

***Clearwater Council of Governments  
Ottawa County***

**AGREED UPON PROCEDURES**

**For the Year Ended December 31, 2023**







65 East State Street  
Columbus, Ohio 43215  
ContactUs@ohioauditor.gov  
800-282-0370

Council Board  
Clearwater Council of Governments  
235 N Toussaint South Road  
Oak Harbor, Ohio 43449

We have reviewed the *Independent Accountants' Report on Applying Agreed Upon Procedures* of the Clearwater Council of Governments, Ottawa County, prepared by Charles E. Harris & Associates, Inc., for the period January 1, 2023 through December 31, 2023. Based upon this review, we have accepted this report in lieu of the audit required by Section 117.11, Revised Code.

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

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

Keith Faber  
Auditor of State  
Columbus, Ohio

**July 01, 2024**

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Clearwater Council of Governments  
Ottawa County  
For the year ended December 31, 2023

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**INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANT'S REPORT ON APPLYING AGREED-UPON PROCEDURES**

Clearwater Council of Governments  
Ottawa County  
235 N Toussaint South Road  
Oak Harbor, Ohio 43449

We have performed the procedures enumerated below on the Clearwater Council of Government, Ottawa County, Ohio's (the Council) receipts, disbursements and balances recorded in the cash basis accounting records for the year ended December 31, 2023 and certain compliance requirements related to those transactions and balances, included in the information provided to us by the management of the Council. The Council is responsible for the receipts, disbursements and balances recorded in the cash basis accounting records for the year ended December 31, 2023 and certain compliance requirements related to these transactions and balances included in the information provided to us by the Council.

The Council Board and the management of the Council have agreed to and acknowledged that the procedures performed are appropriate to meet the intended purpose of providing assistance in the evaluation of the Council's receipts, disbursements and balances recorded in their cash-basis accounting records for the year ended December 31, 2023, and certain compliance requirements related to these transactions and balances. Additionally, the Auditor of State has agreed to and acknowledged that the procedures performed are appropriate to meet their purposes. No other party acknowledged the appropriateness of the procedures. This report may not be suitable for any other purpose. The procedures performed may not address all the items of interest to a user of the report and may not meet the needs of all users of the report and, as such, users are responsible for determining whether the procedures performed are appropriate for their purposes. The sufficiency of the procedures is solely the responsibility of the parties specified in the report. Consequently, we make no representation regarding the sufficiency of the procedures described below either for the purpose for which this report has been requested or for any other purpose.

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

The procedures and the associated findings are as follows:

**Cash and Investments**

1. We recalculated the December 31, 2023 bank reconciliation. We found no exceptions.
2. We agreed the January 1, 2023 beginning fund balances for each fund recorded in the General Ledger Report to the December 31, 2022 balances in the prior year audited statements. We found no exceptions.
3. We agreed the 2023 bank reconciliation as of December 31, 2023 to the total fund cash balances reported in the Trial Balance Report and the financial statements filed by the Council in the Hinkle System. The amounts agreed.
4. We observed the December 31, 2023 bank account balances with the Council's financial institutions. We found no exceptions. We also agreed the observed balances to the amounts appearing in the December 31, 2023 bank reconciliation without exception.

5. We selected five reconciling debits (such as outstanding checks) from the December 31, 2023 bank reconciliation:
  - a. We traced each debit to the subsequent January bank statements. We found no exceptions.
  - b. We traced the amounts and dates to the check register, and determined the debits were dated prior to December 31. We found no exceptions.
6. We compared investments held at December 31, 2023 to determine that:
  - a. Pursuant to Ohio Rev. Code § 167.04 (B), the Council appointed a fiscal officer and prescribed allowable investments the by-laws, or another act of the council, permit. We found no exceptions.
  - b. They were of a type authorized by Ohio Rev. Code §§ 135.13, 135.14, 135.144 or 135.145. We found no exceptions.
  - c. They mature within the prescribed time limits noted in Ohio Rev. Code § 135.13 or 135.14. We found no exceptions.

#### **Intergovernmental and Other Confirmable Cash Receipts**

1. We selected a total of five receipts from the State Distribution Transaction Lists (DTL) from 2023:
  - a. We compared the amount from the above report to the amount recorded in the General Ledger Report. The amounts agreed.
  - b. We inspected the General Ledger Report to determine that these receipts were allocated to the proper funds. We found no exceptions.
  - c. We inspected the General Ledger Report to confirm whether the receipts were recorded in the proper year. We found no exceptions.
2. We confirmed the total amount paid from the County Board of Developmental Disabilities, Marion, Crawford, Erie, Huron, Morrow, Seneca, Lucas, Richland, and Ottawa to the Council during 2023 with the Boards. We found no exceptions.
  - a. We inspected the General Ledger Report to determine whether these receipts were allocated to the proper funds. We found no exceptions.
  - b. We inspected the General Ledger Report to determine whether the receipts were recorded in the proper year. We found no exceptions.

#### **Other Receipts**

We selected ten other receipts from the year ended December 31, 2023 and:

- a. Agreed the receipt amount in the General Ledger Report to supporting documentation. The amounts agreed.
- b. Inspected the General Ledger Report to determine the receipt was posted to the proper funds and was recorded in the proper year. We found no exceptions.

#### **Debt**

1. The prior audit documentation disclosed no debt outstanding as of December 31, 2021.
2. We inquired of management and inspected the General Ledger Report for evidence of debt issued during 2023 or debt payment activity during 2023. No new debt issuances, nor any debt payment activity during 2023 were found.



**Payroll Cash Disbursements**

1. We selected one payroll check for five employees from 2023 from the Expense Detail Report and:
  - a. We compared the hours and pay rate, or salary recorded in the Expense Detail Report to supporting documentation (timecard, legislatively or statutorily-approved rate or salary). We found no exceptions.
  - b. We inspected the fund and account code to which the check was posted to determine the posting was allowable based on the employees' duties as documented in the employees' personnel files. We found no exceptions.
  - c. We confirmed the payment was posted to the proper year. We found no exceptions.
  
2. We selected three new employees from 2023 and:
  - a. We inspected the employees' personnel files for the Retirement system, Federal, State & Local income tax withholding authorization.
  - b. We agreed the items in a above to the Employee General Information Report.

We found no exceptions.
  
3. We inspected the last remittance of tax and retirement withholdings for the year ended December 31, 2023 to confirm remittances were timely paid, and if the amounts paid agreed to the amounts withheld, plus the employer's share where applicable, during the final withholding period of 2023. We observed the following:

<b>Withholding (plus employer share, where applicable)</b>	<b>Date Due</b>	<b>Date Paid</b>	<b>Amount Due</b>	<b>Amount Paid</b>
Federal income taxes & Medicare (and social security, for employees not enrolled in pension system)	January 31, 2024	December 22, 2023	\$5,500.40	\$5,500.40
State income taxes	January 15, 2024	December 22, 2023	\$1,100.90	\$1,100.90
Local income tax	January 15, 2024	December 22, 2023	\$644.52	\$644.52
OPERS retirement	January 30, 2024	January 30, 2024	\$13,376.95	\$13,376.95

We found no exceptions.

**Non-Payroll Cash Disbursements**

1. We selected 10 disbursements from the General Ledger Report for the year ended December 31, 2023 and determined whether:
  - a. The disbursements were for a proper public purpose. We found no exceptions.
  - b. The check number, date, payee name and amount recorded on the returned, canceled check agreed to the check number, date, payee name and amount recorded in the General Ledger Report and to the names and amounts on the supporting invoices. We found no exceptions.
  - c. The payment was posted to a fund consistent with the restricted purpose for which the fund's cash can be used. We found no exceptions.

### Sunshine Law Compliance

1. We obtained and inspected the Council's Public Records Policy to determine the policy was in accordance with Ohio Rev. Code §§ 149.43(E)(2) and 149.43(B)(7)(c) and did not limit the number of responses that may be made to a particular person, limit the number of responses during a specified period of time, or establish a fixed period of time before it will respond unless that period is less than eight hours. We found no exceptions.
2. We inquired with Council management and determined that the Council did not have any completed, redacted, or denied public records requests during the engagement period.
3. We inquired whether the Council had a records retention schedule, and observed that it was readily available to the public as required by Ohio Rev. Code § 149.43(B)(2). We found no exceptions.
4. We inspected written evidence that the Public Records Policy was provided to the records custodian/manager as required by Ohio Rev. Code § 149.43(E)(2). We found no exceptions.
5. We inquired with Council management and determined that the Council did not have a policy manual during the engagement period therefore the public records policy could not be included as required by Ohio Rev. Code § 149.43(E)(2). This is not an exception to Ohio Rev. Code § 149.43(E)(2).
6. We observed that the Council's poster describing their Public Records Policy was displayed conspicuously in all branches of the Council as required by Ohio Rev. Code § 149.43(E)(2). We found no exceptions.
7. We inquired with Council management and determined that the Council did not have any applications for record disposal submitted to the Records Commission during the engagement period.
8. We inquired with Council management and determined that the Council did not have any elected officials subject to the Public Records Training requirements during the engagement period as required by Ohio Rev. Code §§ 149.43(E)(1) and 109.43(B).
9. We inspected the public notices for the public meetings held during the engagement period and determined the Council notified the general public and news media of when and where meetings during the engagement period were to be held as required by Ohio Rev. Code § 121.22(F). We found no exceptions.
10. We inspected the minutes of public meetings during the engagement period in accordance with Ohio Rev. Code § 121.22(C) and determined whether they were:
  - a. Prepared – a file is created following the date of the meeting
  - b. Filed – placed with similar documents in an organized manner
  - c. Maintained - retained, at a minimum, for the engagement period
  - d. Open to public inspection – available for public viewing or request.We found no exceptions.
11. We inspected the minutes from the engagement period in accordance with Ohio Rev. Code § 121.22(G) and determined the following:
  - a. Executive sessions were only held at regular or special meetings.
  - b. The purpose for the meetings and going into an executive session (when applicable) correlated with one of the matters listed in Ohio Rev. Code Section 121.22(G).
  - c. Formal governing board actions were adopted in open meetings.We found no exceptions.

### Other Compliance

1. Ohio Rev. Code § 117.38 requires councils to file their financial information in the HINKLE system within 60 days after the close of the fiscal year. This statute also permits the Auditor of State to extend the deadline for filing a financial report and establish terms and conditions for any such extension. The Auditor of State established policies, regarding the filing of complete financial statements, as defined in AOS Bulletin 2015-007 in the Hinkle System. We confirmed the Council filed their complete financial statements, as defined by AOS Bulletin 2015-007 and the Auditor of State established policy within the allotted timeframe for the year ended December 31, 2023 in the Hinkle system. We found no exceptions.

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

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



**Charles E. Harris & Associates, Inc.**  
May 10, 2024

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# OHIO AUDITOR OF STATE KEITH FABER



**CLEARWATER COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS**

**OTTAWA 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 7/11/2024**

65 East State 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](http://www.ohioauditor.gov)