



OHIO AUDITOR OF STATE
KEITH FABER



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

INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANT'S REPORT ON APPLYING AGREED-UPON PROCEDURES

Marion County Soil and Water Conservation District
Marion County
1100 East Center Street
Marion, Ohio 43302

We have performed the procedures enumerated below on the Marion County Soil and Water Conservation District's (the District) 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 District. The District 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 District.

The Board of Supervisors and the management of the District have agreed to and acknowledged that the procedures performed are appropriate to meet the intended purpose of providing assistance in the evaluation of the District'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. 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 balances for each fund recorded in the District's Income Statement to the December 31, 2020 balances in the prior year Basic Audit work papers. We also agreed the January 1, 2022 beginning fund balances for each fund recorded in the District's Income Statement to the December 31, 2021 balances in the District's Income Statement and Marion County Fund History Report. We found no exceptions.

3. We agreed the 2022 and 2021 bank reconciliation as of December 31, 2022 and 2021 to the total fund cash balances reported in the District's Income Statement and Marion County Fund History Report and the financial statements filed by the District in the Hinkle System. However, the Fund Cash Balances, January 1 on the District's 2021 Combined Statement of Receipts, Disbursements and Changes in Fund Balances filed with the Hinkle System excludes the Cash on Hand causing Fund Cash Balances, December 31 to be understated by \$140. The Fund Cash Balances, January 1 on the District's 2022 Combined Statement of Receipts, Disbursements and Changes in Fund Balances filed with the Hinkle system excludes the Cash on Hand and the District's Certificates of Deposits, causing Fund Cash Balances, December 31 to be understated by \$5,640.
4. We observed the December 31 balances for the District Fund, Savings Fund, H2Ohio Employee Grant Fund, H2Ohio Cost Share Fund, Sweeny Goose Donation Fund, and SB 299 Fund, on the financial institution's website. We also agreed the confirmed balances to the amounts appearing in the December 31, 2022 bank reconciliation. We found no exceptions.
5. We compared the December 31, 2022 Special Fund depository balance from the *Cash Basis Annual Financial Report* to the amount reported in the Marion County Fund History Report. We found no exceptions.
6. We inspected investments held at December 31, 2022 and December 31, 2021 to determine that they:
 - a. Were of a type authorized by Ohio Rev. Code §§ 135.13, 135.14, 135.144, or 135.145. We found no exceptions.
 - b. Mature within the prescribed time limits noted in Ohio Rev. Code § 135.13 or 135.14. We found no exceptions.

Intergovernmental and Other Confirmable Cash Receipts

1. We selected a total of five receipts from the *Statement of Semiannual Apportionment of Taxes*, the State Distribution Transaction Lists (DTL) and the Marion County Auditor's Expenditure History Vendor Report from 2022 and a total of five from 2021:
 - a. We compared the amounts from the above-named reports to the amount recorded in the District's Revenue Ledgers. The amounts agreed.
 - b. We inspected the District's Revenue Ledgers to determine these receipts were allocated to the proper funds. We found no exceptions.
 - c. We inspected the District's Revenue Ledgers to determine whether the receipt was recorded in the proper year. The receipt was recorded in the proper year. We found no exceptions.

Payroll Cash Disbursements

1. We selected one payroll check for each employee from 2022 and one payroll check for each employee from 2021 from the Marion County Gross Earnings Report and:
 - a. We compared the hours and pay rate, or salary recorded in the Marion County Gross Earnings Report to supporting documentation (timecard, legislatively or statutorily approved rate or salary. We found no exceptions.
 - b. We inspected the Marion County Gross Earnings Report to determine whether salaries and benefits were paid only from the *Special Fund*, as required by the SWCD Administrative Handbook Chapter 5. We found no exceptions.
 - c. We inspected the Marion County Gross Earnings Report to determine whether the check was classified as *salaries* and was posted to the proper year. We found no exceptions.

Non-Payroll Cash Disbursements

1. We selected five disbursements from the District Fund and other funds from the Expenditure Ledger for the year ended December 31, 2022 and five from the District Fund and other funds for the year ended 2021 and determine 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 agree to the similar data recorded in the Expenditure Ledger and to the names and amounts on the supporting invoices. We found no exceptions.
 - c. The payment was posted to a fund consistent with the purpose for which the fund's cash can be used. We found no exceptions.

Special Fund Budgetary Compliance

1. We inspected the District's Special Fund Budget Request submitted to the County Commissioners for the years ended December 31, 2022, and 2021. We also compared the budget amounts to the Special Fund Budgetary Activity footnote of the Cash Basis Annual Financial Report. The amounts agreed.
2. Ohio Rev. Code § 5705.41(B) prohibits expenditures (disbursements plus year-end 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 year ended December 31, 2022, and 2021 for the "Special" Fund. Expenditures did not exceed appropriations for the Special Fund.
3. We inspected the Annual Cash Basis Financial Report for the years ended December 31, 2022, and 2021 for negative cash fund balances. 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 fund cash balances.

Sunshine Law Compliance

1. We obtained and inspected the District'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 inquired with Village management and determined that the Village did not have any completed or denied public records requests or any public records requests with redactions during the engagement period.
3. We inquired whether the District 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 District management and determined that the District 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 District's poster describing their Public Records Policy was displayed conspicuously in all branches of the District as required by Ohio Rev. Code § 149.43(E)(2). We found no exceptions.
7. We inquired with District management and determined the District did not have any applications for records disposal submitted to the Records commission during the engagement period.
8. We inspected individual proof of attendance and determined each elected official in accordance with Ohio Rev. Code § 149.43(E)(1) (or his/her designee) successfully attended a certified three-hour Public Records Training for each term of office as required by Ohio Rev. Code § 109.43(B). We found no exceptions.
9. We inspected the public notices for the public meetings held during the engagement period and determined the District 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 determine 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 determine 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 Districts 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 will confirm the District 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 District 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 District'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 District 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 black ink that reads "Keith Faber". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Keith Faber
Auditor of State
Columbus, Ohio

August 28, 2023

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OHIO AUDITOR OF STATE KEITH FABER



MARION COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

MARION 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 10/3/2023

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