



**ERIE SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
ERIE COUNTY**

REGULAR AUDIT

FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2020-2019

**ERIE SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
ERIE COUNTY**

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OHIO AUDITOR OF STATE KEITH FABER



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INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

Erie Soil and Water Conservation District
Erie County
2900 Columbus Avenue, Room 131
Sandusky, Ohio 44870-5554

To the Board of Supervisors:

Report on the Financial Statements

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the cash balances, receipts and disbursements for each fund and related notes of Erie Soil and Water Conservation District, Erie County, Ohio (the District) as of and for the years ended December 31, 2020 and 2019.

Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for preparing and fairly presenting these financial statements in accordance with the financial reporting provisions the Ohio Department of Agriculture permits; this responsibility includes designing, implementing and maintaining internal control relevant to preparing and fairly presenting financial statements free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor's Responsibility

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

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

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

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

As described in Note 2 of the financial statements, the District prepared these financial statements using the accounting basis permitted by 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 requirements.

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

Though the District does not intend these statements to conform to GAAP, auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America require us to include an adverse opinion on GAAP. However, the adverse opinion does not imply the amounts reported are materially misstated under the accounting basis the Ohio Department of Agriculture permits. Our opinion on this accounting basis is in the *Opinion on Regulatory Basis of Accounting* paragraph below.

Adverse Opinion on U.S. Generally Accepted Accounting Principles

In our opinion, because of the significance of the matter discussed in the *Basis for Adverse Opinion on U.S. Generally Accepted Accounting Principles* paragraph, the financial statements referred to above do not present fairly, in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, the financial position of the District as of December 31, 2020 and 2019, or changes in financial position thereof for the years then ended.

Opinion on Regulatory Basis of Accounting

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the cash balances, receipts and disbursements for each fund of Erie Soil and Water Conservation District, Erie County, Ohio as of and for the years ended December 31, 2020 and 2019 in accordance with the financial reporting provisions the Ohio Department of Agriculture permits, described in Note 2.

Emphasis of Matter

As discussed in Note 11 to the 2020 financial statements and Note 9 to the 2019 financial statements, the financial impact of COVID-19 and the continuing emergency measures may impact subsequent periods of the District. We did not modify our opinion regarding this matter.

Other Reporting Required by Government Auditing Standards

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated September 24, 2021, 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. That report describes the scope of our internal control testing over financial reporting and compliance, and the results of that testing, and does not opine on internal control over financial reporting or on compliance. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the District's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.



Keith Faber
Auditor of State
Columbus, Ohio

September 24, 2021

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Erie Soil and Water Conservation District
Erie County
Statement of Receipts, Disbursements, and
Changes in Fund Balances (Regulatory Cash Basis)
For the Year Ended December 31, 2020

	<u>District Fund</u>	<u>Special Fund</u>	<u>Other Fund</u>	<u>Totals (Memorandum Only)</u>
Cash Receipts				
Grants				
Local Government	\$103,674	\$213,173		\$316,847
State Government	89,475	159,168		248,643
Gifts and Contributions	400			400
Sale of Products/Materials	70			70
Rentals	11,330			11,330
All Other Revenue	80,862		\$10,216	91,078
<i>Total Cash Receipts</i>	<u>285,811</u>	<u>372,341</u>	<u>10,216</u>	<u>668,368</u>
Cash Disbursements				
Salaries		253,429		253,429
Supplies	465	1,838		2,303
Equipment	50,430			50,430
Contract Repairs	481	620		1,101
Contract Services/Cost Share Payment	120,268	10,497		130,765
Rentals		12,274		12,274
Service Fees	5,395	2,692		8,087
Information and Education	33,684			33,684
Travel and Expenses	339	580		919
Advertising and Printing	26	61		87
OPERS		34,850		34,850
Hospitalization		78,814		78,814
Medicare		3,456		3,456
Vehicle Rental/Liability Insurance		5,709		5,709
Other		6,960		6,960
<i>Total Cash Disbursements</i>	<u>211,088</u>	<u>411,780</u>		<u>622,868</u>
<i>Excess of Receipts Over (Under) Disbursements</i>	<u>74,723</u>	<u>(39,439)</u>	<u>10,216</u>	<u>45,500</u>
Other Financing Receipts (Disbursements)				
Transfers In		50,000		50,000
Transfers Out	(50,000)			(50,000)
<i>Total Other Financing Receipts (Disbursements)</i>	<u>(50,000)</u>	<u>50,000</u>		
<i>Net Change in Fund Cash Balances</i>	24,723	10,561	10,216	45,500
<i>Fund Cash Balances, January 1</i>	<u>156,605</u>	<u>18,287</u>		<u>174,892</u>
<i>Fund Cash Balances, December 31</i>	<u>\$181,328</u>	<u>\$28,848</u>	<u>\$10,216</u>	<u>\$220,392</u>

See accompanying notes to the basic financial statements

Erie Soil and Water Conservation District

Erie County

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended December 31, 2020

Note 1 - Reporting Entity

The constitution and laws of the State of Ohio establish the rights and privileges of Erie Soil and Water Conservation District, Erie County, Ohio (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 stewardship of agricultural lands.

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 statement of receipts, disbursements, and changes in fund balances (regulatory 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 County Auditor also maintains an accounting of this fund.

District Fund The District Fund accounts for and reports revenues from district sales and equipment rentals, grants and donations.

Other Funds These funds account for and report the proceeds of specific revenue sources that are restricted to expenditure for specified purposes. The District's Other Fund accounts for contributions received from the Erie County Community Foundation.

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.

Erie Soil and Water Conservation District

Erie County

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended December 31, 2020

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. Unencumbered appropriations lapse at year end.

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

A summary of 2020 budgetary activity appears in Note 3.

Deposits and Investments

The Erie County Treasurer 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 Treasurer's carrying amount. Deposits and investments disclosures for the County as a whole may be obtained from Erie County Treasurer's Office at 247 Columbus Avenue, Suite 115, Sandusky, Ohio 44870.

Capital Assets

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

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

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.

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*.

Erie Soil and Water Conservation District

Erie County

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended December 31, 2020

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 ended December 31, 2020 follows:

2020 Budgeted vs. Actual Receipts			
Fund	Budgeted Receipts	Actual Receipts	Variance
Special	\$457,259	\$422,341	(\$34,918)

2020 Budgeted vs. Actual Budgetary Basis Expenditures			
Fund	Appropriation Authority	Budgetary Expenditures	Variance
Special	\$459,218	\$411,899	\$47,319

Note 4 - Deposits

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

	2020
Demand deposits	\$90,147
County Treasurer Deposits	28,848
Certificates of deposit	101,397
Total deposits	\$220,392

Deposits are insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation

Erie Soil and Water Conservation District

Erie County

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended December 31, 2020

Note 5 - Risk Management

Commercial Insurance

The District has obtained commercial insurance for the following risks:

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

Note 6 - Defined Benefit Pension Plan

Ohio Public Employees Retirement System

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, 2020.

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 2020. The portion of employer contributions allocated to health care for members in the member-directed plan was 4.0 percent during calendar year 2020.

Note 8 - Contingent Liabilities

Amounts grantor agencies pay to the District are subject to audit and adjustment by the grantor. The grantor 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.

Erie Soil and Water Conservation District

Erie County

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended December 31, 2020

Note 9 - Fund Balances

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 Fund	Total
Outstanding Encumbrances	\$119			\$119

The fund balance of the Other Fund is restricted. In the Special Fund, outstanding encumbrances are considered assigned.

Note 10 - Change in Accounting Principle

For 2020, the District has made changes to its cash basis reporting model. These changes include removing the fund balance classifications from the statement of receipts, disbursements, and changes in fund balances (regulatory cash basis) - all governmental fund types.

Note 11 - 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. The financial impact of COVID-19 and the continuing emergency measures may impact subsequent periods of the District. In addition, the impact on the District's future operating costs, revenues, and additional recovery from emergency funding, either federal or state, cannot be estimated.

Note 12 - All Other Revenue

District Fund all other revenue consists mainly of interest, inspections, and a pay for performance program funding, while Other Fund all other revenue consists of community foundation contributions.

Erie Soil and Water Conservation District
Erie County
Statement of Receipts, Disbursements, and
Changes in Fund Balances (Regulatory Cash Basis)
For the Year Ended December 31, 2019

	District Fund	Special Fund	Totals (Memorandum Only)
Cash Receipts			
Grants			
Local Government	\$55,817	\$168,898	\$224,715
State Government	285,851	124,511	410,362
Gifts and Contributions	5,410		5,410
Sale of Products/Materials	1,741		1,741
Rentals	10,590		10,590
All Other Revenue	82,790		82,790
<i>Total Cash Receipts</i>	<u>442,199</u>	<u>293,409</u>	<u>735,608</u>
Cash Disbursements			
Salaries		252,149	252,149
Supplies	2,831	2,587	5,418
Equipment	2,108		2,108
Contract Repairs	100	1,617	1,717
Contract Services/Cost Share Payment	245,402	9,364	254,766
Rentals	72	12,275	12,347
Service Fees	3,365	2,604	5,969
Information and Education	50,165	350	50,515
Travel and Expenses	4,077	1,049	5,126
Advertising and Printing	169	186	355
OPERS		34,384	34,384
Worker's Compensation		125	125
Hospitalization		79,170	79,170
Medicare		3,419	3,419
Vehicle Rental/Liability Insurance		8,136	8,136
Other		6,800	6,800
<i>Total Cash Disbursements</i>	<u>308,289</u>	<u>414,215</u>	<u>722,504</u>
<i>Excess of Receipts Over (Under) Disbursements</i>	<u>133,910</u>	<u>(120,806)</u>	<u>13,104</u>
Other Financing Receipts (Disbursements)			
Transfers In		125,000	125,000
Transfers Out	(125,000)		(125,000)
<i>Total Other Financing Receipts (Disbursements)</i>	<u>(125,000)</u>	<u>125,000</u>	
<i>Net Change in Fund Cash Balances</i>	8,910	4,194	13,104
<i>Fund Cash Balances, January 1</i>	<u>147,695</u>	<u>14,093</u>	<u>161,788</u>
Fund Cash Balances, December 31			
Restricted	7,828		7,828
Assigned	148,777	18,287	167,064
<i>Fund Cash Balances, December 31</i>	<u>\$156,605</u>	<u>\$18,287</u>	<u>\$174,892</u>

See accompanying notes to the financial statements

Erie Soil and Water Conservation District

Erie County

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended December 31, 2019

Note 1 - Reporting Entity

The constitution and laws of the State of Ohio establish the rights and privileges of Erie Soil and Water Conservation District, Erie County, Ohio (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 stewardship of agricultural lands.

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 statement of receipts, disbursements, and changes in fund balances (regulatory 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 County Auditor also maintains an accounting of this fund.

District Fund The District Fund accounts for and reports revenues from District sales and equipment rentals, grants and donations.

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.

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.

Erie Soil and Water Conservation District

Erie County

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended December 31, 2019

A summary of 2019 budgetary activity appears in Note 3.

Deposits and Investments

The Erie County Treasurer 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 Treasurer's carrying amount. Deposits and investments disclosures for the County as a whole may be obtained from the Erie County Treasurer's Office at 247 Columbus Avenue, Suite 115, Sandusky, Ohio 44870.

Capital Assets

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

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

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.

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*. In the Special and District funds, *assigned* amounts represent intended uses established by District Supervisors or a District official delegated that authority by resolution, or by State Statute.

Unassigned Unassigned fund balance is the residual classification for the Special and District funds and includes amounts not included in the other classifications.

Erie Soil and Water Conservation District

Erie County

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended December 31, 2019

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.

Note 3 - Special Fund Budgetary Activity

Budgetary activity for the year ended December 31, 2019 follows:

2019 Budgeted vs. Actual Receipts			
Fund	Budgeted Receipts	Actual Receipts	Variance
Special	\$439,851	\$418,409	(\$21,442)

2019 Budgeted vs. Actual Budgetary Basis Expenditures			
Fund	Appropriation Authority	Budgetary Expenditures	Variance
Special	\$441,900	\$414,215	\$27,685

Note 4 - Deposits

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

	2019
Demand deposits	\$55,267
County Treasurer Deposits	18,287
Certificates of deposit	101,338
Total deposits	\$174,892

Deposits are insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation.

Note 5 - Risk Management

Commercial Insurance

The District has obtained commercial insurance for the following risks:

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

Erie Soil and Water Conservation District

Erie County

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended December 31, 2019

Note 6 - Defined Benefit Pension Plan

Ohio Public Employees Retirement System

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, 2019.

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 2019. The portion of employer contributions allocated to health care for members in the member-directed plan was 4.0 percent during calendar year 2019.

Note 8 - Contingent Liabilities

Amounts grantor agencies pay to the District are subject to audit and adjustment by the grantor. The grantor 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.

Note 9 - Subsequent Event

The United States and the State of Ohio declared a state of emergency in March 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The financial impact of COVID-19 and the continuing emergency measures may impact subsequent periods of the District. In addition, the impact on the District's future operating costs, revenues, and any recovery from emergency funding, either federal or state, cannot be estimated.

Note 10 - All Other Revenue

District Fund all other revenue consists mainly of interest, inspections, and a pay for performance program funding.

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OHIO AUDITOR OF STATE KEITH FABER



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NorthwestRegion@ohioauditor.gov

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

Erie Soil and Water Conservation District
Erie County
2900 Columbus Avenue, Room 131
Sandusky, Ohio 44870-5554

To the Board of Supervisors:

We have audited, in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States and the Comptroller General of the United States' *Government Auditing Standards*, the financial statements of the cash balances, receipts and disbursements for each fund of Erie Soil and Water Conservation District, Erie County, Ohio (the District) as of and for the years ended December 31, 2020 and 2019, and the related notes to the financial statements and have issued our report thereon dated September 24, 2021, wherein we noted the District followed financial reporting provisions the Ohio Department of Agriculture prescribes or permits. We also noted the financial impact of COVID-19 and the continuing emergency measures which may impact subsequent periods of the District.

Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

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

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 combination of internal control deficiencies resulting in a reasonable possibility that internal control will not prevent or detect and timely correct a material misstatement of the District's financial statements. A *significant deficiency* is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control that is less severe than a material weakness, yet important enough to merit attention by those charged with governance.

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 internal control deficiencies that might be material weaknesses or significant deficiencies. Given these limitations, we did not identify any deficiencies in internal control that we consider material weaknesses. However, unidentified material weaknesses may exist.

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 financial statements. However, opining on compliance with those provisions was not an objective of our audit and accordingly, we do not express an opinion. The results of our tests disclosed no instances of noncompliance or other matters we must report under *Government Auditing Standards*.

Purpose of this Report

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



Keith Faber
Auditor of State
Columbus, Ohio

September 24, 2021

OHIO AUDITOR OF STATE KEITH FABER



ERIE SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

ERIE COUNTY

AUDITOR OF STATE OF OHIO CERTIFICATION

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



Certified for Release 10/12/2021

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