

Red River Retention
Authority
West Fargo, North Dakota

Audit Report

For the Year Ended
December 31, 2014



ROBERT R. PETERSON
STATE AUDITOR

Office of the State Auditor

RED RIVER RETENTION AUTHORITY
West Fargo, North Dakota

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For the Year Ended December 31, 2014

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RED RIVER RETENTION AUTHORITY
West Fargo, North Dakota

DISTRICT OFFICIALS

December 31, 2014

Gary Thompson
John Finney
Jerome Deal
Rodger Olson
James Lyons
Ron Osowski

Co-Chairman
Co-Chairman
Board Member
Board Member
Board Member
Board Member

Patrick Downs
Carol Harbeke Lewis
Sean M. Fredricks

Executive Director
Secretary-Treasurer
Attorney

STATE AUDITOR

ROBERT R. PETERSON
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Local Government Division:
FARGO OFFICE
MANAGER – DAVID MIX
Phone: (701) 239-7252 Fax: (701) 239-7251

STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA
OFFICE OF THE STATE AUDITOR
STATE CAPITOL
600 E. BOULEVARD AVENUE - DEPT. 117
BISMARCK, NORTH DAKOTA 58505

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

Governing Board
Red River Retention Authority
West Fargo, North Dakota

Report on the Financial Statements

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the governmental activities, and the major fund of Red River Retention Authority, West Fargo, North Dakota, as of and for the year ended December 31, 2014, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the Water Resource District's basic financial statements as listed in the table of contents.

Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America; this includes the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express opinions on these financial statements based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. Accordingly, we express no such opinion. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinions.

Opinions

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the respective financial position of the governmental activities, and the major fund of Red River Retention Authority, West Fargo, North Dakota, as of December 31, 2014, and the respective changes in financial position for the year then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Other Matters

Required Supplementary Information

Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require that the *management's discussion and analysis and budgetary comparison information* on pages 4-6 and 20 be presented to supplement the basic financial statements. Such information, although not a part of the basic financial statements, is required by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board who considers it to be an essential part of financial reporting for placing the basic financial statements in an appropriate operational, economic, or historical context. We have applied certain limited procedures to the required supplementary information in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, which consisted of inquiries of management about the methods of preparing the information and comparing the information for consistency with management's responses to our inquiries, the basic financial statements, and other knowledge we obtained during our audit of the basic financial statements. We do not express an opinion or provide any assurance on the information because the limited procedures do not provide us with sufficient evidence to express an opinion or provide any assurance.

Report on Other Legal and Regulatory Requirements

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated May 15, 2015 on our consideration of Red River Retention Authority's internal control over financial reporting and on our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements and other matters. The purpose of that report is to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on internal control over financial reporting or on compliance. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering Red River Retention Authority's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.



Robert R. Peterson
State Auditor

Fargo, North Dakota
May 15, 2015

RED RIVER RETENTION AUTHORITY
West Fargo, North Dakota

MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS
December 31, 2014

The Management's Discussion and Analysis (MD&A) of Red River Retention Authority's financial performance provides an overall review of the Authority's financial activities for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2014. The intent of the MD&A is to look at the Authority's financial performance as a whole. It should, therefore, be read in conjunction with the basic financial statements and related notes.

The MD&A is an element of the Required Supplementary Information specified in the Government Accounting Standards Board's (GASB) Statement No. 34 – *Basic Financial Statements – and Management's Discussion and Analysis – for State and Local Governments*.

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

Key financial highlights for fiscal year 2014 are as follows:

- Net position of Red River Retention Authority increased \$9,547 as a result of the current year's operations.
- Governmental net position as of the end of the fiscal year totaled \$66,789.
- Total revenues from all sources were \$159,564.
- Total expenses were \$150,017 on the government-wide statement of activities and \$146,208 on the modified accrual basis.
- The Authority's general fund had \$159,564 in total revenues, \$146,208 in total expenditures. Overall, the general fund balance increased by \$13,356 for the year ended December 31, 2014.

USING THIS ANNUAL REPORT

This annual financial report consists of a series of statements and related footnotes. These statements are organized so that the reader can understand Red River Retention Authority as a financial whole. The statements then proceed to provide an increasingly detailed look at specific financial activities.

The Statement of Net Position and Statement of Activities provide information about the activities of the whole District, presenting both an aggregate view of the District's finances and a longer-term view of those finances. Fund financial statements provide the next level of detail. These statements tell how services were financed in the short-term as well as what remains for future spending.

REPORTING ON THE AUTHORITY AS A WHOLE

Statement of Net Position and Statement of Activities

These statements are summaries of the fund used by the Red River Retention Authority to provide programs and activities and attempt to answer the question "How did the Authority do financially during the year ended December 31, 2014?"

The Statement of Net Position presents information on all the Authority's assets and liabilities, with the difference between the two reported as net position. Over time, increases or decreases in net position may serve as a useful indicator of whether the financial position of the Authority is improving or deteriorating.

The Statement of Activities presents information on how the Authority's net position changed during the fiscal year. This statement is presented using the accrual basis of accounting, which means that all changes in net position are reported as soon as the underlying event giving rise to the change occurs, regardless of the timing of related cash flows. Thus, revenues and expenses are reported in the statement for some items that will only result in cash flows in future fiscal periods (for example, uncollected taxes and earned but unused vacation leave).

RED RIVER RETENTION AUTHORITY
 Management's Discussion and Analysis – Continued

These two statements report the Authority's net position and changes in that position. This change in net position is important because it tells the reader whether, for the Authority as a whole, the financial position of the Authority has improved or deteriorated. The causes of this change may be the result of many factors, some financial and some not.

In the Statement of Net Position and the Statement of Activities, the Authority reports governmental activities. Governmental activities are the activities where all of the Authority's programs and services are reported including, but not limited to, conservation of natural resources, capital outlay and debt service.

REPORTING ON THE AUTHORITY'S MOST SIGNIFICANT FUNDS

Balance Sheet – Governmental Funds

The Authority uses separate funds to account for and manage money dedicated for particular purposes (e.g. taxes collected from special mill levies and funds received from grants and contributions). The fund basis financial statements allow the Authority to demonstrate its stewardship over and accountability for resources provided by taxpayers and other entities. Fund financial statements provide detailed information about the Authority's major funds. Using the criteria established by GASB Statement No. 34, the Authority's general fund is considered a "major fund".

FINANCIAL ANALYSIS OF THE AUTHORITY AS A WHOLE

Table I reflects significant changes in Current Assets Current Liabilities for the December 31, 2014 fiscal year.

The Authority's net position is unrestricted net position.

TABLE I		
NET POSITION		
December 31, 2014 and 2013		
	2014	2013
<u>Current Assets:</u>	\$79,522	\$66,034
<u>Liabilities:</u>		
Current Liabilities:	\$ 3,128	\$ 2,996
Long-Term Liabilities:	9,605	5,796
Total Liabilities	\$12,733	\$ 8,792
NET POSITION:		
Unrestricted	\$66,789	\$57,242
Total Net Position	\$66,789	\$57,242

Table II shows the changes in net position for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2014.

TABLE II		
CHANGES IN NET POSITION		
As of December 31, 2014 and 2013		
	2014	2013
Revenues		
<u>Program Revenues:</u>		
Operating Grants & Contributions	\$151,239	\$235,533
<u>General Revenues:</u>		
Interest Earnings & Miscellaneous Revenue	8,325	102
Total Revenues	\$159,564	\$235,635
Expenses		
Conservation of Natural Resources	\$150,017	\$173,731
Change in Net Position	\$ 9,547	\$ 61,903
Net Position – January 1	\$ 57,242	\$ (4,662)
Net Position – December 31	\$ 66,789	\$ 57,242

RED RIVER RETENTION AUTHORITY

Management's Discussion and Analysis – Continued

Operating and non-restricted grants and contributions constituted 95%, and interest and miscellaneous revenue 5% of the total revenues of governmental activities of the Authority for fiscal year 2014.

Conservation of natural resources constituted 100% of total expenses for governmental activities during fiscal year 2014.

The Statement of Activities shows the cost of program services and the charges for services and grants offsetting those services. Table III shows the total cost of services and the net cost of services. That is, it identifies the cost of these services supported by tax revenue and other unrestricted revenues.

	Total Cost For Year Ended Dec. 31, 2014	Net Cost For Year Ended Dec. 31, 2014	Total Cost For Year Ended Dec. 31, 2013	Net Cost For Year Ended Dec. 31, 2013
Conservation of Natural Resources	\$150,017	\$1,222	\$173,731	\$61,801

FINANCIAL ANALYSIS OF GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS

The purpose of the Authority's governmental funds is to provide information on the near-term inflows, outflows, and balances of available resources. Unassigned fund balance generally can be used as a measure of the Authority's net resources available for spending as of the end of the fiscal year. These funds are accounted for using the modified accrual basis of accounting. The Authority's governmental funds had total revenue of \$159,564 and expenditures of \$146,208 for the year ended December 31, 2014. As of December 31, 2014 the total unassigned fund balance for the entire Authority's governmental funds was \$76,394.

GENERAL FUND BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

During the course of fiscal year 2014, the Red River Retention Authority amended the Authority's general fund revenue budget by decreasing it \$12,835. Additionally, the general fund expenditures budget was amended to decrease it by \$18,435.

Actual revenue for the year ended December 31, 2014 was under budget by \$6.

Actual expenditures for the year ended December 31, 2014 was under budget by \$7,762.

CONTACTING THE AUTHORITY'S FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

This financial report is designed to provide our taxpayers and creditors with a general overview of Red River Retention Authority's finances and to show the Authority's accountability for the money it receives. Anyone who has questions about information contained in this report or who is interested in receiving additional information is encouraged to contact Carol Harbeke Lewis, Secretary-Treasurer, Red River Retention Authority, 1201 Main Avenue West, West Fargo, ND 58078.

RED RIVER RETENTION AUTHORITY
West Fargo, North Dakota

STATEMENT OF NET POSITION
December 31, 2014

	<u>Governmental Activities</u>
<u>ASSETS:</u>	
Cash and Cash Equivalents	<u>\$ 79,522</u>
<u>LIABILITIES:</u>	
Accounts Payable	\$ 678
Benefits Payable	2,450
Long-Term Liabilities:	
Compensated Absences Payable	<u>9,605</u>
Total Liabilities	<u>\$ 12,733</u>
<u>NET POSITION:</u>	
Unrestricted	<u>\$ 66,789</u>
Total Net Position	<u><u>\$ 66,789</u></u>

The notes to the financial statements are an integral part of this statement.

RED RIVER RETENTION AUTHORITY
West Fargo, North Dakota

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES
For the Year Ended December 31, 2014

Functions/Programs	Expenses	Program Revenues Operating Grants and Contributions	Net (Expense) Revenue and Changes in Net Position Governmental Activities
<u>Governmental Activities:</u>			
Conservation of Natural Resources	\$ 150,017	\$ 151,239	\$ 1,222
<u>General Revenues:</u>			
Interest Earnings			\$ 122
Miscellaneous Revenues			8,203
Total General Revenues			\$ 8,325
Change in Net Position			\$ 9,547
Net Position - January 1			\$ 57,242
Net Position - December 31			\$ 66,789

The notes to the financial statements are an integral part of this statement.

RED RIVER RETENTION AUTHORITY
West Fargo, North Dakota

BALANCE SHEET - GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS
December 31, 2014

	<u>General</u>
<u>ASSETS</u>	
Cash and Cash Equivalents	<u>\$ 79,522</u>
<u>LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCES</u>	
<u>Liabilities:</u>	
Accounts Payable	\$ 678
Benefits Payable	<u>2,450</u>
Total Liabilities	<u>\$ 3,128</u>
<u>Fund Balances:</u>	
Unassigned	<u>\$ 76,394</u>
Total Fund Balances	<u>\$ 76,394</u>
Total Liabilities and Fund Balances	<u>\$ 79,522</u>

The notes to the financial statements are an integral part of this statement.

RED RIVER JOINT WATER RESOURCE DISTRICT
West Fargo, North Dakota

RECONCILIATION OF GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS BALANCE SHEET
TO THE STATEMENT OF NET POSITION
December 31, 2014

Total *Fund Balances* for Governmental Funds \$ 76,394

Total *net position* reported for governmental activities in the statement of net position is different because:

Long-term liabilities applicable to the Retention Authority's governmental activities are not due and payable in the current period and accordingly are not reported as fund liabilities. All liabilities, both current and long-term are reported in the statement of net position. Balances at December 31, 2014 are made up of the following liabilities:

Compensated Absences	<u>(9,605)</u>
Total Net Position - Governmental Activities	<u><u>\$ 66,789</u></u>

The notes to the financial statements are an integral part of this statement.

RED RIVER RETENTION AUTHORITY
West Fargo, North Dakota

STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES AND CHANGES
IN FUND BALANCE - GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS
For the Year Ended December 31, 2014

	<u>General</u>
<u>Revenues:</u>	
Intergovernmental	\$ 151,239
Interest Income	122
Miscellaneous	<u>8,203</u>
Total Revenues	<u>\$ 159,564</u>
<u>Expenditures:</u>	
Current:	
Conservation of Natural Resources	<u>\$ 146,208</u>
Excess (Deficiency) of Revenues Over Expenditures	<u>\$ 13,356</u>
Fund Balance - January 1	<u>\$ 63,038</u>
Fund Balance - December 31	<u><u>\$ 76,394</u></u>

The notes to the financial statements are an integral part of this statement.

RED RIVER RETENTION AUTHORITY
West Fargo, North Dakota

RECONCILIATION OF GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES AND
CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES TO THE STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES
For the Year Ended December 31, 2014

Net Change in <i>Fund Balances</i> - Total Governmental Funds	\$ 13,356
Some expenses reported in the statement of activities do not require the use of current financial resources and are not reported as expenditures in governmental funds.	
Net Increase in Compensated Absences	<u>(3,809)</u>
Change in Net Position of Governmental Activities	<u>\$ 9,547</u>

The notes to the financial statements are an integral part of this statement.

RED RIVER RETENTION AUTHORITY
West Fargo, North Dakota
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
December 31, 2014

NOTE 1: SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The financial statements of the Red River Retention Authority, West Fargo, North Dakota, a joint venture, have been prepared in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAP) as applied to governmental units. The Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) is the accepted standard setting body for establishing governmental accounting and financial reporting principles. The more significant of the government's accounting policies are described below.

A. Reporting Entity

The accompanying financial statements present the activities of the Red River Retention Authority, a joint venture, which was established in 2010. The Authority has considered all potential component units for which the Authority is financially accountable and other organizations for which the nature and significance of their relationships with the Authority such that exclusion would cause the Authority's financial statements to be misleading or incomplete. The Governmental Accounting Standards Board has set forth criteria to be considered in determining financial accountability. This criteria includes appointing a voting majority of an organization's governing body and (1) the ability of the Red River Retention Authority to impose its will on that organization or (2) the potential for the organization to provide specific financial benefits to, or impose specific financial burdens on the Red River Retention Authority.

The Authority is comprised of members of the Red River Joint Water Resource District, a North Dakota political subdivision and Joint Water Resource District (the "RRJWRD"); and the Red River Watershed Management Board, a Minnesota political subdivision and Joint Watershed Management Board (the "RRWMB"). The Authority will include nine Directors to include the Chair of the RRJWRD, the Chair of the RRWMB, two directors appointed by the RRJWRD and two directors appointed by the RRWMB each having one vote. Non-voting directors will include a director appointed by the Red River Basin Commission; director appointed by the Governor of North Dakota and a director appointed by the Governor of Minnesota to serve on the Red River Retention Authority.

Based on these criteria, there are no component units to be included within the Red River Retention Authority as a reporting entity.

B. Basis of Presentation

Government-wide statements: The statement of net position and the statement of activities display information about the primary government, Red River Retention Authority. These statements include the financial activities of the overall government. Eliminations have been made to minimize the double-counting of internal activities. Governmental activities generally are financed through taxes and intergovernmental revenues.

The statement of activities presents a comparison between direct expenses and program revenues for each function of the Authority's governmental activities. Direct expenses are those that are specifically associated with a program or function and, therefore, are clearly identifiable to a particular function. Program revenues include (a) fees and charges paid by the recipients of goods or services offered by the programs and (b) grants and contributions that are restricted to meeting the operational or capital requirements of a particular function. Revenues not classified as program revenues, including general taxes and interest, are presented as general revenues.

Fund Financial Statements: The fund financial statements provide information about the Authority's funds. Separate statements for each fund category-governmental—is presented. The emphasis of fund financial statements is on major governmental funds, each displayed in a separate column. Typically, aggregated information for the remaining non-major governmental funds is reported in a single column in the fund financial statements; currently, however, the Authority maintains a single fund, the general fund, which is always considered a major fund.

The Authority reports the following major governmental fund:

General Fund - this is the Authority's primary operating fund. It accounts for all financial resources of the general government, except those required to be accounted for in another fund.

C. Measurement Focus, Basis of Accounting, and Financial Statement Presentation

Government-wide Financial Statements. The government-wide financial statements are reported using the economic resources measurement focus and the accrual basis of accounting. Revenues are recorded when earned and expenses are recorded at the time liabilities are incurred, regardless of the timing of related cash flows. Nonexchange transactions, in which the Authority gives (or receives) value without directly receiving (or giving) equal value in exchange, include taxes, grants, entitlements, and donations. On an accrual basis, revenue from taxes is recognized in the fiscal year in which the taxes are levied. Revenue from grants, entitlements, and donations is recognized in the fiscal year when all eligibility requirements have been satisfied.

Governmental Fund Financial Statements. Governmental funds are reported using the current financial resources measurement focus and the modified accrual basis of accounting. Under this method, revenues are recognized when measurable and available. The Authority considers all revenues reported in the governmental funds to be available if the revenues are collected sixty days after year-end. All revenues are considered to be susceptible to accrual. Expenditures are recorded when the related fund liability is incurred, except for claims and judgments, which are reported as expenditures to the extent they have matured. Capital asset acquisitions are reported as expenditures in governmental funds. Proceeds of general long-term debt and acquisitions under capital leases are reported as other financing sources.

The current financial resources measurement focus differs from the manner that the governmental activities of the government-wide financial statements are prepared. Typically the financial statements include reconciliations with brief explanations to better identify the relationship between the government-wide statements and the statements for governmental funds. Due to the nature of the Authority's operations there are no differences between the government-wide statements, and the statements for governmental funds, therefore the reconciliations are not included in the basic financial statements.

All governmental funds of the District follow FASB Statements and Interpretations issued on or before November 30, 1989, Accounting Principles Board Opinions, and Accounting Research Bulletins, unless those pronouncements conflict with GASB pronouncements.

D. Cash, Cash Equivalents and Investments

Cash and cash equivalents include amounts in demand deposits, money market accounts and highly liquid short-term investments with original maturities of 3 months or less.

E. Compensated Absences

Vested or accumulated vacation leave is payable to the Executive Director upon separation from employment. 240 hours of vacation may be carried over at year-end. No liability is reported for accumulated sick leave as it is not the employer's policy to pay for it when the employee separates from service. All vacation pay is accrued when incurred into the government-wide financial statements.

F. Fund Balances / Net Position

Prior to GASB Statement No. 54, in the fund financial statements, the governmental funds reported reservations of fund balances for amounts that were not available for appropriation or were legally restricted by outside parties for use for a specific purpose. Designations of fund balances represented tentative management plans that were subject to change. GASB Statement No. 54 established new fund balance classifications that comprise a hierarchy based on the extent to which the government is bound to honor constraints (restrictions or limitations) imposed upon the use of the resources reported in governmental funds.

Fund Balance Spending Policy:

It is the policy of Red River Retention Authority to spend unrestricted resources of funds in the following order: committed, assigned and then unassigned.

GASB Statement No. 54, Fund Balance Reporting and Governmental Fund Type Definitions

On March 11, 2009, the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) issued GASB Statement No. 54, *Fund Balance Reporting and Governmental Fund Type Definitions*, effective for fiscal periods that begin after June 15, 2010. This statement defines the different types of fund balances that a governmental entity must use for financial reporting purposes.

GASB 54 requires the fund balance amounts to be properly reported within one of the fund balance categories listed below.

CLASSIFICATION	DEFINITION	EXAMPLES
Nonspendable	Amounts that cannot be spent because they are either (a) not in spendable form or (b) legally or contractually required to be maintained intact.	Inventories, prepaid amounts (expenses), long-term receivables, endowment funds.
Restricted	Fund balance is reported as restricted when constraints are placed on the use of resources that are either (a) Externally imposed by creditors (such as through debt covenants), grantors, contributors, or laws or regulations of other governments. (b) Imposed by law through constitutional provisions or enabling legislation.	Funds restricted by State Statute, unspent bond proceeds, grants earned but not spent, debt covenants, taxes raised for a specific purpose.
Committed	A committed fund balance includes amounts that can only be used for specific purposes pursuant to constraints imposed by formal action of the government's highest level of decision-making authority, the governing board. Formal action is required to be taken to establish, modify or rescind a fund balance commitment.	By board action, construction, claims and judgments, retirements of loans and notes payable, capital expenditures and self-insurance.
Assigned	Assigned fund balances are amounts that are constrained by the government's intent to be used for specific purposes, but are under the direction of the board and the business manager.	By board action, construction, claims and judgments, retirements of loans and notes payable, capital expenditures and self-insurance.
Unassigned	Unassigned fund balance is the lowest classification for the General Fund. This is fund balance that has not been reported in any other classification. (a) The General Fund is the only fund that can report a positive unassigned fund balance (b) A negative unassigned fund balance may be reported in other governmental funds, if expenditures incurred for specific purposes exceeded amounts restricted, committed, or assigned to those purposes.	Available for any remaining general fund expenditure.

Red River Retention Authority only has unassigned fund balances at December 31, 2014 in the general fund.

Net Position:

When both restricted and unrestricted resources are available for use, it is the Authority's policy to use restricted resources first, then unrestricted resources as they are needed. Position is reported all as unrestricted for the year ended December 31, 2014.

G. Interfund Transactions

In the governmental fund statements, transactions that constitute reimbursements to a fund for expenditures initially made from it that are properly applicable to another fund, are recorded as expenditures in the reimbursing fund and as reduction of expenditures in the fund that is reimbursed.

All other transactions, except reimbursements, are reported as transfers. In the government-wide financial statements, interfund transactions have been eliminated.

NOTE 2: DISTRICT ESTABLISHMENT

Red River Retention Authority is a joint venture established in 2010. The Authority ensures joint, comprehensive, and strategic coordination of retention projects in the Red River of the North watershed; facilitating implementation and construction of retention in the Red River Valley. Member Water Management Districts are the Red River Joint Water Resource District, a North Dakota political subdivision and the Red River Watershed Management Board, a Minnesota political subdivision.

NOTE 3: DEPOSITS

In accordance with North Dakota Statutes, the Red River Retention Authority maintains deposits at the depository banks designated by the governing board. All depositories are members of the Federal Reserve System.

Deposits must either be deposited with the Bank of North Dakota or in other financial institution situated and doing business within the state. Deposits, other than with the Bank of North Dakota, must be fully insured or bonded. In lieu of a bond, a financial institution may provide a pledge of securities equal to 110% of the deposits not covered by insurance or bonds.

Authorized collateral includes bills, notes, or bonds issued by the United States government, its agencies or instrumentalities, all bonds and notes guaranteed by the United States government, Federal land bank bonds, bonds, notes, warrants, certificates of indebtedness, insured certificates of deposit, shares of investment companies registered under the Investment Companies Act of 1940, and all other forms of securities issued by the State of North Dakota, its boards, agencies or instrumentalities or by any county, city, township, school district, park district, or other political subdivision of the state of North Dakota. Whether payable from special revenues or supported by the full faith and credit of the issuing body and bonds issued by any other state of the United States or such other securities approved by the banking board.

At year ended December 31, 2014, the Authority's carrying amount of deposits was \$79,513 and the bank balance was \$86,195 of the bank balance, all of which was covered by Federal Depository Insurance.

Credit Risk:

The Authority may invest idle funds as authorized in North Dakota Statutes, as follows:

- (a) Bonds, treasury bills and notes, or other securities that are a direct obligation insured or guaranteed by, the treasury of the United States, or its agencies, instrumentalities, or organizations created by an act of congress.
- (b) Securities sold under agreements to repurchase written by a financial institution in which the underlying securities for the agreement to repurchase are the type listed above.
- (c) Certificates of Deposit fully insured by the federal deposit insurance corporation.
- (d) Obligations of the state.

As of December 31, 2014, the Authority did not have any certificates of deposits.

Concentration of Credit Risk:

The Authority does not have a limit on the amount it may invest in any one issuer.

NOTE 4: ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

Accounts payable consists of amounts owed for goods or services received prior to year-end and chargeable to the appropriations for the year then ended but paid subsequent to that date.

NOTE 5: BENEFITS PAYABLE

Benefits payable represents the amount payable for benefits withheld at year-end.

NOTE 6: LEAVE PAYABLE

Red River Retention Authority had the following activity related to compensated absences during the year ended December 31, 2014:

	Balance 1-1-14	Increases	Decreases	Balance 12-31-14	Due Within One Year
Compensated Absences	\$5,796	\$6,221	\$2,412	\$9,605	\$9,605

NOTE 7: JOINT VENTURES

Under authorization of state statutes, the Southeast Cass Water Resource District joined North Cass Water Resource District, Rush River Water Resource District, Maple River Water Resource District, and the water resource districts of Richland County, Grand Forks County, Pembina County, Traill County, Steele County, Walsh County, Nelson County, Ransom County, and Sargent County to establish and operate a joint exercise of powers agreement for the water management districts located within the Red River Valley. Known as the Red River Joint Water Resource Board, the agreement was established for the mutual advantage of the governments. Each government appoints one member of the board of directors for the joint venture. The operating and capital expenses are funded by contributions from each government. Each government's share of assets, liabilities, and fund equity cannot be determined as no provision is made for this in the joint venture agreement and each government's contribution each year depends on where Red River Joint Water Resource Board projects are being undertaken.

RED RIVER RETENTION AUTHORITY
Notes to the Financial Statements – Continued

The following is a summary of financial information on the joint venture as of and for the year ended December 31, 2014, which is the most current audited information available:

Total Assets	\$8,091,476
Total Liabilities	<u>265,559</u>
Net Position	<u>7,825,917</u>
Revenues	2,395,150
Expenses	<u>1,368,330</u>
Change in Net Position	<u>\$1,026,820</u>

Complete financial statements for the Red River Joint Water Resource District may be obtained from the Treasurer's office at Red River Joint Water Resource District, 1201 Main Avenue West, West Fargo, ND 58078.

NOTE 8: RISK MANAGEMENT

Red River Retention Authority is exposed to various risks of loss related to torts; theft of, damage to, and destruction of assets; errors and omissions; injuries to employees; and natural disasters.

In 1986, state agencies and political subdivisions of the State of North Dakota joined together to form the North Dakota Insurance Reserve Fund (NDRIF), a public entity risk pool currently operating as a common risk management and insurance program for the state and over 2,000 political subdivisions. The Red River Retention Authority carries commercial insurance for risks of loss considered necessary. The Districts property and liability insurance is provided through the NDRIF.

The Red River Retention Authority also participates in the North Dakota Worker's Compensation Bureau.

Settled claims resulting from these risks have not exceeded insurance coverage in any of the past three fiscal years.

NOTE 9: LEGAL COMPLIANCE - BUDGETS

BUDGET AMENDMENTS

The Authority officers amended the Authority budget for 2014 as follows:

Fund	REVENUES		
	Original Budget	Amendment	Amended Budget
Major Funds: General Fund	\$172,405	\$(12,835)	\$159,570

Fund	EXPENDITURES		
	Original Budget	Amendment	Amended Budget
Major Funds: General Fund	\$172,405	\$(18,435)	\$153,970

NOTE 10: PENSION PLAN

Red River Retention Authority contributes to the North Dakota Public Employee's Retirement System (NDPERS), a cost-sharing multiple-employer defined benefit pension plan administered by the State of North Dakota. NDPERS provides for retirement, disability and survivor benefits to plan members and beneficiaries. Benefit and contribution provisions are administered in accordance with chapter 54-52 of the North Dakota Century Code. NDPERS issues a publicly available financial report that includes financial statements and required supplementary information for NDPERS. That report may be obtained by writing to NDPERS, 400 E Broadway, Suite 505, P.O. Box 1214, Bismarck, North Dakota, 58502-1214.

Plan members are required to contribute 8% of their annual covered salary. The Authority is required to contribute 7.26% of the employee's salary, which consists of 6.12% for employee retirement and 1.14% for the retiree health benefits fund. The contribution requirements of plan members and the Authority are established and may be amended by the State legislature. The Authority's contributions to NDPERS for the years ending December 31, 2014, 2013 and 2012 was \$9,808, \$5,478, and \$9,008, respectively, equal to the required contributions for the year.

RED RIVER RETENTION AUTHORITY
 West Fargo, North Dakota
 BUDGETARY COMPARISON SCHEDULE
 GENERAL FUND
 For the Year Ended December 31, 2014

	Original Budget	Final Budget	Actual	Variance with Final Budget
<u>Revenues:</u>				
Intergovernmental	\$ 154,050	\$ 151,240	\$ 151,239	\$ (1)
Interest Income	-	125	122	(3)
Miscellaneous	18,355	8,205	8,203	(2)
Total Revenues	\$ 172,405	\$ 159,570	\$ 159,564	\$ (6)
<u>Expenditures:</u>				
Current:				
Conservation of Natural Resources	\$ 172,405	\$ 153,970	\$ 146,208	\$ 7,762
Excess (Deficiency) of Revenues Over Expenditures	\$ -	\$ 5,600	\$ 13,356	\$ 7,756
Fund Balance - January 1	\$ 63,038	\$ 63,038	\$ 63,038	\$ -
Fund Balance - December 31	\$ -	\$ 68,638	\$ 76,394	\$ 7,756

The accompanying required supplementary information notes are an integral part of this schedule.

RED RIVER RETENTION AUTHORITY
West Fargo, North Dakota

NOTES TO THE REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION
December 31, 2014

NOTE 1: STEWARDSHIP, COMPLIANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY

Budgetary Information:

- The water resource board adopts an “appropriated budget” on a basis consistent with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States (GAAP) for the general fund, each special revenue fund and debt service fund of the district.
- The budget includes proposed expenditures and means of financing them.
- The water resource board, on or before the October meeting shall determine the amount of taxes that shall be levied for member county purposes and shall levy all such taxes in specific amounts. NDCC 11-23-05
- Each budget is controlled by the water resource district secretary/treasurer at the revenue and expenditure function/object level.
- The current budget, except for property taxes, may be amended during the year for any revenues and appropriations not anticipated at the time the budget was prepared. NDCC 57-15-31.1
- All appropriations lapse at year-end.

STATE AUDITOR

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STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA
OFFICE OF THE STATE AUDITOR
STATE CAPITOL
600 E. BOULEVARD AVENUE - DEPT. 117
BISMARCK, NORTH DAKOTA 58505

**REPORT ON INTERNAL CONTROL OVER FINANCIAL REPORTING AND ON
COMPLIANCE AND OTHER MATTERS BASED ON AN AUDIT OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
PERFORMED IN ACCORDANCE WITH GOVERNMENT AUDITING STANDARDS**

Independent Auditor's Report

Governing Board
Red River Retention Authority
West Fargo, North Dakota

We have audited in accordance with the auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards* issued by the Comptroller General of the United States, the financial statements of the governmental activities, and the major fund of Red River Retention Authority, West Fargo, North Dakota, as of and for the year ended December 31, 2014, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise Red River Retention Authority's basic financial statements, and have issued our report thereon dated May 15, 2015.

Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

In planning and performing our audit of the financial statements, we considered Red River Retention Authority's internal control over financial reporting (internal control) to determine the audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances for the purpose of expressing our opinions on the financial statements, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of Red River Retention Authority's internal control. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of Red River Retention Authority's internal control.

Our consideration of internal control was for the limited purpose described in the preceding paragraph and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control that might be material weaknesses or significant deficiencies and therefore, material weaknesses or significant deficiencies may exist that were not identified. However, as described in the accompanying *schedule of findings and questioned costs*, we identified one deficiency in internal control that we consider to be a material weakness.

A *deficiency in internal control* exists when the design or operation of a control does not allow management or employees, in the normal course of performing their assigned functions, to prevent, or detect and correct, misstatements on a timely basis. A *material weakness* is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control, such that there is a reasonable possibility that a material misstatement of the entity's financial statements will not be prevented, or detected and corrected on a timely basis. We consider the deficiency described in the accompanying *schedule of findings and questioned costs* to be a material weakness [2014-01].

Compliance and Other Matters

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether Red River Retention Authority's financial statements are free of material misstatement, we performed tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements, noncompliance with which could have a direct and material effect on the determination of financial statement amounts. However, providing an opinion on compliance with those provisions was not an objective of our audit, and accordingly, we do not express such an opinion. The results of our tests disclosed no instances of noncompliance or other matters that are required to be reported under *Government Auditing Standards*.

RED RIVER JOINT WATER RESOURCE DISTRICT

Report on Internal Control over Financial Reporting and on Compliance and Other Matters Based on an Audit of Financial Statements Performed in Accordance with Government Auditing Standards - Continued

Red River Retention Authority's Response to Findings

Red River Retention Authority's response to the finding identified in our audit is described in the accompanying *schedule of findings and questioned costs*. Red River Retention Authority's response was not subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the financial statements and, accordingly, we express no opinion on it.

Purpose of this Report

The purpose of this report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control and compliance and the result of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control or on compliance. This report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the entity's internal control and compliance. Accordingly, this communication is not suitable for any other purpose.



Robert R. Peterson
State Auditor

Fargo, North Dakota
May 15, 2015

RED RIVER RETENTION AUTHORITY
West Fargo, North Dakota

SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS AND QUESTIONED COSTS
For the Year Ended December 31, 2014

Section I - Summary of Auditor's Results

Financial Statements

Type of Auditor's Report Issued?

Governmental Activities	Unmodified
Major Governmental Funds	Unmodified
Aggregate Remaining Fund Information	Unmodified

Internal Control Over Financial Reporting:

Material weaknesses identified?	<u> X </u> Yes	<u> </u> No
Significant deficiencies identified?	<u> </u> Yes	<u> X </u> None reported
Noncompliance material to financial statements noted?	<u> </u> Yes	<u> X </u> None reported

Section II - Financial Statement Findings

2014-01 – LACK OF SEGREGATION OF DUTIES

Condition:

Red River Retention Authority has one secretary/treasurer and one accountant responsible for the primary accounting functions. A lack of segregation of duties exists as two employees are responsible to collect monies, deposit monies, issue checks, send checks to vendors, record receipts and disbursements in journals, maintain the general ledger, and perform bank reconciliations.

Criteria:

Proper internal control surrounding custody of assets, the recording of transactions, reconciling bank accounts and preparation of financial statements dictates that there should be sufficient accounting personnel so duties of employees are properly segregated. The segregation of duties would provide better control over the assets of the water resource district.

Effect:

The lack of segregation of duties increases the risk of fraud and the risk of misstatement of the water resource district's financial condition.

Recommendation:

Due to the size, complexity and the economic realities of the water resource district, it is presently not feasible to obtain proper separation of duties. We recommend that if it becomes feasible to segregate duties in the future, that duties are segregated to the extent possible to reduce the potential risk of loss.

Views of Responsible Officials:

We agree that a lack of segregation of duties exists and if the board does hire more administration that duties will be further segregated to the extent possible. We understand that this will be a repeated recommendation due to the limited number of staff employed by the Red River Retention Authority.

STATE AUDITOR

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Governing Board
Red River Retention Authority
West Fargo, North Dakota

We have audited the financial statements of the governmental activities and the major fund of Red River Retention Authority, West Fargo, North Dakota, for the year ended December 31, 2014, which collectively comprise the Red River Retention Authority's basic financial statements, and have issued our report thereon dated May 15, 2015. Professional standards require that we provide you with the following information related to our audit.

**OUR RESPONSIBILITY UNDER AUDITING STANDARDS GENERALLY ACCEPTED
IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND GOVERNMENT AUDITING STANDARDS**

As stated in our engagement letter dated April 20, 2015, our responsibility, as described by professional standards, is to plan and perform our audit to obtain reasonable, but not absolute, assurance about whether the basic financial statements are free of material misstatement. Because of the concept of reasonable assurance and because we did not perform a detailed examination of all transactions, there is a risk that material errors, or fraud may exist and not be detected by us.

In planning and performing our audit, we considered Red River Retention Authority's internal control over financial reporting in order to determine our auditing procedures for the purpose of expressing our opinion on the basic financial statements and not to provide an opinion on internal control over financial reporting.

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether Red River Retention Authority's financial statements are free of material misstatement, we performed tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements and other matters, noncompliance with which could have a direct and material effect on the determination of financial statement amounts. However, providing an opinion on compliance with those provisions was not an objective of our audit.

SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES/QUALITATIVE ASPECTS OF ACCOUNTING PRACTICES

Management is responsible for the selection and use of appropriate accounting policies. In accordance with the terms of our engagement letter, we will advise management about the appropriateness of accounting policies and their application. The significant accounting policies used by Red River Retention Authority are described in Note 1 to the financial statements. Application of existing policies was not changed during the year ended December 31, 2014. We noted no transactions entered into by the governmental unit during the year for which there is a lack of authoritative guidance or consensus. There are no significant transactions that have been recognized in the financial statements in a different period than when the transaction occurred.

Accounting estimates are an integral part of the financial statements presented by management and are based on management's knowledge and experience about past and current events and assumptions about future events. Certain accounting estimates are particularly sensitive because of their significance to the financial statements and because of the possibility that future events affecting them may differ significantly from those expected. The most sensitive estimate affecting the financial statements is useful lives of capital assets.

CORRECTED AND UNCORRECTED MISSTATEMENTS

Professional standards require us to accumulate all known and likely misstatements identified during the audit, other than those that are trivial, and report them to the appropriate level of management. None of the misstatements detected as a result of audit procedures were material, either individually or in the aggregate, to the financial statements taken as a whole.

DISAGREEMENTS WITH MANAGEMENT

For purposes of this letter, professional standards define a disagreement with management as a matter, whether or not resolved to our satisfaction, concerning a financial accounting, or reporting matter that could be significant to the financial statements or the auditor's report. We are pleased to report that no such disagreements arose during the course of our audit.

MANAGEMENT REPRESENTATIONS

We have requested certain representations from management that are included in the management representation letter dated May 15, 2015.

MANAGEMENT CONSULTATIONS WITH OTHER INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANTS

In some cases, management may decide to consult with other accountants about auditing and accounting matters, similar to obtaining a "second opinion" on certain situations. If a consultation involves application of an accounting principle to the authority's financial statements or a determination of the type of auditor's opinion that may be expressed on those statements, our professional standards require the consulting accountant to check with us to determine that the consultant has all the relevant facts. To our knowledge, there were no such consultations with other accountants.

DIFFICULTIES ENCOUNTERED IN PERFORMING THE AUDIT

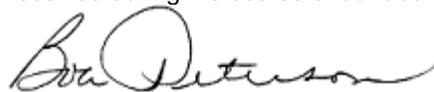
We encountered no significant difficulties in dealing with management in performing and completing our audit.

OTHER AUDIT FINDINGS OR ISSUES

We generally discuss a variety of matters, including the application of accounting principles and auditing standards, with management each year prior to retention as the governmental unit's auditors. However, these discussions occurred in the normal course of our professional relationship and our responses were not a condition to our retention.

This information is intended solely for the use of the governing board and management of Red River Retention Authority, is not intended to be, and should not be used for any other purpose. We would be happy to meet with you and any member of your staff to discuss any of the items in this letter in more detail if you so desire.

Thank you and the employees of Red River Retention Authority for the courteous and friendly assistance we received during the course of our audit. It is a pleasure for us to be able to serve Red River Retention Authority.



Robert R. Peterson
State Auditor

Fargo, North Dakota
May 15, 2015

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Division of State Audit

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