



NORTH DAKOTA OFFICE OF THE STATE AUDITOR

State Auditor Joshua C. Gallion

Cass County Soil Conservation District

Fargo, North Dakota

Audit Report for the Year Ended December 31, 2022

Client Code: PS 60007



Photo credit: North Dakota Tourism



Office of the
State Auditor

CASS COUNTY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT

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CASS COUNTY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT

District Officials
December 31, 2022

DISTRICT OFFICIALS

Brad Kellerman

Chairman

Terry Hoffmann
Warren Solberg
Kelli Bowen
Jan Russell

Vice Chairman
Board Member
Board Member
Board Member

Jeff Miller
Amy Cole

Operations Coordinator
Office Manager

STATE AUDITOR
Joshua C. Gallion



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INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

Soil Conservation District Commissioners
Cass County Soil Conservation District
Fargo, North Dakota

Report on the Financial Statements

Opinions

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the governmental activities and the major fund of Cass County Soil Conservation District, Fargo, North Dakota, as of and for the year ended December 31, 2022, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise Cass County Soil Conservation District's basic financial statements as listed in the table of contents.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the respective financial position of the governmental activities and the major fund of Cass County Soil Conservation District, Fargo, North Dakota, as of December 31, 2022, 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.

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audits in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAS) and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards* (GAS), issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of our report. We are required to be independent of Cass County Soil Conservation District and to meet our other ethical responsibilities, in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements relating to our audit. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinions.

Responsibilities of Management 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, and for 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.

In preparing the financial statements, management is required to evaluate whether there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about Cass County Soil Conservation District's ability to continue as a going concern for twelve months beyond the financial statement date, including any currently known information that may raise substantial doubt shortly thereafter.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinions. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not absolute assurance and therefore is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with GAAS and GAS will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control. Misstatements are considered material if there is a substantial likelihood that, individually or in the aggregate, they would influence the judgment made by a reasonable user based on the financial statements.

In performing our audit in accordance with GAAS and GAS, we:

- Exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.
- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, and design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks. Such procedures include examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit 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 Cass County Soil Conservation District's internal control. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluate the overall presentation of the financial statements.
- Conclude whether, in our judgment, there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about Cass County Soil Conservation District's ability to continue as a going concern for a reasonable period of time.

We are required to communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit, significant audit findings, and certain internal control-related matters that we identified during the audit.

Required Supplementary Information

Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require that the *budgetary comparison schedules, schedule of employer's share of net pension liability and employer contributions, schedule of employer's share of net OPEB liability and employer contributions, and notes to the required supplementary information*, as listed in the table of contents, 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.

Management has omitted the *management's discussion and analysis* that accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require to be presented to supplement the basic financial statements. Such missing 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. Our opinion on the basic financial statements is not affected by this missing information.

Other Reporting Required by *Government Auditing Standards*

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated March 29, 2023 on our consideration of Cass County Soil Conservation District'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 Cass County Soil Conservation District's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.

/S/

Joshua C. Gallion
State Auditor

Bismarck, North Dakota
March 29, 2023

CASS COUNTY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Statement of Net Position

December 31, 2022

ASSETS

Cash	\$ 443,756
Accounts Receivable	544
Intergovernmental Receivable	13,839
Due from County	786
Prepaid Assets	4,347
Taxes Receivable	4,344
Capital Assets	
Nondepreciable	8,000
Depreciable, Net	<u>261,727</u>
Total Assets	<u>\$ 737,343</u>

DEFERRED OUTFLOWS OF RESOURCES

Derived Pension & OPEB	<u>\$ 401,302</u>
Total Assets and Deferred Outflows of Resources	<u>\$ 1,138,645</u>

LIABILITIES

Accounts Payable	\$ 1,546
Salaries & Benefits Payable	12,320
Tax Liability	5,212
Prepaid Sales	8,267
Other Liabilities	8,006
Long-Term Liabilities	
Due Within One Year	
Compensated Absences Payable	2,964
Due After One Year	
Compensated Absences Payable	26,671
Net Pension & OPEB Liability	<u>598,876</u>
Total Liabilities	<u>\$ 663,862</u>

DEFERRED INFLOWS OF RESOURCES

Derived from Pension & OPEB	<u>\$ 233,392</u>
Total Liabilities and Deferred Inflows of Resources	<u>\$ 897,254</u>

NET POSITION

Net Investment in Capital Assets	\$ 261,727
Unrestricted	<u>(20,336)</u>
Total Net Position	<u><u>\$ 241,391</u></u>

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

CASS COUNTY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Statement of Activities

For the Year Ended December 31, 2022

Functions/Programs	Expenses	Program Revenues		Net (Expense) Revenue and Changes in Net Position
		Charges for Services	Operating Grants and Contributions	
Governmental Activities				
Conservation of Natural Resources	\$ 966,940	\$ 248,381	\$ 167,104	\$ (551,455)
Total Governmental Activities	<u>\$ 966,940</u>	<u>\$ 248,381</u>	<u>\$ 167,104</u>	<u>\$ (551,455)</u>
General Revenues				
Property Taxes				\$ 492,542
Interest				913
Miscellaneous Revenue				<u>3,441</u>
Total General Revenues				<u>\$ 496,896</u>
Change in Net Position				<u>\$ (54,559)</u>
Net Position - January 1				<u>\$ 295,950</u>
Net Position - December 31				<u><u>\$ 241,391</u></u>

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

CASS COUNTY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Balance Sheet – Governmental Funds

December 31, 2022

ASSETS

Cash	\$ 443,756
Accounts Receivable	544
Intergovernmental Receivable	13,839
Due from County	786
Prepaid Assets	4,347
Taxes Receivable	<u>4,344</u>
Total Assets	<u>\$ 467,616</u>

LIABILITIES, DEFERRED INFLOWS OF RESOURCES AND FUND BALANCES

Liabilities

Accounts Payable	\$ 1,546
Salaries & Benefits Payable	12,320
Tax Liability	5,212
Prepaid Sales	8,267
Other Liabilities	<u>8,006</u>

Total Liabilities \$ 35,351

Deferred Inflows of Resources

Taxes Receivable	<u>\$ 4,344</u>
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Total Liabilities and Deferred Inflows of Resources \$ 39,695

Fund Balances

Unassigned	
General Fund	<u>\$ 427,921</u>

Total Liabilities, Deferred Inflows of Resources,
and Fund Balances \$ 467,616

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

CASS COUNTY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Reconciliation of the Governmental Funds Balance Sheet to the Statement of Net Position
December 31, 2022

Total Fund Balances for Governmental Funds		\$	427,921
Total <i>net position</i> reported for government activities in the statement of net position is different because:			
Capital assets used in governmental activities are not financial resources and are not reported in the governmental funds.			269,727
Property taxes receivable will be collected after year-end, but are not available soon enough to pay for the current period's expenditures and therefore are reported as deferred inflow of resources in the funds.			4,344
Deferred outflows and inflows of resources related to pensions & OPEB are applicable to future periods and, therefore, are not reported in the governmental funds.			
Deferred Outflows Related to Pensions & OPEB	\$	401,302	
Deferred Inflows Related to Pensions & OPEB		<u>(233,392)</u>	167,910
Long-term liabilities 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.			
Compensated Absences	\$	(29,635)	
Net Pension & OPEB Liability		<u>(598,876)</u>	<u>(628,511)</u>
Total Net Position of Governmental Activities			<u>\$ 241,391</u>

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

CASS COUNTY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balances – Governmental Funds
For the Year Ended December 31, 2022

REVENUES

Taxes	\$ 491,482
Intergovernmental	167,104
Charges for Services	248,381
Interest Income	913
Miscellaneous	<u>3,441</u>
Total Revenues	<u>\$ 911,321</u>

EXPENDITURES

Current:	
Payroll	\$ 374,757
Cost of Goods Sold	161,619
Information and Communication	175,941
Contributions	6,433
Maintenance and Repair	20,575
Professional Fees	12,750
Purchase of Assets	123,521
Fuel & Oil	18,252
Rental Expense	20,461
Office Expense	11,884
Insurance	10,132
Other	<u>35,737</u>
Total Expenditures	<u>\$ 972,062</u>

Excess (Deficiency) of Revenues
Over Expenditures \$ (60,741)

Net Change in Fund Balances \$ (60,741)

Fund Balance - January 1 \$ 488,662

Fund Balance - December 31 \$ 427,921

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

CASS COUNTY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Reconciliation of the Governmental Funds Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balances to the Statement of Activities
For the Year Ended December 31, 2022

Net Change in *Fund Balances* - Total Governmental Funds \$ (60,741)

The change in net position reported for governmental activities in the statement of activities is different because:

Governmental funds report capital outlays as expenditures. However, in the statement of activities, the cost of those assets is allocated over their estimated useful lives and reported as depreciation expense.

Capital Outlay	\$ 123,521	
Depreciation Expense	<u>(53,488)</u>	70,033

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. This consists of a net increase in compensated absences. (4,642)

The Net Pension & OPEB Liability, Related Deferred Outflows of Resources and Deferred Inflows of Resources are reported in the government wide statements; however, activity related to these pension items do not involve current financial resources, and are not reported in the funds.

Net Change in Net Pension & OPEB Liability	\$ (385,265)	
Net Change in Deferred Outflows of Resources Related to Pensions and OPEB	150,017	
Net Change in Deferred Inflows of Resources Related to Pensions and OPEB	<u>174,979</u>	(60,269)

Some revenues reported on the statement of activities are not reported as revenues in the governmental funds since they do not represent available resources to pay current expenditures. This consists of the net change in taxes receivable. 1,060

Change in *Net Position* of Governmental Activities \$ (54,559)

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

CASS COUNTY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2022

NOTE 1 SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The financial statements of the Cass County Soil Conservation District (“District”) have been prepared in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAP) as applicable to governments. 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 District's accounting policies are described below.

Reporting Entity

The accompanying financial statements present the activities of the District. The District has considered all potential component units for which the District is financially accountable and other organizations for which the nature and significance of their relationships with the District such that exclusion would cause the District's financial statements to be misleading or incomplete. The Governmental Accounting Standards Board has set forth criteria to be considered in determining financial accountability. These criteria include appointing a voting majority of an organization's governing body and (1) the ability of the District 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 District.

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

Basis of Presentation, Basis of Accounting

Government-wide statements. The statement of net position and the statement of activities display information about the primary government. These statements include the financial activities of the overall government, except for fiduciary activities. Eliminations have been made to minimize the double-counting of internal activities. Governmental activities generally are financed through taxes, intergovernmental revenues, service charges, and other non-exchange transactions.

The statement of activities presents a comparison between direct expenses and program revenues for each function of the District'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 program. Revenues that are not classified as program revenues, including all taxes, interest, and non-restricted grants and contributions, are presented as general revenues.

Fund Financial Statements. The fund financial statements provide information about the District's fund. Separate statements are provided for the governmental fund. The emphasis of fund financial statements is on major governmental funds.

The District reports the following major governmental fund:

General Fund - This is the District's primary operating fund. It accounts for all financial resources of the general government.

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

CASS COUNTY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT
Notes to the Financial Statements – Continued

Governmental Fund Financial Statements. The governmental fund is 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 District considers all revenues reported in the governmental funds to be available if the revenues are collected within 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 principal and interest on long-term debt, claims and judgments, and compensated absences, which are recognized as expenditures to the extent they have matured. Capital asset acquisitions are reported as expenditures in governmental funds. Proceeds of long-term debt and acquisitions under capital leases are reported as other financing sources.

Under the terms of grant agreements, the soil conservation district funds certain programs by a combination of specific cost-reimbursement grants and general revenues. Thus, when program expenses are incurred, there is both restricted and unrestricted net position available to finance the program. It is the District's policy to first apply cost-reimbursement grant resources to such programs, and then by general revenues.

When both restricted and unrestricted resources are available for use, it is the District's policy to use restricted resources first, then unrestricted resources as they are needed.

Cash

Cash consists of amounts in demand deposits and money market accounts.

Capital Assets

Capital assets include property, plant, and equipment. Assets are reported in the governmental activities column in the government-wide financial statements. Capital assets are defined by the government as assets with an initial, individual cost of more than \$5,000. Such assets are recorded at historical cost or estimated historical cost if purchased or constructed. Donated capital assets are recorded at estimated fair market value at the date of donation. The costs of normal maintenance and repairs that do not add to the value of the asset or materially extend assets lives are not capitalized. Major outlays for capital assets and improvements are capitalized as projects are constructed. Interest incurred during the construction phase of capital assets is not capitalized.

Capital assets are depreciated using the straight-line method over the following estimated useful lives (amounts in years):

Buildings & Other Improvements	30 - 50
Vehicles and Machinery	5 - 10
Furniture and Equipment	5 - 10

Compensated Absences

All full-time employees and permanent part-time employees are granted vacation and sick benefits. Vacation time is earned on a month-to-month basis based on length of service. Vacation time is allowed to accrue to a maximum of 240 hours. When the limit is reached, employees will cease to accrue more vacation time until existing levels fall below 240 hours. Sick time is earned on every two week pay period at four hours each pay period regardless of years of service, with no maximum accrual. All vacation time and 10% of sick time is paid out upon termination at the employee's current salary. Vested or accumulated vacation and sick leave is reported in the government-wide statement of net position.

Long-Term Obligations

In the government-wide financial statements, long-term debt and other long-term obligations are reported as liabilities in the governmental activities statement of net position.

In the fund financial statements, the face amount of the debt is reported as other financing sources. When applicable, premiums received on debt issuances are reported as other financing sources and issuance costs are reported as debt service expenditures.

Pension

For purposes of measuring the net pension liability, deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to pensions, and pension expense, information about the fiduciary net position of the North Dakota Public Employees Retirement System (NDPERS) and additions to/deductions from NDPERS' fiduciary net position have been determined on the same basis as they are reported by NDPERS. For this purpose, benefit payments (including refunds of employee contributions) are recognized when due and payable in accordance with the benefit terms. Investments are reported at fair value.

Other Post-Employment Benefits (OPEB)

For purposes of measuring the net OPEB liability, deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to OPEB, and OPEB expense, information about the fiduciary net position of the North Dakota Public Employees Retirement System (NDPERS) and additions to/deductions from NDPERS' fiduciary net position have been determined on the same basis as they are reported by NDPERS. For this purpose, benefit payments are recognized when due and payable in accordance with the benefit terms. Investments are reported at fair value.

Fund Balances

Fund Balance Spending Policy. It is the policy of the District to spend restricted resources first, followed by unrestricted resources. It is also the policy of the Board to spend unrestricted resources of funds in the following order: committed, assigned and then unassigned.

Unassigned Fund Balances. Unassigned fund balances are reported in the general fund.

Net Position

When both restricted and unrestricted resources are available for use, it is the District's policy to use restricted resources first, then unrestricted resources as they are needed.

Net investment in capital assets is reported for capital assets less accumulated depreciation, as well as net of any related debt to purchase or finance the capital assets. These assets are not available for future spending.

Unrestricted net position is primarily unrestricted amounts related to the general fund.

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 reductions of expenditures in the fund that is reimbursed.

All other interfund transactions, except reimbursements, are reported as transfers.

In the government-wide financial statements, interfund transactions have been eliminated.

NOTE 2 DEPOSITS

Custodial Credit Risk

Credit risk is the risk associated with the failure of a depository institution, such that in the event of a depository financial institution's failure, the District would not be able to recover the deposits or collateralized securities that in the possession of the outside parties. The District does not have a formal policy regarding deposits that limits the amount it may invest in any one issuer.

CASS COUNTY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT
 Notes to the Financial Statements – Continued

In accordance with North Dakota Statutes, 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 another state of the United States or such other securities approved by the banking board.

At year ended December 31, 2022, the District’s carrying amount of deposits totaled \$436,166 and the bank balances totaled \$441,932. Of the bank balances, \$383,436 was covered by Federal Depository Insurance. The remaining bank balances were collateralized with securities held by the pledging financial institution’s agent in the government’s name.

NOTE 3 PROPERTY TAXES

Property taxes are levied as of January 1. The property taxes attach as an enforceable lien on property on January 1. The tax levy may be paid in two installments: the first installment includes one-half of the real estate taxes and all the special assessments; the second installment is the balance of the real estate taxes. The first installment is due by March 1 and the second installment is due by October 15. A 5% discount is allowed if all taxes and special assessments are paid by February 15. After the due dates, the bill becomes delinquent and penalties are assessed.

NOTE 4 CAPITAL ASSETS

The following is a summary of changes in capital assets for the year ended December 31, 2022:

	Balance Jan 1	Increases	Decreases	Balance Dec 31
<i>Capital assets not being depreciated</i>				
Equipment in Transit	\$ -	\$ 8,000	\$ -	\$ 8,000
Capital Assets Being Depreciated				
Buildings	\$ 242,206	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 242,206
District Equipment	363,527	115,521	-	479,048
Total Capital Assets Being Depreciated	\$ 605,733	\$ 115,521	\$ -	\$ 721,254
Less Accumulated Depreciation				
Buildings	\$ 89,688	\$ 6,796	\$ -	\$ 96,484
District Equipment	316,351	46,692	-	363,043
Total Accumulated Depreciation	\$ 406,039	\$ 53,488	\$ -	\$ 459,527
Capital Assets, Net				
Nondepreciable	\$ -	\$ 8,000	\$ -	\$ 8,000
Depreciable, Net	\$ 199,694	\$ 62,033	\$ -	\$ 261,727

Depreciation expense was charged to conservation of natural resources.

NOTE 5 LONG-TERM LIABILITIES

During the year ended December 31, 2022, the following changes occurred in liabilities reported in long-term liabilities:

	Balance Jan 1	Increases	Decreases	Balance Dec 31	Due Within One Year
Compensated Absences *	\$ 24,993	\$ 4,642	\$ -	\$ 29,635	\$ 2,964
Net Pension & OPEB Liability	213,611	385,265	-	598,876	-
Total Governmental Activities	\$ 238,604	\$ 389,907	\$ -	\$ 628,511	\$ 2,964

* - The change in compensated absences is shown as a net change because changes in salary prohibit exact calculations of additions and reductions.

NOTE 6 PENSION PLAN

General Information about the NDPERS Pension Plan

North Dakota Public Employees Retirement System (Main System)

The following brief description of NDPERS is provided for general information purposes only. Participants should refer to NDCC Chapter 54-52 for more complete information.

NDPERS is a cost-sharing multiple-employer defined benefit pension plan that covers substantially all employees of the State of North Dakota, its agencies and various participating political subdivisions. NDPERS provides for pension, death and disability benefits. The cost to administer the plan is financed through the contributions and investment earnings of the plan.

Responsibility for administration of the NDPERS defined benefit pension plan is assigned to a Board comprised of nine members. The Board consists of a Chairman, who is appointed by the Governor; one member appointed by the Attorney General; one member appointed by the State Health Officer; three members elected by the active membership of the NDPERS system, one member elected by the retired public employees and two members of the legislative assembly appointed by the chairman of the legislative management.

Pension Benefits

Benefits are set by statute. NDPERS has no provisions or policies with respect to automatic and ad hoc post-retirement benefit increases. Member of the Main System are entitled to unreduced monthly pension benefits beginning when the sum of age and years of credited service equal or exceed 85 (Rule of 85), or at normal retirement age (65). For members hired on or after January 1, 2016 the Rule of 85 was replaced with the Rule of 90 with a minimum age of 60. The monthly pension benefit is equal to 2.00% of their average monthly salary, using the highest 36 months out of the last 180 months of service, for each year of service. For members hired on or after January 1, 2020 the 2.00% multiplier was replaced with a 1.75% multiplier. The plan permits early retirement at ages 55-64 with three or more years of service.

Members may elect to receive the pension benefits in the form of a single life, joint and survivor, term-certain annuity, or partial lump sum with ongoing annuity. Members may elect to receive the value of their accumulated contributions, plus interest, as a lump sum distribution upon retirement or termination, or they may elect to receive their benefits in the form of an annuity. For each member electing an annuity, total payment will not be less than the members' accumulated contributions plus interest.

Death and Disability Benefits

Death and disability benefits are set by statute. If an active member dies with less than three years of service for the Main System, a death benefit equal to the value of the member’s accumulated contributions, plus interest, is paid to the member’s beneficiary. If the member has earned more than three years of credited service for the Main System, the surviving spouse will be entitled to a single payment refund, life-time monthly payments in an amount equal to 50% of the member’s accrued normal retirement benefit, or monthly payments in an amount equal to the member’s accrued 100% Joint and Survivor retirement benefit if the member had reached normal retirement age prior to date of death. If the surviving spouse dies before the member’s accumulated pension benefits are paid, the balance will be payable to the surviving spouse’s designated beneficiary.

Eligible members who become totally disabled after a minimum of 180 days of service, receive monthly disability benefits equal to 25% of their final average salary with a minimum benefit of \$100. To qualify under this section, the member has to become disabled during the period of eligible employment and apply for benefits within one year of termination. The definition for disabled is set by the NDPERS in the North Dakota Administrative Code.

Refunds of Member Account Balance

Upon termination, if a member of the Main System is not vested (is not 65 or does not have three years of service), they will receive the accumulated member contributions and vested employer contributions, plus interest, or may elect to receive this amount at a later date. If the member has vested, they have the option of applying for a refund or can remain as a terminated vested participant. If a member terminated and withdrew their accumulated member contribution and is subsequently reemployed, they have the option of repurchasing their previous service.

Member and Employer Contributions

Member and employer contributions paid to NDPERS are set by statute and are established as a percent of salaries and wages. Member contribution rates are 7% and employer contribution rates are 7.12% of covered compensation. For members hired on or after January 1, 2020 member contribution rates are 7% and employer contribution rates are 8.26% of covered compensation.

The member’s account balance includes the vested employer contributions equal to the member’s contributions to an eligible deferred compensation plan. The minimum member contribution is \$25 and the maximum may not exceed the following:

1 to 12 months of service	Greater of one percent of monthly salary or \$25
13 to 24 months of service	Greater of two percent of monthly salary or \$25
25 to 36 months of service	Greater of three percent of monthly salary or \$25
Longer than 36 months of service	Greater of four percent of monthly salary or \$25

Pension Liabilities, Pension Expense, and Deferred Outflows of Resources and Deferred Inflows of Resources Related to Pensions

At December 31, 2022, the Employer reported a liability of \$572,068 for its proportionate share of net pension liability. The net pension liability was measured as of June 30, 2022, and the total pension liability used to calculate the net pension liability was determined by an actuarial valuation as of that date. The Employer’s proportion of the net pension liability was based on the district’s share of covered payroll in the Main System pension plan relative to the covered payroll of all participating Main System employers. At June 30, 2022, the Employer’s proportion was .019863 percent, which was an increase of .000445 percent from its proportion measured as of June 30, 2021.

CASS COUNTY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT
Notes to the Financial Statements – Continued

For the year ended December 31, 2022, the Employer recognized pension expense of \$75,025. At December 31, 2022, the Employer reported deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to pensions from the following sources:

	Deferred Outflows of Resources	Deferred Inflows of Resources
Differences Between Expected and Actual Experience	\$ 2,983	\$ 10,927
Changes of Assumptions	342,105	212,086
Net Difference Between Projected and Actual Investment		
Earnings on Pension Plan Investments	20,938	-
Changes in Proportion and Differences Between Employer		
Contributions and Proportionate Share of Contributions	12,586	9,485
Employer Contributions Subsequent to the Measurement Date	8,422	-
Total	\$ 387,034	\$ 232,498

\$8,422 reported as deferred outflows of resources related to pensions resulting from Employer contributions subsequent to the measurement date will be recognized as a reduction of the net pension liability in the year ended December 31, 2023.

Other amounts reported as deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to pensions will be recognized in pension expense as follows.

2023	\$ 40,046
2024	49,697
2025	2,561
2026	53,810

Actuarial Assumptions

The total pension liability in the July 1, 2022 actuarial valuation was determined using the following actuarial assumptions, applied to all periods included in the measurement:

Inflation	2.25%
Salary increases	3.5% to 17.75% including inflation
Investment rate of return	5.10 %, net of investment expenses
Cost-of-living adjustments	None

For active members, inactive members and healthy retirees, mortality rates were based on the Sex-distinct Pub-2010 table for General Employees, with scaling based on actual experience. Respective corresponding tables were used for healthy retirees, disabled retirees, and active members. Mortality rates are projected from 2010 using the MP-2019 scale.

CASS COUNTY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT
Notes to the Financial Statements – Continued

The long-term expected rate of return on pension plan investments was determined using a building-block method in which best-estimate ranges of expected future real rates of return (expected returns, net of pension plan investment expense and inflation) are developed for each major asset class. These ranges are combined to produce the long-term expected rate of return by weighting the expected future real rates of return by the target asset allocation percentage and by adding expected inflation. Best estimates of arithmetic real rates of return for each major asset class included in the Fund’s target asset allocation are summarized in the following table:

Asset Class	Target Allocation	Long-Term Expected Real Rate of Return
Domestic Equities	30%	6.00%
International Equities	21%	6.70%
Private Equity	7%	9.50%
Domestic Fixed Income	23%	0.73%
International Fixed Income	0%	0.00%
Global Real Assets	19%	4.77%
Cash Equivalents	0%	0.00%

Discount rate

For PERS, GASB Statement No. 67 includes a specific requirement for the discount rate that is used for the purpose of the measurement of the Total Pension Liability. This rate considers the ability of the System to meet benefit obligations in the future. To make this determination, employer contributions, employee contributions, benefit payments, expenses and investment returns are projected into the future. The current employer and employee fixed rate contributions are assumed to be made in each future year. The Plan Net Position (assets) in future years can then be determined and compared to its obligation to make benefit payments in those years. In years where assets are not projected to be sufficient to meet benefit payments, which is the case for the PERS plan, the use of a municipal bond rate is required.

The Single Discount Rate (SDR) is equivalent to applying these two rates to the benefits that are projected to be paid during the different time periods. The SDR reflects (1) the long-term expected rate of return on pension plan investments (during the period in which the fiduciary net position is projected to be sufficient to pay benefits) and (2) a tax-exempt municipal bond rate based on an index of 20-year general obligation bonds with an average AA credit rating as of the measurement date (to the extent that the contributions for use with the long-term expected rate of return are not met).

For the purpose of this valuation, the expected rate of return on pension plan investments is 6.50%; the municipal bond rate is 3.69 %; and the resulting Single Discount Rate is 5.10 %.

Sensitivity of the Employer’s Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability to Changes in the Discount Rate

The following presents the Employer’s proportionate share of the net pension liability calculated using the discount rate of 5.10 percent, as well as what the Employer’s proportionate share of the net pension liability would be if it were calculated using a discount rate that is 1-percentage-point lower (4.10 percent) or 1-percentage-point higher (6.10 percent) than the current rate:

	1% Decrease (4.10%)	Current Discount Rate (5.10%)	1% Increase (6.10%)
Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability	\$ 755,090	\$ 572,068	\$ 421,813

Pension Plan Fiduciary Net Position

Detailed information about the pension plan’s fiduciary net position is available in the separately issued NDPERS financial report.

NOTE 7 OPEB PLAN

General Information about the OPEB Plan

North Dakota Public Employees Retirement System

The following brief description of NDPERS is provided for general information purposes only. Participants should refer to NDAC Chapter 71-06 for more complete information.

NDPERS OPEB plan is a cost-sharing multiple-employer defined benefit OPEB plan that covers members receiving retirement benefits from the PERS, the HPRS, and Judges retired under Chapter 27-17 of the North Dakota Century Code a credit toward their monthly health insurance premium under the state health plan based upon the member's years of credited service. Effective July 1, 2015, the credit is also available to apply towards monthly premiums under the state dental, vision and long-term care plan and any other health insurance plan. Effective August 1, 2019 the benefit may be used for any eligible health, prescription drug plan, dental, vision, or long term care plan premium expense. The Retiree Health Insurance Credit Fund is advance-funded on an actuarially determined basis.

Responsibility for administration of the NDPERS defined benefit OPEB plan is assigned to a Board comprised of nine members. The Board consists of a Chairman, who is appointed by the Governor; one member appointed by the Attorney General; one member appointed by the State Health Officer; three members elected by the active membership of the NDPERS system, one member elected by the retired public employees and two members of the legislative assembly appointed by the chairman of the legislative management.

OPEB Benefits

The employer contribution for the PERS, the HPRS and the Defined Contribution Plan is set by statute at 1.14% of covered compensation. The employer contribution for employees of the state board of career and technical education is 2.99% of covered compensation for a period of eight years ending October 1, 2015. Employees participating in the retirement plan as part-time/temporary members are required to contribute 1.14% of their covered compensation to the Retiree Health Insurance Credit Fund. Employees purchasing previous service credit are also required to make an employee contribution to the Fund. The benefit amount applied each year is shown as "prefunded credit applied" on the Statement of Changes in Plan Net Position for the OPEB trust funds. Beginning January 1, 2020, members first enrolled in the NDPERS Main System and the Defined Contribution Plan on or after that date will not be eligible to participate in RHIC. Therefore, RHIC will become for the most part a closed plan. There were no other benefit changes during the year.

Retiree health insurance credit benefits and death and disability benefits are set by statute. There are no provisions or policies with respect to automatic and ad hoc post-retirement benefit increases. Employees who are receiving monthly retirement benefits from the PERS, the HPRS, the Defined Contribution Plan, the Chapter 27-17 judges or an employee receiving disability benefits, or the spouse of a deceased annuitant receiving a surviving spouse benefit or if the member selected a joint and survivor option are eligible to receive a credit toward their monthly health insurance premium under the state health plan.

Effective July 1, 2015, the credit is also available to apply towards monthly premiums under the state dental, vision and long-term care plan and any other health insurance plan. Effective August 1, 2019 the benefit may be used for any eligible health, prescription drug plan, dental, vision, or long term care plan premium expense. The benefits are equal to \$5.00 for each of the employee's, or deceased employee's years of credited service not to exceed the premium in effect for selected coverage. The retiree health insurance credit is also available for early retirement with reduced benefits.

CASS COUNTY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT
Notes to the Financial Statements – Continued

OPEB Liabilities, OPEB Expense, and Deferred Outflows of Resources and Deferred Inflows of Resources Related to OPEB

At December 31, 2022, the Employer reported a liability of \$26,808 for its proportionate share of the net liability. The net OPEB liability was measured as of June 30, 2022, and the total OPEB liability used to calculate the net OPEB liability was determined by an actuarial valuation as of that date. The employer’s proportion of the net OPEB liability was based on the employer’s share of covered payroll in the OPEB plan relative to the covered payroll of all participating OPEB employers. At June 30, 2022 the Employer’s proportion was .022334 percent which was an increase of .002165 percent from June 30, 2021.

For the year ended December 31, 2022 the Employer recognized OPEB expense of \$4,823. At December 31, 2022 the Employer reported deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to OPEB from the following sources:

	Deferred Outflows of Resources	Deferred Inflows of Resources
Differences Between Expected and Actual Experience	\$ 635	\$ 231
Changes of Assumptions	6,753	-
Net Difference Between Projected and Actual Investment Earnings on OPEB Plan Investments	3,610	-
Changes in Proportion and Differences Between Employer Contributions and Proportionate Share of Contributions	1,922	663
Employer Contributions Subsequent to the Measurement Date	1,348	-
Total	\$ 14,268	\$ 894

\$1,348 reported as deferred outflows of resources related to OPEB resulting from Employer contributions subsequent to the measurement date will be recognized as a reduction of the net OPEB liability in the year ended December 31, 2023.

Other amounts reported as deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to OPEBs will be recognized in OPEB expense as follows:

2023	\$ 3,171
2024	2,984
2025	2,617
2026	3,254
2027	-

Actuarial assumptions

The total pension liability in the July 1, 2022 actuarial valuation was determined using the following actuarial assumptions, applied to all periods included in the measurement:

Inflation	2.25%
Salary increases	Not applicable
Investment rate of return	5.75%, net of investment expenses
Cost-of-living adjustments	None

For active members, inactive members and healthy retirees, mortality rates were based on the MortalityPub-2010 Healthy Retiree Mortality table (for General Employees), sex-distinct, with rates multiplied by 103% for males and 101% for females. Pub-2010 Disabled Retiree Mortality table (for General Employees), sex-distinct, with rates multiplied by 117% for males and 112% for females. Pub-2010 Employee Mortality table (for General Employees), sex-distinct, with rates multiplied by 92% for both males and females. Mortality rates are projected from 2010 using the MP-2019 scale.

CASS COUNTY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT
Notes to the Financial Statements – Continued

The long-term expected investment rate of return assumption for the RHIC fund was determined using a building-block method in which best-estimate ranges of expected future real rates of return (expected returns, net of RHIC investment expense and inflation) are developed for each major asset class. These ranges are combined to produce the long-term expected rate of return by weighting the expected future real rates of return by the target asset allocation percentage and by adding expected inflation. Estimates of arithmetic real rates of return, for each major asset class included in the RHIC’s target asset allocation as of July 1, 2021 are summarized in the following table:

Asset Class	Target Allocation	Long-Term Expected Real Rate of Return
Large Cap Domestic Equities	33%	5.85%
Small Cap Domestic Equities	6%	6.75%
Domestic Fixed Income	35%	0.50%
International Equities	26%	6.25%

Discount Rate

The discount rate used to measure the total OPEB liability was 5.75%. The projection of cash flows used to determine the discount rate assumed plan member and statutory rates described in this report. For this purpose, only employer contributions that are intended to fund benefits of current RHIC members and their beneficiaries are included. Projected employer contributions that are intended to fund the service costs of future plan members and their beneficiaries are not included. Based on those assumptions, the RHIC fiduciary net position was projected to be sufficient to make all projected future benefit payments of current plan members. Therefore, the long-term expected rate of return on RHIC investments was applied to all periods of projected benefit payments to determine the total OPEB liability.

Sensitivity of the Employer's Proportionate Share of the Net OPEB Liability to Changes in the Discount Rate

The following presents the net OPEB liability of the Plans as of June 30, 2022, calculated using the discount rate of 5.39%, as well as what the RHIC net OPEB liability would be if it were calculated using a discount rate that is 1-percentage-point lower (4.39 percent) or 1-percentage-point higher (6.39 percent) than the current rate:

	1% Decrease (4.39%)	Current Discount Rate (5.39%)	1% Increase (6.39%)
Proportionate Share of the Net OPEB Liability	\$ 34,218	\$ 26,808	\$ 20,587

NOTE 8 RISK MANAGEMENT

The District is exposed to various risks of loss relating 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 Cass County Soil Conservation District pays an annual premium to NDRIF for its general liability, automobile insurance coverage and inland marine. The coverage by NDRIF is limited to losses of two million dollars per occurrence for general liability and automobile and \$342,202 for mobile equipment and portable property.

The District also participates in the North Dakota Fire and Tornado Fund and the State Bonding Fund. The Cass County Soil Conservation District pays an annual premium to the Fire and Tornado Fund to cover property damage to buildings and personal property. Replacement cost coverage is provided by estimating replacement cost in consultation with the Fire and Tornado Fund. The Fire and Tornado Fund is reinsured by a third-party insurance carrier for losses in excess of two million dollars per occurrence during a 12-month period. The State Bonding Fund currently provides political subdivision with blanket fidelity bond coverage in the amount of \$242,578 for its employees. The State Bonding Fund does not currently charge any premium for this coverage.

CASS COUNTY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Budgetary Comparison Schedule – General Fund

For the Year Ended December 31, 2022

	Original Budget	Final Budget	Actual	Variance with Final Budget
REVENUES				
Taxes	\$ 500,000	\$ 500,000	\$ 491,482	\$ (8,518)
Intergovernmental	33,000	33,000	167,104	134,104
Charges for Services	159,200	159,200	248,381	89,181
Interest	-	-	913	913
Miscellaneous	930	930	3,441	2,511
Total Revenues	<u>\$ 693,130</u>	<u>\$ 693,130</u>	<u>\$ 911,321</u>	<u>\$ 218,191</u>
EXPENDITURES				
Payroll	\$ 373,250	\$ 373,250	\$ 374,757	\$ (1,507)
Cost of Goods Sold	120,900	120,900	161,619	(40,719)
Information and Communication	96,425	96,425	175,941	(79,516)
Contributions	13,850	13,850	6,433	7,417
Maintenance and Repair	12,750	12,750	20,575	(7,825)
Professional Fees	12,000	12,000	12,750	(750)
Purchase of Assets	35,000	35,000	123,521	(88,521)
Fuel & Oil	11,500	11,500	18,252	(6,752)
Rental Expenses	21,100	21,100	20,461	639
Office Expenses	25,265	25,265	11,884	13,381
Insurance	11,350	11,350	10,132	1,218
Other	16,590	16,590	35,737	(19,147)
Total Expenditures	<u>\$ 749,980</u>	<u>\$ 749,980</u>	<u>\$ 972,062</u>	<u>\$ (222,082)</u>
Excess (Deficiency) of Revenues Over Expenditures	<u>\$ (56,850)</u>	<u>\$ (56,850)</u>	<u>\$ (60,741)</u>	<u>\$ (3,891)</u>
Net Change in Fund Balances	<u>\$ (56,850)</u>	<u>\$ (56,850)</u>	<u>\$ (60,741)</u>	<u>\$ (3,891)</u>
Fund Balance - January 1	<u>\$ 276,733</u>	<u>\$ 276,733</u>	<u>\$ 488,662</u>	<u>\$ 211,929</u>
Fund Balance - December 31	<u>\$ 219,883</u>	<u>\$ 219,883</u>	<u>\$ 427,921</u>	<u>\$ 208,038</u>

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

CASS COUNTY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Schedule of Employer’s Share of Net Pension Liability and Employer Contributions
 For the Year Ended December 31, 2022

**Schedule of Employer’s Share of Net Pension Liability
 ND Public Employee’s Retirement System
 Last 10 Fiscal Years**

	Proportion of the Net Pension Liability (Asset)	Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability (Asset)	Covered-Employee Payroll	Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability (Asset) as a Percentage of its Covered-Employee Payroll	Plan Fiduciary Net Position as a Percentage of the Total Pension Liability
2022	0.019863%	\$ 572,068	\$ 230,575	248.10%	54.47%
2021	0.019418%	202,394	219,890	92.04%	78.26%
2020	0.019851%	624,517	218,975	285.20%	48.91%
2019	0.018503%	216,869	192,466	112.68%	71.66%
2018	0.020062%	338,568	206,101	164.27%	62.80%
2017	0.025120%	329,695	209,391	157.45%	61.98%
2016	0.019875%	193,701	200,291	96.71%	70.46%
2015	0.014634%	99,509	130,372	76.33%	77.15%
2014	0.015703%	99,670	132,272	75.35%	77.70%

**Schedule of Employer Contributions
 ND Public Employees Retirement System
 Last 10 Fiscal Years**

	Statutory Required Contribution	Contributions in Relation to the Statutory Required Contribution	Contribution Deficiency (Excess)	District’s Covered-Employee Payroll	Contributions as a Percentage of Covered-Employee Payroll
2022	\$ 17,366	\$ 16,417	949	\$ 241,966	6.78%
2021	16,216	15,656	560	230,560	6.79%
2020	15,506	15,591	(85)	218,975	7.12%
2019	14,012	14,147	(135)	192,466	7.35%
2018	15,180	14,675	505	206,101	7.12%
2017	15,184	14,909	275	209,391	7.12%
2016	14,501	14,261	240	200,291	7.12%
2015	9,903	9,533	370	130,372	7.31%
2014	9,418	9,418	-	132,272	7.12%

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

CASS COUNTY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Schedule of Employer’s Share of Net OPEB Liability and Employer Contributions
 For the Year Ended December 31, 2022

**Schedule of Employer’s Share of Net OPEB Liability
 ND Public Employees Retirement System
 Last 10 Fiscal Years**

	Proportion of the Net OPEB Liability (Asset)	Proportionate Share of the Net OPEB (Asset)	Covered-Employee Payroll	Proportionate Share of the Net OPEB (Asset) as a Percentage of its Covered-Employee Payroll	Plan Fiduciary Net Position as a Percentage of the Total OPEB Liability
2022	0.022334%	\$ 26,808	\$ 230,575	11.63%	56.28%
2021	0.020169%	11,217	219,890	5.10%	76.63%
2020	0.019209%	16,159	218,975	7.38%	63.38%
2019	0.017248%	13,853	192,466	7.20%	63.13%
2018	0.018835%	14,834	206,101	7.20%	61.89%
2017	0.019355%	15,310	209,391	7.31%	59.78%

**Schedule of Employer Contributions
 ND Public Employees Retirement System
 Last 10 Fiscal Years**

	Statutory Required Contribution	Contributions in Relation to the Statutory Required Contribution	Contribution Deficiency (Excess)	District’s Covered-Employee Payroll	Contributions as a Percentage of Covered-Employee Payroll
2022	\$ 2,806	\$ 2,629	\$ 177	\$ 241,966	1.09%
2021	2,644	2,507	137	230,560	1.09%
2020	2,573	2,496	77	218,975	1.14%
2019	2,238	2,265	(27)	192,466	1.18%
2018	2,417	2,350	67	206,101	1.14%
2017	2,434	2,387	47	209,391	1.14%

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

CASS COUNTY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Notes to the Required Supplementary Information
For the Year Ended December 31, 2022

NOTE 1: STEWARDSHIP, COMPLIANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY

Budgetary Information

- The soil district board adopts an “appropriated budget” on a basis consistent with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States (GAAP) for the general fund.
- The budget includes proposed expenditures and means of financing them.
- The soil conservation district, on or before the October meeting shall determine the amount of taxes that shall be levied for district purposes and shall levy all such taxes in specific amounts. NDCC 11-23-05
- Each budget is controlled by the operations coordinator 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.

NOTE 2: SCHEDULE OF EMPLOYER PENSION AND OPEB LIABILITY AND CONTRIBUTIONS

GASB Statements No. 68 and 75 require ten years of information to be presented in these tables. However, until a full 10-year trend is compiled, the District will present information for those years for which information is available.

NOTE 3: CHANGES OF BENEFIT TERMS – PENSION AND OPEB

Pension

The interest rate earned on member contributions decreased from 6.50 percent to 6.00 percent effective January 1, 2023 (based on the adopted decrease in the investment return assumption). New Main System members who are hired on or after January 1, 2020 will have a benefit multiplier of 1.75 percent (compared to the current benefit multiplier of 2.00 percent). The fixed employer contribution for new members of the Main System increased from 7.12 percent to 8.26 percent. For members who terminate after December 31, 2019, final average salary is the higher of the final average salary calculated on December 31, 2019 or the average salary earned in the three highest periods of twelve consecutive months employed during the last 180 months of employment. There have been no other changes in plan provisions since the previous actuarial valuation as of July 1, 2020.

OPEB

Beginning January 1, 2020, members first enrolled in the NDPERS Main System and the Defined Contribution Plan on or after that date will not be eligible to participate in RHIC. Therefore, RHIC will become for the most part a closed plan. There have been no other changes in plan provisions since the previous actuarial valuation as of July 1, 2020.

NOTE 4: CHANGES OF ASSUMPTIONS – PENSION AND OPEB

Pension

The investment return assumption was updated from 7.00% to 6.50% beginning with the actuarial valuation as of July 1, 2022. All other actuarial assumptions used in the actuarial valuation as of July 1, 2022 were based on an experience review for the period from July 1, 2014 to July 1, 2019, and were adopted for first use commencing with the actuarial valuation as of July 1, 2020.

OPEB

The investment return assumption was updated from 6.50% to 5.75% beginning with the actuarial valuation as of July 1, 2022. All actuarial assumptions and the actuarial cost method are unchanged from the last actuarial valuation as of July 1, 2021.

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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

Soil Conservation District Commissioners
Cass County Soil Conservation District
Fargo, North Dakota

We have audited, 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 (GAS)* issued by the Comptroller General of the United States, the financial statements of the governmental activities and the major fund of Cass County Soil Conservation District as of and for the year ended December 31, 2022, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise Cass County Soil Conservation District's basic financial statements, and have issued our report thereon dated March 29, 2023.

Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

In planning and performing our audit of the financial statements, we considered Cass County Soil Conservation District's internal control over financial reporting (internal control) as a basis for designing 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 Cass County Soil Conservation District's internal control. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of Cass County Soil Conservation District's internal control.

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. A *significant deficiency* is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control that is less severe than a material weakness yet important enough to merit attention by those charged with governance.

Our consideration of internal control was for the limited purpose described in the first paragraph of this section 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 have not been identified. We did identify a certain deficiency in internal control, described in the accompanying schedule of audit findings as item 2022-001 that we consider to be a material weakness.

CASS COUNTY SOIL CONSERVATION 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

Report on Compliance and Other Matters

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether Cass County Soil Conservation District's financial statements are free from 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 financial statements. 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 GAS.

Cass County Soil Conservation District's Response to Findings

GAS requires the auditor to perform limited procedures on Cass County Soil Conservation District's response to the findings identified in our audit and described in the accompanying *schedule of audit findings*. Cass County Soil Conservation District's response was not subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the financial statements and, accordingly, we express no opinion on the response.

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 results 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 GAS in considering the entity's internal control and compliance. Accordingly, this communication is not suitable for any other purpose.

/S/

Joshua C. Gallion
State Auditor

Bismarck, North Dakota
March 29, 2023

CASS COUNTY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Summary of Auditor's Results
For the Year Ended December 31, 2022

Financial Statements

Type of Report Issued:	
Governmental Activities	Unmodified
Major Fund	Unmodified

Internal control over financial reporting

Material weaknesses identified?	<u> X </u> Yes	<u> </u> None Noted
Significant deficiencies identified not considered to be material weaknesses?	<u> </u> Yes	<u> X </u> None Noted
Noncompliance material to financial statements noted?	<u> </u> Yes	<u> X </u> None Noted

CASS COUNTY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Schedule of Audit Findings

For the Year Ended December 31, 2022

2022-001 LACK OF SEGREGATION OF DUTIES – MATERIAL WEAKNESS

Condition

Cass County Soil Conservation District has limited staff responsible for the primary accounting functions. A lack of segregation of duties exists as one employee is responsible to collect monies, deposit monies, issue checks, send checks to vendors, record receipts and disbursements in the check register, maintain the general ledger, and perform bank reconciliations.

Effect

The lack of segregation of duties increases the risk of material misstatement to Cass Soil Conservation District's financial condition, whether due to error or fraud.

Cause

Management has chosen to allocate its economic resources to other functions of Cass County Soil Conservation District.

Criteria

According to the COSO framework, 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 Cass County Soil Conservation District.

Prior Recommendation

Yes

Recommendation

To mitigate the risk associated with this lack of segregation of duties, we recommend the following:

- Financial statements and credit memos should be reviewed by a responsible official.
- Where possible, segregate the functions of approval, posting, custody of assets, and reconciliation as they relate to any amounts which impact the financial statements.
- Include the board in reviewing bank reconciliations, credit memos, manual adjustments, etc.

Cass County Soil Conservation District's Response

The District agrees with the recommendations. The district Director reviews and initials the bank reconciliation reports. The board is now signing appropriate bills and checks at the board meetings. The district Director will review and approve credit memos. The board is more involved in the financial operation of the district now.

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GOVERNANCE COMMUNICATION

March 29, 2023

Soil Conservation District Commissioners
Cass County Soil Conservation District
Fargo, North Dakota

We have audited the financial statements of the governmental activities and the major fund of Cass County Soil Conservation District, Fargo, North Dakota, for the year ended December 31, 2022. Professional standards require that we provide you with information about our responsibilities under generally accepted auditing standards (and, if applicable, *Government Auditing Standards* and the Uniform Guidance), as well as certain information related to the planned scope and timing of our audit. We have communicated such information in our letter to you dated March 16, 2023. Professional standards also require that we communicate to you with the following information related to our audit.

Qualitative Aspects of Accounting Practices

Management is responsible for the selection and use of appropriate accounting policies. The significant accounting policies used by Cass County Soil Conservation District are described in Note 1 to the financial statements. No new accounting policies were adopted and the application of existing policies was not changed during 2022. We noted no transactions entered into by the Cass County Soil Conservation District during the year for which there is a lack of authoritative guidance or consensus. All significant transactions have been recognized in the financial statements in the proper period.

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 governmental activities financial statements were:

Management's estimate of the useful lives of capital assets is based on past history of each classification of capital assets. We evaluated the key factors and assumptions used to develop the useful lives of capital assets in determining that it is reasonable in relation to the financial statements taken as a whole.

Difficulties Encountered in Performing the Audit

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

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. The attached schedule summarizes uncorrected misstatements of the financial statements. Management has determined that their effects are immaterial, both individually and in the aggregate, to the financial statements taken as a whole. The uncorrected misstatements or the matters underlying them could potentially cause future period financial statements to be materially misstated, even though, in our judgment, such uncorrected misstatements are immaterial to the financial statements under audit.

	Debit	Credit
Fund Level		
Undeposited Funds	6,160	-
Revenue	-	6,160
Expenditures	9,629	-
Accounts Payable	-	9,629
Government Wide		
Net Position, Unrestricted	8,000	-
Net Position, Investment in Capital Assets	-	8,000

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 March 29, 2023.

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 Soil Conservation District’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.

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.

Other Matters

We applied certain limited procedures to the *budgetary comparison information, schedule of district's share of net pension liability and district contributions, schedule of district's share of net OPEB liability and district contributions, and notes to the required supplementary information* which are required supplementary information (RSI) that supplements the basic financial statements. Our procedures consisted of inquiries of management regarding 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 did not audit the RSI and do not express an opinion or provide any assurance on the RSI.

Restrictions on Use

This information is intended solely for the use of the Soil Conservation District Commissioners and management of Cass County Soil Conservation District, and 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 Cass County Soil Conservation District 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 Cass County Soil Conservation District.

/s/

Joshua C. Gallion
State Auditor

Bismarck, North Dakota
March 29, 2023



Office of the
State Auditor

NORTH DAKOTA STATE AUDITOR
JOSHUA C. GALLION

NORTH DAKOTA STATE AUDITOR'S OFFICE

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