



Mary Taylor, CPA
Auditor of State

TRI-COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY
HARRISON COUNTY

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Mary Taylor, CPA Auditor of State

Tri-County Water Authority
Harrison County
P.O. Box 26
Harrisville, Ohio 43974

To the Board of Trustees:

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.

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Mary Taylor, CPA
Auditor of State

November 26, 2007

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Mary Taylor, CPA

Auditor of State

INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANTS' REPORT

Tri-County Water Authority
Harrison County
P.O. Box 26
Harrisville, Ohio 43974

To the Board of Trustees:

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of Tri-County Water Authority, Harrison County, (the Authority) as of and for the years ended December 31, 2006 and 2005. These financial statements are the responsibility of the 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 Authority 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.

Instead of the combined funds the accompanying financial statements present, GAAP require presenting entity wide statements and also presenting the Government's larger (i.e. major) funds separately. While the Authority 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 Governments to reformat their statements. The Authority 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, 2006 and 2005 do not present fairly, in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, the financial position of the Authority as of December 31, 2006 and 2005, 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 cash balances of Tri-County Water Authority, Harrison County, as of December 31, 2006 and 2005, and its cash receipts and disbursements for the years then ended on the accounting basis Note 1 describes.

The Authority 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 November 26, 2007, on our consideration of the Authority'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 black ink that reads "Mary Taylor". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Mary Taylor, CPA
Auditor of State

November 26, 2007

**TRI-COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY
HARRISON COUNTY**

**STATEMENT OF CASH RECEIPTS, CASH DISBURSEMENTS,
CHANGES IN CASH BALANCES
FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2006 AND 2005**

	<u>2006</u>	<u>2005</u>
Operating Cash Receipts:		
Charges for Services	\$452,587	\$470,142
Miscellaneous	5,642	4,685
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total Operating Cash Receipts	458,229	474,827
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Operating Cash Disbursements:		
Personal Services	84,460	136,155
Utilities	12,272	10,163
Repairs and Maintenance	12,714	15,756
Testing and Licenses	1,448	1,425
Other Contractual Services	4,769	3,384
Water Purchases	273,866	252,459
Insurance	8,158	8,189
Capital Outlay		4,072
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total Operating Cash Disbursements	397,687	431,603
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Operating Income/(Loss)	60,542	43,224
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Non-Operating Cash Disbursements:		
Debt Service	22,233	58,768
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total Non-Operating Cash Disbursements	22,233	58,768
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Net Receipts Over/(Under) Disbursements	38,309	(15,544)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Cash Balances, January 1	196,515	212,059
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Cash Balances, December 31	<u>\$234,824</u>	<u>\$196,515</u>

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

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**TRI-COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY
HARRISON COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
DECEMBER 31, 2006 AND 2005**

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 for the Tri-County Water Authority, Harrison County, (the Authority) as a body corporate and politic. The Village of Harrisville appoints one member from each of the three counties: Belmont, Jefferson, and Harrison, that make up the authority, and one board member from the Village to the Board of Trustees to direct the District. There are four Board members. Subdivisions within the Authority are made of parts of Colerain, Mount Pleasant, and Short Creek Township as well as the Village of Harrisville. The Authority provides water services to residents of the subdivisions included in the Authority.

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

B. Basis of Accounting

These financial statements follow the basis of accounting the Auditor of State prescribes or permits. This basis is similar to the cash receipts and disbursements basis of accounting. This basis recognizes receipts when received in cash rather than when earned, and recognizes disbursements when paid rather than when a liability is incurred.

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

C. Deposits and Investments

The accounting basis includes investments as assets. This basis does not report purchases of investments as disbursements or investment sales as receipts. This basis recognizes gains or losses at the time of sale as receipts or disbursements, respectively.

The accounting basis values certificates of deposit at cost.

D. Budgetary Process

The Ohio Revised Code requires the Authority to budget annually.

1. Appropriations

Budgetary expenditures (that is, disbursements and encumbrances) may not exceed appropriations at the function or object level of control, and appropriations may not exceed estimated resources. Appropriation Authority includes current year appropriations plus encumbrances carried over from the prior year (if any). The Board must annually approve appropriation measures and subsequent amendments. Appropriations lapse at year end.

2. Estimated Resources

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

**TRI-COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY
HARRISON COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
DECEMBER 31, 2006 AND 2005
(Continued)**

1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

3. Encumbrances

The Ohio Revised Code requires the Authority to reserve (encumber) appropriations when commitments are made. Encumbrances outstanding at year end are canceled, and reappropriated in the subsequent year. The District did not encumber all commitments required by Ohio law.

A summary of 2006 and 2005 budgetary activity appears in Note 3.

E. Property, Plant and Equipment

The accounting basis records acquisitions of property, plant, and equipment as capital outlay disbursements when paid. The accompanying financial statements do not include these assets.

F. Accumulated Leave

In certain circumstances, such as upon leaving employment, employees are entitled to cash payments for unused leave. The District's accounting basis does not reflect a liability for unpaid leave.

2. EQUITY IN POOLED CASH AND INVESTMENTS

The carrying amount of cash and investments at December 31 follows:

	2006	2005
Demand deposits	\$198,296	\$160,787
Certificates of deposit	36,528	35,728
Total deposits	234,824	196,515

Deposits: Deposits are insured by the Federal Depository Insurance Corporation; or collateralized by the financial institution's public entity deposit pool.

3. BUDGETARY ACTIVITY

Budgetary activity for the years ending December 31, 2006 and 2005 follows:

Budgeted vs. Actual Receipts			
Fund Type - General	2006	2005	Variance
Budgeted Receipts	\$457,427	\$473,600	\$16,173
Actual Receipts	458,229	474,827	16,598
Variance	\$802	\$1,227	\$32,771

**TRI-COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY
HARRISON COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
DECEMBER 31, 2006 AND 2005
(Continued)**

3. BUDGETARY ACTIVITY (Continued)

Budgeted vs. Actual Budgetary Basis Expenditures			
Fund Type - General	2006	2005	Variance
Appropriation Authority	\$698,488	\$693,059	(\$5,429)
Budgetary Expenditures	419,919	490,370	70,451
Variance	\$278,569	\$202,689	\$65,022

4. DEBT

Debt outstanding at December 31, 2006 was as follows:

	Principal	Interest Rate
OWDA Bonds	\$101,000	5.25%

The OWDA Bonds were issued to finance the construction of a new water tank. Future revenues from the Authority's water operations collateralize these bonds.

Amortization of the above debt, including interest, is scheduled as follows:

Year ending December 31:	OWDA Bonds
2007	\$24,140
2008	24,247
2009	23,303
2010	23,357
2011	23,360
2012 - 2013	47,517
Total	\$165,924

5. RETIREMENT SYSTEMS

The District's full-time employees belong to the Ohio Public Employees Retirement System (OPERS). OPERS is a cost-sharing, multiple-employer plan. This plan provides retirement benefits, including postretirement healthcare, and survivor and disability benefits to participants as the Ohio Revised Code prescribes.

The Ohio Revised Code also prescribes contribution rates. For 2006 and 2005, OPERS members contributed 9.0 percent and 8.5 percent of their gross salaries, respectively. The District contributed an amount equal to 13.70 percent and 13.55 percent of participants' gross salaries for 2006 and 2005, respectively. The District has paid all contributions required through December 31, 2006.

**TRI-COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY
HARRISON COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
DECEMBER 31, 2006 AND 2005
(Continued)**

6. RISK MANAGEMENT

Commercial Insurance

The District has obtained commercial insurance for the following risks:

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



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*

Tri-County Water Authority
Harrison County
P.O. Box 26
Harrisville, OH 43974

To the Board of Trustees:

We have audited the financial statements of the Tri-County Water Authority, Harrison County, (the Authority) as of and for the years ended December 31, 2006 and 2005, and have issued our report thereon dated November 26, 2007, wherein we noted the Authority 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 Authority's internal control over financial reporting as a basis for designing our audit procedures for expressing our opinion on the financial statements, but not to opine on the effectiveness of the Authority's internal control over financial reporting. Accordingly, we have not opined on the effectiveness of the Authority's internal control over financial reporting.

A control deficiency exists when the design or operation of a control does not allow management or employees, in performing their assigned functions, to prevent or detect misstatements on a timely basis. A significant deficiency is a control deficiency, or combination of control deficiencies, that adversely affects the Authority's ability to initiate, authorize, record, process, or report financial data reliably in accordance with its applicable accounting basis, such that there is more than a remote likelihood that the Government's internal control will not prevent or detect a more-than-inconsequential financial statement misstatement.

A material weakness is a significant deficiency, or combination of significant deficiencies resulting in more than a remote likelihood that the Authority's internal control will not prevent or detect a material financial statement misstatement.

Our consideration of internal control over financial reporting was for the limited purpose described in the first paragraph of this section and would not necessarily identify all internal control deficiencies that might be significant deficiencies or material weaknesses. We did not identify any deficiencies in internal control over financial reporting that we consider material weaknesses, as defined above.

Compliance and Other Matters

As part of reasonably assuring whether the Authority'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 an instance of noncompliance or other matters that we must report under *Government Auditing Standards* which is described in the accompanying schedule of findings numbers as item 2006-001.

We also noted certain noncompliance or other matters not requiring inclusion in this report that we reported to the Authority's management in a separate letter dated November 26, 2007.

We intend this report solely for the information and use of management and the Board of Trustees. 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

November 26, 2007

**TRI-COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY
HARRISON COUNTY**

**SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS
DECEMBER 31, 2006 AND 2005**

FINDINGS RELATED TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS REQUIRED TO BE REPORTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH GAGAS
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FINDING NUMBER 2006-001

Noncompliance Citation

Ohio Revised Code Section 5705.41(D) provides 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 that the amount required to meet the obligation has been lawfully appropriated for such purpose and is in the treasury or in the process of collection to the credit of an appropriate fund free from any previous encumbrances. 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 no certificate is furnished as required, upon receipt of the fiscal officer's certificate that a sufficient sum was, both at the time of the contract or order and at the time of the certificate, appropriated and free of any previous encumbrances, the Authority may authorize the issuance of a warrant in payment of the amount due upon such contract or order by resolution within 30 days from the receipt of such certificate, if such expenditure is otherwise.

If the amount involved is less than \$3,000 the fiscal officer may authorize payment through a Then and Now Certificate without affirmation of the Board of Trustees if such expenditure is otherwise valid.

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 Authority may also make expenditures and contracts for any amount from a specific line item appropriation 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 extent beyond the current year. More than one super blanket may be outstanding a particular time for any line item appropriation.

The Authority did not properly certify or record the amount against the applicable appropriation accounts for 34% of tested expenditures in 2005 and 24% of the tested expenditures in 2006. The Authority did not utilize the certification exceptions described above for those expenditures lacking prior certification.

Failure to certify the availability of funds and encumber appropriations could result in overspending and in negative cash balances. 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 Village's funds exceeding budgetary spending limitations, the Fiscal Officer should certify that the funds are or will be available prior to obligation by the Township. When prior certification is not possible, "then and now" certification should be used.

The Authority should certify purchases to which section Ohio Revised Code § 5705.41(D) applies. The most convenient certification method is to use purchase orders that include the certification language which Ohio Revised Code § 5705.41(D) requires to authorize disbursements. The fiscal officer should sign the certification at the time the Authority incurs a commitment, and only when the requirements of Ohio Revised Code § 5705.41(D) are satisfied. The fiscal officer should post approved purchase commitments to the proper appropriation code, to reduce the available appropriation.

Officials' Response

We did not receive a response from Officials to this finding.

**TRI-COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY
HARRISON COUNTY**

**SCHEDULE OF PRIOR AUDIT FINDINGS
DECEMBER 31, 2006 AND 2005**

Finding Number	Finding Summary	Fully Corrected?	Not Corrected, Partially Corrected; Significantly Different Corrective Action Taken; or Finding No Longer Valid; <i>Explain</i>
2004-001	ORC § 5705.41(D)	No	Re-issued as finding 2006-001



Mary Taylor, CPA
Auditor of State

TRI COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY

HARRISON 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
JANUARY 17, 2008**