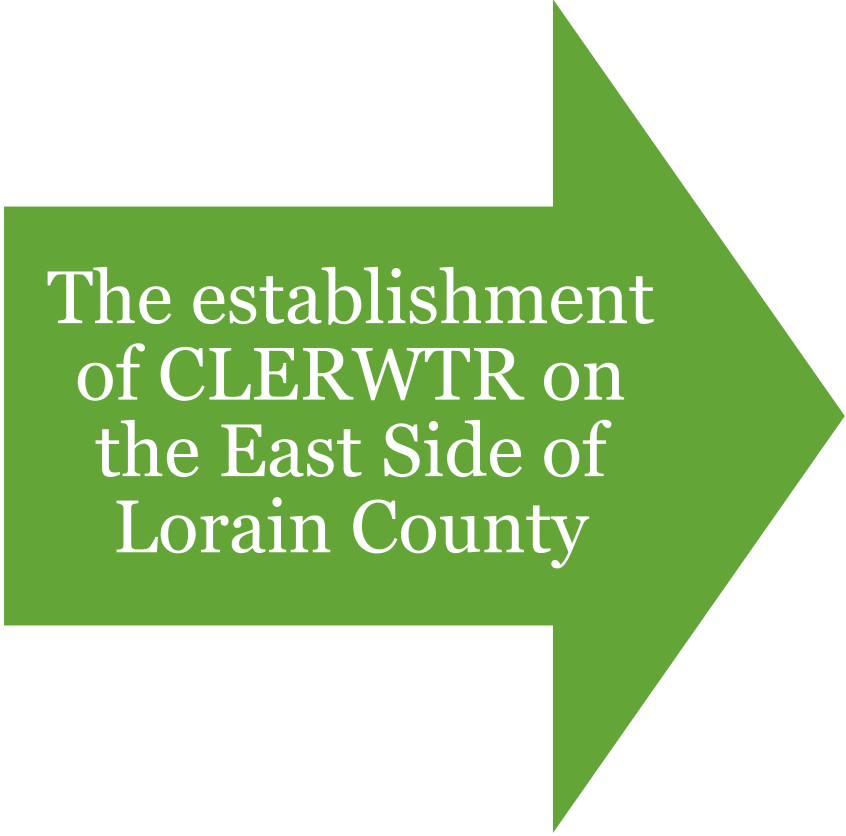


# West Side and East Side Efforts



All Ohio Future  
Fund Investment  
on the West Side  
of Lorain County

While the Lorain  
County Board of  
County  
Commissioners has  
consistent goals, these  
projects are separate



The establishment  
of CLERWTR on  
the East Side of  
Lorain County



What CLERWTR will Look Like

# Proposed CLERWTR Governance Structure

## Three Member Board of Trustees

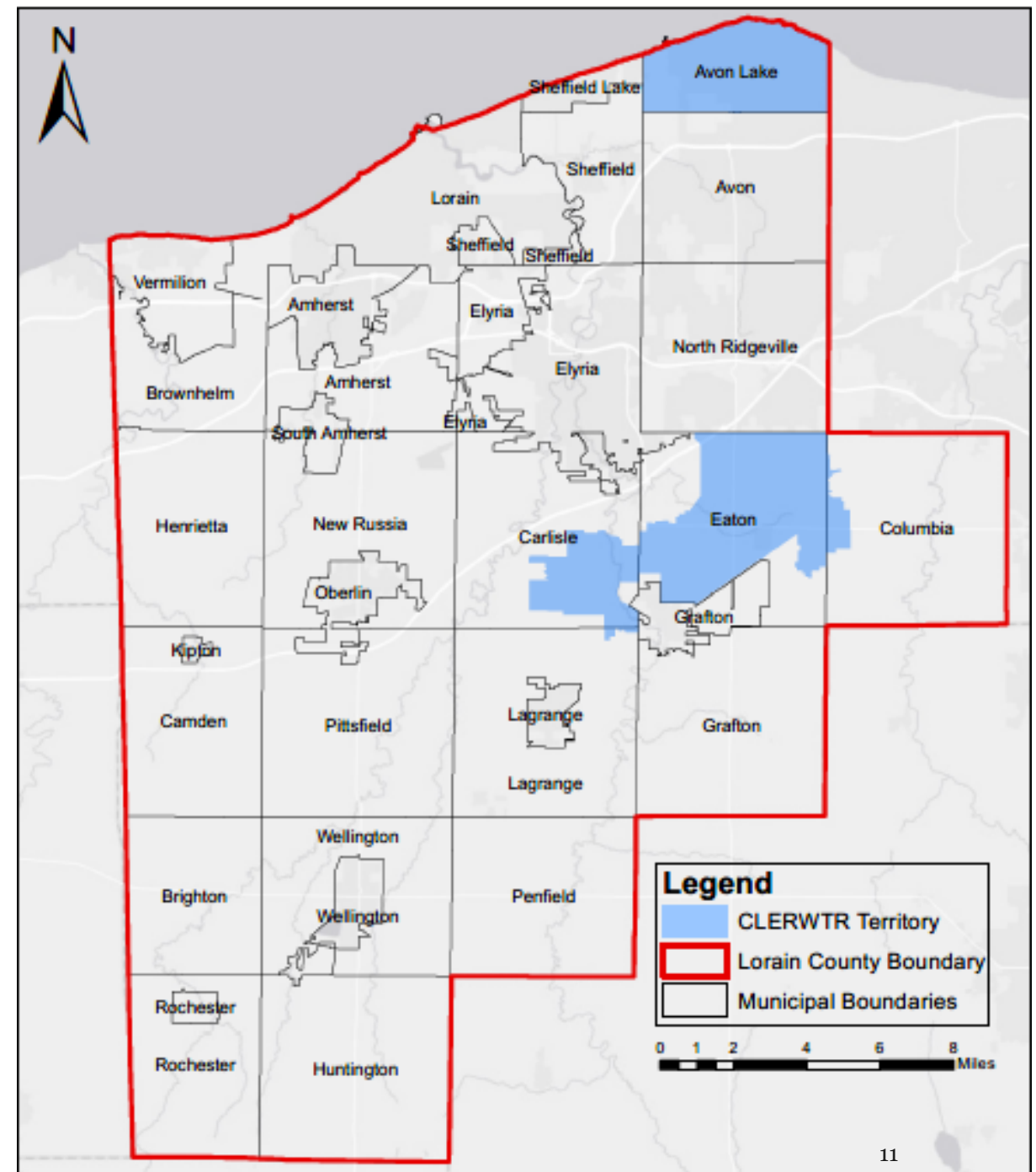
- 1) The Lorain County Administrator, as an initial Trustee, then an appointee by the Lorain County Board of County Commissioners.
- 2) The LORCO Executive Director, as an initial Trustee, then an appointee by the LORCO Board of Trustees.
- 3) The Avon Lake Chief Utilities Executive, as an initial Trustee, then an appointee by the Avon Lake Board of Municipal Utilities.

CLERWTR will have a Chief Executive Officer to run the day-to-day operations.



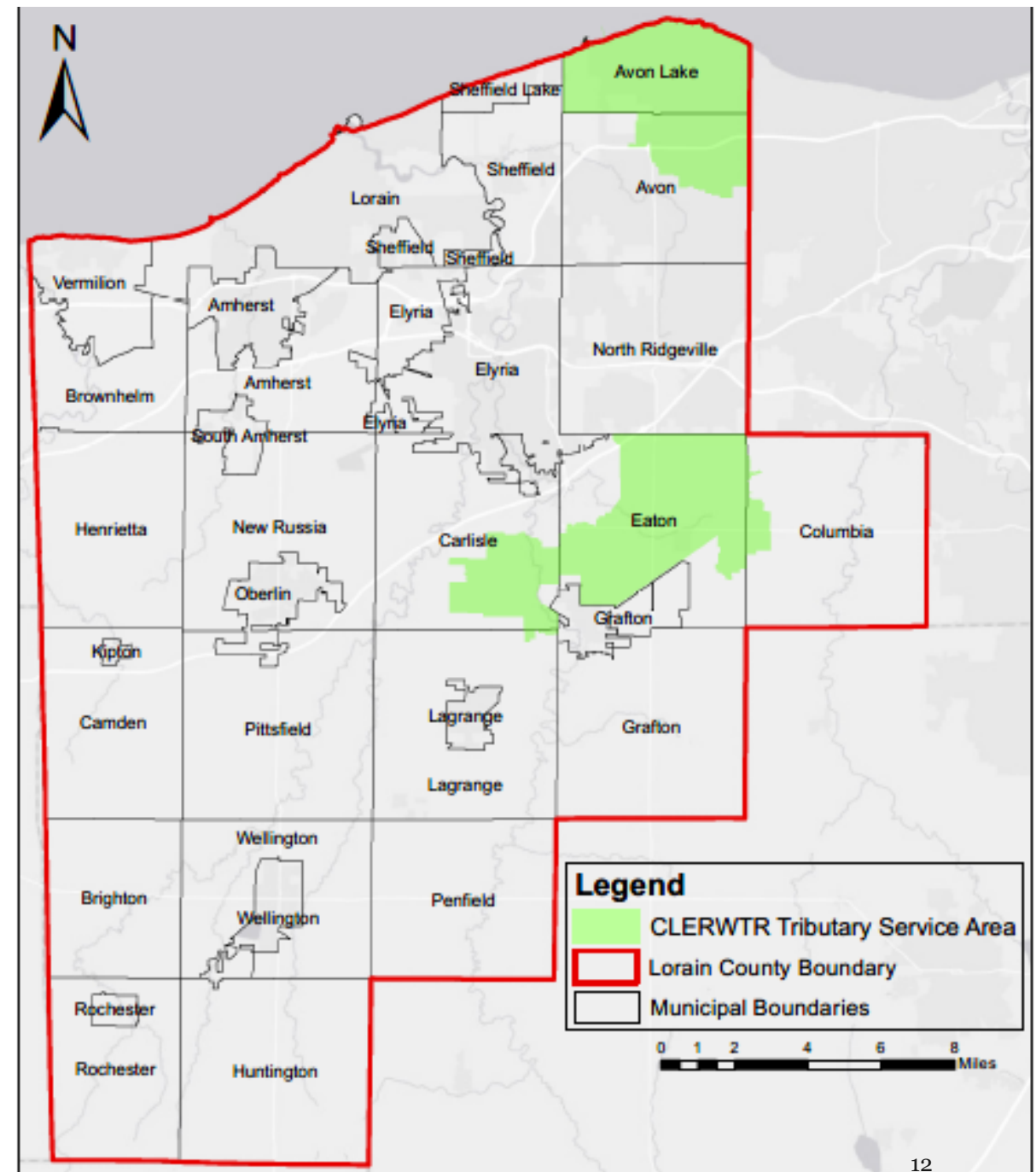
# Territory

- City of Avon Lake.
- The LORCO service area that comprises the Avon Lake/LORCO Phase I Facilities Planning Area (FPA).
- The area tributary to the Eaton Estates Wastewater Treatment Plant operated by Lorain County, which is located within the Avon Lake/LORCO FPA.



# Service Area

- Avon Lake Water Reclamation Facility tributary service area.



# Utility Operation

- CLERWTR will lease from Avon Lake Municipal Utilities the Avon Lake Reclamation Facility located at 180 Shields Road, Avon Lake, Ohio, 44012 (the “Facility”).
  - This is a 30-year lease, with an option to purchase the Facility, and a separate option to purchase the outfall.
  - CLERWTR will assume the Ohio Water Development Authority Loans on the Facility.
- CLERWTR will purchase the LORCO regional conveyance assets - the 4-Plex lift station and 12” and 16” diameter force mains located on the leased real property at 38401 Royalton Road, Grafton, Ohio 44044 which is connected to the Facility.
  - CLERWTR will purchase the Assets.
  - CLERWTR will assume the Ohio Water Development Authority Loan on the Assets.
- CLERWTR will contract with Avon Lake Regional Water to operate the Facility and Regional Conveyance Assets.



# CLERWTR Responsibilities are Defined

## CLERWTR Will

- ❖ Treat regional wastewater flow to the Facility
- ❖ Be responsible for regional conveyance to the Facility
- ❖ Address Regional Infrastructure Master Planning
- ❖ Construct and expand regional assets as needed to effectively serve its service area

## CLERWTR Will Not

- ❖ Take over local collections systems
- ❖ Take over the Facility NPDES Permit, including CSO related requirements
- ❖ Be responsible for local or regional stormwater management
- ❖ Be responsible for drinking water treatment or distribution



CLERWTR is  
Necessary and Beneficial

# Necessity of CLERWTR

Provide centralized water reclamation, reducing less efficient point source discharges and enhancing water quality in the Central Lake Erie region.

Provide consistent, stable, equitable and cost-effective water reclamation rates now and under anticipated tighter regulation.

Provide strategic flexibility to expand water reclamation services to support economic development initiatives and meet future customer needs.

Provide greater efficiency in meeting future regulatory requirements and managing sewer-related debt.



# Benefits of CLERWTR



Maintain lowest cost wastewater treatment with uniform treatment rates for all users.



Optimize existing assets in regional approach.



Plan for additional sewer service capacity in areas in the county to support economic development where local communities support it.



Establish regional treatment where future costs to meet emerging regulations, such as treatment for PFAS and nutrients, can most cost-effectively be instituted.



Improve water quality, public health and environment in Lorain County.



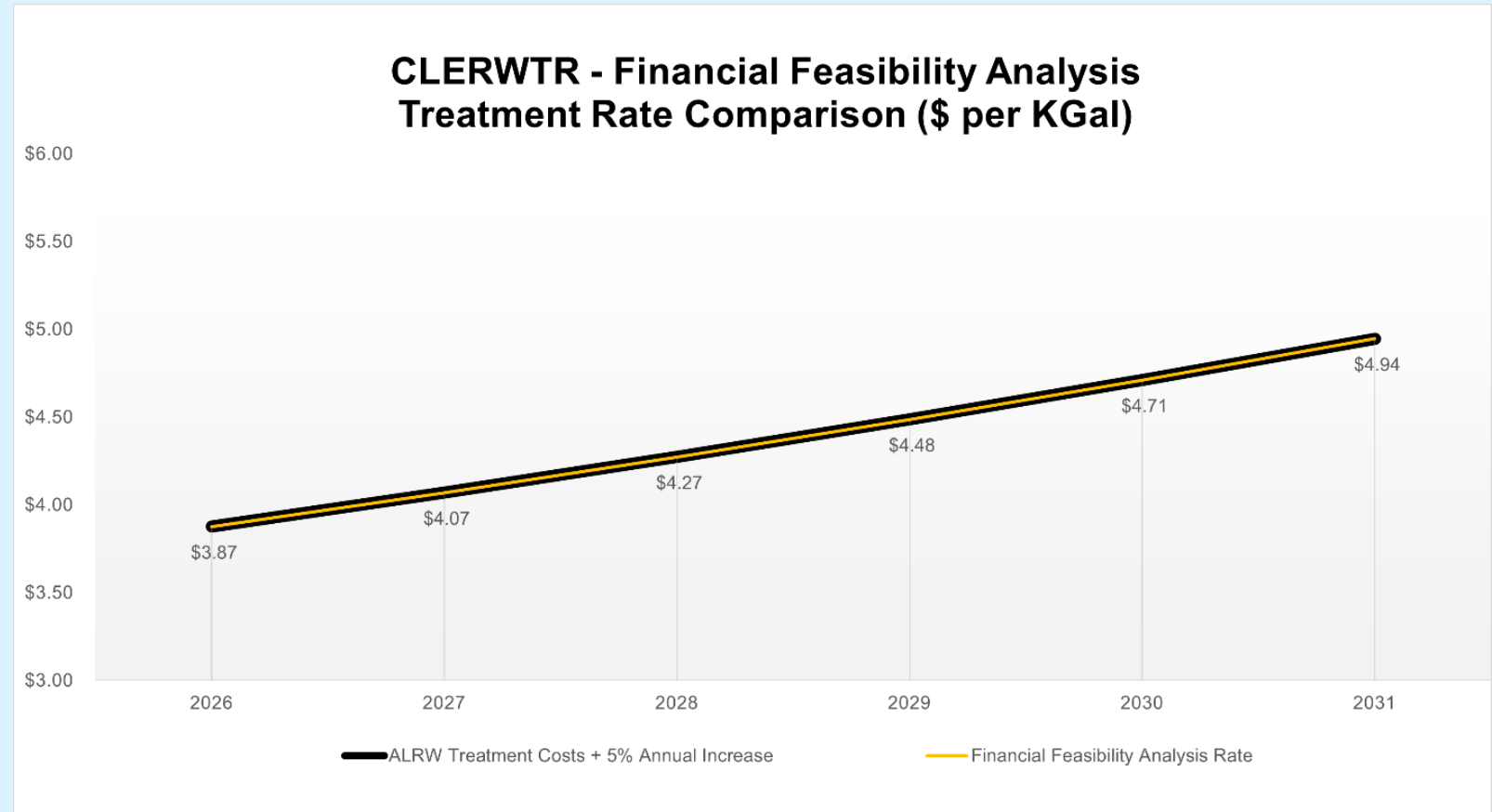
Support comprehensive infrastructure master planning in Lorain County.



The Proposed District is Financially Viable

# Financial Feasibility

Based on the modeled scenario, CLERWTR is calculated to be financially feasible. CLERWTR's feasibility is demonstrated in the fact that its rates will track with the projected treatment rates for the Facility over the same period if CLERWTR is not formed





# Financial Feasibility

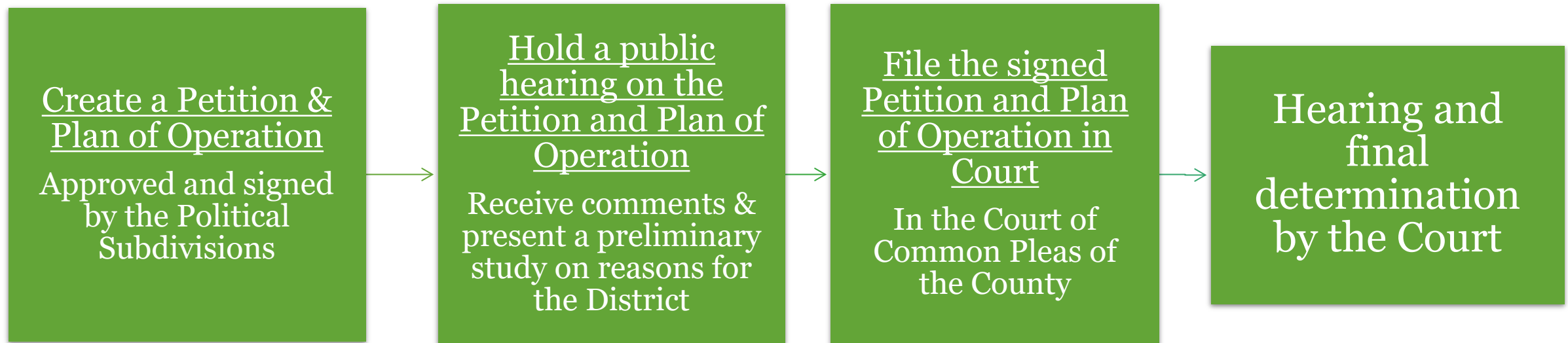
- ❖ CLERWTR will bill its wholesale customers within a sub-district a uniform treatment rate.
- ❖ Initial wholesale customers are Avon Lake, LORCO, and Lorain County (the Service Area).

Proposed 6119 Wholesale Customer	# of Retail Customers/Accounts (Connections to local collection system)
Avon Lake	9015
LORCO	1603
Lorain County (Eaton Estates)	481 <sup>*1</sup>
<b>*1 For the financial feasibility analysis, it was assumed that the Lorain County – Eaton Estates customers would not be connected to 4Plex conveyance system and part of the Service Area until July 2026 (i.e., 6 months of service).</b>	



# Upcoming Public Processes and Next Steps

# Summary of Process



# Public Participation

Documents posted  
to [clerwtr.org](https://clerwtr.org)

https://clerwtr.org


CLERWTR District

Central Lake Erie Regional Water Reclamation District

About Home

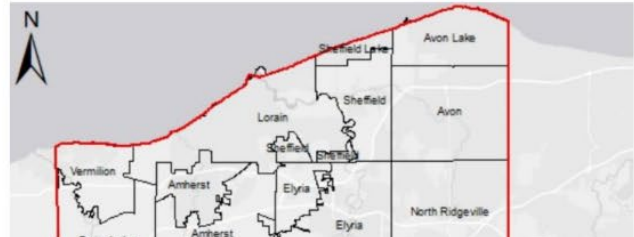
CLERWTR:  
Central Lake Erie Regional Water Reclamation District

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[...]  
  
(B) To provide for the collection, treatment, and disposal of



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# Petition

Draft 8/26/2025  
FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

**IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS OF LORAIN COUNTY  
PROBATE DIVISION**

**IN THE MATTER OF:**

**CENTRAL LAKE ERIE REGIONAL  
WATER RECLAMATION DISTRICT**

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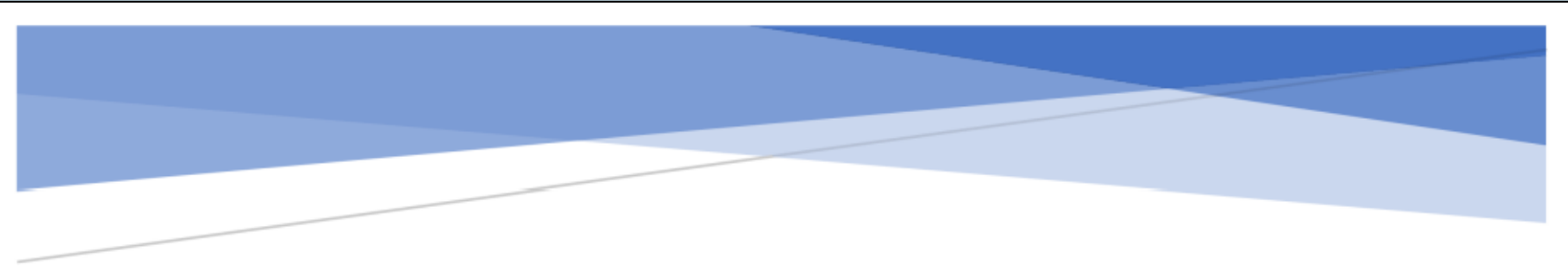
**CASE NO.**

**JUDGE**

**PETITION FOR FORMATION  
UNDER R.C. 6119.02**

The Lorain County Board of County Commissioners and the Avon Lake Board of Municipal Utilities, by and through the City of Avon Lake (collectively, “Petitioners”), with support from Lorain County Rural Wastewater District (“LORCO”), of Lorain County, Ohio, jointly petition this Court as follows:

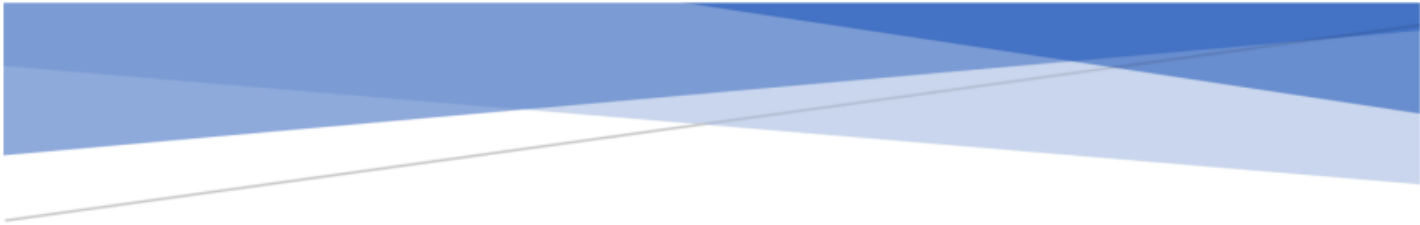
# Plan of Operations



## **Central Lake Erie Regional Water Reclamation (CLERWTR) District Plan of Operations**

**DRAFT FOR PUBLIC COMMENT  
August 26, 2025**

# Financial Feasibility Analysis



## **Central Lake Erie Regional Water Reclamation (CLERWTR) District Financial Feasibility Analysis Summary**

**DRAFT FOR PUBLIC COMMENT  
August 26, 2025**

# Background & FAQs

2025.08.26

## **FOR PUBLIC REVIEW**

Central Lake Erie Regional Water Reclamation District  
("CLERWTR")  
Background & Responses to Frequently Asked Questions

### **Background**

In 2009, a group of Lorain County jurisdictions, supported by federal funding, commissioned a study to explore the feasibility of forming a regional wastewater authority in Lorain County. The study, completed in 2012, provided a high-level assessment and presented its findings to what was then called the Lorain County Regional Wastewater Authority Work Group.

In 2023, Lorain County Board of County Commissioners led renewed efforts to optimize and extend necessary sewer infrastructure in the County and to consider again the benefits and feasibility of a regional wastewater authority under Ohio Revised Code (R.C.) Chapter 6119. The goal was, and remains, to provide cost-effective wastewater treatment services for the region.

In August 2023, communities from across Lorain County were invited to discuss specific scenarios where regionalization could be cost-effective under a definitive timeframe. Those entities that were willing to explore the necessity and benefits of a 6119 proceeded forward. No entity was forced to participate or barred from the conversation. As discussions continued, it



# Comments & Public Participation

CLERWTR Petitioners are collecting comments on the proposed District and documents. Comments can be submitted to [comments@clerwtr.org](mailto:comments@clerwtr.org)

CLERWTR Petitioners will hold a joint public meeting to present the proposed District and to collect additional comments.

# Summary

- CLERWTR is necessary and beneficial for the region.
- CLERWTR will optimize existing infrastructure among the willing parties.
- CLERWTR will improve water quality.
- CLERWTR will maintain low-cost treatment rates for all users.
- CLERWTR will support regional economic development.
- This effort is consistent with, but separate from, the \$67 million grant and County plans on the west side.