



Dave Yost • Auditor of State

**SANDUSKY COUNTY PARK DISTRICT
SANDUSKY COUNTY**

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Dave Yost • Auditor of State

INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANTS' REPORT

Sandusky County Park District
Sandusky County
1970 Countryside Place
Fremont, Ohio 43420-8750

To the Board of Commissioners:

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the governmental activities, the major fund and the aggregate remaining fund information of Sandusky County Park District, Sandusky County, Ohio (the District), as of and for the year ended December 31, 2009, which collectively comprise the District's basic financial statements as listed in the table of contents. These financial statements are the responsibility of the District's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit.

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in the Comptroller General of the United States' *Government Auditing Standards*. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to reasonably assure whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinions.

As discussed in Note 1, the accompanying financial statements and notes follow the cash accounting basis. This is a comprehensive accounting basis other than accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the respective cash financial position of the governmental activities, the major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of Sandusky County Park District as of December 31, 2009, and the respective changes in cash financial position and the budgetary comparison for the General Fund thereof for the year then ended in conformity with the basis of accounting Note 1 describes.

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated August 16, 2011, 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. While we did not opine on the internal control over financial reporting or on compliance, that report describes the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance, and the results of that testing. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*. You should read it in conjunction with this report in assessing the results of our audit.

Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require this presentation to include *Management's discussion and analysis* to supplement the basic financial statements. Although this information is not part of the basic financial statements, the Governmental Accounting Standards Board considers it essential for placing the basic financial statements in an appropriate operational, economic, or historical context. We have applied certain limited procedures to the required supplementary information in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, which consisted of inquiries of management about the methods of preparing the information and comparing the information for consistency with management's responses to our inquiries, the basic financial statements, and other knowledge we obtained during our audit of the basic financial statements. We do not express an opinion or provide any assurance on the information because the limited procedures do not provide us with sufficient evidence to express an opinion or provide any other assurance.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dave Yost". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping "D" and "Y".

Dave Yost
Auditor of State

August 16, 2011

SANDUSKY COUNTY PARK DISTRICT
MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2009
UNAUDITED

The discussion and analysis of Sandusky County Park District (District) financial performance provides an over all review of the District's financial activities for the year ended December 31, 2009. The intent of this discussion and analysis is to look at the District's financial performance as a whole; readers should also review the basic financial statements and the notes to the basic financial statements to enhance their understanding of the District's financial performance.

Financial Highlights

Key financial highlights for 2009 are as follows:

- Purchase of five Ford Escape Vehicles for a cost of \$103,847
- Purchase of Ford New Holland T4030 Tractor for a cost of \$35,733
- Purchase of Toro Proforce Blower for a cost of \$6,190
- Purchase of John Deere 1435 Mower for a cost of \$11,977
- Vega Property Purchase for a cost of \$24,500
- Purchase of Alamo Grass King 74" Flail Mower for a cost of \$11,615
- Local Park Improvement Grant Distribution of \$30,000
- ODNR Div. of Wildlife Ringneck Ridge Area Acquisition Contribution of \$10,000
- ODOT Fremont-Elmore Bike Trail Grant in the amount of \$97,522

Using the Basic Financial Statements

This annual report is presented in a format consistent with the presentation requirements of Governmental Accounting Standards Board Statement No. 34, as applicable to the District's cash basis of accounting.

Report Components

The Statement of Net Assets and Statement of Activities provide information about the cash activities of the District as a whole.

Fund financial statements provide a greater level of detail. Funds are created and maintained on the financial records of the District as a way to segregate money whose use is restricted to a particular specified purpose. These statements present financial information by fund, presenting funds with the largest balances or most activity in separate columns.

The notes to the financial statements are an integral part of the government-wide and fund financial statements and provide expanded explanation and detail regarding the information reported in the statements.

SANDUSKY COUNTY PARK DISTRICT
MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2009
UNAUDITED
(Continued)

Basis of Accounting

The basis of accounting is a set of guidelines that determine when financial events are recorded. The District has elected to present its financial statements on a cash basis of accounting. This basis of accounting is a basis of accounting other than generally accepted accounting principles. Under the District's cash basis of accounting, receipts and disbursements are recorded when cash is received or paid.

As a result of using the cash basis of accounting, certain assets and their related revenues (such as accounts receivable) and certain liabilities and their related expenses (such as accounts payable) are not recorded in the financial statements. Therefore, when reviewing the financial information and discussion within this report, the reader must keep in mind the limitations resulting from the use of the cash basis of accounting.

Reporting the District as a Whole

The statement of net assets and the statement of activities reflect how the District did financially during 2009, within the limitations of cash basis accounting. The statement of net assets presents the cash balances of the governmental activities of the District at year end. The statement of activities compares cash disbursements with program receipts for each governmental program. Program receipts include charges paid by the recipient of the program's goods or services and grants and contributions restricted to meeting the operational or capital requirements of a particular program. General receipts are all receipts not classified as program receipts. The comparison of cash disbursements with program receipts identifies how each governmental function draws from the District's general receipts.

These statements report the District's cash position and the changes in cash position. Keeping in mind the limitations of the cash basis of accounting, you can think of these changes as one way to measure the District's financial health. Over time, increases or decreases in the District's cash position is one indicator of whether the District's financial health is improving or deteriorating. When evaluating the District's financial condition, you should also consider other nonfinancial factors as well such as the District's property tax base, the condition of the District's capital assets and infrastructure, the extent of the District's debt obligations, the reliance on non-local financial resources for operations and the need for continued growth in the major local revenue sources such as property and income taxes.

In the statement of net assets and the statement of activities, the District is one type of activity.

Governmental activities – The District's conservation and recreation services are reported here. State and federal grants and property taxes finance most of these activities. Benefits provided through governmental activities are not necessarily paid for by the people receiving them.

Reporting the District's Most Significant Funds

Fund financial statements provide detailed information about the District's major funds – not the District as a whole. The District establishes separate funds to better manage its many activities and to help demonstrate that money that is restricted as to how it may be used is being spent for the intended purpose. The funds of the District are all reported as governmental.

Governmental Funds - The District's activities are reported in governmental funds. The governmental fund financial statements provide a detailed view of the District's governmental operations and the basic services it provides. Governmental fund information helps determine whether there are more or less financial resources that can be spent to finance the District's programs. The District's significant governmental fund, the general fund, is presented on the financial statements in a separate column. The information for nonmajor funds (funds whose activity or balances are not large enough to warrant separate reporting) is combined and presented in total in a single column.

SANDUSKY COUNTY PARK DISTRICT
MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2009
UNAUDITED
(Continued)

Government-Wide Financial Analysis

The table below provide a summary of the District's net assets for 2009 and 2008:

(Table 1)
Net Assets

	Governmental Activities	
	2009	2008
Assets		
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$2,047,291	\$1,279,791
Net Assets		
Restricted for:		
Other Purposes	\$165,040	\$108,319
Unrestricted	1,882,251	1,171,472
Total Net Assets	\$2,047,291	\$1,279,791

Over time, net assets can serve as a useful indicator of a government's financial position. The District's finances remained strong during 2009 despite the decline in the economy.

Table 2 reflects the changes in net assets for 2009 and 2008:

(Table 2)
Change in Net Assets

	Governmental Activities	
	2009	2008
Receipts:		
Program Receipts:		
Charges for Services and Sales	\$161,981	\$123,404
Operating Grants and Contributions	114,306	9,927
Capital Grants and Contribution		2,295,492
Total Program Receipts	276,287	2,428,823
General Receipts:		
Property Taxes Levied for General Purposes	1,356,611	1,356,406
Intergovernmental Receipts	239,644	306,099
Interest	46,447	30,377
Miscellaneous	147,707	87,190
Total General Receipts	1,790,409	1,780,072
Total Receipts	2,066,696	4,208,895
Disbursements:		
Conservation and Recreation	1,299,196	3,558,092
Change in Net Assets	767,500	650,803
Net Assets, January 1	1,279,791	628,988
Net Assets, December 31	\$2,047,291	\$1,279,791

SANDUSKY COUNTY PARK DISTRICT

**MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2009
UNAUDITED
(Continued)**

Governmental Activities

For 2009, net assets of the District's governmental activities increased \$767,500. Total governmental expenditures of \$1,299,196 were offset by program revenues of \$276,287 and general revenue of \$1,790,409. Program revenues supported 21.27% of the total governmental expenses.

The primary source of revenue for governmental activities is derived from property tax receipts and intergovernmental receipts. These revenue sources represent 77.24% of total governmental revenue.

Conservation and Recreation services expenses totaled \$1,299,196 or 100% of total governmental expenses for 2009.

The Statement of Activities shows the cost of program services and operating grants offsetting those services. The following table shows, for governmental activities, the total cost of services and the net cost of services for 2009 and 2008. That is, it identifies the cost of these services supported by charges for services and operating grants and contributions.

(Table 3)
Governmental Activities

	Total Cost Of Services 2009	Net Cost of Services 2009	Total Cost Of Services 2008	Net Cost of Services 2008
Conservation and Recreation	<u>\$1,299,196</u>	<u>\$1,022,909</u>	<u>\$3,558,092</u>	<u>\$1,129,269</u>

The District's Funds

The District's governmental funds reported a combined fund balance of \$2,047,291, which is \$767,500 more than last years' total of \$1,279,791. The schedule below indicates the fund balance and the total change in fund balance as of December 31, 2009 and 2008.

(Table 4)
Governmental Fund Balances

	Fund Balance, December 31 2009	Fund Balance, December 31 2008	Increase (Decrease)	Change
General	\$1,882,251	\$1,171,472	\$710,779	60.67%
Other Governmental	165,040	108,319	56,721	52.36%
Total Fund Balance	<u>\$2,047,291</u>	<u>\$1,279,791</u>	<u>\$767,500</u>	<u>59.97%</u>

The District's General Fund Budgeting Highlights

The District's budget is prepared according to Ohio Law and is based upon accounting for certain transactions on a basis of cash receipts, disbursements, and encumbrances. The District's budgeted fund is the General Fund.

During 2009, the District amended its General Fund budget as needed. Final budgeted receipts of \$1,856,817 reflect an increase of \$120,000 from the original budgeted amount of \$1,736,817. This was the result of higher than anticipated charges for services, intergovernmental and other receipts. The difference between final budgeted receipts and actual receipts was not significant.

SANDUSKY COUNTY PARK DISTRICT
MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2009
UNAUDITED
(Continued)

Final disbursements were budgeted at \$1,598,970 while actual amounts were \$285,055 lower at \$1,313,915. The difference is the result of the District practice to budget all available resources while being conservative when making actual expenditures.

Capital Assets and Debt Administration

Capital Assets

The District does not include capital assets on its financial statements under the cash basis of accounting.

Debt

The District had no outstanding debt at December 31, 2009.

Current Issues

The Sandusky County Park District acquires lands for conversion into forest reserves and for the conservation of the natural resources, including streams, lakes, submerged lands and swamp lands. The Board may also create parks, parkways, and other reservations and may afforest, develop, improve and protect and promote the use of same as the Board deems conducive to the general welfare. The Park District receives the majority of its funding from property taxes, state and federal grants and charges for services (park fees). The District employs eleven full time employees and 10-15 seasonal employees. The Board periodically reviews park fees to help offset the costs of park operations.

Contacting the District's Financial Management

This financial report is designed to provide our citizens, taxpayers, investors, and creditors with a general overview of the District's finances and to reflect the District's accountability for the monies it receives. Questions concerning any of the information in this report or requests for additional information should be directed to Steve Gruner, Director, Sandusky County Park District, 1970 Countryside Drive, Fremont, Ohio 43420-8750.

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**SANDUSKY COUNTY PARK DISTRICT
SANDUSKY COUNTY**

**STATEMENT OF NET ASSETS - CASH BASIS
DECEMBER 31, 2009**

	<u>Governmental Activities</u>
Assets	
Cash and Cash Equivalents	<u><u>\$2,047,291</u></u>
Net Assets	
Restricted for:	
Other Purposes	\$165,040
Unrestricted	<u>1,882,251</u>
Total Net Assets	<u><u>\$2,047,291</u></u>

SEE ACCOMPANYING NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

**SANDUSKY COUNTY PARK DISTRICT
SANDUSKY COUNTY**

**STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES - CASH BASIS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2009**

	Program Revenues		Net (Disbursements) Receipts and Changes in Net Assets	
Expenses	Charges for Services and Sales	Operating Grants and Contributions	Governmental Activities	
Governmental Activities:				
Conservation and Recreation	\$1,299,196	\$161,981	\$114,306	(\$1,022,909)
General Receipts:				
Property Taxes Levied for General Purposes				1,356,611
Intergovernmental Receipts				239,644
Interest				46,447
Miscellaneous				147,707
Total General Receipts				1,790,409
Change in Net Assets				767,500
Net Assets Beginning of Year				1,279,791
Net Assets End of Year				\$2,047,291

SEE ACCOMPANYING NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

**SANDUSKY COUNTY PARK DISTRICT
SANDUSKY COUNTY**

**STATEMENT OF CASH BASIS ASSETS AND FUND BALANCES
GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS
DECEMBER 31, 2009**

	General	Other Governmental Funds	Total Governmental Funds
Assets:			
Cash and cash equivalents	\$1,882,251	\$165,040	\$2,047,291
Fund Balances:			
Reserved for Encumbrances	37,950		37,950
Unreserved, undesignated reported in:			
General Fund	1,844,301		1,844,301
Special Revenue Funds		165,040	165,040
Total Fund Balances	\$1,882,251	\$165,040	\$2,047,291

SEE ACCOMPANYING NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

**SANDUSKY COUNTY PARK DISTRICT
SANDUSKY COUNTY**

**STATEMENT OF CASH RECEIPTS, DISBURSEMENTS AND
CHANGES IN CASH BASIS FUND BALANCES
GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2009**

	<u>General</u>	<u>Other Governmental Funds</u>	<u>Total Governmental Funds</u>
Receipts:			
Property Taxes	\$1,356,611		\$1,356,611
Charges for Services	161,981		161,981
Intergovernmental	337,772		337,772
Investment Income	46,447		46,447
Other	83,933	\$9,952	93,885
Total Receipts	<u>1,986,744</u>	<u>9,952</u>	<u>1,996,696</u>
Disbursements:			
Conservation and Recreation	1,205,965	23,231	1,229,196
Excess of Receipts Over/(Under) Disbursements	<u>780,779</u>	<u>(13,279)</u>	<u>767,500</u>
Other Financing Sources (Uses):			
Transfer In		70,000	70,000
Transfer Out	(70,000)		(70,000)
Total Other Financing Sources (Uses)	<u>(70,000)</u>	<u>70,000</u>	
Net Change in Fund Balances	710,779	56,721	767,500
Fund Balances Beginning of Year	<u>1,171,472</u>	<u>108,319</u>	<u>1,279,791</u>
Fund Balance End of Year	<u><u>\$1,882,251</u></u>	<u><u>\$165,040</u></u>	<u><u>\$2,047,291</u></u>

SEE ACCOMPANYING NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

**SANDUSKY COUNTY PARK DISTRICT
SANDUSKY COUNTY**

**STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS, DISBURSEMENTS AND CHANGES
IN FUND BALANCE - BUDGET AND ACTUAL - BUDGET BASIS
GENERAL FUND
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2009**

	<u>Budgeted Amounts</u>		<u>Actual</u>	<u>Variance with Final Budget Positive (Negative)</u>
	<u>Original</u>	<u>Final</u>		
Receipts				
Property Taxes	\$1,319,000	\$1,319,000	\$1,356,611	\$37,611
Charges for Services	57,524	76,924	161,981	85,057
Intergovernmental	315,293	339,893	337,772	(2,121)
Interest	45,000	45,000	46,447	1,447
Other		76,000	83,933	7,933
Total Receipts	<u>1,736,817</u>	<u>1,856,817</u>	<u>1,986,744</u>	<u>129,927</u>
Disbursements				
Current:				
Conservation-Recreation	<u>1,452,913</u>	<u>1,598,970</u>	<u>1,243,915</u>	<u>355,055</u>
Excess of Revenues Over Disbursements	<u>283,904</u>	<u>257,847</u>	<u>742,829</u>	<u>484,982</u>
Other Financing Uses				
Transfers Out			<u>(70,000)</u>	<u>(70,000)</u>
Net Change in Fund Balance	<u>283,904</u>	<u>257,847</u>	<u>672,829</u>	<u>414,982</u>
Fund Balance Beginning of Year	<u>1,166,169</u>	<u>1,166,169</u>	<u>1,166,169</u>	
Prior Year Encumbrances Appropriated	<u>5,303</u>	<u>5,303</u>	<u>5,303</u>	
Fund Balance End of Year	<u><u>\$1,455,376</u></u>	<u><u>\$1,429,319</u></u>	<u><u>\$1,844,301</u></u>	<u><u>\$414,982</u></u>

SEE ACCOMPANYING NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

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**SANDUSKY COUNTY PARK DISTRICT
SANDUSKY COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
DECEMBER 31, 2009**

NOTE 1 - REPORTING ENTITY

The Sandusky County Park District, Sandusky County, Ohio (the District), is a body corporate and politic established to exercise the rights and privileges conveyed to it by the constitution and laws of the State of Ohio. The District is directed by a three-member Board of Commissioners appointed by the probate judge of Sandusky County. The District is comprised of the primary government, component units and other organizations that were included to ensure the financial statements are not misleading.

A. Primary Government

The primary government consists of all funds, departments, boards and agencies that are not legally separate from the District. The District acquired lands for conversion into forest reserves and for the conservation of the natural resources, including streams, lakes, submerged lands and swamp lands. The Board may also create parks, parkways, and other reservations and may afforest, develop, improve and protect and promote the use of same as the Board deems conducive to the general welfare.

The Sandusky County Auditor acts as fiscal agent for the District and the Sandusky County Treasurer acts as custodian of all funds.

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

B. Component Units

Component units are legally separated organizations for which the District is financially accountable. The District is financially accountable for an organization if the District appoints a voting majority of the organization's governing board and (1) the District is able to significantly influence the programs or services performed or provided by the organization; or (2) the District is legally entitled to or can otherwise access the organization's resources; the District is legally obligated or has otherwise assumed the responsibility to finance the deficits of, or provide support to, the organization; or the District is obligated for the debt of the organization. The District is also financially accountable for any organizations that are fiscally dependent on the District in that the District approves their budget, the issuance of their debt or the levying of their taxes. Component units also include legally separate, tax-exempt entities whose resources are for the direct benefit of the District, are accessible to the District and significant in amount to the District. The District has no component units.

NOTE 2- SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

As discussed further in Note 2.B, these financial statements are presented on a cash basis of accounting. This cash basis of accounting differs from accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAP). Generally accepted accounting principles include all relevant Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) pronouncements, which have been applied to the extent they are applicable to the cash basis of accounting. In the government-wide financial statements, Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB) pronouncements and Accounting Principles Board (APB) opinions issued on or before November 30, 1989, have been applied, to the extent they are applicable to the cash basis of accounting, unless those pronouncements conflict with or contradict GASB pronouncements, in which case GASB prevails. Following are the more significant of the District's accounting policies.

**SANDUSKY COUNTY PARK DISTRICT
SANDUSKY COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
DECEMBER 31, 2009
(Continued)**

NOTE 2- SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES – (CONTINUED)

A. Basis of Presentation

The District's basic financial statements consist of a statement of government-wide financial statements, including a statement of net assets and a statement of activities, and fund financial statements which provide a more detailed level of financial information.

The statement of net assets and the statement of activities display information about the District as a whole. These statements include the financial activities of the primary government, except for fiduciary funds. The statements show those activities of the District that are governmental. Governmental activities generally are financed through taxes, intergovernmental receipts or other nonexchange transactions.

The statement of net assets presents the cash balance of the governmental activities of the District at year end. The statement of activities compares disbursements with program receipts for each of the District's governmental activities. Disbursements are reported by function. A function is a group of related activities designed to accomplish a major service or regulatory program for which the District is responsible. Program receipts include charges paid by the recipient of the program's goods or services and grants and contributions restricted to meeting the operational or capital requirements of a particular program. General receipts are all receipts not classified as program receipts, with certain limited exceptions. The comparison of direct disbursements with program receipts identifies the extent to which each governmental function is self-financing on a cash basis or draws from the District's general receipts.

Fund Financial Statements

During the year, the District segregates transactions related to certain District functions or activities in separate funds to aid financial management and to demonstrate legal compliance. Fund financial statements are designed to present financial information of the District at this more detailed level. The focus of governmental fund financial statements is on major funds. Major funds are presented in a separate column. Non major funds are aggregated and presented in a single column.

B. Fund Accounting

The District uses fund accounting 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. Funds are used to segregate resources that are restricted as to use.

Governmental Funds

The District classifies funds financed primarily from taxes, intergovernmental receipts (e.g. grants), and other nonexchange transactions as governmental funds. The District's major governmental fund is the General Fund. The General Fund is used to account for all financial resources, except those required to be accounted for in another fund. The General Fund balance is available to the District for any purpose provided it is expended or transferred according to the general laws of Ohio. The other governmental funds of the District account for grants and other resources whose use is restricted to a particular purpose.

**SANDUSKY COUNTY PARK DISTRICT
SANDUSKY COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
DECEMBER 31, 2009
(Continued)**

NOTE 2- SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES – (CONTINUED)

C. Basis of Accounting

The District's financial statements are prepared using the cash basis of accounting. Receipts are recorded in the District's financial records and reported in the financial statements when cash is received rather than when earned and disbursement are recorded when cash is paid rather than when a liability is incurred.

As a result of the use of this cash basis of accounting, certain assets and their related revenues (such as accounts receivables and revenue for billed or provided services not yet collected) and certain liabilities and their related expenses (such as accounts payable and expenses for goods or services received but not yet paid, and accrued expenses and liabilities) are not recorded in these financial statements.

D. Budgetary Process

All funds are legally required to be budgeted and appropriated. The major documents prepared are the tax budget, the certificate of estimated resources, and the appropriations resolution, all of which are prepared on the budgetary basis of accounting. The tax budget demonstrates a need for exist or increased tax rates. The certificate of estimated resources establishes a limit on the amount the District may appropriate.

The appropriations resolution is the District's authorization to spend resources and sets limits on cash disbursements plus encumbrances at the level of control selected by the District. The legal level of control has been established at the object level for all funds.

The certificate of estimated resources may be amended during the year if projected increases or decreases in receipts are identified by the District. The amounts reported as the original budgeted amounts on the budgetary statements reflect the amounts on the certificate of estimated resources when the original appropriations were adopted. The amounts reported as the final budgeted amounts on the budgetary statements reflect the amounts on the amended certificated of estimated resources in effect at the time final appropriations were passed by the District.

The appropriation resolution is subject to amendment throughout the year with the restriction that appropriations cannot exceed estimated resources. The amounts reported as the original budgeted amounts reflect the first appropriation resolution for the fund that covered the entire year, including amounts automatically carried forward from prior years. The amounts reported as the final budgeted amounts represent the final appropriation amounts passed by the District during the year.

E. Cash and Investments

In accordance with Ohio Revised Code, the District's cash is held and invested by the Sandusky County Treasurer, who acts as custodian for District monies. The District's assets are held in the County Treasurer's cash and investment pool, and are valued at the Treasurer's reported carrying amount.

Individual fund integrity is maintained through District records. Interest is the pool is presented as "Cash and Cash Equivalents".

Following Ohio statutes, interest is credited to the general fund. Interest receipts credited to the general fund during fiscal year 2009 was \$46,477.

**SANDUSKY COUNTY PARK DISTRICT
SANDUSKY COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
DECEMBER 31, 2009
(Continued)**

NOTE 2- SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES – (CONTINUED)

F. Restricted Assets

Cash, cash equivalents and investments are reported as restricted when limitations on their use change the nature or normal understanding of their use. Such constraints are either imposed by creditors, contributors, grantors, or laws of other governments, or imposed by law through constitutional provisions or enabling legislation. The District had no restricted assets.

G. Capital Assets

Acquisitions of property, plant and equipment are recorded as disbursements when paid. These items are not reflected as assets on the accompanying financial statements.

H. Accumulated Leave

In certain circumstances, such as upon leaving employment or retirement, employees are entitled to cash payments for unused leave. Unpaid leave is not reflected as a liability under the District's cash basis of accounting.

I. Employer Contributions to Cost-Sharing Pension Plans

The District recognizes the disbursement for employer contributions to cost-sharing pension plans when they are paid. As described in Note 7 and 8, the employer contribution include portions for pension benefits and for postretirement health care benefits.

J. Net Assets

Net assets are reported as restricted when there are limitations imposed on their use either through enabling legislation or through external restrictions imposed by creditors, grantors, or laws or regulations of other governments. Net assets restricted for other purposes include resources restricted for grants for specific purposes.

The District's policy is to first apply restricted resources when an obligation is incurred for purposes for which both restricted and unrestricted net assets are available.

K. Fund Balance Reserves

The District reserves any portion of fund balances which is not available for appropriation or which is legally segregated for a specific future use. Unreserved and undesignated fund balance indicates that portion of fund balance which is available for appropriation in future periods. Fund balances reserves have been established for encumbrances.

**SANDUSKY COUNTY PARK DISTRICT
SANDUSKY COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
DECEMBER 31, 2009
(Continued)**

NOTE 2 - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES – (CONTINUED)

L. Interfund Transactions

Transfers between governmental on the government-wide financial statements are reported in the same manner as general receipts.

Exchange transactions between funds are reported as receipts in the seller funds and as disbursements in the purchaser funds. Subsidies from one fund to another without a requirement for repayment are reported as interfund transfers. Interfund transfers are reported as other financing sources/uses. Repayments from funds responsible for particular disbursements to the funds that initially paid for them are not presented in the financial statements.

NOTE 3 - BUDGETARY BASIS OF ACCOUNTING

The budgetary basis as provided by law is based upon accounting for certain transactions on the basis of cash receipts, disbursements, and encumbrances. The Statement of Receipts, Disbursements and Changes in Fund Balance – Budget and Actual – Budgetary Basis presented for the general fund are prepared on the budgetary basis to provide a meaningful comparison of actual results with the budget. The difference(s) between the budgetary basis and the cash basis is outstanding year end encumbrances are treated as cash disbursements (budgetary basis) rather than as a reservation of fund balance (cash basis). The encumbrances outstanding at year end (budgetary basis) amounted to \$37,950 for the general fund.

NOTE 4 - DEPOSITS AND INVESTMENTS

The Sandusky County Treasurer maintains a cash pool used by all funds, including those of The District. The Ohio Revised Code prescribes allowable deposits and investments. The District's carrying amount of cash on deposit with the County at December 31, 2009, was \$2,047,291. The Sandusky County Treasurer, as fiscal agent for the District, is responsible for maintaining adequate depository collateral for all funds in the County's pooled and deposited accounts.

NOTE 5 - PROPERTY TAXES

Property taxes include amounts levied against all real, public utility and tangible (used in business) property located in the County. Real property taxes and public utility taxes are levied after October 1 on the assessed value listed as of the prior January 1, the lien date. Assessed values are established by state law at 35% of appraised market value. Public utility property taxes are assessed on tangible personal property, as well as land and improvements, at 25% of true value for taxable property. Beginning in calendar year 2009 tangible personal property tax is no longer levied and collected. The October 2008 tangible personal property tax settlement was the last property tax settlement for general personal property taxes. The tangible personal property tax on telephone and telecommunications property will be eliminated by calendar year 2011. The tax is phased out by reducing the assessment rate on the property each year. The assessed value upon which 2009 taxes were collected was \$1,108,557,780. The full rate for all County operations applied to real property for fiscal year ended December 31, 2009, was \$1.50 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation.

**SANDUSKY COUNTY PARK DISTRICT
SANDUSKY COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
DECEMBER 31, 2009
(Continued)**

NOTE 5 - PROPERTY TAXES – (CONTINUED)

The assessed values of real and tangible personal property upon which 2009 property tax receipts were based are as follows:

<u>Real Property</u>	
Agricultural/Residential	\$878,973,080
Commercial/ Industrial/Mineral	186,802,160
<u>Public Utility</u>	
Real	568,660
Personal	<u>42,213,880</u>
Total Assessed Value	<u><u>\$1,108,557,780</u></u>

Real Property taxes are payable annually or semi-annually. If paid annually, payment is due March 1. If paid semi-annually, the first payment is due March 1 and the remainder is payable July 15. Under certain circumstances, State statute permits earlier or later payment dates to be established.

The County Treasurer collects property tax on behalf of all taxing districts within the County. The County Auditor periodically remits to the taxing districts their portions of the taxes collected. Collections of the taxes and remittance of them to the taxing districts are accounted for in various agency funds of the County. Tangible personal property taxes for unincorporated and single county businesses are due semi-annually, with the first payment due May 10 and the remainder payable by September 20. Due dates are normally extended an additional 30 days. The due date for the entire tax for inter-county businesses is September 20 or the extended date. The first \$10,000 of taxable value is exempt from taxation for each business by state law.

The lien date is either December 31 or the end of their fiscal year (for incorporated businesses in operation more than one year). Since each business must file a return to the County Auditor, the tangible personal taxes are not known until all the returns are received.

“Real estate and other taxes” receivable represents delinquent real and tangible personal property and public utility taxes outstanding as of December 31 (net of allowance for estimated uncollectibles) and real and public utility taxes which were measurable as of the year end.

Since the current levy is not intended to finance 2009 operations, the receivable is offset by a credit to “deferred revenue”. The delinquent real, public utility and tangible personal property taxes that will become available to the County within the first sixty days of 2010 as show as 2009 revenue; the remainder is shown as “deferred revenue”. The eventual collection of significantly all real and public utility property taxes (both current and delinquent) is reasonably assured due to the County’s ability to force foreclosure of the properties on which the taxes are levied.

**SANDUSKY COUNTY PARK DISTRICT
SANDUSKY COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
DECEMBER 31, 2009
(Continued)**

NOTE 6 - RISK POOL MEMBERSHIP

Prior to 2009, the District belonged to the Ohio Government Risk Management Plan (the "Plan"), a non-assessable, unincorporated non-profit association providing a formalized, jointly administered self-insurance risk management program and other administrative services to Ohio governments ("Members"). The Plan was legally separate from its member governments.

On January 1, 2009, through an internal reorganization, the Plan created three separate non-profit corporations including:

- Ohio Plan Risk Management, Inc. (OPRM) - formerly known as the Ohio Risk Management Plan;
- Ohio Plan Healthcare Consortium, Inc. (OPHC) - formerly known as the Ohio Healthcare Consortium; and
- Ohio Plan, Inc. - mirrors the oversight function previously performed by the Board of Directors. The Board of Trustees consists of eleven (11) members that include appointed and elected officials from member organizations.

Pursuant to Section 2744.081 of the Ohio Revised Code, the plan provides property, liability, errors and omissions, law enforcement, automobile, excess liability, crime, surety and bond, inland marine and other coverages to its members sold through fourteen appointed independent agents in the State of Ohio. These coverage programs, referred to as Ohio Plan Risk management ("OPRM"), are developed specific to each member's risk management needs and the related premiums for coverage are determined through the application of uniform underwriting criteria addressing the member's exposure to loss, except OPRM retains 40% (17.5% through October 31, 2010 and 15% through October 31, 2009) of the premium and losses on the first \$250,000 casualty treaty and 10% of the first \$1,000,000 property treaty. Members are only responsible for their self-retention (deductible) amounts, which vary from member to member. OPRM had 761 and 725 members as of December 31, 2010 and 2009 respectively. The District participates in this coverage.

The Plan formed the Ohio Plan Healthcare Consortium ("OPHC"), as authorized by Section 9.833 of the Ohio Revised Code. The OPHC was established to provide cost effective employee benefit programs for Ohio political sub-divisions and is a self-funded, group purchasing consortium that offers medical, dental, vision and prescription drug coverage as well as life insurance for its members. The OPHC is sold through seventeen appointed independent agents in the State of Ohio. Coverage programs are developed specific to each member's healthcare needs and the related premiums for coverage are determined through the application of uniform underwriting criteria. Variable plan options are available to members. These plans vary primarily by deductibles, coinsurance levels, office visit co-pays and out-of-pocket maximums. OPHC had 65 and 60 members as of December 31, 2010 and 2009 respectively. The District participates in this coverage.

Plan members are responsible to notify the Plan of their intent to renew coverage by their renewal date. If a member chooses not to renew with the Plan, they have no other financial obligation to the Plan, but still need to promptly notify the Plan of any potential claims occurring during their membership period. The former member's covered claims, which occurred during their membership period, remain the responsibility of the Plan.

Settlement amounts did not exceed insurance coverage for the past three fiscal years.

**SANDUSKY COUNTY PARK DISTRICT
SANDUSKY COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
DECEMBER 31, 2009
(Continued)**

NOTE 6 - RISK POOL MEMBERSHIP – (CONTINUED)

The Pool's audited financial statements conform with generally accepted accounting principles, and reported the following assets, liabilities and retained earnings at December 31: 2009, and include amounts for both OPRRM and OPHC:

	2009	
	OPRM	OPHC
Assets	\$11,176,186	\$1,358,802
Liabilities	(4,852,485)	(1,253,617)
Members' Equity	\$6,323,701	\$105,185

You can read the complete audited financial statements for OPRM and OPHC at the Plan's website, www.ohioplan.org.

NOTE 7 - DEFINED BENEFIT PENSION PLANS

The District participates in the Ohio Public Employees Retirement System (OPERS). OPERS administers three separate pension plans. The traditional plan is a cost-sharing, multiple-employer defined benefit pension plan. The member directed plan is a defined contribution plan in which the member invests both member and employer contributions (employer contributions vest over five years at 20 percent per year). Under the member directed plan, members accumulate retirement assets equal to the value of the member and vested employer contributions plus any investment earnings. The combined plan is a cost-sharing, multiple-employer defined benefit pension plan that has elements of both a defined benefit and a defined contribution plan. Under the combined plan, employer contributions are invested by OPERS to provide a formula retirement benefit similar to the traditional plan benefit. Member contributions, whose investment is self-directed by the member, accumulate retirement assets in a manner similar to the member-directed plan.

OPERS provides retirement, disability, survivor and death benefits, and annual cost of living adjustments to members of the traditional and combined plans. Members of the member-directed plan do not qualify for ancillary benefits. Authority to establish and amend benefits is provided by Chapter 145 of the Ohio Revised Code. OPERS issues a publicly available financial report that includes financial statements and required supplementary information. The may be obtained by writing to the Ohio Public Employees Retirement System, 277 East Town Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215-4642.

For the year ended December 31, 2009, the members of all three plans, except those in law enforcement participating in the traditional plan, were required to contribute 10 percent of their annual covered salaries. Members participating in the traditional plan who were in law enforcement contributed 10.1 percent of their annual covered salary. The District's contribution rate for pension benefits for 2009 was 14 percent except for those plan members in law enforcement or public safety. For those classification, the County's pension contributions were 17.63 percent of covered payroll. The Ohio Revised Code provides statutory authority for member and employer contributions.

The District's required contribution for pension obligations to the traditional and combined plans for the years ended December 31, 2009, 2008, and 2007 were \$70,806, \$67,302 and \$54,274 respectively. The full amount has been contributed for 2009, 2008, and 2007.

**SANDUSKY COUNTY PARK DISTRICT
SANDUSKY COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
DECEMBER 31, 2009
(Continued)**

NOTE 8 - POSTEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS

A. Plan Description

Ohio Public Employees Retirement System (OPERS) administers three separate pension plans: The Traditional Pension Plan—a cost-sharing, multiple-employer defined benefit pension plan; the Member Directed Plan—a defined contribution plan; and the Combined Plan—a cost sharing, multiple-employer defined benefit pension plan that has elements of both a defined benefit and defined contribution plan. OPERS maintains a cost-sharing multiple employer defined benefit post-employment healthcare plan, which includes a medical plan, prescription drug program and Medicare Part B premium reimbursement, to qualifying members of both the Traditional Pension and the Combined Plans. Members of the Member-Directed Plan do not qualify for ancillary benefits, including post-employment health care coverage. In order to qualify for post-employment health care coverage, age-and-service retirees under the Traditional Pension and Combined Plans must have 10 or more years of qualifying Ohio service credit. Health care coverage for disability benefit recipients and qualified survivor benefit recipients is available. The health care coverage provided by OPERS meets the definition of an Other Post Employment Benefit (OPEB) as described in GASB Statement 45. The Ohio Revised Code permits, but does not mandate, OPERS to provide OPEB benefits to its eligible members and beneficiaries. Authority to establish and amend benefits is provided in Chapter 145 of the Ohio Revised Code. OPERS issues a stand-alone financial report. Interested parties may obtain a copy by writing OPERS, 277 East Town Street, Columbus OH 43215-4642, or by calling 614-222-5601 or 800-222-7377.

B. Funding Policy

The Ohio Revised Code provides the statutory authority requiring public employers to fund post retirement health care through their contributions to OPERS. A portion of each employer's contribution to OPERS is set aside for the funding of post retirement health care benefits. Employer contribution rates are expressed as a percentage of the covered payroll of active members. In 2009, state and local employers contributed at a rate of 14.00% of covered payroll, and public safety and law enforcement employers contributed at 17.63%. The Ohio Revised Code currently limits the employer contribution to a rate not to exceed 14.0% of covered payroll for state and local employer units and 18.1% of covered payroll for law and public safety employer units. Active members do not make contributions to the OPEB Plan. OPERS' Post Employment Health Care plan was established under, and is administrated in accordance with, Internal Revenue Code 401(h). Each year, the OPERS Retirement Board determines the portion of the employer contribution rate that will be set aside for funding of post employment health care benefits. The portion of employer contributions allocated to health care was 7.00% from January 1 through March 31, 2009 and 5.5% from April 1 through December 31, 2009. The OPERS Retirement Board is also authorized to establish rules for the payment of a portion of the health care coverage by the retiree or their surviving beneficiaries. Payment amounts vary depending on the number of covered dependents and the coverage selected.

C. Information from employer's records

The rates stated in Section B, above, are the contractually required contribution rates for OPERS. As part of this disclosure, it will be necessary for the employer to disclose the employer contributions actually made to fund post-employment benefits. The portion of your employer contributions that were used to fund post-employment benefits can be approximated by multiplying actual employer contributions for January 1 through March 31, 2009 by 0.5000 for both state and local employers and 0.3971 for both law enforcement and public safety employers. For the period April 1 through December 31, 2009, multiply the actual employer contributions by 0.3929 for both state and local employers and 0.3120 for both law enforcement and public safety employers.

**SANDUSKY COUNTY PARK DISTRICT
SANDUSKY COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
DECEMBER 31, 2009
(Continued)**

NOTE 8 - POSTEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS – (CONTINUED)

D. OPERS Retirement Board Implements its Health Care Preservation Plan.

The Health Care Preservation Plan (HCPP) adopted by the OPERS Retirement Board on September 9, 2004, was effective January 1, 2007. Member and employer contribution rates for state and local employers increased on January 1 of each year from 2006 to 2008. Rates for law and public safety employers increased over a six year period beginning on January 1, 2006, with a final rate increase on January 1, 2011. These rate increases allowed additional funds to be allocated to the health care plan.

NOTE 9 – CONTINGENT LIABILITIES

Amounts grantor agencies pay to the District are subject to audit and adjustment by the grantor, principally the federal government. Grantors may require refunding any disallowed costs. Management cannot presently determine amounts grantors may disallow. However, based on prior experience, management believes any refunds would be immaterial.



Dave Yost • Auditor of State

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

Sandusky County Park District
Sandusky County
1970 Countryside Place
Fremont, Ohio 43420-8750

To the Board of Commissioners:

We have audited the financial statements of the governmental activities, the major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of Sandusky County Park District, Sandusky County, Ohio (the District), as of and for the year ended December 31, 2009, which collectively comprise the District's basic financial statements and have issued our report thereon dated August 16, 2011, wherein we noted the District prepared its statements on the cash basis. We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in the Comptroller General of the United States' *Government Auditing Standards*.

Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

In planning and performing our audit, we considered the District's internal control over financial reporting as a basis for designing our audit procedures for the purpose of expressing our opinions on the financial statements, but not for the purpose of opining on the effectiveness of the District's internal control over financial reporting. Accordingly, we have not opined on the effectiveness of the District's internal control over financial reporting.

Our consideration of internal control over financial reporting was for the limited purpose described in the preceding paragraph and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control over financial reporting that might be significant deficiencies or material weaknesses. Therefore, we cannot assure that we have identified all deficiencies, significant deficiencies or material weaknesses. 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 deficiencies, in internal control such that there is a reasonable possibility that a material misstatement of the entity's financial statements will not be prevented, or detected and timely corrected. We consider finding 2009-001 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, contracts, and grant agreements, noncompliance with which could directly and materially affect the determination of financial statement amounts. However, providing an opinion on compliance with those provisions was not an objective of our audit and accordingly, we do not express an opinion. The results of our tests disclosed no instances of noncompliance or other matters we must report under *Government Auditing Standards*.

We did note a certain matter not requiring inclusion in this report that we reported to the District's management in a separate letter dated August 16, 2011.

The District's response to the finding 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.

We intend this report solely for the information and use of management, the audit committee, the Board of Commissioners, and others within the District. We intend it for no one other than these specified parties.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dave Yost". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping "D" and "Y".

Dave Yost
Auditor of State

August 16, 2011

**SANDUSKY COUNTY PARK DISTRICT
SANDUSKY COUNTY**

**SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS
DECEMBER 31, 2009**

FINDINGS RELATED TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS REQUIRED TO BE REPORTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH GAGAS
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FINDING NUMBER 2009-001

Material Weakness – Financial Reporting

As a result of the audit procedures performed, errors were noted in the financial statements that required material audit adjustments.

- Charges for Services were recorded in the General Fund instead of the Creek Bend Farms Fund (\$14,228).
- Charges for Services from Green Creek Farm lease revenues were recorded in the Creek Bend Farm Fund instead of the General Fund (\$5,400).
- General Fund Charges for Services were recorded as Other Revenue (\$7,106).
- Special Revenue Funds, Charges for Services were recorded as Other Revenue within the Creek Bend Farms Fund (\$8,102).

The accompanying financial statements have been adjusted to correct these errors.

Sound financial reporting is the responsibility of the Director and the Board and is essential to ensure the information provided to the readers of the financial statements is complete and accurate.

To ensure the Board's financial statements and notes to the statements are complete and accurate, the Board should adopt policies and procedures, including a final review of the annual report by the Director and Board to identify and correct errors and omissions.

Officials' Response:

We acknowledge errors were made and will properly post these transactions in the future.

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**SANDUSKY COUNTY PARK DISTRICT
SANDUSKY COUNTY**

**SCHEDULE OF PRIOR AUDIT FINDINGS
DECEMBER 31, 2009**

Finding Number	Finding Summary	Fully Corrected?	Not Corrected, Partially Corrected; Significantly Different Corrective Action Taken; or Finding No Longer Valid; <i>Explain</i>
2008-001	Noncompliance Finding/Material Weakness for not established OPWC fund	Yes	

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Dave Yost • Auditor of State

SANDUSKY COUNTY PARK 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
AUGUST 30, 2011**