



OHIO AUDITOR OF STATE
KEITH FABER



**SUMMIT SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
SUMMIT COUNTY
DECEMBER 31, 2022 AND 2021**

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INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

Summit Soil and Water Conservation District
Summit County
1180 South Main Street, Suite 230
Akron, Ohio 44301

To the Board of Supervisors:

Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements

Unmodified and Adverse Opinions

We have audited the financial statements of the Summit Soil and Water Conservation District, Summit County, Ohio (the District), which comprises the cash balances, receipts and disbursements for each governmental fund type as of and for the years ended December 31, 2022 and 2021, and the related notes to the financial statements.

Unmodified Opinion on Regulatory Basis of Accounting

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the cash balances, receipts and disbursements for each governmental fund type as of and for the years ended December 31, 2022 and 2021 and the related notes to the financial statements, in accordance with the financial reporting provisions the Ohio Department of Agriculture permits, described in Note 2.

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* section of our report, the accompanying financial statements 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, 2022 and 2021, or the changes in financial position thereof for the years then ended.

Basis for Opinions

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAS) and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards* issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements* section of our report. We are required to be independent of the District, and to meet our other ethical responsibilities, in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements relating to our audit. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinions.

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

As described in Note 2 of the financial statements, the financial statements are prepared by the District on the basis of the financial reporting provisions of the Ohio Department of Agriculture, which is an accounting basis other than accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAP), to satisfy these requirements. The effects on the financial statements of the variances between the regulatory basis of accounting described in Note 2 and accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, although not reasonably determinable, are presumed to be material and pervasive.

Emphasis of Matter

As discussed in note 8 to the financial statements, the financial impact of COVID-19 and the ensuing emergency measures may impact subsequent periods of the District. We did not modify our opinions regarding this matter

Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with the financial reporting provisions the Ohio Department of Agriculture permits. Management is also responsible for the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, management is required to evaluate whether there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the District's ability to continue as a going concern for twelve months beyond the financial statement date, including any currently known information that may raise substantial doubt shortly thereafter.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinions. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not absolute assurance and therefore is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with GAAS and the financial audit standards in the Comptroller General of the United States' *Government Auditing Standards* will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control. Misstatements are considered material if there is a substantial likelihood that, individually or in the aggregate, they would influence the judgment made by a reasonable user based on the financial statements.

In performing an audit in accordance with GAAS and *Government Auditing Standards*, we

- exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.
- identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, and design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks. Such procedures include examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements.
- obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the District's internal control. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.

- evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluate the overall presentation of the financial statements.
- conclude whether, in our judgment, there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the District's ability to continue as a going concern for a reasonable period of time.

We are required to communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit, significant audit findings, and certain internal control-related matters that we identified during the audit.

Other Reporting Required by Government Auditing Standards

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated October 16, 2023, on our consideration of the 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. The purpose of that report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the District's 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.



Keith Faber
Auditor of State
Columbus, Ohio

October 16, 2023

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Summit Soil and Water Conservation District
Summit County, Ohio
Combined Statement of Receipts, Disbursements
and Changes in Fund Balances (Regulatory Cash Basis)
For the Year Ended December 31, 2022

	District Fund	Special Fund	Easement Account	Combined Total
Cash Receipts				
Grants				
Local Government		\$280,151		\$280,151
State Government		225,802		225,802
Gifts and Contributions	\$3,258			3,258
Sale of Products/Materials	14,699			14,699
Site Review fees, Inspection fees, Individual Lot fees	49,640	63,936		113,576
Workshops, Inspection & Maintenance Class fees	10,000			10,000
All Other Revenue	14,773		\$1,316	16,089
<i>Total Cash Receipts</i>	<u>\$92,370</u>	<u>\$569,889</u>	<u>\$1,316</u>	<u>\$663,575</u>
Cash Disbursements				
Salaries		\$388,935		\$388,935
Supplies	\$3,404	\$3,371		\$6,775
Equipment	\$16,339			\$16,339
Contract Repairs - Vehicle	\$6,983	\$2,721		\$9,704
Contract Services - Copier/cell service		\$1,889		\$1,889
Rent - Office Space		\$43,451		\$43,451
Service Fees / Memberships	\$6,186			\$6,186
Information and Education	\$381			\$381
Travel and Expenses	\$2,044			\$2,044
Advertising and Printing	\$9,562			\$9,562
OPERS		\$54,364		\$54,364
Hospitalization		\$73,167		\$73,167
Medicare		\$5,421		\$5,421
Product/Materials for Resale	\$11,923			\$11,923
AmeriCorps Program	\$8,000			\$8,000
Vehicle Rental/Liability Insurance/Office Space	\$9,120			\$9,120
Annual Meeting/Banquet/workshop/Insp & Main class	\$9,473			\$9,473
Other - Indirect Cost, shredding cost, charge backs	\$2,182	\$10,968		\$13,150
<i>Total Cash Disbursements</i>	<u>\$85,597</u>	<u>\$584,287</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$669,884</u>
<i>Excess of Receipts Over (Under) Disbursements</i>	<u>\$6,773</u>	<u>(\$14,398)</u>	<u>\$1,316</u>	<u>(\$6,309)</u>
Other Financing Receipts (Disbursements)				
Transfers In		\$60,000		\$60,000
Transfers Out	(\$60,000)			(\$60,000)
<i>Total Other Financing Receipts (Disbursements)</i>	<u>(\$60,000)</u>	<u>\$60,000</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>
<i>Net Change in Fund Cash Balances</i>	(\$53,227)	\$45,602	\$1,316	(\$6,309)
<i>Fund Cash Balances, January 1, 2022</i>	<u>\$627,923</u>	<u>\$16,407</u>	<u>\$76,932</u>	<u>\$721,262</u>
<i>Fund Cash Balances, December 31, 2022</i>	<u>\$574,696</u>	<u>\$62,009</u>	<u>\$78,248</u>	<u>\$714,953</u>

See accompanying notes to the basic financial statements

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Summit Soil & Water Conservation District

Summit County

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended December 31, 2022

Note 1 – Reporting Entity

The constitution and laws of the State of Ohio establish the rights and privileges of the Summit Soil and Water Conservation District, Summit County, (the District) as a body corporate and politic. A publicly elected five-member District Board of Supervisors directs the District. The District provides leadership and advocates for the stewardship of our natural resources and responsible land use through the provision of education, technical assistance, and partnerships in Summit County.

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

Note 2 – Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

Basis of Presentation

The District’s financial statements consist of a combined statement of receipts, disbursements and changes in fund balances (cash basis) for all funds.

Fund Accounting

The District uses funds to maintain its financial records during the year. A fund is defined as a fiscal and accounting entity with a self-balancing set of accounts. The funds of the District are presented below:

Special Fund The special fund is the primary fund used for day to day operations and expenditures including payroll and benefits. The District records all amounts received from the State, local, or federal governments in this fund. The Summit County Fiscal Officer also maintains an account of this fund.

District Fund The district fund accounts for and reports revenues from district sales, urban site fees, workshops, grants and donations.

Other Funds These funds account for and report the proceeds of specific revenue sources that are restricted or committed to expenditure for specified purposes. The District had the following significant Other Funds: *The District has one other account which is the Star Ohio Easement Account.*

Basis of Accounting

These financial statements follow the accounting basis permitted by the Ohio Department of Agriculture. This basis is similar to the cash receipts and disbursements accounting basis. The District 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 the Ohio Department of Agriculture requires.

Summit Soil & Water Conservation District

Summit County

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended December 31, 2022

Budgetary Process

The Ohio Revised Code requires the Special Fund be budgeted annually.

Appropriations Budgetary expenditures may not exceed appropriations at the fund, function or object level of control and appropriations may not exceed estimated resources. The Board of Supervisors must annually approve appropriation measures and subsequent amendments. Appropriations lapse at year end.

Estimated Resources Estimated resources include estimates of cash to be received (budgeted receipts) plus cash as of January 1. The County Budget Commission must approve estimated resources.

A summary of 2022 budgetary activity appears in Note 3.

Deposits and Investments

The Summit County Fiscal Officer is the custodian for the District's Special Fund's cash and investments. The County's cash and investment holds the District's Special Fund's cash and investments, which are reported at the County Fiscal Officer's carrying amount. Deposits and investments disclosures for the County as a whole may be obtained from Summit County's Diane Dekovich, Director of Accounting at 330-643-2672 – email: ddekovich@summitoh.net.

The District's accounting basis for all other funds includes investments as assets. This basis does not record disbursements for investment purchases or receipts for investment sales. This basis records gains or losses at the time of sale as receipts or disbursements, respectively.

For the District Fund, the District values the Treasurer of State Star Ohio Account at share values. Star Ohio is recorded with interest on the fund's report.

Capital Assets

The District records disbursements for acquisitions of vehicles and equipment when paid. The accompanying financial statements do not report these items as assets. The District owns three vehicles – 2014 Ford Escape, and two 2019 Ford F-150 Pickups. Other Capital Assets include all the office computers, printers, copier and all other office furniture. All Capital Assets are on the District's Equipment Inventory.

Accumulated Leave

In certain circumstances, such as upon leaving employment, employees are entitled to cash payments for unused leave. The financial statements do not include a liability for unpaid leave.

Leases

The District is the lessee in one lease (as defined by GASB 87) related to office space leases. Lease disbursements are recognized when they are paid.

Summit Soil & Water Conservation District

Summit County

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended December 31, 2022

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:

Nonspendable The District classifies assets as *nonspendable* when legally or contractually required to maintain the amounts intact. For regulatory purposes, nonspendable fund balance includes unclaimed monies that are required to be held for five years before they may be utilized by the District.

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.

Committed Supervisors can *commit* amounts via formal action (resolution). The District must adhere to these commitments unless the Supervisors 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.

Assigned Assigned fund balances are intended for specific purposes but do not meet the criteria to be classified as *restricted* or *committed*. For regulatory purposes, assigned fund balance in the special and district funds is limited to encumbrances outstanding at year end.

Unassigned Unassigned fund balance is the residual classification for the special and district funds and includes amounts not included in the other classifications. In other 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.

For regulatory purposes, limited disclosure related to fund balance is included in Note 9.

Note 3 – Special Fund Budgetary Activity

Budgetary activity for the year ending 2022 follows:

2022 Budgeted vs. Actual Receipts			
Fund	Budgeted Receipts	Actual Receipts	Variance
Special	\$681,000	\$569,889	(\$111,111)

Summit Soil & Water Conservation District

Summit County

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended December 31, 2022

2022 Budgeted vs. Actual Budgetary Basis Expenditures			
Fund	Appropriation Authority	Budgetary Expenditures	Variance
Special	\$681,000	\$584,287	\$96,713

Note 4 – Deposits and Investments

The District maintains a deposits and investments pool all funds use, except the Special Fund which is maintained by the Summit County Treasurer. The Ohio Revised Code prescribes allowable deposits and investments. The carrying amount of deposits and investments at December 31, 2022 was as follows:

	<u>2022</u>
Demand deposits - District Checking Account	\$156,424
Petty Cash	50
County Fiscal Officer Deposits	<u>62,009</u>
Total deposits	<u>218,483</u>
STAR Ohio Savings Account	418,222
STAR Ohio Easement Account	78,248
Total investments	<u>496,470</u>
Total deposits and investments	<u><u>\$714,953</u></u>

Deposits

Deposits are insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation; [or] collateralized by securities specifically pledged by the financial institution to the District; or collateralized through the Ohio Pooled Collateral System (OPCS), a collateral pool of eligible securities deposited with a qualified trustee and pledged to the Treasurer of State to secure the repayment of all public monies deposited in the financial institution. The District and JPMorgan Chase Bank signed into agreement on December 12, 2017, to be part of the Ohio Pooled Collateral Program (OPCP).

Investments

Investments in STAR Ohio and mutual funds are not evidenced by securities that exist in physical or book-entry form. The District currently has two Star Ohio accounts.

Summit Soil & Water Conservation District

Summit County

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended December 31, 2022

Note 5 – Risk Management

Workers' Compensation

Workers' Compensation coverage is provided by the State of Ohio. The District pays the State Workers' Compensation System a premium based on a rate per \$100 of salaries. This rate is calculated based on accident history and administrative costs. Summit County Department of Law Insurance and Risk Management handles this for the District. Summit County is Individual-retrospective rated.

Commercial Insurance

The District has obtained commercial insurance for the following risks:

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

The District has property, crime and liability insurance through Wichert Insurance Co. with carrier Selective Insurance Company.

Self-Insurance

Summit County is self-insured for health insurance. The District's full time employees have health insurance through Summit County. If the employee chooses not to have coverage, proof of insurance must be provided to Summit County. A \$50.00 per month waiver is given to the employee that provides proof of coverage. Part time employees are not covered by the Summit County Health Insurance. The Self Insurance Fund pays covered claims to service providers, and recovers these costs from charges to other funds based on an actuarially determined cost per employee. The Budgeted amount for Employee Benefits is the cash and investment. The actual amount spent in 2022 is \$132,952.28.

	<u>2022</u>
Cash and investments	\$163,100
Actuarial liabilities	\$132,952

Note 6 – Defined Benefit Pension Plans

Ohio Public Employees Retirement System

All District employees belong to the Ohio Public Employees Retirement System (OPERS). OPERS is a cost-sharing, multiple-employer plan. The Ohio Revised Code prescribes this plan's benefits, which include postretirement healthcare and survivor and disability benefits.

The Ohio Revised Code also prescribes contribution rates. OPERS members contributed 10 percent of their gross salaries, and the District contributed an amount equaling 14 percent of participants' gross salaries. The District has paid all contributions required through December 31, 2022.

Summit Soil & Water Conservation District
Summit County
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2022

Note 7 – Postemployment Benefits

OPERS offers a cost-sharing, multiple-employer defined benefit postemployment plan, which includes multiple health care plans including medical coverage, prescription drug coverage, deposits to Health Reimbursement Arrangement, and Medicare Part B premium reimbursements, to qualifying benefit recipients. The portion of employer contributions allocated to health care for members in the traditional pension plan and combined plan was 0 percent during calendar year 2022. The portion of employer contributions allocated to health care for members in the member-directed plan was 0 percent during calendar year 2022.

Effective January 1, 2022, OPERS discontinued the group plans currently offered to non-Medicare retirees and re-employed retirees. Instead, eligible non-Medicare retirees will select an individual medical plan. OPERS will provide a subsidy or allowance via an HRA allowance to those retirees who meet health care eligibility requirements. Retirees will be able to seek reimbursement for plan premiums and other qualified medical expenses.

Note 8 – COVID-19

The United States and the State of Ohio declared a state of emergency in March of 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Ohio’s state of emergency ended in June, 2021 while the national state of emergency continues. During 2022, the District received COVID-19 funding. The financial impact of COVID-19 and the continuing emergency measures may impact subsequent periods of the District. The impact on the District’s future operating costs, revenues, and additional recovery from emergency funding, either federal or state, cannot be estimated.

The District has no Cares Act Funding in 2022.

Note 9 – Fund Balances

Included in fund balance are amounts the District cannot spend, including the balance of unclaimed monies, which cannot be spent for five years. Encumbrances are commitments related to unperformed contracts for goods or services. Encumbrance accounting is utilized to the extent necessary to assure effective budgetary control and accountability and to facilitate effective cash planning and control. At year end the balances of these amounts were as follows:

Fund Balances	Special	District	Other Funds	Total
Nonspendable:				
Unclaimed Monies		\$134		\$134
Outstanding Encumbrances		1,750		1,750
Total	\$0	\$1,884	\$0	\$1,884

The fund balance of the other funds is either restricted or committed. These restricted, committed, and assigned amounts in the other funds would include the outstanding encumbrances. In the special and district funds, outstanding encumbrances are considered assigned.

Summit Soil and Water Conservation District
Summit County, Ohio
Combined Statement of Receipts, Disbursements
and Changes in Fund Balances (Regulatory Cash Basis)
For the Year Ended December 31, 2021

	District Fund	Special Fund	Easement Account	Totals (Memorandum Only)
Cash Receipts				
Grants	\$4,945			\$4,945
Local Government		\$240,151		240,151
State Government		219,905		219,905
Gifts and Contributions	1,518			1,518
Sale of Products/Materials	13,986			13,986
Site Reviews fees, Inspection fees, Individual Lot fee	150,366	1,895		152,261
Workshops, Inspection & Maintenance Class fees	3,175			3,175
All Other Revenue	336		63	399
<i>Total Cash Receipts</i>	<u>174,326</u>	<u>461,951</u>	<u>63</u>	<u>636,340</u>
Cash Disbursements				
Salaries		364,597		364,597
Supplies	2,751	1,915		4,666
Equipment	10,024			10,024
Contract Repairs	170	1,823		1,993
Contract Services/Copier/Cell Phone		3,603		3,603
Rent - Office Space		43,020		43,020
Service Fees	3,805			3,805
Information and Education	12,674			12,674
Advertising and Printing	334			334
OPERS		49,278		49,278
Worker's Compensation		413		413
Hospitalization		58,906		58,906
Medicare		5,094		5,094
Product/Materials for Resale	11,483			11,483
AmericCorps Program	8,250			8,250
Vehicle Rental/Liability Insurance	8,746			8,746
Annual Meeting/Workshops/Insp + Main. Course/ECT	3,526			3,526
Other - Indirect Costs, Shredding Etc.	9,287	9,012		18,299
<i>Total Cash Disbursements</i>	<u>71,051</u>	<u>537,662</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>608,713</u>
<i>Excess of Receipts Over (Under) Disbursements</i>	<u>103,275</u>	<u>(75,711)</u>	<u>63</u>	<u>27,627</u>
<i>Net Change in Fund Cash Balances</i>	103,275	(75,711)	63	27,627
<i>Fund Cash Balances, January 1 2021</i>	<u>524,647</u>	<u>92,118</u>	<u>76,869</u>	<u>693,634</u>
<i>Fund Cash Balances, December 31 2021</i>	<u>\$627,922</u>	<u>\$16,407</u>	<u>\$76,932</u>	<u>\$721,261</u>

See accompanying notes to the basic financial statements

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Soil and Water Conservation District
Summit County
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2021

Note 1 – Reporting Entity

The constitution and laws of the State of Ohio establish the rights and privileges of the Summit Soil and Water Conservation District, Summit County, (the District) as a body corporate and politic. A publicly elected five-member District Board of Supervisors directs the District. The District provides local leadership in the conservation of natural resources and responsible land use through the provision of education, technical assistance, and partnerships in Summit County.

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

Note 2 – Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

Basis of Presentation

The District's financial statements consist of a combined statement of receipts, disbursements, and changes in fund balances (cash basis) for all funds.

Fund Accounting

The District uses funds to maintain its financial records during the year. A fund is defined as a fiscal and accounting entity with a self-balancing set of accounts. The funds of the District are presented below:

Special Fund: The special fund is the primary fund used for day-to-day operations and expenditures including payroll and benefits. The District records all amounts received from the State, local, or federal governments in this fund. The Summit County Fiscal Officer also maintains an accounting of this fund.

District Fund: The district fund accounts for and reports revenues from district sales, urban site fees, workshops, grants, and donations.

Other Funds These funds account for and report the proceeds of specific revenue sources that are restricted or committed to expenditure for specified purposes. The District had the following significant Other Funds: *The District has one other account which is the Star Ohio Easement Account.*

Basis of Accounting

These financial statements follow the accounting basis permitted by the Ohio Department of Agriculture. This basis is similar to the cash receipts and disbursements accounting basis. The District 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 the Ohio Department of Agriculture requires.

Budgetary Process

The Ohio Revised Code requires the Special Fund be budgeted annually.

Soil and Water Conservation District
Summit County
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2021

Appropriations: Budgetary expenditures may not exceed appropriations at the fund, function or object level of control and appropriations may not exceed estimated resources. The Board of Supervisors must annually approve appropriation measures and subsequent amendments. Appropriations lapse at year end.

Estimated Resources

Estimated resources include estimates of cash to be received (budgeted receipts) plus cash as of January 1, 2021. The County Budget Commission must approve estimated resources.

A summary of 2021 budgetary activity appears in note 3.

Deposits and Investments

The Summit County Fiscal Officer is the custodian for the District's Special Fund's cash and investments. The County's cash and investment holds the District's Special Fund's cash and investments, which are reported at the County Fiscal Officer's carrying amount. Deposits and investments disclosures for the County as a whole may be obtained from Summit County's Diane Dekovich, Director of Accounting at 330-643-2672 – email: ddekovich@summitoh.net

The District's accounting basis for all other funds includes investments as assets. This basis does not record disbursements for investment purchases or receipts for investment sales. This basis records gains or losses at the time of sale as receipts or disbursements, respectively.

For the District Fund, the District values the Treasurer of State Star Ohio Account at share values. Star Ohio is recorded with interest on the fund's report.

Capital Assets

The District records disbursements for acquisitions of vehicles and equipment when paid. The accompanying financial statements do not report these items as assets. The District owns three vehicles – 2014 Ford Escape, and two 2019 Ford F-150 Pickups. Other Capital Assets include all the office computers, printers, copier, and all other office furniture. All Capital Assets are on the District's Equipment Inventory.

Accumulated Leave

In certain circumstances, such as upon leaving employment, employees are entitled to cash payments for unused leave. The financial statements do not include a liability for unpaid leave.

Fund Balance

The District records disbursements for acquisitions of vehicles and equipment when paid. The accompanying financial statements do not report these items as assets. The District owns three vehicles – 2014 Ford Escape, and two 2019 Ford F-150 Pickups. Other Capital Assets include all the office computers, printers, copier, and all other office furniture. All Capital Assets are on the District's Equipment Inventory.

Accumulated Leave

In certain circumstances, such as upon leaving employment, employees are entitled to cash payments for unused leave. The financial statements do not include a liability for unpaid leave.

Soil and Water Conservation District
Summit County
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2021

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:

Nonspendable: The District classifies assets as *nonspendable* when legally or contractually required to maintain the amounts intact. For regulatory purposes, nonspendable fund balance includes unclaimed monies that are required to be held for five years before they may be utilized by the District.

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.

Committed: Supervisors can *commit* amounts via formal action (resolution). The District must adhere to these commitments unless the Supervisors 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.

Assigned: Assigned fund balances are intended for specific purposes but do not meet the criteria to be classified as *restricted* or *committed*. For regulatory purposes, assigned fund balance in the special and district funds is limited to encumbrances outstanding at year end.

Unassigned: Unassigned fund balance is the residual classification for the special and district funds and includes amounts not included in the other classifications. In other 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.

For regulatory purposes, limited disclosure related to fund balance is included in Note 9.

Soil and Water Conservation District
Summit County
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2021

Note 3 – Special Fund Budgetary Activity

Budgetary activity for the year ending 2021 follows:

2021 Budgeted vs. Actual Receipts			
Fund	Budgeted Receipts	Actual Receipts	Variance
Special	\$601,600	\$461,951	(\$139,649)

2021 Budgeted vs. Actual Budgetary Basis Expenditures			
Fund	Appropriation Authority	Budgetary Expenditures	Variance
Special	\$601,600	\$537,662	\$63,938

Note 4 – Deposits and Investments

The District maintains a deposits and investments pool all funds use, except the Special Fund which is maintained by the Summit County Fiscal Officer. The Ohio Revised Code prescribes allowable deposits and investments. The carrying amount of deposits and investments at December 31 was as follows:

	2021
Demand Deposits - Checking Account	216,686
Petty Cash	50
County Fiscal Officer Deposits	16,407
Total deposits	233,143
STAR Ohio Savings Account	411,187
STAR Ohio Easement Account	76,932
Total investments	488,119
Total deposits and investments	\$721,262

Deposits

Deposits are insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation; [or] collateralized by securities specifically pledged by the financial institution to the District; or collateralized through the Ohio Pooled Collateral System (OPCS), a collateral pool of eligible securities deposited with a qualified trustee and pledged to the Treasurer of State to secure the repayment of all public monies deposited in the financial institution. The District and JPMorgan Chase Bank signed into agreement on December 12, 2017, to be part of the Ohio Pooled Collateral Program (OPCP).

Soil and Water Conservation District
Summit County
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For the Year Ended December 31, 2021

Investments

Investments in STAR Ohio and mutual funds are not evidenced by securities that exist in physical or book-entry form. The District currently has two Star Ohio accounts.

Note 5 – Risk Management

Workers' Compensation

Workers' Compensation coverage is provided by the State of Ohio. The District pays the State Workers' Compensation System a premium based on a rate per \$100 of salaries. This rate is calculated based on accident history and administrative costs. Summit County Department of Law Insurance and Risk Management handles this for the District. Summit County is Individual retrospective rated.

Commercial Insurance

The District has obtained commercial insurance for the following risks:

- Comprehensive property and general liability.
- Vehicles, Crime Coverage, Umbrella Coverage and Public Official Liability and
- Errors and omissions.

The District has property, crime, and liability insurance through Wichert Insurance Co. with carrier Selective Insurance Company.

Self-Insurance

Summit County is self-insured for health insurance. The District's full-time employees have health insurance through Summit County. If the employee chooses not to have coverage, proof of insurance must be provided to Summit County. A \$50.00 per month waiver is given to the employee that provides proof of coverage. Part time employees are not covered by the Summit County Health Insurance. The Self Insurance Fund pays covered claims to service providers and recovers these costs from charges to other funds based on an actuarially determined cost per employee. The Budgeted amount for Employee Benefits is the cash and investment. The actual amount spent in 2021 is \$113,692.

	<u>2021</u>
Cash and investments	\$152,900
Actuarial liabilities	\$113,692

Soil and Water Conservation District
Summit County
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2021

Note 6 – Defined Benefit Pension Plans

Ohio Public Employees Retirement System

All District employees belong to the Ohio Public Employees Retirement System (OPERS). OPERS is a cost-sharing, multiple-employer plan. The Ohio Revised Code prescribes this plan's benefits, which include postretirement healthcare and survivor and disability benefits.

The Ohio Revised Code also prescribes contribution rates. OPERS members contributed 10 percent of their gross salaries, and the District contributed an amount equaling 14 percent of participants' gross salaries. The District has paid all contributions required through December 31, 2021.

Note 7 – Postemployment Benefits

OPERS offers a cost-sharing, multiple-employer defined benefit postemployment plan, which includes multiple health care plans including medical coverage, prescription drug coverage, deposits to Health Reimbursement Arrangement, and Medicare Part B premium reimbursements, to qualifying benefit recipients. The portion of employer contributions allocated to health care for members in the traditional pension plan and combined plan was 0 percent during calendar year 2021. The portion of employer contributions allocated to health care for members in the member-directed plan was 0 percent during calendar year 2021.

Note 8 – COVID-19

The United States and the State of Ohio declared a state of emergency in March of 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Ohio's state of emergency ended in June, 2021 while the national state of emergency continues. During 2021, the District received COVID-19 funding. The financial impact of COVID-19 and the continuing emergency measures may impact subsequent periods of the District. The impact on the District's future operating costs, revenues, and additional recovery from emergency funding, either federal or state, cannot be estimated. The District's investment portfolio fluctuates with market conditions, and due to market volatility, the amount of gains or losses that will be realized in subsequent periods, if any, cannot be determined.

The District has no Cares Act Funding in 2021.

Soil and Water Conservation District
Summit County
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2021

Note 9 – Fund Balances

Included in fund balance are amounts the District cannot spend, including the balance of unclaimed monies, which cannot be spent for five years. Encumbrances are commitments related to unperformed contracts for goods or services. Encumbrance accounting is utilized to the extent necessary to assure effective budgetary control and accountability and to facilitate effective cash planning and control. At year end the balances of these amounts were as follows:

Fund Balances	Special	District	Other Funds	Total
Nonspendable:				
Unclaimed Monies				\$0
Outstanding Encumbrances		1,250		1,250
Total	\$0	\$1,250	\$0	\$1,250

The fund balance of the other funds is either restricted or committed. These restricted, committed, and assigned amounts in the other funds would include the outstanding encumbrances. In the special and district funds, outstanding encumbrances are considered assigned.

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OHIO AUDITOR OF STATE KEITH FABER



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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

Summit Soil and Water Conservation District
Summit County
1180 South Main Street, Suite 230
Akron, Ohio 44301

To the Board of Supervisors:

We have audited, in accordance with the auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards* issued by the Comptroller General of the United States (*Government Auditing Standards*), the financial statements of the cash balances, receipts and disbursements for each governmental fund type of the Summit Soil and Water Conservation District, Summit County, (the District) as of and for the years ended December 31, 2022 and 2021, and the related notes to the financial statements, and have issued our report thereon dated October 16, 2023, wherein we noted the District followed financial reporting provisions the Ohio Department of Agriculture prescribes or permits. We noted the financial impact of COVID-19 and the ensuing emergency measures may impact subsequent periods of the District.

Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

In planning and performing our audit of the financial statements, we considered the District's internal control over financial reporting (internal control) as a basis for designing audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances for the purpose of expressing our opinions on the financial statements, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the District's internal control. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the District's internal control.

A *deficiency in internal control* exists when the design or operation of a control does not allow management or employees, in the normal course of performing their assigned functions, to prevent, or detect and correct misstatements on a timely basis. 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 District's financial statements will not be prevented, or detected and corrected, on a timely basis. 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.

Our consideration of internal control was for the limited purpose described in the first paragraph of this section and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control that might be material weaknesses or significant deficiencies. Given these limitations, during our audit we did not identify any deficiencies in internal control that we consider to be material weaknesses. However, material weaknesses or significant deficiencies may exist that were not identified.

Report on Compliance and Other Matters

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the District's financial statements are free from material misstatement, we performed tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements, noncompliance with which could have a direct and material effect on the financial statements. However, providing an opinion on compliance with those provisions was not an objective of our audit and accordingly, we do not express such an opinion. The results of our tests disclosed no instances of noncompliance or other matters that are required to be reported under *Government Auditing Standards*.

Purpose of This Report

The purpose of this report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the District's internal control or on compliance. This report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the District's internal control and compliance. Accordingly, this communication is not suitable for any other purpose.



Keith Faber
Auditor of State
Columbus, Ohio

October 16, 2023

OHIO AUDITOR OF STATE KEITH FABER



SUMMIT SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

SUMMIT 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 11/14/2023

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