

Financial Statements
June 30, 2023 and 2022
Water Infrastructure Revolving Loan
Fund



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#### **Independent Auditor's Report**

To the Governor of North Dakota and the Legislative Assembly State of North Dakota Bismarck, North Dakota

# **Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements**

#### **Opinion**

We have audited the financial statements of the Water Infrastructure Revolving Loan Fund (the Fund), an enterprise fund of the State of North Dakota, as of and for the years ended June 30, 2023 and 2022, and the related notes to the 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 Fund, as of June 30, 2023 and 2022, and the respective changes in its financial position, and cash flows thereof for the years then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

#### **Basis for Opinion**

We conducted our audit 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*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States (*Government Auditing Standards*). 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 the Fund, 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 opinion.

# **Emphasis of Matter**

As discussed in Note 1, the financial statements of the Fund are intended to present the financial position, the changes in financial position and cash flows of only that portion of the State of North Dakota that is attributable to the transactions of the Fund. They do not purport to, and do not, present fairly the financial position of the State of North Dakota as of June 30, 2023 and 2022, and the changes in its financial position and cash flows for the years then ended in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. Our opinion is not modified with respect to this matter.

#### Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the 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.

# 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 opinion. 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 an 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 the Fund'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.

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 management's discussion and analysis on pages 4 through 7 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.

#### Other Reporting Required by Government Auditing Standards

In accordance with Government Auditing Standards, we have also issued our report dated September 21, 2023 on our consideration of the Fund'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 the Fund'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 the Fund's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.

Bismarck, North Dakota September 21, 2023

Esde Sailly LLP

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MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS JUNE 30, 2023 AND 2022

(Dollars in Thousands)

The management discussion and analysis of the Water Infrastructure Revolving Loan Fund's (the Fund) financial performance provides an overview of the Fund's financial activities for the fiscal years ended June 30, 2023 and 2022. Please read it in conjunction with the financial statements of the Fund.

## FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS:

The Water Infrastructure Revolving Loan Fund was established by North Dakota Century Code Section 6-09-49 to provide loans to political subdivisions, the Garrison Diversion Conservancy District, and the Lake Agassiz water authority for essential infrastructure projects. The Bank shall manage and administer the infrastructure revolving loan fund and the loans made from the fund. The Bank may deduct one-half of one percent of the outstanding loan balance as a service fee for administering the Fund.

The maximum amount of a loan may not exceed the cost of the project. The interest rate for this program has been set at the same rate as the revolving loan fund established under chapters 61-28.1 and 61-28.2. Amortized payments over the term of to be determined by the ND Department of Water Resources or the useful life of the project.

In accordance with House Bill 1431 of the 2021 Legislative Session, the Bank of North Dakota transferred all outstanding loans and moneys in the community water facility loan fund and all outstanding loans and moneys in the infrastructure revolving loan fund within the resources trust fund to the water infrastructure revolving loan fund on July 1, 2021.

There was one loan for \$1,100 with advances of \$1,004 made by the Fund during the year ended June 30, 2023. There were two loans for \$18,565 with advances of \$2,511 made by the Fund during the year ended June 30,2022. As of June 30, 2023, there were fifty-two loans outstanding totaling \$39,975 with an allowance for credit losses of \$600 for net loans of \$39,375.

There was one loan commitment for \$60,000 as of June 30, 2023.

Funds available for investment in loans as of June 30, 2023 were \$24,884.

## REQUIRED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS:

The Fund is an enterprise fund and uses the accrual basis of accounting. The basic financial statements include the statement of net position, statement of revenues, expenses, and changes in net position, and statement of cash flows. The statement of net position provides readers the assets and deferred outflows of resources and liabilities and deferred inflows of resources of the Fund, with the differences between the two reported as net position. The statement of revenues, expenses, and changes in net position identifies the operating performance of the Fund for the fiscal year. The statement of cash flows identifies cash flows from operating activities, non-capital financing activities, and investing activities, and provides answers to such questions as where did the cash come from, what was cash used for, and what was the change in the cash balance during the reporting period.

MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS

JUNE 30, 2023 AND 2022

(Dollars in Thousands)

# CONDENSED STATEMENT OF NET POSITION JUNE 30, 2023 AND 2022

	2023		2022	
CURRENT ASSETS Cash deposits Loans, current portion Interest receivable	\$	24,884 2,719 237	\$	28,665 2,764 226
Total current assets		27,840		31,655
NON CURRENT LOANS, NET		36,656		32,379
Total assets	\$	64,496	\$	64,034
CURRENT LIABILITIES	\$	49	\$	44_
NET POSITION - UNRESTRICTED		64,447		63,990
Total liabilities and net position	\$	64,496	\$	64,034

## Cash Deposits

Cash and cash equivalents represent funds available for investment in loans. The decrease from 2022 to 2023 was primarily due to advances on loans.

#### Loans

As of June 30, 2023, there were fifty-two loans outstanding totaling \$39,975 with an allowance for credit losses of \$600 for net loans of \$39,375. As of June 30, 2022, there were fifty-four loans outstanding totaling \$35,552 with an allowance for loan losses of \$409 for net loans of \$35,143.

# Net Position

Net position of the fund as of June 30, 2023 and 2022, was \$64,447 and \$63,990, respectively. Loans are funded directly from the net position of the Fund. The Fund is directed by the North Dakota Department of Water Resources. The Bank of North Dakota supervises and administers the Fund and the loans made by the Fund.

MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS JUNE 30, 2023 AND 2022

(Dollars in Thousands)

# CONDENSED STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENSES AND CHANGES IN NET POSITION JUNE 30, 2023 AND 2022

	2023		2022	
OPERATING REVENUES	\$	761	\$	733
OPERATING EXPENSES		389		424
OPERATING INCOME		372		309
NONOPERATING REVENUES		85		20
REVENUES BEFORE TRANSFERS		457		329
TRANSFERS IN		-		27,061
CHANGE IN NET POSITION		457		27,390
TOTAL NET POSITION, BEGINNING OF YEAR		63,990		36,600
TOTAL NET POSITION, END OF YEAR	\$	64,447	\$	63,990

# Revenue

Revenue is from interest accrued on loans outstanding. The interest rates earned on these loans range from 1.5% to 3%.

# Expenses

Administrative expenses were \$187 and \$174 for the years ended June 30, 2023 and 2022, respectively. This expense is paid to the Bank of North Dakota for administration of the Fund in the amount of one-half percent of outstanding loans. The provision for loan loss was \$191 and \$244 for the years ended June 30, 2023 and 2022, respectively. Other expenses include an independent audit of the financial records.

# Nonoperating Revenue

Nonoperating revenue represents interest earned on the cash balance.

MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS
JUNE 30, 2023 AND 2022
(Dollars in Thousands)

## ECONOMIC FACTORS AND FUTURE OUTLOOK

In accordance with House Bill 1431 of the 2021 Legislative Session, the Bank of North Dakota transferred all outstanding loans and moneys in the community water facility loan fund and all outstanding loans and moneys in the infrastructure revolving loan fund within the resources trust fund to the water infrastructure revolving loan fund on July 1, 2021.

Senate Bill 2015 of the 2023 Legislative Session approved the Bank of North Dakota to extend a line of credit not to exceed \$100,000 to the Department of Water Resources to be transferred to the Fund as requested by the director of the department of water resources to provide local cost-share loans for projects approved by the state water commission pursuant to section 6-09-49.2.

# CONTACTING THE FUND'S FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

This financial report is designed to provide our citizens, customers, and creditors with a general overview of the Fund's finances and to demonstrate the Fund's accountability for the money it receives. If you have any questions about this report or need additional financial information, contact Bank of North Dakota, P.O. Box 5509, Bismarck, North Dakota 58506-5509.

# STATEMENT OF NET POSITION

JUNE 30, 2023 AND 2022

(Dollars in Thousands)

	2023		2022	
ASSETS				
Current Assets				
Cash deposits at the Bank of North Dakota	\$	24,884	\$	28,665
Loans, current portion		2,719		2,764
Interest receivable		237		226
Total current assets		27,840		31,655
Noncurrent Assets				
Loans, net of allowance for credit losses				
of \$600 in 2023 and \$409 in 2022		36,656		32,379
Total assets	<u>\$</u>	64,496	\$	64,034
LIABILITIES				
Current Liabilities				
Due to the Bank of North Dakota	\$	49	\$	44
NET POSITION				
Unrestricted		64,447		63,990
Total liabilities and net position	\$	64,496	\$	64,034

# STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENSES, AND CHANGES IN NET POSITION JUNE 30, 2023 AND 2022

(Dollars in Thousands)

	202	2023		2022
OPERATING REVENUES				
Interest on loans	<u>\$</u>	761	\$	733
OPERATING EXPENSES				
Administrative fees		187		174
Audit expenses		11		6
Provision for credit loss		191		244
Total operating expenses		389		424
OPERATING INCOME		372		309
NONOPERATING REVENUES				
Interest on deposits	-	85		20
INCOME BEFORE TRANSFERS		457		329
TRANSFERS IN				27,061
CHANGE IN NET POSITION		457		27,390
TOTAL NET POSITION, BEGINNING OF YEAR		63,990		36,600
TOTAL NET POSITION, END OF YEAR	\$	64,447	\$	63,990

# STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

JUNE 30, 2023 AND 2022

(Dollars in Thousands)

	2023		2022	
OPERATING ACTIVITIES  Payment of administrative fees to the Bank of North Dakota Payment of audit expense	\$	(182) (11)	\$	(148) (6)
NET CASH FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES		(193)		(154)
NON-CAPITAL FINANCING ACTIVITIES Transfers from State Water Commission RLF		<u>-</u>		4,882
NET CASH FROM NON-CAPTIAL FINANCING ACTIVITIES				4,882
INVESTING ACTIVITIES  Deposit interest income received from the Bank of North Dakota Loan interest received Loans advanced Proceeds from principal collections on loans		85 749 (7,210) 2,788		20 725 (2,563) 3,118
NET CASH FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES		(3,588)		1,300
NET CHANGE IN CASH		(3,781)		6,028
CASH, BEGINNING OF YEAR		28,665		22,637
CASH, END OF YEAR	\$	24,884	\$	28,665
RECONCILIATION OF OPERATING INCOME TO NET CASH USED FOR OPERATING ACTIVITIES Operating income Adjustments to reconcile operating income	\$	372	\$	309
to net cash used for operating activities Reclassification of loan interest income to other activities Adjustment for provision for credit loss Increase in due to the Bank of North Dakota		(761) 191 5		(733) 244 26
NET CASH USED FOR OPERATING ACTIVITIES	\$	(193)	\$	(154)

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS JUNE 30, 2023 AND 2022

(Dollars in Thousands)

#### NOTE 1 - SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

## Nature of Operations

The Water Infrastructure Revolving Loan Fund was established by North Dakota Century Code Section 6-09-49 to provide loans to political subdivisions, the Garrison Diversion Conservancy District, and the Lake Agassiz water authority for essential infrastructure projects. The Bank shall manage and administer the infrastructure revolving loan fund and the loans made from the fund. The Bank may deduct one-half of one percent of the outstanding loan balance as a service fee for administering the Fund.

The maximum amount of a loan may not exceed the cost of the project. The interest rate for this program has been set at the same rate as the revolving loan fund established under chapters 61-28.1 and 61-28.2. Amortized payments over the term of to be determined by the ND Department of Water Resources or the useful life of the project.

In accordance with House Bill 1431 of the 2021 Legislative Session, the Bank of North Dakota transferred all outstanding loans and moneys in the community water facility loan fund and all outstanding loans and moneys in the infrastructure revolving loan fund within the resources trust fund to the water infrastructure revolving loan fund on July 1, 2021.

# Reporting Entity

In accordance with Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) Statement No. 61, The Financial Reporting Entity: Omnibus, the Fund should include all component units over which the Fund exercises such aspects as (1) appointing a voting majority of an organization's governing body and (2) has the ability to impose its will on that organization, or (3) the potential for the organization to provide specific financial benefits to, or impose specific financial burdens on, the Fund.

Based on that criteria, no organizations were determined to be part of the Fund. The Fund is included as part of the primary government in the State of North Dakota's reporting.

## Fund Accounting

The Fund is an enterprise fund and uses the accrual basis of accounting. Under the accrual basis of accounting, revenues are recorded when earned and expenses are recorded at the time liabilities are incurred.

# Basis of Accounting and Measurement Focus

The accounting and financial reporting treatment applied to a fund is determined by its measurement focus. All enterprise funds are accounted for using the economic resources measurement focus. With this measurement focus, all assets and liabilities associated with the operation of these funds are included on the statement of net position. Net position is segregated into net investment in capital assets, restricted, and unrestricted components. The statements of revenues, expenses and changes in net position present increases (e.g., revenues) and decreases (e.g., expenses) in total net position. The statements of cash flows present the cash flows for operating activities, non-capital financing activities, and investing activities.

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

**JUNE 30, 2023 AND 2022** 

(Dollars in Thousands)

Use of Estimates

In preparing financial statements in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles in the United States of America, management is required to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities as of the date of the statement of net position and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the reporting period. Actual results could differ from those estimates. Material estimates that are particularly susceptible to significant change in the near-term relate to the determination of the allowance for loan losses.

Significant Group Concentrations of Credit Risk

All of the Fund's business is with customers within the State of North Dakota. Concentrations of credit risk are present in the construction and operation of water infrastructure facilities.

Cash

The Fund considers all cash and time deposits with original maturities of three months or less to be cash for the purpose of reporting cash flows.

Loans

Loans are stated at their outstanding unpaid principal balance. Interest income on loans is accrued at a specific rate of 1.5%-3% on the unpaid principal balance.

The accrual of interest on loans is discontinued when, in management's opinion, the borrower may be unable to meet payments as they become due. When interest accrual is discontinued, all unpaid accrued interest is reversed. Interest income is subsequently recognized only to the extent cash payments are received.

Allowance for Loan Losses

The Fund uses the allowance method in providing for loan losses. Accordingly, the allowance is increased by the current year's provision for loan losses charged to operations and reduced by net charge-offs.

The adequacy of the allowance for loan losses and the provisions for loan losses charged to operations are based on management's evaluation of a number of factors, including recent loan loss experience, continuous evaluation of the loan portfolio quality, current and anticipated economic conditions, and other pertinent factors. Loans are charged to the allowance when management believes the collection of the principal is doubtful.

Credit Related Financial Instruments

In the ordinary course of business, the Fund has entered into commitments to extend credit. Such financial instruments are recorded when they are funded.

Operating and Non-Operating Revenues

Operating revenues consist of interest income on the loans. All other revenues are classified as non-operating.

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NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

JUNE 30, 2023 AND 2022

(Dollars in Thousands)

#### NOTE 2 - DEPOSITS

The carrying value and bank balance of the Fund's cash deposits as of June 30, 2023 and 2022 was \$24,884 and \$28,665, respectively. Of the bank amounts, none were covered by depository insurance and all are uncollateralized. These monies are deposited in the Bank of North Dakota and are guaranteed by the State of North Dakota (NDCC Section 6-09-10).

# Custodial and Concentration of Credit Risk

Custodial credit risk for deposits is the risk that, in the event of the failure of a depository financial institution, the Fund will not be able to recover deposits or will not be able to recover collateral securities that are in the possession of an outside party. The Fund does not have a formal policy that limits custodial credit risk for deposits. None of the Fund's deposits are covered by depository insurance. The Fund's deposits are uncollateralized and all of the deposits are deposited in the Bank of North Dakota and are guaranteed by the State of North Dakota (NDCC Section 6-09-10).

#### **NOTE 3 - LOANS**

A description of Fund loans is included under "Nature of Operations" in Note 1. A summary of the balances of loans follows:

	 2023		2022
Loans, current portion	\$ 2,719	\$	2,764
Loans, noncurrent portion	 37,256		32,788
Total loans	39,975		35,552
Allowance for loan losses	 (600)		(409)
Total loans, net	\$ 39,375	\$	35,143

# Changes in the balances of loans follows:

	Amount	_
Balance, June 30, 2021	\$ 13,973	3
Loan advances	2,563	3
Principal collections	(3,118	3)
Transfers in	22,134	<u>1</u>
Balance, June 30, 2022	35,552	2
Loan advances	7,210	)
Principal collections	(2,787	<u>7</u> )
Balance, June 30, 2023	\$ 39,975	5_

(continued on next page)

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

JUNE 30, 2023 AND 2022

(Dollars in Thousands)

Changes in allowance for loan losses are as follows:

	2023		2022	
Balance, beginning of year	\$	409	\$	165
Provision for loan losses		191		244
Balance, end of year	\$	600	\$	409

There were no impaired loans as of June 30, 2023. No loans were on nonaccrual status and no loans were 90 days or more past due as of June 30, 2023.

#### NOTE 4 - RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

The Fund is supervised and administered by the Bank of North Dakota. All cash accounts are deposited in the Bank of North Dakota. The annual administrative fees charged by the Bank are equivalent to one-half percent of the outstanding loans. Administrative fee expense charged by the Bank totaled \$187 and \$174 for the year ended June 30, 2023 and 2022, respectively, of which the Fund owed the Bank \$49 as of June 30, 2023 and \$44 as of June 30, 2022.

Senate Bill 2015 of the 2023 Legislative Session approved the Bank of North Dakota to extend a line of credit not to exceed \$100,000 to the Department of Water Resources to be transferred to the Fund as requested by the director of the department of water resources to provide local cost-share loans for projects approved by the state water commission pursuant to section 6-09-49.2.

#### **NOTE 5 - LOAN COMMITMENTS**

The Fund is a party to credit related financial instruments with off-balance-sheet risk in the normal course of business to meet the financing needs of its customers. These financial instruments include commitments to extend credit. Such commitments involve, to varying degrees, elements of credit risk in excess of the amount recognized in the statements of net position.

The Fund's exposure to credit loss is represented by the contractual amount of these commitments. The Fund follows the same credit policies in making commitments as it does for on-balance-sheet instruments. There was one loan commitment for \$60,000 as of June 30, 2023.

Commitments to extend credit are agreements to lend to a customer as long as there is no violation of any condition established in the contract. Commitments generally have fixed expiration dates or other termination clauses. Since some of the commitments may expire without being drawn upon, the total commitment amounts do not necessarily represent future cash requirements.

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NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS JUNE 30, 2023 AND 2022 (Dollars in Thousands)

#### NOTE 6 - RISK MANAGEMENT

The Fund is exposed to various risks of loss related to torts and errors and omissions. The Fund is administered by the Bank of North Dakota and, therefore, is eligible to the same funds/pools established by the State for risk management issues. These include:

The 1995 Legislative Session established the Risk Management Fund (RMF), an internal service fund, to provide a self-insurance vehicle for funding the liability exposures of State Agencies resulting from the elimination of the State's sovereign immunity. The RMF manages the tort liability of the State, its agencies' employees, and the University System. All State agencies participating in the RMF and their fund contribution was determined using a projected cost allocation approach. The statutory liability of the State is limited to a total of \$250 per person and \$1,000 per occurrence.

The State Bonding Fund currently provides the Fund with blanket employee fidelity bond coverage in the amount of \$2,000. The State Bonding Fund does not currently charge any premium for this coverage.

There have been no significant reductions in insurance coverage from the prior year and settled claims resulting from these risks have not exceeded insurance coverage.



# Independent Auditor's 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

Governor of North Dakota and the Legislative Assembly State of North Dakota Bismarck, 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*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States, the financial statements of the Water Infrastructure Revolving Loan Fund (the Fund), an enterprise fund of the State of North Dakota, as of and for the year ended June 30, 2023, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the Fund's basic financial statements, and have issued our report thereon dated September 21, 2023.

#### **Report on Internal Control over Financial Reporting**

In planning and performing our audit of the financial statements, we considered the Fund'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 opinion on the financial statements, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Fund's internal control. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the Fund'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 over financial reporting 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. Given these limitations, during our audit we did not identify any deficiencies in internal control over financial reporting that we consider to be material weaknesses. However, material weaknesses may exist that have not yet been identified.

# **Report on Compliance and Other Matters**

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the Fund'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*.

# **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 Fund'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.

Bismarck, North Dakota September 21, 2023

Ede Sailly LLP



# **Water Infrastructure Revolving Loan Fund** Auditor's Specific Comments Requested by the North Dakota Legislative Audit and **Fiscal Review Committee** Year Ended June 30, 2023

Governor of North Dakota and the Legislative Assembly State of North Dakota Bismarck, North Dakota

The Legislative Audit and Fiscal Review Committee requires that certain items be addressed by independent certified public accountants performing audits of state agencies. The items and our

responses are as follows:

1. What type of opinion was issued on the financial statements?

Unmodified

2. Was there compliance with statutes, laws, rules, and regulations under which the agency was created and is functioning?

Yes

3. Was internal control adequate and functioning effectively?

Yes

4. Were there any indications of lack of efficiency in financial operations and management of the agency?

No

5. Has action been taken on findings and recommendations included in prior year audit reports?

Yes. In the prior year there was one internal control deficiency identified as a result of the audit. The recommended adjustment was made by management.

6. Was a management letter issued? If so, provide a summary below, including any recommendations and the management response.

No

#### Audit Committee Communications:

1. Identify any significant changes in accounting policies, any management conflicts of interest, any contingent liabilities, or any significant unusual transactions.

None

2. Identify any significant accounting estimates and the process used by management to determine those estimates.

Management's estimate of the allowance for loan losses is based on management's evaluation of a number of factors, including recent loan loss experience, continuous evaluation of the loan portfolio quality, current and anticipated economic conditions, and other pertinent factors. We evaluated key factors and assumptions used to develop the allowance for loan losses in determining that it is reasonable in relation to the financial statements taken as a whole.

3. Identify any significant audit adjustments.

None

4. Identify any disagreements with management, whether or not resolved to the auditor's satisfaction, relating to financial accounting, reporting, or auditing matter that could be significant to the financial statements.

None

5. Identify any significant difficulties encountered in performing the audit.

None

6. Identify any major issues discussed with management prior to retention.

None

7. Identify any management consultations with other accountants about auditing and accounting matters.

None

8. Identify any high-risk information technology systems critical to operations based on the auditor's overall assessment of the importance of the system to the agency and its mission or whether any exceptions identified in the six audit report questions addressed above are directly related to the operations of an information technology system.

Based on the audit procedures performed, the Fund's critical information technology system is the Fiserv system. There were no exceptions identified that were directly related to this application.

This report is intended solely for the information and use of the Governor of North Dakota, Legislative Assembly, North Dakota Industrial Commission, Bank of North Dakota Advisory Board and management of the Fund and is not intended to be and should not be used by anyone other than these specified parties.

Bismarck, North Dakota

Ed Saelly LLP

September 21, 2023



September 21, 2023

To the Governor of North Dakota and the Legislative Assembly State of North Dakota Bismarck, North Dakota

We have audited the financial statements of Water Infrastructure Revolving Loan Fund (the Fund) as of and for the year ended June 30, 2023, and have issued our report thereon dated September 21, 2023. Professional standards require that we advise you of the following matters relating to our audit.

# Our Responsibility in Relation to the Financial Statement Audit under Generally Accepted Auditing Standards and Government Auditing Standards

As communicated in our letter dated June 29, 2023, our responsibility, as described by professional standards, is to form and express an opinion about whether the financial statements that have been prepared by management with your oversight are presented fairly, in all material respects, in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. Our audit of the financial statements does not relieve you or management of your respective responsibilities.

Our responsibility, as prescribed by professional standards, is to plan and perform our audit to obtain reasonable, rather than absolute, assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit of financial statements includes consideration of internal control over financial reporting as a basis for designing audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control over financial reporting. Accordingly, as part of our audit, we considered the internal control of the Fund solely for the purpose of determining our audit procedures and not to provide any assurance concerning such internal control.

We are also responsible for communicating significant matters related to the audit that are, in our professional judgment, relevant to your responsibilities in overseeing the financial reporting process. However, we are not required to design procedures for the purpose of identifying other matters to communicate to you.

We have provided our comments regarding a significant control deficiency during our audit in our Independent Auditor's 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* dated September 21, 2023.

#### Planned Scope and Timing of the Audit

We conducted our audit consistent with the planned scope and timing we previously communicated to you.

#### **Compliance with All Ethics Requirements Regarding Independence**

The engagement team, others in our firm, as appropriate, our firm, and other firms utilized in the engagement, if applicable, have complied with all relevant ethical requirements regarding independence.

# **Qualitative Aspects of the Entity's Significant Accounting Practices**

## Significant Accounting Policies

Management has the responsibility to select and use appropriate accounting policies. A summary of the significant accounting policies adopted by the Fund is included in Note 1 to the financial statements. There have been no initial selection of accounting policies and no changes in significant accounting policies or their application during 2023. No matters have come to our attention that would require us, under professional standards, to inform you about (1) the methods used to account for significant unusual transactions and (2) the effect of significant accounting policies in controversial or emerging areas for which there is a lack of authoritative guidance or consensus.

#### Significant Accounting Estimates

Accounting estimates are an integral part of the financial statements prepared by management and are based on management's current judgments. Those judgments are normally based on 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 markedly from management's current judgments.

The most sensitive accounting estimates affecting the financial statements is:

Management's estimate of the allowance for loan losses is based on management's evaluation of a number of factors, including recent loan loss experience, continuous evaluation of the loan portfolio quality, current and anticipated economic conditions, and other pertinent factors. We evaluated the key factors and assumptions used to develop the allowance for loan losses and determined that it is reasonable in relation to the basic financial statements taken as a whole.

#### Financial Statement Disclosures

Certain financial statement disclosures involve significant judgment and are particularly sensitive because of their significance to financial statement users. The most sensitive disclosures affecting the fund's financial statements relate to Note 3 – Loans.

#### Significant Difficulties Encountered during the Audit

We encountered no significant difficulties in dealing with management relating to the performance of the audit.

#### **Uncorrected and Corrected Misstatements**

For purposes of this communication, professional standards require us to accumulate all known and likely misstatements identified during the audit, other than those that we believe are trivial, and communicate them to the appropriate level of management. Further, professional standards require us to also communicate the effect of uncorrected misstatements related to prior periods on the relevant classes of transactions, account balances or disclosures, and the financial statements as a whole. Uncorrected misstatements or matters underlying those uncorrected misstatements could potentially cause future-period financial statements to be materially misstated, even though the uncorrected misstatements are immaterial to the financial statements currently under audit. There were no uncorrected or corrected misstatements identified as a result of our audit procedures.

# **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, reporting, or auditing matter, which could be significant to the Funds's financial statements or the auditor's report. No such disagreements arose during the course of the audit.

## Circumstances that Affect the Form and Content of the Auditor's Report

For purposes of this letter, professional standards require that we communicate any circumstances that affect the form and content of our auditor's report.

We have made the following modification to our auditor's report to add an Emphasis of Matter paragraph:

As discussed in Note 1, the financial statements of the Fund are intended to present the financial position, the changes in financial position and cash flows of only that portion of the State of North Dakota that is attributable to the transactions of the Fund. They do not purport to, and do not, present fairly the financial position of the State of North Dakota as of June 30, 2023, and 2022, and the changes in its financial position and cash flows for the years then ended in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. Our opinion is not modified with respect to this matter.

## **Representations Requested from Management**

We have requested certain written representations from management which are included in the management representation letter dated September 21, 2023.

# **Management's Consultations with Other Accountants**

In some cases, management may decide to consult with other accountants about auditing and accounting matters. Management informed us that, and to our knowledge, there were no consultations with other accountants regarding auditing and accounting matters.

# Other Significant Matters, Findings, or Issues

In the normal course of our professional association with the Fund, we generally discuss a variety of matters, including the application of accounting principles and auditing standards, significant events or transactions that occurred during the year, operating conditions affecting the entity, and operating plans and strategies that may affect the risks of material misstatement. None of the matters discussed resulted in a condition to our retention as the Fund's auditors.

This report is intended solely for the information and use of the Governor of North Dakota, Legislative Assembly, North Dakota Industrial Commission, Bank of North Dakota Advisory Board, and management of the Fund and is not intended to be, and should not be, used by anyone other than these specified parties.

Bismarck, North Dakota

Ed Saelly LLP