



Mary Taylor, CPA
Auditor of State

**VAN WERT COUNTY PARK DISTRICT
VAN WERT COUNTY**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

TITLE	PAGE
Cover Letter	1
Independent Accountants' Report.....	3
Statement of Cash Receipts, Cash Disbursements, and Change in Fund Cash Balance – Governmental Fund - For the Year Ended December 31, 2009.....	5
Statement of Cash Receipts, Cash Disbursements, and Change in Fund Cash Balance – Governmental Fund - For the Year Ended December 31, 2008.....	6
Notes to the Financial Statements	7
Independent Accountants' Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting and on Compliance and Other Matters Required by <i>Government Auditing Standards</i>	11
Schedule of Findings.....	13
Schedule of Prior Audit Findings.....	16

This page intentionally left blank.



Mary Taylor, CPA
Auditor of State

Van Wert County Park District
Van Wert County
1185 Professional Drive
Van Wert, Ohio 45891

To the Board of Park District Commissioners:

As you are aware, the Auditor of State's Office (AOS) must modify the *Independent Accountants' Report* we provide on your financial statements due to an interpretation from the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA). While AOS does not legally require your government to prepare financial statements pursuant to Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP), the AICPA interpretation requires auditors to formally acknowledge that you did not prepare your financial statements in accordance with GAAP. Our Report includes an adverse opinion relating to GAAP presentation and measurement requirements, but does not imply the amounts the statements present are misstated under the non-GAAP basis you follow. The AOS report also includes an opinion on the financial statements you prepared using the cash basis and financial statement format the AOS permits.

Mary Taylor

Mary Taylor, CPA
Auditor of State

February 17, 2010

This page intentionally left blank.



Mary Taylor, CPA

Auditor of State

INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANTS' REPORT

Van Wert County Park District
Van Wert County
1185 Professional Drive
Van Wert, Ohio 45891

To the Board of Park District Commissioners:

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the Van Wert County Park District, Van Wert County, (the Park District) as of and for the years ended December 31, 2009 and 2008. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Park District's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit.

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in the Comptroller General of the United States' *Government Auditing Standards*. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to reasonably assure whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

As described more fully in Note 1, the Park District has prepared these financial statements using accounting practices the Auditor of State prescribes or permits. These practices differ from accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAP). Although we cannot reasonably determine the effects on the financial statements of the variances between these regulatory accounting practices and GAAP, we presume they are material.

GAAP requires presenting entity wide statements and also presenting the Park District's larger (i.e. major) funds separately. While the Park District does not follow GAAP, generally accepted auditing standards requires us to include the following paragraph if the statements do not substantially conform to GAAP presentation requirements. The Auditor of State permits, but does not require Park Districts to reformat their statements. The Park District has elected not to follow GAAP statement formatting requirements. The following paragraph does not imply the amounts reported are materially misstated under the accounting basis the Auditor of State permits. Our opinion on the fair presentation of the amounts reported pursuant to its non-GAAP basis is in the second following paragraph.

In our opinion, because of the effects of the matter discussed in the preceding two paragraphs, the financial statements referred to above for the years ended December 31, 2009 and 2008 do not present fairly, in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, the financial position of the Park District as of December 31, 2009 and 2008, or its changes in financial position for the years then ended.

Also, in our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the fund cash balances of Van Wert County Park District, Van Wert County, as of December 31, 2009 and 2008, and its cash receipts and disbursements for the years then ended on the accounting basis Note 1 describes.

The Park District has not presented Management's Discussion and Analysis, which accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America has determined is necessary to supplement, although not required to be part of, the financial statements.

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated February 17, 2010, on our consideration of the Park District's internal control over financial reporting and our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts and grant agreements and other matters. While we did not opine on the internal control over financial reporting or on compliance, that report describes the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance, and the results of that testing. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*. You should read it in conjunction with this report in assessing the results of our audit.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mary Taylor".

Mary Taylor, CPA
Auditor of State

February 17, 2010

**VAN WERT COUNTY PARK DISTRICT
VAN WERT COUNTY**

**STATEMENT OF CASH RECEIPTS, CASH DISBURSEMENTS, AND
CHANGE IN FUND CASH BALANCE
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2009**

	<u>General</u>
Cash Receipts:	
Intergovernmental	\$15,373
Donations	6,520
Total Cash Receipts	<u>21,893</u>
Cash Disbursements:	
Current Disbursements:	
Contracts - Services	33,362
Other	1,687
Total Cash Disbursements	<u>35,049</u>
Total Receipts Over/(Under) Disbursements	(13,156)
Fund Cash Balances, January 1	<u>15,926</u>
Fund Cash Balances, December 31	<u><u>\$2,770</u></u>

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

**VAN WERT COUNTY PARK DISTRICT
VAN WERT COUNTY**

**STATEMENT OF CASH RECEIPTS, CASH DISBURSEMENTS, AND
CHANGE IN FUND CASH BALANCE
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2008**

	<u>General</u>
Cash Receipts:	
Intergovernmental	\$222,745
Donations	13,390
Total Cash Receipts	<u>236,135</u>
Cash Disbursements:	
Current Disbursements:	
Contracts - Services	<u>242,842</u>
Total Cash Disbursements	<u>242,842</u>
Total Receipts Over/(Under) Disbursements	(6,707)
Fund Cash Balances, January 1	<u>22,633</u>
Fund Cash Balances, December 31	<u><u>\$15,926</u></u>

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

**VAN WERT COUNTY PARK DISTRICT
VAN WERT COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
DECEMBER 31, 2009 AND 2008**

1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

A. Description of the Entity

The constitution and laws of the State of Ohio establish the rights and privileges of the Van Wert County Park District, Van Wert County, (the Park District) as a body corporate and politic. The probate judge of Van Wert County appoints a three-member Board of Commissioners to govern the Park District. The Commissioners are authorized to acquire, develop, protect, maintain, and improve park lands and facilities. The Commissioners may convert acquired land into forest reserves. The Commissioners are also responsible for activities related to conserving natural resources, including streams, lakes, submerged lands, and swamp lands. The Board may also create parks, parkways, and other reservations and may afforest, develop, improve and protect and promote the use of these assets conducive to the general welfare.

The Park District's management believes these financial statements present all activities for which the Park District is financially accountable.

B. Accounting Basis

These financial statements follow the accounting basis the Auditor of State prescribes or permits. This basis is similar to the cash receipts and disbursements accounting basis. The Park District recognizes receipts when received in cash rather than when earned, and recognizes disbursements when paid rather than when a liability is incurred. Budgetary presentations report budgetary expenditures when a commitment is made (i.e., when an encumbrance is approved).

These statements include adequate disclosure of material matters, as the Auditor of State prescribes or permits.

C. Cash and Investments

As the Ohio Revised Code permits, the Van Wert County Treasurer holds the Park District's deposits as the Park District's custodian. The County holds the District's assets in its investment pool, valued at the Treasurer's reported carrying amount.

D. Fund Accounting

The Park District uses fund accounting to segregate cash and investments that are restricted as to use. The Park District classifies its fund into the following type:

1. General Fund

The General Fund reports all financial resources except those required to be accounted for in another fund.

E. Budgetary Process

The Ohio Revised Code requires that each fund be budgeted annually.

1. Appropriations

Budgetary expenditures (that is, disbursements and encumbrances) may not exceed appropriations at the fund / object level and appropriations may not exceed estimated resources. The Park District Board must annually approve appropriation measures and subsequent amendments. Appropriations lapse at year end.

**VAN WERT COUNTY PARK DISTRICT
VAN WERT COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
DECEMBER 31, 2009 AND 2008
(Continued)**

1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

2. Estimated Resources

Estimated resources include estimates of cash to be received (budgeted receipts) plus cash as of January 1.

3. Encumbrances

The Ohio Revised Code requires the Park District to reserve (encumber) appropriations when individual commitments are made. Encumbrances outstanding at year end are carried over, and need not be reappropriated. The Park District did not encumber all commitments required by Ohio law.

A summary of 2009 and 2008 budgetary activity appears in Note 2.

F. Property, Plant, and Equipment

The Park District records disbursements for acquisitions of property, plant, and equipment when paid. The accompanying financial statements do not report these items as assets.

2. BUDGETARY ACTIVITY

Budgetary activity for the years ending December 2009 and 2008 follows:

2009 Budgeted vs. Actual Receipts			
Fund Type	Budgeted Receipts	Actual Receipts	Variance
General	\$5,000	\$21,893	\$16,893
Total	\$5,000	\$21,893	\$16,893

2009 Budgeted vs. Actual Budgetary Basis Expenditures			
Fund Type	Appropriation Authority	Budgetary Expenditures	Variance
General	\$5,000	\$35,049	(\$30,049)
Total	\$5,000	\$35,049	(\$30,049)

2008 Budgeted vs. Actual Receipts			
Fund Type	Budgeted Receipts	Actual Receipts	Variance
General	\$387,000	\$236,135	(\$150,865)
Total	\$387,000	\$236,135	(\$150,865)

2008 Budgeted vs. Actual Budgetary Basis Expenditures			
Fund Type	Appropriation Authority	Budgetary Expenditures	Variance
General	\$385,500	\$242,842	\$142,658
Total	\$385,500	\$242,842	\$142,658

Contrary to Ohio law, the Park District prepared, but did not obtain Board approval of an annual budget or appropriation measure for the years ended December 31, 2009 and 2008.

**VAN WERT COUNTY PARK DISTRICT
VAN WERT COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
DECEMBER 31, 2009 AND 2008
(Continued)**

3. DONATIONS

Donations are received from the Van Wert County Foundation, (the Foundation), a non-profit organization that was incorporated under Internal Revenue Code 501(c)(3). The Foundation solicits funds or receives bequests to support events and organizations in the area including the Van Wert County Park District.

4. RISK MANAGEMENT

Commercial Insurance

The Park District is uninsured for the following risks:

- Comprehensive property and general liability;
- Vehicles; and
- Errors and omissions.

This page intentionally left blank.



Mary Taylor, CPA

Auditor of State

INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANTS' REPORT ON INTERNAL CONTROL OVER FINANCIAL REPORTING AND ON COMPLIANCE AND OTHER MATTERS REQUIRED BY *GOVERNMENT AUDITING STANDARDS*

Van Wert County Park District
Van Wert County
1185 Professional Drive
Van Wert, Ohio 45891

To the Board of Park District Commissioners:

We have audited the financial statements of the Van Wert Park District, Van Wert County, (the Park District) as of and for the years ended December 31, 2009 and 2008, and have issued our report thereon dated February 17, 2010, wherein we noted the Park District followed accounting practices the Auditor of State prescribes rather than accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in the Comptroller General of the United States' *Government Auditing Standards*.

Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

In planning and performing our audit, we considered the Park District's internal control over financial reporting as a basis for designing our audit procedures for the purpose of expressing our opinion on the financial statements, but not for the purpose of opining on the effectiveness of the Park District's internal control over financial reporting. Accordingly, we have not opined on the effectiveness of the Park District's internal control over financial reporting.

Our consideration of internal control over financial reporting was for the limited purpose described in the preceding paragraph and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control over financial reporting that might be significant deficiencies or material weaknesses. Therefore, we cannot assure that we have identified all deficiencies, significant deficiencies or material weaknesses. However, as described in the accompanying schedule of findings we identified a certain deficiency in internal control over financial reporting, that we consider a material weakness.

A *deficiency in internal control* exists when the design or operation of a control does not allow management or employees, when performing their assigned functions, to prevent, or detect and timely correct misstatements. 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 timely corrected. We consider finding 2009-003 described in the accompanying schedule of findings to be a material weakness.

We also noted a certain matter that we reported to the Park District's management in a separate letter dated February 17, 2010.

Compliance and Other Matters

As part of reasonably assuring whether the Park District's financial statements are free of material misstatement, we tested its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements, noncompliance with which could directly and materially affect the determination of financial statement amounts. However, providing an opinion on compliance with those provisions was not an objective of our audit and accordingly, we do not express an opinion. The results of our tests disclosed instances of noncompliance or other matters that we must report under *Government Auditing Standards* which are described in the accompanying schedule of findings as items 2009-001 and 2009-002.

We also noted certain noncompliance or other matters that we reported to the Park District's management in a separate letter dated February 17, 2010.

We intend this report solely for the information and use of the management and Park District Board of Commissioners. We intend it for no one other than these specified parties.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mary Taylor".

Mary Taylor, CPA
Auditor of State

February 17, 2010

**VAN WERT COUNTY PARK DISTRICT
VAN WERT COUNTY**

**SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS
DECEMBER 31, 2009 AND 2008**

FINDINGS RELATED TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS REQUIRED TO BE REPORTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH GAGAS
--

FINDING NUMBER 2009-001

Noncompliance – Prior Certification of Obligations

Ohio Rev. Code Section 5705.41(D)(1) states that no subdivision shall make any contract or give any order involving the expenditure of money unless there is attached thereto a certificate of the fiscal officer of the subdivision. The fiscal officer must certify that the amount required to meet such a commitment has been lawfully appropriated and is in the treasury or in the process of collection to the credit of an appropriate fund free from any previous encumbrance. Further, contracts and orders for expenditures lacking prior certification shall be null and void.

There are several exceptions to the standard requirement stated above that a fiscal officer's certificate must be obtained prior to a subdivision or taxing authority entering into a contract or order involving the expenditure of money. The main exceptions are: "then and now" certificates, blanket certificates, and super blanket certificates, which are provided for in sections 5705.41(D)(1) and 5705.41(D)(3), respectively, of the Ohio Revised Code.

1. **"Then and Now" Certificate** – If the fiscal officer can certify that both at the time that the contract or order was made ("then"), and at the time that the fiscal officer is completing the certification ("now"), that sufficient funds were available or in the process of collection, to the credit of a proper fund, properly appropriated and free from any previous encumbrance, the Park District can authorize the drawing of a warrant for the payment of the amount due. The Park District has thirty days from the receipt of the "then and now" certificate to approve payment by ordinance or resolution.

Amounts of less than \$3,000 may be paid by the fiscal officer without a resolution or ordinance upon completion of the "then and now" certificate, provided that the expenditure is otherwise lawful. This does not eliminate any otherwise applicable requirement for approval of expenditures by the Park District.

2. **Blanket Certificate** – Fiscal officers may prepare "blanket" certificates for a certain sum of money not in excess of an amount established by resolution or ordinance adopted by a majority of the members of the legislative authority against any specific line item account over a period not running beyond the end of the current fiscal year. The blanket certificates may, but need not, be limited to a specific vendor. Only one blanket certificate may be outstanding at one particular time for any one particular line item appropriation.
3. **Super Blanket Certificate** – The Park District may also make expenditures and contracts for any amount from a specific line-item appropriation account in a specified fund upon certification of the fiscal officer for most professional services, fuel, oil, food items, and any other specific recurring and reasonably predictable operating expense. This certification is not to extend beyond the current year. More than one super blanket certificate may be outstanding at a particular time for any line item appropriation.

The Park District did not certify the availability of funds prior to incurring obligations for six out of thirty-six expenditures during the audit period. Failure to properly obtain certification of the availability of funds can result in overspending and a possible negative fund cash balance.

**FINDING NUMBER 2009-001
(Continued)**

Unless the exceptions noted above are used, prior certification is not only required by statute but is a key control in the disbursement process to assure that purchase commitments receive prior approval. To improve controls over disbursements and to help reduce the possibility of the Park District's funds exceeding budgetary spending limitations, the Park District should certify that the funds are or will be available prior to the obligation. When prior certification is not possible, "then and now" certification should be used.

FINDING NUMBER 2009-002

Noncompliance - Budgetary Requirements

As the Park District is their own legal separate entity established under Ohio Rev Code 1545, the Park District should comply with the applicable Ohio Revised Code sections pertaining to budgetary requirements as follows:

Ohio Rev. Code Section 5705.28(B)(2)(a) states that the taxing authority of a taxing unit that does not levy a tax is not required to adopt a tax budget pursuant to division (A) of this section. Instead, on or before the fifteenth day of July each year, such taxing authority shall adopt an operating budget for the taxing unit for the ensuing fiscal year. The operating budget shall include an estimate of receipts from all sources, a statement of all taxing unit expenses that are anticipated to occur, and the amount required for debt charges during the fiscal year. The operating budget is not required to be filed with the county auditor or the county budget commission.

Ohio Rev. Code Section 5705.28(B)(2)(b) states that, except for this section and sections 5705.36, 5705.38, 5705.40, 5705.41, 5705.43, 5705.44, and 5705.45 of the Revised Code, a taxing unit that does not levy a tax is not a taxing unit for purposes of Chapter 5705 of the Revised Code. Documents prepared in accordance with such sections are not required to be filed with the county auditor or county budget commission.

Ohio Rev. Code Section 5705.36(A)(1) requires that on or about the first day of each fiscal year the fiscal officer prepare a certificate of the total amount from all sources which is available for expenditure in the tax budget along with any encumbered balances that existed at the end of the preceding year.

Ohio Rev. Code Section 5705.38(A) requires that on or about the first day of each year, the Board shall pass an appropriation measure, and thereafter during the year it may pass any supplemental appropriation measures as it finds necessary, based on the revised tax budget or the official certificate of estimated resources or amendments of the certificate. If it desires to postpone the passage of the annual appropriation measure until an amended certificate is received based on the actual balances, it may pass a temporary appropriation measure for meeting the ordinary expenses of the entity until no later than the first day of April of the current year, and the appropriations made in the temporary measure shall be chargeable to the appropriations in the annual appropriation measure for that fiscal year when passed.

Ohio Rev. Code Section 5705.40 states in part that any appropriation measure may be amended or supplemented as long as the entity complies with the same provisions of the law as are used in making the original appropriation.

**FINDING NUMBER 2009-002
(Continued)**

Ohio Rev. Code Section 5705.41 states that no subdivision or taxing unit shall:

- (A)** Make any appropriation of money except as provided in Chapter 5705 of the Revised Code; provided, that the authorization of a bond issue shall be deemed to be an appropriation of the proceeds of the bond issue for the purpose for which such bonds were issued, but no expenditure shall be made from any bond fund until first authorized by the taxing authority;
- (B)** Make any expenditure of money unless it has been appropriated as provided in such chapter;
- (C)** Make any expenditure of money except by a proper warrant drawn against an appropriate fund.

The County Auditor had a Park District budget on file for 2008 and 2009, however, there was no documented evidence that the budgets were approved by the Park District Board of Commissioners. In addition, the 2009 budgeted revenue and expenditures were not sufficient in comparison to the actual revenue and expenditures of the Park District while the 2008 the budgeted revenue and expenditures were significantly greater than the actual amounts received and expended as shown in Note 2.

The Park District, as a legally separate entity established under Ohio Rev Code 1545, should follow the budgetary requirements of the Ohio Revised Code. These documents should be completed and amended accordingly, with Board approval documented within the minutes.

FINDING NUMBER 2009-003

Material Weakness– Recording of Revenues and Expenditures made on Behalf of the Park District

In 2008, Ohio Public Works Commission (OPWC) funds, in the amount of \$78,130 that were received and disbursed by OPWC to a Contractor on behalf of the Park District were not recorded.

The failure to properly post these receipts and disbursements has resulted in the material misstatement of the revenue and expenditures line items for reporting. The accompanying financial statements include the required adjustment to correctly state the Park District's revenue and expenditure activity for 2008.

The Park District should obtain the necessary documentation and record all transactions processed by grantor agencies on their behalf. Additional reference should be made to Auditor of State Bulletin 2000-008 regarding the accounting and recording of on-behalf of grants.

Officials' Response:

We did not receive a response from Officials to the findings reported above.

**VAN WERT COUNTY PARK DISTRICT
VAN WERT COUNTY**

**SCHEDULE OF PRIOR AUDIT FINDINGS
DECEMBER 31, 2009 AND 2008**

Finding Number	Finding Summary	Fully Corrected?	Not Corrected, Partially Corrected; Significantly Different Corrective Action Taken; or Finding No Longer Valid; <i>Explain</i>
2007-001	Noncompliance - Prior Certification Ohio Rev. Code Section 5705.41(D)	No	Not Corrected, See Finding Number 2009-001
2007-002	Noncompliance – Meetings and Minutes Ohio Rev. Code Section 121.22(C)	Yes	
2007-003	Noncompliance - Budgetary Requirements	No	Not Corrected, See Finding Number 2009-002
2007-004	Material Weakness - Monitoring Controls by Park District Board	Yes	



Mary Taylor, CPA
Auditor of State

VAN WERT COUNTY PARK DISTRICT

VAN WERT COUNTY

CLERK'S CERTIFICATION

This is a true and correct copy of the report which is required to be filed in the Office of the Auditor of State pursuant to Section 117.26, Revised Code, and which is filed in Columbus, Ohio.

Susan Babbitt

CLERK OF THE BUREAU

CERTIFIED
MARCH 30, 2010