



Dave Yost • Auditor of State

**WIGHTMAN'S GROVE CONSERVANCY DISTRICT
SANDUSKY COUNTY**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

TITLE	PAGE
Independent Auditor's Report	1
Statement of Receipts, Disbursements, and Changes in Fund Balance (Cash Basis) - For the Years Ended December 31, 2014 and 2013.....	3
Notes to the Financial Statements	5
Independent Auditor's Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting and on Compliance and Other Matters Required by <i>Government Auditing Standards</i>	9
Schedule of Findings	11

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Dave Yost • Auditor of State

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

Wightman's Grove Conservancy District
Sandusky County
2248 East State Street
Fremont, Ohio 43420-8694

To the Board of Trustees:

Report on the Financial Statements

We have audited the accompanying financial statements and related notes of Wightman's Grove Conservancy District, Sandusky County, Ohio (the District) as of and for the years ended December 31, 2014 and 2013.

Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for preparing and fairly presenting these financial statements in accordance with the financial reporting provisions Ohio Revised Code Section 117.38 and Ohio Administrative Code Section 117-2-03(D) permit; this responsibility includes designing, implementing and maintaining internal control relevant to preparing and fairly presenting financial statements free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to opine on these financial statements based on our audit. We audited in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the financial audit standards in the Comptroller General of the United States' *Government Auditing Standards*. Those standards require us to plan and perform the audit to reasonably assure the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit requires obtaining evidence about financial statement amounts and disclosures. The procedures selected depend on our judgment, including assessing the risks of material financial statement misstatement, whether due to fraud or error. In assessing those risks, we consider internal control relevant to the District's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not to the extent needed to opine on the effectiveness of the District's internal control. Accordingly, we express no opinion. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of management's accounting policies and the reasonableness of their significant accounting estimates, as well as our evaluation of the overall financial statement presentation.

We believe the audit evidence we obtained is sufficient and appropriate to support our audit opinion.

Basis for Adverse Opinion on U.S. Generally Accepted Accounting Principles

As described in Note 1 of the financial statements, the District prepared these financial statements using the accounting basis permitted by the financial reporting provisions of Ohio Revised Code Section 117.38

and Ohio Administrative Code Section 117-2-03(D), which is an accounting basis other than accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAP), to satisfy these requirements.

Although the effects on the financial statements of the variances between the regulatory accounting basis and GAAP are not reasonably determinable, we presume they are material.

Though the District does not intend these statements to conform to GAAP, auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America require us to include an adverse opinion on GAAP. However, the adverse opinion does not imply the amounts reported are materially misstated under the accounting basis Ohio Revised Code Section 117.38 and Ohio Administrative Code Section 117-2-03(D) permit. Our opinion on this accounting basis is in the *Opinion on Regulatory Basis of Accounting* paragraph below.

Adverse Opinion on U.S. Generally Accepted Accounting Principles

In our opinion, because of the significance of the matter discussed in the *Basis for Adverse Opinion on U.S. Generally Accepted Accounting Principles* paragraph, the financial statements referred to above do not present fairly, in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, the financial position of the District as of December 31, 2014 and 2013, or changes in financial position thereof for the years then ended.

Opinion on Regulatory Basis of Accounting

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the cash balances of Wightman's Grove Conservancy District, Sandusky County, Ohio as of December 31, 2014 and 2013, and its cash receipts and disbursements for the years then ended in accordance with the financial reporting provisions Ohio Revised Code Section 117.38 and Ohio Administrative Code Section 117-2-03(D) permit, described in Note 2.

Other Reporting Required by Government Auditing Standards

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated August 19, 2015, on our consideration of the District's internal control over financial reporting and our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations and other matters. That report describes the scope of our internal control testing over financial reporting and compliance, and the results of that testing, and does not opine on internal control over financial reporting or on compliance. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the District's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.



Dave Yost
Auditor of State

Columbus, Ohio

August 19, 2015

**WIGHTMAN'S GROVE CONSERVANCY DISTRICT
SANDUSKY COUNTY**

**STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS, DISBURSEMENTS, AND
CHANGES IN FUND BALANCE (CASH BASIS)
FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2014 AND 2013**

	2014	2013
Cash Receipts:		
Special Assessment	\$10,538	\$10,066
Earnings on Investments	3	1
<i>Total Cash Receipts</i>	10,541	10,067
Cash Disbursements:		
Current Disbursements:		
Conservation:		
Supplies and Materials		88
Other	237	100
<i>Total Cash Disbursements</i>	237	188
<i>Net Change in Fund Cash Balance</i>	10,304	9,879
<i>Fund Cash Balance, January 1</i>	9,879	
Fund Cash Balance, December 31		
Unassigned	20,183	9,879
<i>Fund Cash Balance, December 31</i>	\$20,183	\$9,879

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

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**WIGHTMAN'S GROVE CONSERVANCY DISTRICT
SANDUSKY COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
DECEMBER 31, 2014 AND 2013**

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 Wightman's Grove Conservancy District, Sandusky County, Ohio (the District) as a body corporate and politic. A three member Board of Directors directs the District. The Common Pleas Court of Sandusky County appoints the members. The District provides conservation and flood control to Wightman's Grove.

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

B. Accounting Basis

These financial statements follow the accounting basis permitted by the financial reporting provisions of Ohio Revised Code Section 117.38 and Ohio Administrative Code Section 117-2-03(D). This basis is similar to the cash receipts and disbursements accounting basis. The Board 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 financial reporting provisions of Ohio Revised Code Section 117.38 and Ohio Administrative Code Section 117-2-03(D) permit.

C. Budgetary Process

The Ohio Revised Code requires the Board 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.

3. Encumbrances

The Ohio Revised Code requires the District to reserve (encumber) appropriations when commitments are made. The District did not use the encumbrance method of accounting.

**WIGHTMAN'S GROVE CONSERVANCY DISTRICT
SANDUSKY COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
DECEMBER 31, 2014 AND 2013
(Continued)**

A summary of 2014 and 2013 budgetary activity appears in Note 3.

D. Fund Balance

Fund balance is divided into five classifications based primarily on the extent to which the District must observe constraints imposed upon the use of its governmental-fund resources. The classifications are as follows:

1. Nonspendable

The District classifies assets as *nonspendable* when legally or contractually required to maintain the amounts intact.

2. Restricted

Fund balance is *restricted* when constraints placed on the use of resources are either externally imposed by creditors (such as through debt covenants), grantors, contributors, or laws or regulations of other governments; or is imposed by law through constitutional provisions.

3. Committed

The Board can *commit* amounts via formal action (resolution). The District must adhere to these commitments unless the Board amend the resolution. Committed fund balance also incorporates contractual obligations to the extent that existing resources in the fund have been specifically committed to satisfy contractual requirements.

4. Assigned

Assigned fund balances are intended for specific purposes but do not meet the criteria to be classified as *restricted* or *committed*. Governmental funds other than the general fund report all fund balances as *assigned* unless they are restricted or committed. In the general fund, *assigned* amounts represent intended uses established by the Board or a District official delegated that authority by resolution, or by State Statute.

5. Unassigned

Unassigned fund balance is the residual classification for the general fund and includes amounts not included in the other classifications. In other governmental funds, the unassigned classification is used only to report a deficit balance.

The District applies restricted resources first when expenditures are incurred for purposes for which either restricted or unrestricted (committed, assigned, and unassigned) amounts are available. Similarly, within unrestricted fund balance, committed amounts are reduced first followed by assigned, and then unassigned amounts when expenditures are incurred for purposes for which amounts in any of the unrestricted fund balance classifications could be used.

**WIGHTMAN'S GROVE CONSERVANCY DISTRICT
SANDUSKY COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
DECEMBER 31, 2014 AND 2013
(Continued)**

E. Property, Plant, and Equipment

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

2. Equity in Deposits

The Ohio Revised Code prescribes allowable deposits and investments. The carrying amount of deposits at December 31 was as follows:

	2014	2013
Demand deposits	\$20,183	\$9,879

Deposits: Deposits are insured by the Federal Depository Insurance Corporation.

3. BUDGETARY ACTIVITY

Budgetary activity for the years ending December 31, 2014 and 2013 follows:

2014 Budgeted vs. Actual Receipts		
Budgeted Receipts	Actual Receipts	Variance
	\$10,541	\$10,541

2014 Budgeted vs. Actual Budgetary Basis Expenditures		
Appropriation Authority	Budgetary Expenditures	Variance
	\$237	(\$237)

2013 Budgeted vs. Actual Receipts		
Budgeted Receipts	Actual Receipts	Variance
	\$10,067	\$10,067

2013 Budgeted vs. Actual Budgetary Basis Expenditures		
Appropriation Authority	Budgetary Expenditures	Variance
	\$188	(\$188)

Contrary to Ohio law, the District did not approve an operating budget, appropriations or certify availability of funds during 2014 and 2013.

**WIGHTMAN'S GROVE CONSERVANCY DISTRICT
SANDUSKY COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
DECEMBER 31, 2014 AND 2013
(Continued)**

4. Risk Management

The District has not obtained insurance and is uninsured for all risks.



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

Wightman's Grove Conservancy District
Sandusky County
2248 East State Street
Fremont, Ohio 43420-8694

To the Board of Trustees:

We have audited in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States and the Comptroller General of the United States' *Government Auditing Standards*, the financial statements of Wightman's Grove Conservancy District, Sandusky County, Ohio, (the District) as of and for the years ended December 31, 2014 and 2013, and the related notes to the financial statements and have issued our report thereon dated August 19, 2015 wherein we noted the District followed financial reporting provisions Ohio Revised Code Section 117.38 and Ohio Administrative Code Section 117-2-03(D) permit.

Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

As part of our financial statement audit, we considered the District's internal control over financial reporting (internal control) to determine the audit procedures appropriate in the circumstances to the extent necessary to support our opinion on the financial statements, but not to the extent necessary to opine on the effectiveness of the District's internal control. Accordingly, we have not opined on it.

Our consideration of internal control was for the limited purpose described in the preceding paragraph and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control that might be material weaknesses or significant deficiencies. Therefore, unidentified material weaknesses or significant deficiencies may exist. 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 internal control deficiencies resulting in a reasonable possibility that internal control will not prevent or detect and timely correct a material misstatement of the District's financial statements. 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. We consider finding 2014-002 described in the accompanying schedule of findings to be a material weakness.

Compliance and Other Matters

As part of reasonably assuring whether the District's financial statements are free of material misstatement, we tested its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, noncompliance with which could directly and materially affect the determination of financial statement amounts. However,

opining 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 we must report under *Government Auditing Standards*, which is described in the accompanying schedule of findings as item 2014-001.

Entity's Response to Findings

The District's response to the findings identified in our audit is described in the accompanying schedule of findings. We did not audit the District's response and, accordingly, we express no opinion on it.

Purpose of this Report

This report only describes the scope of our internal control and compliance testing and our testing results, and does not opine on the effectiveness of the District's internal control or on compliance. This report is an integral part of an audit performed under *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the District's internal control and compliance. Accordingly, this communication is not suitable for any other purpose.



Dave Yost
Auditor of State

Columbus, Ohio

August 19, 2015

**WIGHTMAN'S GROVE CONSERVANCY DISTRICT
SANDUSKY COUNTY**

**SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS
DECEMBER 31, 2014 AND 2013**

FINDINGS RELATED TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS REQUIRED TO BE REPORTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH GAGAS
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FINDING NUMBER 2014-001

Noncompliance Citation

Ohio Rev. Code § 6101.44 provides, in part, no money shall be drawn from the treasury of the district, and no obligation for the expenditure of money shall be incurred, except in pursuance of an appropriation by the board.

At or before the opening of each fiscal year, which shall correspond to the calendar year unless a different year is authorized by the auditor of state, the board shall adopt a resolution making appropriations for the ensuing year. The appropriation resolution may be amended or supplemented by the board. The total amount appropriated from any fund for any year shall not exceed the sum of the unencumbered balance in the fund at the beginning of the year and the amounts to be received during the year from bonds authorized, and special assessments imposed prior to their appropriation, together with all other moneys estimated to be received by the fund during the year. At the close of each fiscal year, all unencumbered balances of appropriations shall revert to the funds from which they were made and shall be subject to reappropriation.

No contract shall be entered into, and no order shall be issued, involving the expenditure of money unless the accounting officer of the district first certifies that the amount required to meet the expenditures or, in the case of a continuing contract to be performed in whole or in part in a subsequent fiscal year, the amount required to meet the contract in the year in which the contract is made has been lawfully appropriated for the purpose and is in the treasury or in process of collection to the credit of an appropriate fund free from previous encumbrances. Accounts shall be kept in such form as to show at all times the true condition of each appropriation.

Also, **Ohio Rev. Code § 5705.28(B)(2)** provides (a) 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.

(b) Except for this section and sections 5705.36, .38, .40, .41, .43, .44 and .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.

Ohio Admin. Code § 117-2-02(C)(1) provides all local public offices should integrate the budgetary accounts, at the legal level of control or lower, into the financial accounting system. This means designing an accounting system to provide ongoing and timely information on unrealized budgetary receipts and remaining uncommitted appropriation balances.

The District did not adopt appropriations, approve an operating budget or certify the availability of funds during 2014 and 2013. As a result, none of the expenditures made in 2014 and 2013 were properly appropriated as required by **Ohio Rev. Code § 5705.41(B)** nor certified as required by **Ohio Rev. Code § 6101.44**. The District only operates a using a checkbook, which does not integrate budgetary information, contrary to **Ohio Admin. Code § 117-2-02(C)(1)**.

These errors were the result of inadequate policies and procedures in reviewing and approving budgetary information, and an inadequate accounting system. Failure to approve and monitor the budget could lead to the Board making misinformed decisions. We recommend the Board adopt an operating budget and approve appropriations as required by law. These approvals should be documented in the minutes. We further recommend the Fiscal Officer certify the availability of funds as required by law and the District integrate budgetary information into their accounting system. This budgetary information should then be periodically reviewed and approved by the Board.

FINDING NUMBER 2014-002

Material Weakness

Financial Reporting

The District's management is responsible for the fair presentation of the financial statements. In addition, GASB Statement No. 54 requires fund balance be divided into one of five classifications based on the extent to which constraints are imposed upon the resources. Errors were noted in the financial statements resulting in audit adjustments such as the following:

- General fund balance was not classified as unassigned pursuant to GASB 54 (2014 - \$20,183 and 2013 - \$9,879); and
- Special Assessments were posted at net understating 2014 revenues and expenditures by \$37.

These errors are a result of inadequate policies and procedures over reviewing the financial statements. The accompanying financial statements have been adjusted to correct these errors.

To ensure the District's financial statements and notes to the statements are complete and accurate, the District should adopt policies and procedures, including a final review of the annual report by the Treasurer and the Board to identify and correct errors, omissions, and misclassifications. The District should also review AoS Bulletin 2011-004 for guidance on GASB Statement No. 54 requirements.

Officials' Response:

The District's budget is contingent on a needs review by the Army Corps of Engineers (ACE). The obligations and the associated expenses for property, plant, equipment and maintenance thereof required by the District must first be reviewed and approved by ACE. The District is presently completing the applications to ACE and expects a final review before the end of 2015. At that time, budgeting for pumps, gates, dike maintenance/upgrades will be more accurately prepared.



Dave Yost • Auditor of State

WIGHTMAN'S GROVE CONSERVANCY DISTRICT

SANDUSKY 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
SEPTEMBER 1, 2015**