



# NORTH DAKOTA OFFICE OF THE STATE AUDITOR

State Auditor Joshua C. Gallion

# Morton County Water Resource District

Mandan, North Dakota

Audit Report for the Year Ended December 31, 2023

*Client Code: PS 30010*



Photo credit: North Dakota Tourism



Office of the  
State Auditor

# MORTON COUNTY WATER RESOURCE DISTRICT

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For the Years Ended December 31, 2023

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# MORTON COUNTY WATER RESOURCE DISTRICT

District Officials

December 31, 2023

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## DISTRICT OFFICIALS

Wade Bachmeier

Jamie Wetsch

George Saxowsky

Bruce Engelhardt

Jim Schmidt

Chairman

Vice Chairman

Director

Director

Director

Brenda Winckler

Secretary/Treasurer

Karin Garvie

Carrie Schaner

General Manager, Water System

Administrative Manager, Water System

STATE AUDITOR  
Joshua C. Gallion



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## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

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Board of District Commissioners  
Morton County Water Resource District  
Mandan, North Dakota

### Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements

#### *Opinions*

We have audited the financial statements of the governmental activities, the business-type activities, and each major fund of Morton County Water Resource District, North Dakota, as of and for the year ended December 31, 2023, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise Morton County Water Resource 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, the business-type activities, and each major fund of Morton County Water Resource District, North Dakota, as of December 31, 2023, and the respective changes in financial position, and, where applicable, cash flows thereof 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 (Government Auditing Standards)*, 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 Morton County Water Resource 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 Morton County Water Resource 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 *Government Auditing Standards* 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 *Government Auditing Standards*, 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 Morton County Water Resource 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 Morton County Water Resource 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 schedule and notes to the required supplementary information* be presented to supplement the basic financial statements. Such information is the responsibility of management and, 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 May 29, 2024 on our consideration of Morton County Water Resource 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 solely 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 the effectiveness of Morton County Water Resource District's 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 Morton County Water Resource District's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.

/S/

Joshua C. Gallion  
State Auditor

Bismarck, North Dakota  
May 29, 2024

# MORTON COUNTY WATER RESOURCE DISTRICT

Statement of Net Position

December 31, 2023

	Governmental Activities	Business-Type Activities	Total
<b>ASSETS</b>			
Cash	\$ 636,481	\$ 983,949	\$ 1,620,430
Investments	326,089	1,357,115	1,683,204
Accounts Receivable	-	175,858	175,858
Intergovernmental Receivable	-	398,600	398,600
Due from County	-	-	-
Taxes Receivable	2,586	-	2,586
Interest Receivable	-	-	-
Special Assessments Receivable	801	-	801
Capital Assets			
Nondepreciable	1,051,788	1,381,660	2,433,448
Amortized, Net	-	410,335	410,335
Depreciable, Net	5,754,192	10,772,928	16,527,120
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$ 7,771,937</b>	<b>\$ 15,480,445</b>	<b>\$ 23,252,382</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>			
Accounts Payable	\$ -	\$ 1,078,404	\$ 1,078,404
Salaries Payable	-	8,423	8,423
Payroll Liability	21	-	21
Interest Payable	195	44,694	44,889
Retainage Payable	-	139,906	139,906
Long-Term Liabilities			
Due Within One Year			
Long-Term Debt	11,691	118,715	130,406
Compensated Absences Payable	-	25,055	25,055
Due After One Year			
Long-Term Debt	12,155	2,696,724	2,708,879
Compensated Absences Payable	-	58,463	58,463
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>\$ 24,062</b>	<b>\$ 4,170,384</b>	<b>\$ 4,194,446</b>
<b>NET POSITION</b>			
Net Investment in Capital Assets	\$ 6,781,939	\$ 9,704,790	\$ 16,486,729
Restricted for:			
Dam Maintenance	9,864	-	9,864
Unrestricted	956,072	1,605,271	2,561,343
<b>Total Net Position</b>	<b>\$ 7,747,875</b>	<b>\$ 11,310,061</b>	<b>\$ 19,057,936</b>

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

# MORTON COUNTY WATER RESOURCE DISTRICT

## Statement of Activities

For the Year Ended December 31, 2023

Functions/Programs	Expenses	Program Revenues			Net (Expense) Revenue and Changes in Net Position		
		Charges for Services	Operating Grants and Contributions	Capital Grants and Contributions	Governmental Activities	Business-Type Activities	Total
<b>Governmental Activities</b>							
Conservation of Natural Resources	\$ 301,075	\$ -	\$ 2,728	\$ -	\$ (298,347)	\$ -	\$ (298,347)
Interest on Long-Term Debt	1,645	-	-	-	(1,645)	-	(1,645)
<b>Total Governmental Activities</b>	<b>\$ 302,720</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 2,728</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ (299,992)</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ (299,992)</b>
<b>Business-Type Activities</b>							
Water System	\$ 2,832,632	\$ 2,396,263	\$ -	\$ 923,952	\$ -	\$ 487,583	\$ 487,583
<b>Total Primary Government</b>	<b>\$ 3,135,352</b>	<b>\$ 2,396,263</b>	<b>\$ 2,728</b>	<b>\$ 923,952</b>	<b>\$ (299,992)</b>	<b>\$ 487,583</b>	<b>\$ 187,591</b>
<b>General Revenues</b>							
Taxes					\$ 158,254	\$ -	\$ 158,254
Interest Earnings					-	3,842	3,842
Miscellaneous Revenue					1,498	675	2,173
<b>Total General Revenues</b>					<b>\$ 159,752</b>	<b>\$ 4,517</b>	<b>\$ 164,269</b>
<b>Change in Net Position</b>					<b>\$ (140,240)</b>	<b>\$ 492,100</b>	<b>\$ 351,860</b>
<b>Net Position - January 1</b>					<b>\$ 7,888,115</b>	<b>\$ 10,817,961</b>	<b>\$ 18,706,076</b>
<b>Net Position - December 31</b>					<b>\$ 7,747,875</b>	<b>\$ 11,310,061</b>	<b>\$ 19,057,936</b>

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



# MORTON COUNTY WATER RESOURCE DISTRICT

Balance Sheet – Governmental Funds

December 31, 2023

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	<u>General Fund</u>
<b>ASSETS</b>	
Cash	\$ 636,481
Investments	326,089
Taxes Receivable	2,586
Special Assessments Receivable	<u>801</u>
 Total Assets	 <u>\$ 965,957</u>
 <b>LIABILITIES, DEFERRED INFLOWS OF RESOURCES AND FUND BALANCES</b>	
Liabilities	
Payroll Liability	<u>\$ 21</u>
 Total Liabilities	 <u>\$ 21</u>
 Deferred Inflows of Resources	
Taxes Receivable	\$ 2,586
Special Assessments Receivable	<u>801</u>
 Total Deferred Inflows of Resources	 <u>\$ 3,387</u>
 Total Liabilities and Deferred Inflows of Resources	 <u>\$ 3,408</u>
 Fund Balances	
Committed	
Dam Maintenance	\$ 9,864
Unassigned	<u>952,685</u>
 Total Fund Balances	 <u>\$ 962,549</u>
 Total Liabilities, Deferred Inflows of Resources, and Fund Balances	 <u>\$ 965,957</u>

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

# MORTON COUNTY WATER RESOURCE DISTRICT

Reconciliation of the Balance Sheet of Governmental Funds to the Statement of Net Position  
December 31, 2023

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<b>Total Fund Balances for Governmental Funds</b>		\$	962,549
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.			6,805,980
Property taxes and special assessments 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 inflows in the funds.			
Property Taxes Receivable		2,586	
Special Assessments Receivable		<u>801</u>	3,387
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.			
Long-Term Debt	\$	(23,846)	
Interest Payable		<u>(195)</u>	<u>(24,041)</u>
<b>Total Net Position of Governmental Activities</b>			<u><u>\$ 7,747,875</u></u>

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

**MORTON COUNTY WATER RESOURCE DISTRICT**

Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balances - Governmental Funds  
For the Year Ended December 31, 2023

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	<u>General Fund</u>
<b>REVENUES</b>	
Taxes	\$ 170,087
Intergovernmental Revenue	2,728
Miscellaneous	<u>1,499</u>
Total Revenues	<u>\$ 174,314</u>
<b>EXPENDITURES</b>	
Current	
Projects	\$ 18,734
Payroll	43,319
Professional Fees	15,313
Miscellaneous	10,696
Capital Outlay	9,780
Debt Service	
Principal	11,124
Interest	<u>1,736</u>
Total Expenditures	<u>\$ 110,702</u>
Net Change in Fund Balances	<u>\$ 63,612</u>
Fund Balance - January 1	<u>\$ 898,937</u>
Fund Balance - December 31	<u><u>\$ 962,549</u></u>

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

# MORTON COUNTY WATER RESOURCE DISTRICT

Reconciliation of the Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balances – Governmental Funds to the Statement of Activities

For the Year Ended December 31, 2023

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**Net Change in Fund Balances - Total Governmental Funds** \$ 63,612

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	\$ 8,571	
Depreciation Expense	<u>(211,805)</u>	(203,234)

Repayment of debt principal is an expenditure in the governmental funds, but the repayment reduces long-term liabilities in the statement of net position. 11,124

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 Change in Interest Payable		91
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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.

Net Change in Taxes Receivable	\$ 631	
Net Change in Special Assessments Receivable	<u>(12,464)</u>	<u>(11,833)</u>

**Change in Net Position of Governmental Activities** \$ (140,240)

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

# MORTON COUNTY WATER RESOURCE DISTRICT

Statement of Net Position – Proprietary Funds

For the Year Ended December 31, 2023

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	<u>Business-Type Activities</u>
	<u>Water System</u>
<b>ASSETS</b>	
Current Assets	
Cash	\$ 983,949
Investments	1,357,115
Intergovernmental Receivable	398,600
Utility Billings Receivable	<u>175,858</u>
Total Current Assets	<u>\$ 2,915,522</u>
Noncurrent Assets	
Capital Assets	
Nondepreciable	\$ 1,381,660
Amortized, Net	410,335
Depreciable, Net	<u>10,772,928</u>
Total Noncurrent Assets	<u>\$ 12,564,923</u>
Total Assets	<u>\$ 15,480,445</u>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>	
Current Liabilities	
Accounts Payable	\$ 1,078,404
Salaries Payable	8,423
Interest Payable	44,694
Retainage Payable	139,906
Long-Term Debt	118,715
Compensated Absences	<u>25,055</u>
Total Current Liabilities	<u>\$ 1,415,197</u>
Noncurrent Liabilities	
Long-Term Debt	\$ 2,696,724
Compensated Absences	<u>58,463</u>
Total Noncurrent Liabilities	<u>\$ 2,755,187</u>
Total Liabilities	<u>\$ 4,170,384</u>
<b>NET POSITION</b>	
Net Investment in Capital Assets	\$ 9,704,790
Unrestricted	<u>1,605,271</u>
Total Net Position	<u>\$ 11,310,061</u>

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

**MORTON COUNTY WATER RESOURCE DISTRICT**

Statement of Revenues, Expenses, and Changes in Fund Net Position – Proprietary Funds  
December 31, 2023

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	<u>Business-Type Activities</u>
	<u>Water System</u>
<b>OPERATING REVENUES</b>	
Charges for Services	\$ 2,396,263
Miscellaneous Revenue	<u>675</u>
Total Operating Revenues	<u>\$ 2,396,938</u>
<b>OPERATING EXPENSES</b>	
General and Administrative	\$ 147,729
Payroll	750,979
Insurance	28,314
Operations and Maintenance	1,381,011
Depreciation	410,789
Amortization	<u>31,564</u>
Total Operating Expenses	<u>\$ 2,750,386</u>
Operating Loss	<u>\$ (353,448)</u>
<b>NONOPERATING REVENUES (EXPENSES)</b>	
Interest Income	\$ 3,842
SWC Reimbursements	923,952
Interest Expense and Service Charges	<u>(82,246)</u>
Total Non-Operating Revenues	<u>\$ 845,548</u>
Change in Net Position	<u>\$ 492,100</u>
Net Position - January 1	<u>\$ 10,817,961</u>
Net Position - December 31	<u>\$ 11,310,061</u>

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

# MORTON COUNTY WATER RESOURCE DISTRICT

Statement of Cash Flows – Proprietary Funds

December 31, 2023

	<u>Business-Type Activities</u>
	<u>Water System</u>
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>	
Receipts from Customers	\$ 2,385,074
Payments to Suppliers	(423,393)
Payments to Employees	(724,725)
Miscellaneous Revenue	<u>675</u>
Net Cash Provided by Operating Activities	<u>\$ 1,237,631</u>
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM CAPITAL AND RELATED FINANCING ACTIVITIES</b>	
Acquisition of Capital Assets	\$ (1,128,626)
SWC Reimbursements	525,352
Principal Paid on Capital Debt	(111,357)
Proceeds from Loan	172,868
Interest and Fees Paid on Capital Debt	<u>(83,362)</u>
Net Cash Used by Capital and Related Financing Activities	<u>\$ (625,125)</u>
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES</b>	
Purchases, Sales & Maturities of Investments	\$ (1,088)
Interest Income	<u>3,842</u>
Net Cash Provided by Investing Activities	<u>\$ 2,754</u>
Net Increase in Cash	<u>\$ 615,260</u>
Cash - January 1	<u>\$ 368,689</u>
Cash - December 31	<u><u>\$ 983,949</u></u>
<b>RECONCILIATION OF OPERATING LOSS TO NET CASH PROVIDED BY OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>	
Operating Loss	<u>\$ (353,448)</u>
Adjustments to Reconcile Operating Loss to Net Cash Provided by Operating Activities	
Depreciation	\$ 410,789
Amortization	31,564
Change in Assets and Liabilities:	
Accounts Receivable	(11,189)
Other Asset	-
Accounts Payable	993,755
Retainage Payable	139,906
Payroll Liability	3,826
Compensated Absences	<u>22,428</u>
Net Cash Provided by Operating Activities	<u><u>\$ 1,237,631</u></u>

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

# MORTON COUNTY WATER RESOURCE DISTRICT

Notes to the Financial Statements  
For the Year Ended December 31, 2023

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## NOTE 1 SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The financial statements of Morton County Water Resource District (“District”) have been prepared in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America as applied to government 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.

### Reporting Entity

The accompanying financial statements present the activities of the District. The District has considered all potential component units for which it is financially accountable and other organizations for which the nature and significance of their relationships with the District are such that exclusion would cause its 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 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

*Government-wide statements.* The statement of net position and the statement of activities display information about the primary government, the District, and its component units. 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, 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 funds, including its fiduciary funds. Separate statements for each fund category, *governmental* and *fiduciary*, are presented. The emphasis of fund financial statements is on major governmental funds, each displayed in a separate column.

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

Additionally, the District reports the following major enterprise fund:

Water System – This fund accounts for the operation and maintenance of the Missouri West Water System

### Measurement Focus, Basis of Accounting, and Financial Statement Presentation

*Government-Wide and Proprietary Financial Statements.* The government-wide and proprietary financial statements are reported using the economic resources measurement focus. The government-wide and proprietary 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.



*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 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 District funds certain programs by a combination of specific cost-reimbursement grants and general revenues. Thus, when program expenses are incurred, there are both restricted and unrestricted net assets 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 and Investments**

Cash includes amounts in demand deposits and money market accounts.

The investments of the District consist of certificates of deposit stated at cost with maturities in excess of three months.

**Capital Assets**

Capital assets include plant and equipment. Assets are reported in the governmental activities’ column in the government-wide financial statements. Capital assets are defined by the District as assets with an initial, individual cost of \$7,500 or more. Such assets are recorded at 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:

<b>ASSET</b>	<b>YEARS</b>
Buildings	40
Infrastructure	40
Machinery	5 - 15
Equipment/Vehicles	3 - 5
Office Equipment	3 - 5

**Compensated Absences**

Full time employees earn vacation benefits from one to two hours per month, depending on tenure with the District. Up to 240 hours of vacation leave may be carried over at year end. Sick leave benefits are earned at the rate of one day per month regardless of the years of service.

Upon termination of employment, employees will be paid for vacation benefits that have accrued based on their current base of pay. Any employee who has ten or more consecutive years of employment will be eligible to receive payment for sick leave at a rate of 25% of the unused balance. A liability for the vested or accumulated vacation and sick leave is reported in 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. Premiums received on debt issuances are reported as other financing sources. Issuance costs are reported as debt service expenditures.

**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.

*Committed Fund Balances.* Committed fund balances consist of amounts in the general fund that are not restricted by enable legislation or 3<sup>rd</sup> parties but have been committed by the District Board for specific purposes.

*Unassigned Fund Balances.* Unassigned fund balances are reported in the general fund and for negative fund balances at year-end.

**Net Position**

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.

Restrictions of net position in the statement of net position are due to restricted tax levies and restricted federal & state grants/reimbursements.

**NOTE 2 DEPOSITS**

**Custodial Credit Risk**

Custodial 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.

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 District, 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, 2023, the District's carrying amount of deposits totaled \$3,303,546 and the bank balances totaled \$3,345,560. Of the bank balances, \$1,480,308 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 CAPITAL ASSETS**

**Governmental Activities**

The following is a summary of changes in capital assets for the year ended December 31, 2023 for the District:

<b>Governmental Activities</b>	<b>Balance Jan 1</b>	<b>Increases</b>	<b>Decreases</b>	<b>Transfers</b>	<b>Balance Dec 31</b>
Capital Assets Not Being Depreciated or Amortized					
Land	\$ 1,051,788	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,051,788
<b>Total Capital Assets, Not Being Depreciated or Amortized</b>	<b>\$ 1,051,788</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 1,051,788</b>
Capital Assets Being Depreciated					
Buildings	\$ 267,172	\$ 8,571	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 275,743
Vehicles & Equipment	160,404	-	-	-	160,404
Infrastructure	8,085,517	-	-	-	8,085,517
<b>Total Capital Assets, Being Depreciated</b>	<b>\$ 8,513,093</b>	<b>\$ 8,571</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 8,521,664</b>
Less Accumulated Depreciation					
Buildings	\$ 112,163	\$ 12,314	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 124,477
Vehicles & Equipment	101,782	13,492	-	-	115,274
Infrastructure	2,341,723	185,998	-	-	2,527,721
<b>Total Accumulated Depreciation</b>	<b>\$ 2,555,668</b>	<b>\$ 211,804</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 2,767,472</b>
<b>Total Capital Assets Being Depreciated, Net</b>	<b>\$ 5,957,425</b>	<b>\$ (203,233)</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 5,754,192</b>
<b>Capital Assets, Net</b>	<b>\$ 7,009,213</b>	<b>\$ (203,233)</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 6,805,980</b>

Depreciation expense was charged to the conservation of natural resources function.

**Business-Type Activities**

The following is a summary of changes in capital assets for the year ended December 31, 2023 for the Business-Type activities

<b>Business-Type Activities</b>	<b>Balance Jan 1</b>	<b>Increases</b>	<b>Decreases</b>	<b>Transfers</b>	<b>Balance Dec 31</b>
Capital Assets Not Being Depreciated or Amortized					
Land	\$ 253,034	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 253,034
Construction in Progress	-	1,128,626	-	-	1,128,626
<b>Total Capital Assets, Not Being Depreciated or Amortized</b>	<b>\$ 253,034</b>	<b>\$ 1,128,626</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 1,381,660</b>
Capital Assets Being Depreciated					
Buildings	\$ 1,101,337	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,101,337
Vehicles & Equipment	553,817	-	-	-	553,817
Infrastructure	17,963,019	-	-	-	17,963,019
<b>Total Capital Assets, Being Depreciated</b>	<b>\$ 19,618,173</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 19,618,173</b>
Less Accumulated Depreciation					
Buildings	\$ 43,571	\$ 36,711	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 80,282
Vehicles & Equipment	539,000	14,818	-	-	553,818
Infrastructure	7,851,885	359,260	-	-	8,211,145
<b>Total Accumulated Depreciation</b>	<b>\$ 8,434,456</b>	<b>\$ 410,789</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 8,845,245</b>
<b>Total Capital Assets Being Depreciated, Net</b>	<b>\$ 11,183,717</b>	<b>\$ (410,789)</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 10,772,928</b>
Capital Assets, Being Amortized					
Intangible Assets	\$ 1,371,300	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,371,300
Less Amortization					
Intangible Assets	\$ 929,401	\$ 31,564	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 960,965
<b>Capital Assets Being Amortized, Net</b>	<b>\$ 441,899</b>	<b>\$ (31,564)</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 410,335</b>
<b>Capital Assets, Net</b>	<b>\$ 11,878,650</b>	<b>\$ 686,273</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 12,564,923</b>

Depreciation expense was charged to the conservation of natural resources function.

**NOTE 4 LONG-TERM LIABILITIES**

**Governmental Activities**

During the year ended December 31, 2023, the following changes occurred in governmental activities long-term liabilities:

	<b>Balance Jan 1</b>	<b>Increases</b>	<b>Decreases</b>	<b>Balance Dec 31</b>	<b>Due Within One Year</b>
Long-Term Debt					
Loans Payable	\$ 34,971	\$ -	\$ 11,124	\$ 23,847	\$ 11,691

**Business-Type Activities**

During the year ended December 31, 2023, the following changes occurred in Business-Type activities long-term liabilities:

	<b>Restated Balance Jan 1</b>	<b>Increases</b>	<b>Decreases</b>	<b>Balance Dec 31</b>	<b>Due Within One Year</b>
Long-Term Debt					
Bonds Payable	\$ 2,163,928	\$ -	\$ 96,357	\$ 2,067,571	\$ 99,624
Loans Payable	590,000	172,868	15,000	747,868	19,092
Total Long-Term Debt	\$ 2,753,928	\$ 172,868	\$ 111,357	\$ 2,815,439	\$ 118,716
Compensated Absences	\$ 61,090	\$ 65,085	\$ 42,658	\$ 83,518	\$ 23,965
Total Long-Term Liabilities	\$ 2,815,018	\$ 237,953	\$ 154,015	\$ 2,898,957	\$ 142,681

The annual requirements to amortize the outstanding long-term debt at December 31, 2023 is as follows:

<b>Year Ending December 31</b>	<b>GOVERNMENTAL ACTIVITIES</b>		<b>BUSINESS TYPE ACTIVITIES</b>			
	<b>Loans Payable</b>		<b>Bonds Payable</b>		<b>Loans Payable</b>	
	<b>Principal</b>	<b>Interest</b>	<b>Principal</b>	<b>Interest</b>	<b>Principal</b>	<b>Interest</b>
2024	\$ 11,691	\$ 1,169	\$ 99,624	\$ 70,208	\$ 19,092	\$ 11,106
2025	12,155	706	103,001	66,831	20,114	10,819
2026	-	-	106,493	63,339	20,114	10,517
2027	-	-	110,103	59,729	20,114	10,216
2028	-	-	113,835	55,997	25,114	9,876
2029-2033	-	-	1,534,516	84,346	125,572	43,732
2034-2038	-	-	-	-	125,572	34,314
2039-2043	-	-	-	-	148,982	24,270
2044-2048	-	-	-	-	159,096	9,426
2049-2053	-	-	-	-	84,096	1,534
Total	\$ 23,846	\$ 1,875	\$ 2,067,572	\$ 400,450	\$ 747,868	\$ 165,811

Through the end of 2023, \$507,000 has been authorized for Missouri West Water System for a State Revolving Fund loan. Through the end of 2023, the Missouri West Water System had drawn down \$172,868 of the available \$507,000. The unused portion of the loan at the end of 2023 for the Water System was \$334,132.

**NOTE 5 RETIREMENT PLAN**

**North Dakota Public Employees' Retirement System**

The District participates in the Deferred Compensation Section 457 plan administered by the North Dakota Public Employees' Retirement System (NDPERS). Plan members are not required to contribute; however, the District contributes 8-11%, depending on years of service, of the employee's annual salary. The District's contributions to NDPERS for the years ending December 31, 2023, 2022, and 2021 were \$31,467, \$37,443, and \$27,742, respectively.

**Nationwide Retirement**

The District contributes to Nationwide Retirement. Plan members are not required to contribute; however, the District contributes 8-11%, depending on years of service, of the employee's annual salary. The District's contributions to Nationwide Retirement for the years ending December 31, 2023, 2022, and 2021 were \$21,762, \$15,071, and \$15,536, respectively.

**NOTE 6 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 7 JOINT VENTURE**

Under authorization of state statutes, the District joined the water resource districts of Burleigh County, Dunn County, Emmons County, Mercer County, Mountrail County, Oliver County and Sioux County to establish and operate a joint exercise of powers agreement for water management districts located along the Missouri River. One member of the directors for the joint venture is appointed by each government. The operating and capital expenses are funded by contributions from each government. Each participating district's share of the cost of operations is determined by the number of river miles in each district.

Unaudited summary financial information for the year ended December 31, 2023 is as follows:

Cash and Investments	\$ 15,869
Total Revenues	\$ 84,528
Total Expenses	(115,481)
Net Change in Equity	\$ (30,953)

Complete financial information can be obtained from Missouri River Joint Water Board, P.O. Box 488, Hazen, ND 58545

**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 (NDIRF), 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 District pays an annual premium to NDIRF for liability coverage. The coverage by NDIRF is limited to losses of \$2,000,000 for general liability and automobile and \$191,941 for public assets coverage.

**Morton County Water Resource District**  
Notes to the Financial Statements – Continued

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The District also participates in the North Dakota Fire and Tornado Fund and the State Bonding Fund. The 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 1,404,848 for the Missouri West Water System Employees. The State Bonding Fund does not currently charge any premium for this coverage.

The District has workers compensation with the North Dakota Workforce, Safety and Insurance and purchases commercial insurance for employee health and accident insurance.

**NOTE 9 CONSTRUCTION COMMITMENTS**

The District had open constructions commitment as of December 31, 2023 as follows:

**Business-Type Activities**

Project	Original Contract	Change Orders	Total Contract with Change Orders	Total Completed	Retainage	Remaining Balance includes Retainages	% Complete
South Mandan Expansion	\$ 3,127,077	(437,124)	2,689,953	\$ 1,128,626	\$ 139,906	\$ 1,701,233	41.96%

**MORTON COUNTY WATER RESOURCE DISTRICT**

Budgetary Comparison Schedule - General Fund

December 31, 2023

	Original Budget	Final Budget	Actual	Variance with Final Budget
<b>REVENUES</b>				
Taxes	\$ 194,700	\$ 200,983	\$ 170,087	\$ (30,896)
Intergovernmental Revenue	-	6,530	2,728	(3,802)
Miscellaneous	11,500	1,500	1,499	(1)
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>\$ 206,200</b>	<b>\$ 209,013</b>	<b>\$ 174,314</b>	<b>\$ (34,699)</b>
<b>EXPENDITURES</b>				
Current				
Projects	\$ 104,600	\$ 49,000	\$ 18,734	\$ 30,266
Payroll	45,640	43,400	43,319	81
Professional Fees	26,000	15,300	15,313	(13)
Miscellaneous	29,870	20,600	10,696	9,904
Capital Outlay	-	8,600	9,780	(1,180)
Debt Service				
Principal	-	-	11,124	(11,124)
Interest	-	-	1,736	(1,736)
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>\$ 206,110</b>	<b>\$ 145,500</b>	<b>\$ 110,702</b>	<b>\$ 34,798</b>
Excess (Deficiency) of Revenues Over Expenditures	\$ 90	\$ 63,513	\$ 63,612	\$ (69,497)
Fund Balance - January 1	\$ 898,937	\$ 898,937	\$ 898,937	\$ -
Fund Balance - December 31	\$ 899,027	\$ 962,450	\$ 962,549	\$ (69,497)

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

# MORTON COUNTY WATER RESOURCE DISTRICT

Notes to the Required Supplementary Information  
For the Year Ended December 31, 2023

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## NOTE 1: STEWARDSHIP, COMPLIANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY

### Budgetary Information

- The 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 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 LEGAL COMPLIANCE – BUDGETS

The District Board of Commissioners amended the budget for the year ended December 31, 2023 as follows:

	<b>Original Budget</b>	<b>Amendment</b>	<b>Amended Budget</b>
<b>General Fund</b>			
Revenues	\$ 206,200	\$ 2,813	\$ 209,013
Expenditures	206,110	(60,610)	145,500



STATE AUDITOR  
Joshua C. Gallion



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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***

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Independent Auditor's Report

Board of District Commissioners  
Morton County Water Resource District  
Mandan, 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, business-type activities, and the major fund of Morton County Water Resource District as of and for the years ended December 31, 2023, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise Morton County Water Resource District's basic financial statements, and have issued our report thereon dated May 29, 2024.

**Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting**

In planning and performing our audit of the financial statements, we considered Morton County Water Resource 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 Morton County Water Resource District's internal control. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of Morton County Water Resource 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 were not identified. We identified certain deficiencies in internal control, described in the accompanying *schedule of audit findings* as items 2023-001 and 2023-002 that we consider to be material weaknesses.

**MORTON COUNTY 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

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**Report on Compliance and Other Matters**

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether Morton County Water Resource 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 Government Auditing Standards.

**Morton County Water Resource District's Response to Findings**

Government Auditing Standards requires the auditor to perform limited procedures on Morton County Water Resource District's response to the findings identified in our audit and described in the accompanying *schedule of audit findings*. Morton County Water Resource District's response was not subjected to the other 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 *Government Auditing Standards* 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  
May 29, 2024

**MORTON COUNTY WATER RESOURCE DISTRICT**

Summary of Auditor's Results

For the Year Ended December 31, 2023

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**Financial Statements**

Type of Report Issued:	
Governmental Activities	Unmodified
Business-Type Activities	Unmodified
Major Funds	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

# **MORTON COUNTY WATER RESOURCE DISTRICT**

Schedule of Audit Findings

For the Year Ended December 31, 2023

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## **2023-001 – LACK OF SEGREGATION OF DUTIES – MATERIAL WEAKNESS**

### **Condition**

Morton County Water Resource 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 the Morton County Water Resource District's financial condition, whether due to error or fraud.

### **Cause**

Management has chosen to allocate economic resources to other functions of the Morton County Water Resource 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 districts.

### **Repeat Finding**

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.

### **Morton County Water Resource District's Response**

We agree. Morton County Water Resource District will segregate duties when it becomes feasible.

**2023-002 – AUDIT ADJUSTMENTS – MATERIAL WEAKNESS**

**Condition**

During the audit of Morton WRD and Missouri West Water System, we proposed material adjusting entries to the financial statements in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP). The adjustments were approved by management and are reflected in the financial statements.

**Effect**

There is an increased risk of material misstatement to the Morton WRD and Missouri West Water System's financial statements.

**Cause**

Morton County Water Resource District and Missouri West Water System may not have had procedures in place to ensure the financial statements are complete and accurate.

**Criteria**

Morton County Water Resource District and Missouri West Water System is responsible to ensure the financial statements are reliable, free of material misstatements, and in accordance with GAAP.

**Repeat Finding**

No.

**Recommendation**

We recommend Morton County Water Resource District and Missouri West Water System review all adjusting entries to the financial statements to properly reflect the financial statements are in accordance with GAAP.

**Morton County Water Resource District and Missouri West Water System Response**

We Agree. Morton Water Resource District and Missouri West Water System will review the adjustments needed for presentation in the financial statements.

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## GOVERNANCE COMMUNICATION

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May 29, 2024

Board of District Commissioners  
Morton County Water Resource District  
Mandan, North Dakota

We have audited the financial statements of the governmental activities, the business-type activities, and each major fund of Morton County Water Resource District, North Dakota, for the year ended December 31, 2023. 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 February 26, 2024. 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 Morton County Water Resource 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 2023. We noted no transactions entered into by Morton County Water Resource 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. Management has corrected all such misstatements. The schedules list all misstatements provided by management or detected as a result of audit procedures that were corrected by management.

	<u>Audit Adjustments</u>	
	<u>Debit</u>	<u>Credit</u>
<b>Governmental Activities</b>		
<u>To remove intergovernmental receivable</u>		
Intergovernmental Receivable	-	30,667
Revenue	30,667	-
<b>Business-Type Activities</b>		
<u>To record intergovernmental receivable</u>		
Intergovernmental Receivable	398,600	-
Revenue	-	398,600
<u>To record accounts payable</u>		
Expenditures	557,923	-
Accounts Payable	-	557,923
<u>To record salaries payable</u>		
Salaries expense	9,107	-
Salaries Payable	-	9,107

**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 29, 2024.

**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 Morton County Water Resource 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 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.

**Restriction on Use**

This information is intended solely for the use of Morton County Water Resource District board members and management of Morton County Water Resource 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 Morton County Water Resource 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 Morton County Water Resource District.

/S/

Joshua C. Gallion  
State Auditor

Bismarck, North Dakota  
May 29, 2024





Office of the  
State Auditor

NORTH DAKOTA STATE AUDITOR  
JOSHUA C. GALLION

**NORTH DAKOTA STATE AUDITOR'S OFFICE**

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