



PERRY

& Associates CPAs

PASSION *Beyond the Numbers*

**EASTERN OHIO REGIONAL WASTEWATER AUTHORITY
BELMONT COUNTY
AGREED-UPON PROCEDURES
FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2022 - 2021**

OHIO AUDITOR OF STATE
KEITH FABER



88 East Broad Street
Columbus, Ohio 43215
IPAReport@ohioauditor.gov
(800) 282-0370

Board of Trustees
Eastern Ohio Regional Wastewater Authority
P.O. Box 508
Bridgeport, Ohio 43912

We have reviewed the *Independent Accountants' Report on Applying Agreed-Upon Procedures* of the Eastern Ohio Regional Wastewater Authority, Belmont County, prepared by Perry & Associates, Certified Public Accountants, A.C., for the period January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2022. Based upon this review, we have accepted this report in lieu of the audit required by Section 117.11, Revised Code.

Our review was made in reference to the applicable sections of legislative criteria, as reflected by the Ohio Constitution, and the Revised Code, policies, procedures and guidelines of the Auditor of State, regulations and grant requirements. The Eastern Ohio Regional Wastewater Authority is responsible for compliance with these laws and regulations.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Keith Faber".

Keith Faber
Auditor of State
Columbus, Ohio

October 06, 2023

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EASTERN OHIO REGIONAL WASTEWATER AUTHORITY
BELMONT COUNTY

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INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANT'S REPORT ON APPLYING AGREED-UPON PROCEDURES

Eastern Ohio Regional Wastewater Authority
Belmont County
P.O. Box 508
Bridgeport, Ohio 43912

We have performed the procedures enumerated below on the Eastern Ohio Regional Wastewater Authority's (the Authority) receipts, disbursements and balances recorded in the cash basis accounting records for the years ended December 31, 2022 and 2021, and certain compliance requirements related to those transactions and balances, included in the information provided to us by the management of the Authority. The Authority is responsible for the receipts, disbursements and balances recorded in the cash basis accounting records for the years ended December 31, 2022 and 2021 and certain compliance requirements related to these transactions and balances included in the information provided to us by the Authority.

The Board of Trustees and the management of the Authority have agreed to and acknowledged that the procedures performed are appropriate to meet the intended purpose of providing assistance in the evaluation of the Authority's receipts, disbursements and balances recorded in their cash-basis accounting records for the years ended December 31, 2022 and 2021, and certain compliance requirements related to these transactions and balances. Additionally, the Auditor of State has agreed to and acknowledged that the procedures performed are appropriate to meet their purposes. No other party acknowledged the appropriateness of the procedures. This report may not be suitable for any other purpose. The procedures performed may not address all the items of interest to a user of the report and may not meet the needs of all users of the report and, as such, users are responsible for determining whether the procedures performed are appropriate for their purposes. The sufficiency of the procedures is solely the responsibility of the parties specified in the report. Consequently, we make no representation regarding the sufficiency of the procedures described below either for the purpose for which this report has been requested or for any other purpose.

For the purposes of performing these procedures, this report only describes exceptions exceeding \$10.

The procedures and the associated findings are as follows:

Cash and Investments

1. We recalculated the December 31, 2022 and December 31, 2021 bank reconciliations. We found no exceptions.
2. We agreed the January 1, 2021 beginning fund balance recorded in the Authority's Trial Balance to the December 31, 2020 balance in the prior year documentation in the prior year Agreed-Upon Procedures working papers. We found no exceptions. We also agreed the January 1, 2022 beginning fund balance recorded in the Authority's Trial Balance to the December 31, 2021 balance in the Balance Sheet Audit Trail. We found no exceptions.
3. We agreed the 2022 and 2021 bank reconciliation and the Adjusted Bank Balances as of December 31, 2022 and 2021 to the total fund cash balances reported in the Balance Sheet Audit Trail and the financial statements filed by the Authority in the Hinkle System. In 2022, we noted a \$348 variance between the Balance Sheet Audit Trail and the financial statements and a \$2,731 variance between the Adjusted Bank Balances and the financial statements. This variance is primarily due to payroll and payroll withholding timing. No other exceptions noted.

Cash and Investments (Continued)

4. We observed the December 31, 2022 year-end bank balances on the financial institutions' websites. The balances agreed. We also agreed the confirmed balances to the amounts appearing in the December 31, 2022 bank reconciliation without exception.
5. We selected five reconciling debits (such as outstanding checks) from the December 31, 2022 bank reconciliation:
 - a. We traced each debit to the subsequent January bank statement. We found no exceptions.
 - b. We traced the amounts and dates to the check register, to determine the debits were dated prior to December 31. There were no exceptions.
6. We inspected investments held at December 31, 2022 and December 31, 2021 to determine that they were of a type authorized by Ohio Rev. Code Section 6119.16. We found no exceptions.

Charges for Services

1. We selected 10 sewer collection cash receipts from the year ended December 31, 2022 and 10 sewer collection cash receipts from the year ended 2021 recorded in the U/B Cycle Receipts Journal and:
 - a. Agreed the receipt amount per the U/B Cycle Receipts Journal to the amount recorded to the customer's account in the Billing Journal. The amounts agreed.
 - b. Amount charged for the related billing period:
 - i. Agreed with the debit to accounts receivable in the Billing Journal for the billing period. We found no exceptions.
 - ii. Complied with rates in force during the audit period multiplied by the consumption amount recorded for the billing period. We found no exceptions.
 - c. Receipt was posted to the proper fund, and was recorded in the year received. We found no exceptions.
2. We inspected the U/B Aged Trial Balance Reports.
 - a. This report listed \$3,296,789 and \$3,267,385 of accounts receivable as of December 31, 2022 and 2021, respectively.
 - b. Of the total receivables reported in procedure 2a, \$2,913,785 and \$2,881,183 were recorded as more than 90 days delinquent as of December 31, 2022 and 2021, respectively.
3. We inspected the U/B Adjustment Journal.
 - a. This report listed a total of \$807,932 and \$1,154,490 non-cash receipts adjustments for the years ended December 31, 2022 and 2021, respectively.
 - b. We selected five non-cash adjustments from 2022 and five non-cash adjustments from 2021, and noted that the Board of Trustees approved each adjustment.

Debt

1. From the prior agreed upon procedures documentation, we observed the following bond and loans were outstanding as of December 31, 2020.
 - a. These amounts agreed to the Authority's January 1, 2021 balances on the summary we used in procedure 3.
 - b. We inspected the debt's final offering documents for all outstanding debt, and we confirmed the Authority does not have any debt covenants.

Debt (Continued)

Issue	Principal outstanding as of December 31, 2020:
Series 2013 Bond	\$ 2,285,000
OWDA Loan 7449	\$ 2,369,461
OWDA Loan 7852	\$ 5,282,518

2. We inquired of management and inspected the Revenue Audit Trail Report and the Expense Audit Trail Report for evidence of debt issued during 2022 or 2021 or debt payment activity during 2022 or 2021. All debt agreed to the summary we used in procedure 3.
3. We obtained a summary of bond and loans debt activity for 2022 and 2021 and agreed principal and interest payments from the related debt amortization schedules to Enterprise Fund payments reported in the Expense Audit Trail Report. We also compared the date the debt service payments were due to the date the Authority made the payments. We found no exceptions.

Payroll Cash Disbursements

1. We selected one payroll check for five employees from 2022 and one payroll check for five employees from 2021 from the Current Period Register Report and:
 - a. We compared the hours and pay rate, or salary recorded in the Current Period Register Report to supporting documentation (timecard, legislatively or statutorily-approved rate or salary). We found no exceptions.
 - b. We inspected the fund and account code to which the check was posted to determine the posting was allowable based on the employees' duties as documented in the employees' personnel files. We found no exceptions.
 - c. We confirmed the payment was posted to the proper year. We found no exceptions.
2. We selected all new employees from 2022 and three new employees from 2021 and:
 - a. We inspected the employees' personnel files for the Retirement system, Federal, State & Local income tax withholding authorization.
 - b. We agreed the items in a above to the respective withholding remittance reports. We found no exceptions.
3. We inspected the last remittance of tax and retirement withholdings for the year ended December 31, 2022 to confirm remittances were timely paid, and if the amounts paid agreed to the amounts withheld, plus the employer's share where applicable, during the final withholding period during 2022. We observed the following:

Withholding (plus employer share, where applicable)	Date Due	Date Paid	Amount Due	Amount Paid
Federal income taxes & Medicare (and social security, for employees not enrolled in pension system)	January 31, 2023	December 20, 2022	\$ 7,497.53	\$ 7,497.53
State income taxes	January 15, 2023	December 23, 2022	\$ 2,376.78	\$ 2,376.78
Local Income Tax	January 15, 2023	December 23, 2022	\$ 991.13	\$ 991.13
OPERS retirement	January 30, 2023	January 4, 2023	\$ 30,120.39	\$ 30,120.39

We found no exceptions.

Non-Payroll Cash Disbursements

1. We selected 10 disbursements from the Expense Audit Trail for the year ended December 31, 2022 and 10 from the year ended 2021 and determined whether:
 - a. The disbursements were for a proper public purpose. We found no exceptions.
 - b. The check number, date, payee name and amount recorded on the returned, canceled check agreed to the check number, date, payee name and amount recorded in the Expense Audit Trail and to the names and amounts on the supporting invoices. We found no exceptions.

Compliance - Budgetary

1. Ohio Rev. Code § 5705.41(B) prohibits expenditures (disbursements plus certified commitments) from exceeding appropriations. We compared total expenditures to total approved appropriations (Ohio Rev. Code §§ 5705.38 and 5705.40) plus any carryover appropriations for the years ended December 31, 2022 and 2021. Expenditures did not exceed appropriations.
2. We inspected the Balance Sheet Audit Trail for the years ended December 31, 2022 and 2021 for negative cash fund balance. Ohio Rev. Code § 5705.10 (I) provides that money paid into a fund must be used for the purposes for which such fund is established. As a result, a negative fund cash balance indicates that money from one fund was used to cover the expenses of another. There were no funds having negative cash fund balances.

Sunshine Law Compliance

1. We obtained and inspected the Authority's Public Records Policy to determine the policy was in accordance with Ohio Rev. Code §§ 149.43(E)(2) and 149.43(B)(7)(c) and did not limit the number of responses that may be made to a particular person, limit the number of responses during a specified period of time, or establish a fixed period of time before it will respond unless that period is less than eight hours. We found no exceptions.
2. We selected all public records requests from the engagement period and inspected each request to determine the following:
 - a. The Authority was compliant and responded to the request in accordance with their adopted policy as required by Ohio Rev. Code § 149.43(B)(1). We found no exceptions.
 - b. The Authority did not have any denied public records requests during the engagement period.
 - c. The Authority did not have any public records requests with redactions during the engagement period.
3. We inquired whether the Authority had a records retention schedule and observed that it was readily available to the public as required by Ohio Rev. Code § 149.43(B)(2). We found no exceptions.
4. We inspected written evidence that the Public Records Policy was provided to the records custodian/manager as required by Ohio Rev. Code § 149.43(E)(2). We found no exceptions.
5. We inquired with Authority management and determined that the Authority did not have a policy manual during the engagement period therefore the public records policy could not be included as required by Ohio Rev. Code § 149.43(E)(2).
6. We observed that the Authority's poster describing their Public Records Policy was displayed conspicuously in all branches of the Authority as required by Ohio Rev. Code § 149.43(E)(2). We found no exceptions.

Sunshine Law Compliance (Continued)

7. We inquired with Authority management and determined that the Authority did not have any applications for record disposal submitted to the Records Commission during the engagement period.
7. We inquired with Authority management and determined that the Authority did not have any elected officials subject to the Public Records Training requirements during the engagement period as required by Ohio Rev. Code §§ 149.43(E)(1) and 109.43(B).
9. We inspected the public notices for the public meetings held during the engagement period and determined the Authority notified the general public and news media of when and where meetings during the engagement period were to be held as required by Ohio Rev. Code § 121.22(F). We found no exceptions.
10. We inspected the minutes of public meetings during the engagement period in accordance with Ohio Rev. Code § 121.22(C) and determined whether they were:
 - a. Prepared – a file is created following the date of the meeting
 - b. Filed – placed with similar documents in an organized manner
 - c. Maintained - retained, at a minimum, for the engagement period
 - d. Open to public inspection – available for public viewing or request.We found no exceptions.
11. We inspected the minutes from the engagement period in accordance with Ohio Rev. Code § 121.22(G) and determined the following:
 - a. Executive sessions were only held at regular or special meetings.
 - b. The purpose for the meetings and going into an executive session (when applicable) correlated with one of the matters listed in Ohio Rev. Code § 121.22(G).
 - c. Formal governing board actions were adopted in open meetings.We found no exceptions.

Other Compliance

1. Ohio Rev. Code § 117.38 requires Authority's to file their financial information in the HINKLE system within 60 days after the close of the fiscal year. This statute also permits the Auditor of State to extend the deadline for filing a financial report and establish terms and conditions for any such extension. Auditor of State established policies, regarding the filing of complete financial statements, as defined in AOS Bulletin 2015-007 in the Hinkle System. We confirmed the Authority filed their complete financial statements, as defined by AOS Bulletin 2015-007 and Auditor of State established policy, within the allotted timeframe for the years ended December 31, 2022 and 2021 in the Hinkle system. We found no exceptions.

We were engaged by the Authority to perform this agreed-upon procedures engagement and conducted our engagement in accordance with the attestation standards established by the AICPA and the Comptroller General of the United States' *Government Auditing Standards*. We were not engaged to, and did not conduct an examination or review engagement, the objective of which would be the expression of an opinion or conclusion, respectively, on the Authority's receipts, disbursements, balances and compliance with certain laws and regulations. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion or conclusion. Had we performed additional procedures, other matters might have come to our attention that would have been reported to you.

We are required to be independent of the Authority and to meet our ethical responsibilities, in accordance with the ethical requirements established by the Comptroller General of the United States' *Government Auditing Standards* related to our agreed upon procedures engagement.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Perry & Associates CPAs A.C.".

Perry and Associates
Certified Public Accountants, A.C.
Marietta, Ohio

August 31, 2023

OHIO AUDITOR OF STATE KEITH FABER



EASTERN OHIO REGIONAL WASTEWATER AUTHORITY

BELMONT COUNTY

AUDITOR OF STATE OF OHIO CERTIFICATION

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



Certified for Release 10/19/2023

88 East Broad Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215
Phone: 614-466-4514 or 800-282-0370

This report is a matter of public record and is available online at
www.ohioauditor.gov