

**NATCHITOCHES SOIL AND WATER  
CONSERVATION DISTRICT  
Natchitoches, LA**

**Annual Financial Report**

**For the Year Ended June 30, 2024**

**NATCHITOCHEs SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT**  
**Natchitoches, Louisiana**

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**Dees Gardner, Certified Public Accountants, LLC**

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### **Independent Accountant's Review Report**

Natchitoches Soil and Water Conservation District  
6949 Highway 1 Bypass  
Natchitoches, LA 71457

#### **Report on the Financial Statements**

We have reviewed the accompanying financial statements of the governmental activities and the major fund of Natchitoches Soil and Water Conservation District, as of and for the year ended June 30, 2024, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the District's basic financial statements as listed in the table of contents. A review includes primarily applying analytical procedures to management's financial data and making inquiries of the management of the Natchitoches Soil and Water Conservation District. A review is substantially less in scope than an audit, the objective of which is the expression of an opinion regarding the financial statements as a whole. Accordingly, we do not express such an opinion.

#### **Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements**

The Natchitoches Soil and Water Conservation District's management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America; this includes the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement whether due to fraud or error.

#### **Accountant's Responsibility**

Our responsibility is to conduct the review engagement in accordance with the *Statements on Standards for Accounting and Review Services* promulgated by the Accounting and Review Services Committee of the AICPA and applicable standards of *Government Auditing Standards* issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. Those standards require us to perform procedures to obtain limited assurance as a basis for reporting whether we are aware of any material modifications that should be made to the financial statements for them to be in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. We believe that the results of our procedures provide a reasonable basis for our conclusion.

We are required to be independent of the District and to meet our other ethical responsibilities, in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements related to our review.

#### **Accountant's Conclusion**

Based on our review, we are not aware of any material modifications that should be made to the accompanying financial statements of the Natchitoches Soil and Water Conservation District in order for them to be in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

## Other Matter Paragraphs

### *Required Supplementary Information*

Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require that the Budgetary Comparison Schedule be presented to supplement the basic financial statements. Such information is presented for purposes of additional analysis and, although not a required part of the basic financial statements, is required by Governmental Accounting Standards Board who considers it to be an essential part of financial reporting and for placing the basic financial statements in appropriate operation, economic, or historical context. Such information is the responsibility of management. We have reviewed the information and, based on our review, we are not aware of any material modifications that should be made to the information in order for it to be in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. We have not audited the budgetary comparison schedule and, accordingly, do not express an opinion on such information.

Management has omitted the Management's Discussion and Analysis that Governmental Accounting Standards Board requires to be presented to supplement the basic financial statements. Such missing information, although not a part of the basic financial statements, is required by Governmental Accounting Standards Board who considers them to be an essential part of financial reporting and for placing the basic financial statements in an appropriate operational, economic, or historical context.

*Dees Gardner, Certified Public Accountants, LLC*

Mansfield, Louisiana  
January 6, 2025

## BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

## GOVERNMENT-WIDE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

**STATEMENT A****NATCHITOCHES SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT****Natchitoches , Louisiana****STATEMENT OF NET POSITION****June 30, 2024**

	GOVERNMENTAL ACTIVITIES
<b>ASSETS</b>	
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 148,987
Investments	155,062
Accounts receivable	14,776
Capital assets (net)	<u>144,393</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>\$ 463,218</u>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>	
Accounts, salaries, and other payables	<u>\$ 4,228</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES	<u>\$ 4,228</u>
<b>NET POSITION</b>	
Net investment in capital assets	\$ 144,393
Unrestricted	<u>314,597</u>
TOTAL NET POSITION	<u><u>\$ 458,990</u></u>

The notes to the financial statements are an integral part of this statement.  
See the accompanying independent accountant's review report.

**NATCHITOCHES SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT**  
**Natchitoches, Louisiana**  
**STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES**  
**For year ended June 30, 2024**

The notes to the financial statements are an integral part of this statement.  
See the accompanying independent accountant's review report.

## FUND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

**STATEMENT C**

**NATCHITOCHEs SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT**  
**Natchitoches, Louisiana**  
**BALANCE SHEET, GOVERNMENTAL FUND**  
**June 30, 2024**

	<u>GENERAL FUND</u>
<b>ASSETS</b>	
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 148,987
Investments	155,062
Accounts receivable	<u>14,776</u>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$ <u><u>318,825</u></u></b>
<b>LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCE</b>	
Liabilities:	
Accounts, salaries, and other payables	\$ <u>4,228</u>
Total Liabilities	<u>4,228</u>
Fund Balance:	
Unassigned	<u>314,597</u>
Total Fund Balance	<u>314,597</u>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCE</b>	<b>\$ <u><u>318,825</u></u></b>

The notes to the financial statements are an integral part of this statement.  
See the accompanying independent accountant's review report.

**STATEMENT D**

**NATCHITOCHEs SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT**  
**Natchitoches, Louisiana**  
**RECONCILIATION OF THE GOVERNMENTAL FUND BALANCE SHEET**  
**TO THE STATEMENT OF NET POSITION**  
**June 30, 2024**

Amounts reported for governmental activities in the Statement of Net Position are different because:

Total Fund Balance for Governmental Funds (Statement C)		\$ 314,597
Capital assets used in governmental activities are not financial resources and therefore, are not reported in the government funds. Those assets consist of:		
Capital Assets	\$ 303,489	
Accumulated Depreciation	<u>(159,096)</u>	<u>144,393</u>
Total Net Position of Governmental Activities (Statement A)		<u><u>\$ 458,990</u></u>

The notes to the financial statements are an integral part of this statement.  
See the accompanying independent accountant's review report.

**STATEMENT E**

**NATCHITOCHEs SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT**  
**Natchitoches, Louisiana**  
**STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES, AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCE-**  
**GOVERNMENTAL FUND**  
**For year ended June 30, 2024**

	<u>GENERAL FUND</u>
<b>Revenues:</b>	
Sales and services	\$ 33,170
Intergovernmental:	
Federal funds	57,724
State funds	228,042
Contributions and donations	18,666
Interest earnings	<u>5,237</u>
 Total Revenues	 <u>342,839</u>
 <b>Expenditures:</b>	
Current:	
Conservation:	
Personnel and related benefits	177,334
Operating and administrative	64,315
Feral hog expenses	69,924
Travel	2,777
Capital outlays - Feral Hog Program	<u>20,766</u>
 Total Expenditures	 <u>335,116</u>
 <b>Net change in Fund Balance</b>	 <b>7,723</b>
 Fund balance, beginning of year	 <u>306,874</u>
Fund balance, end of year	<u><u>\$ 314,597</u></u>

The notes to the financial statements are an integral part of this statement.  
See the accompanying independent accountant's review report.

**STATEMENT F**

**NATCHITOCHES SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT**  
**Natchitoches, Louisiana**  
**RECONCILIATION OF THE STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES**  
**AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCE OF GOVERNMENTAL FUND**  
**TO THE STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES**  
**For year ended June 30, 2024**

Amounts reported for governmental activities in the Statement of Activities are different because:

Net Change in Fund Balance- Total Governmental Fund (Statement E)	\$ 7,723
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Governmental funds report capital outlays as expenditures and the sales price of assets as revenue. However, in the statement of activities, the cost of those assets is allocated over their estimated useful lives and reported as depreciation expense and gain or loss on disposition of assets is recorded.

Capital outlays	\$ 20,766	
Depreciation	<u>(48,211)</u>	<u>(27,445)</u>
Change in Net Assets of Governmental Activities (Statement B)		<u><u>\$ (19,722)</u></u>

The notes to the financial statements are an integral part of this statement.  
See the accompanying independent accountant's review report.

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

# NATCHITOCHES SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Notes to the Financial Statements  
June 30, 2024

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## INTRODUCTION

The District was created by and in accordance with provisions of Louisiana Revised Statute (LSA-R.S.) 3:1201 and serves citizens within the boundaries of District 38, Area III of the State of Louisiana. The purpose of the District is to provide for the conservation of the soil and soil resources of their district, to control and prevent soil erosion and floodwater and sediment damages, and for furthering the conservation, development, utilization, and disposal of water. The District is to also preserve natural resources, control floods, prevent impairment of dams and reservoirs, assist in maintaining the navigability of rivers and harbors, preserve wildlife, protect public lands, and protect and promote the health, safety, and general welfare of the people of their district.

The governing authority of each district shall consist of five supervisors who shall be landowners or farm operators and qualified voters within the state. Three of the supervisors will be elected within the district on the second Saturday in June each year and the other two are appointed by the State Soil and Water Conservation District.

## 1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The accompanying basic financial statements of the Natchitoches Soil and Water Conservation District have been prepared in conformity with governmental accounting principles generally accepted (GAAP) in the United States of America. The Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) is the accepted standard-setting body for establishing governmental accounting and financial reporting principles. The accompanying basic financial statements have been prepared in conformity with GASB Statement 34, *Basic Financial Statements—and Management's Discussion and Analysis—for State and Local Governments*, issued in June 1999; Statement 63, *Financial Reporting of Deferred Outflows of Resources, and Net Position* and Statement 65, *Items Previously Reported as Assets and Liabilities*. Such accounting and reporting policies also conform to the requirements of Louisiana Revised Statutes 24:517 and to the guides set forth in the *Louisiana Governmental Audit Guide*.

The significant accounting policies established in GAAP and used by the Natchitoches Soil and Water Conservation District are discussed below.

### A. REPORTING ENTITY

Governmental Accounting Standards Board Statement No. 14 established criteria for determining the governmental reporting entity and component units that should be included within the reporting entity. The basic criterion for including a potential component unit within the reporting entity is financial accountability. Oversight responsibility is determined on the basis of appointment of governing body, ability to significantly influence operations, accountability for fiscal matters, and the nature and significance of an organization's relationship with the primary government. For financial reporting purposes, in conformance with GASB Statement No. 14, the District includes all funds that are within the oversight responsibility of the Natchitoches Soil and Water Conservation District. Based on consideration of the foregoing criteria, the Natchitoches Soil and Water Conservation District is deemed to be a separate reporting entity.

### B. BASIS OF PRESENTATION

The Natchitoches Soil and Water Conservation District's basic financial statements consists of government-wide financial statements, including a statement of net position and a statement of activities, and fund financial statements, which provide a more detailed level of financial information.

# NATCHITOCHEs SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Notes to the Financial Statements  
June 30, 2024

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## 1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

### B. BASIS OF PRESENTATION (continued)

#### **Government-Wide Financial Statements**

The Statement of Net Position and Statement of Activities display information about the reporting government as a whole. They include the fund of the reporting entity, which is considered to be a governmental activity. Governmental activities generally are financed through taxes, intergovernmental revenues, and other non-exchange revenues.

The Statement of Activities presents a comparison between direct expenses and program revenues for each function of the District's governmental activities. Direct expenses are those that are specifically associated with a program or function. Program revenues include (a) fees and charges paid by the recipients for goods or services offered by the programs, and (b) grants and contributions that are restricted to meeting the operational or capital requirements of a particular program. Revenues that are not classified as program revenues, including all taxes, are presented as general revenues.

#### **Fund Financial Statements**

The accounts of the District are organized and operated on the basis of funds. A fund is an independent fiscal and accounting entity with a separate set of self-balancing accounts. Fund accounting segregates funds according to their intended purpose and is used to aid management in demonstrating compliance with finance-related legal and contractual provisions. These funds focus on the sources, uses and balances of current financial resources. Expendable assets are assigned to the fund from which they will be paid. The difference between a governmental fund's assets and liabilities is reported as fund balance. In general, fund balance represents the accumulated expendable resources which may be used to finance future period programs or operations. The minimum number of funds is maintained consistent with legal and managerial requirements.

A fund is considered major if it is the primary operating fund of the entity. The only and major fund of the District is classified as a governmental fund and is described below:

General Fund. The General Fund, as provided by Louisiana Revised Statute 47:1906 is the primary operating fund of the Fund and is used to account for the operations of the Fund. The General Fund is available for any purpose provided it is expended or transferred in accordance with state and federal laws and according to the Fund's policy.

### C. MEASUREMENT FOCUS/ BASIS OF ACCOUNTING

Measurement focus is a term used to describe "which" transactions are recorded within the various financial statements. Basis of accounting refers to "when" revenues, expenditures, expenses, transfers of assets, deferred outflows of resources, liabilities, and deferred inflows of resources—are recognized in the accounts and reported in the financial statements.

#### **Measurement Focus**

On the government-wide Statement of Net Position and the Statement of Activities, governmental activities are presented using the economic resources measurement focus. The accounting objectives of this measurement focus are the determination of operating income, changes in net position (or cost recovery) and financial position. All assets and liabilities (whether current or non-current) associated with its activities are reported. Government-wide fund equity is classified as net position.

# NATCHITOCHEs SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Notes to the Financial Statements  
June 30, 2024

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## 1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

### C. MEASUREMENT FOCUS/ BASIS OF ACCOUNTING (continued)

In the fund financial statements, the “current financial resources” measurement focus is used. Only current financial assets and liabilities are generally included on its balance sheet. Their statement of revenues, expenditures, and changes in fund balance reports sources (i.e., revenues and other financing sources) and uses (i.e., expenditures and other financing uses) of available spendable financial resources during a given period. This approach is then reconciled, through adjustment, to a government-wide view of the operations.

#### **Basis of Accounting**

In the government-wide Statement of Net Position and Statement of Activities, the governmental activities are presented using the accrual basis of accounting. Under the accrual basis of accounting, revenues are recognized when earned and expenses are recorded when the liability is incurred or economic asset used. Revenues, expenses, gains, losses, assets, and liabilities resulting from exchange and exchange-like transactions are recognized when the exchange takes place.

Governmental fund financial statements are reported using the current financial resources measurement focus and the modified accrual basis of accounting. Revenues are recognized as soon as they are both measurable and available. Revenues are considered to be available when they are collectible within the current period or soon enough thereafter to pay liabilities of the current period. For this purpose, the government considers revenues to be available if they are collected within 60 days of the end of the current fiscal period. Revenues are classified by source and expenditures are classified by function and character. Expenditures (including capital outlays) generally are recorded when a liability is incurred, as under accrual accounting.

### D. ASSETS, LIABILITIES, AND EQUITY

#### **Cash and Investments**

Cash includes amounts in demand deposits and interest-bearing demand deposits. The cash includes amounts in time deposits and investments with original maturities of 90 days or less as cash equivalents. Under state law (LSA R.S. 33:2955), the District may deposit funds with a fiscal agent organized under Louisiana law or any other state of the United States, or under the laws of the United States. In addition, local governments in may invest in certificates and time deposits of state banks organized under Louisiana laws and national banks having principal offices in Louisiana.

#### **Receivables / Payables**

Receivables consist of all revenues earned at year-end and not yet received. Major receivables for the governmental activities are related to intergovernmental revenue. All receivables are current and therefore due within one year. Allowances are reported when accounts are proven to be uncollectible. There are no allowances reported.

Payables consist of necessary and ordinary expenses of the Fund.

#### **Capital Assets**

Capital Assets, which includes equipment, are reported in the government-wide financial statements. All capital assets are depreciated using the straight-line method over their estimated useful lives, ranging from three to ten years depending upon the expected durability of the particular asset. Depreciation of all exhaustible capital assets is recorded as an expense in the statement of net position.

# NATCHITOCHEs SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Notes to the Financial Statements  
June 30, 2024

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## 1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

### D. ASSETS, LIABILITIES, AND EQUITY (continued)

The costs of normal maintenance and repairs that do not add to the value of the asset or materially extend the asset life are not capitalized.

Capital assets and depreciation expenses are reported in the Statement of Net Position and Statement of Activities. In the fund financial statements, fixed assets are accounted for as capital outlay expenditures upon acquisition.

### **Equity Classifications**

#### *Net Position*

The District classifies net position in the government-wide financial statements, as follows:

- *Net investment in capital assets* – Consists of net capital assets reduced by outstanding balances of any related debt obligations and deferred inflows of resources attributable to the acquisition, construction, or improvement of those assets and increased by balances of deferred outflows of resources related to those assets.
- *Restricted net position* – net position is considered restricted if their use is constrained to a particular purpose. Restrictions are imposed by external organizations such as federal or state laws or buyers of the District's bonds. Restricted net position is reduced by liabilities and deferred inflows of resources related to the restricted assets.
- *Unrestricted net position* – consists of all other net position that does not meet the definition of the above two components and is available for general use by the District.

The District's policy is to consider restricted net position to have been depleted before unrestricted net position is applied.

#### *Fund Balances*

In accordance with GASB 54, the district classifies fund balances in governmental funds as follows:

- *Nonspendable* – Amounts that are not in spendable form (such as prepaid expenses) because they are legally and contractually required to be maintained intact.
- *Restricted* – Amounts constrained to specific purposes by their providers (such as grantors or higher levels of government), through constitutional provisions, or by enabling legislation.
- *Committed* – Amounts constrained by the District itself. To be reported as committed, amounts cannot be used for any other purpose unless the Board takes the action to remove or change the constraint.
- *Assigned* – Amounts the District intends to use for a specific purpose. Intent can be expressed by an official or body to which the governing body delegates the authority.
- *Unassigned* – All amounts not included in other spendable.

The District would typically use Restricted fund balances first, followed by Committed resources, and then Assigned resources, as appropriate opportunities arise, but reserves the right to selectively spend Unassigned resources first to defer the use of these other classified funds.

The General Fund, the District's only governmental fund, has an unassigned fund balance of \$314,597.

# NATCHITOCHEs SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Notes to the Financial Statements  
June 30, 2024

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## 1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

### E. ESTIMATES

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosures of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the reporting period. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

## 2. CASH AND INVESTMENTS

At June 30, 2024, the District had cash (book balances) totaling \$148,987 as follows:

Interest bearing demand deposits	\$	37,757
Demand deposits		111,230
	\$	<u>148,987</u>

*Investments:* At June 30, 2024, the District had investments (book balances) consisting of certificates of deposit with maturities of 6, 12, and 36 months totaling \$155,062.

These deposits are stated at cost, which approximates fair value. The cash and investments of the District are subject to the following risks:

*Custodial Credit Risk:* Custodial credit risk is the risk that, in the event of the failure of a depository financial institution, the government will not be able to recover its deposits. Under state law, these deposits (or the resulting bank balances) must be secured by federal deposit insurance, or the pledge of securities owned by the fiscal agent bank. The market value of the pledged securities plus the federal deposit insurance must always equal the amount on deposit with the fiscal agent. These securities are held in the name of the pledging fiscal agent bank in a holding or custodial bank that is mutually acceptable to both parties. At year end, the District had collected bank balances of \$305,018 which were fully protected by federal deposit insurance.

*Interest Rate Risk:* This is the risk that changes in market interest rates will adversely affect the fair value of an investment. Generally, the longer the maturity of an investment, the greater the sensitivity its fair value is to changes in the market interest rates. The District does not have a formal investment policy that limits investment maturities as a means of managing its exposure to fair value losses arising from increasing interest rates. However, as a means of offsetting exposure to interest rate risk, the District diversifies its investments by type. At year end, the District had allocated 36% of its investments to certificates of deposit with maturities over 12 months.

## 3. ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE

Accounts Receivable at June 30, 2024, consists of the following:

Farmbill	\$	9,038
Feral Swine Funds		5,445
Miscellaneous		293
	\$	<u>14,776</u>

## NATCHITOCHES SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

### Notes to the Financial Statements June 30, 2024

#### 4. CAPITAL ASSETS

A summary of the Natchitoches Soil and Water Conservation District's capital assets at June 30, 2024, follows:

Governmental Activities:	Balance June 30, 2023	Additions	Deletions/ Reclassifications	Balance June 30, 2024
Capital assets, being depreciated				
Equipment	\$ 282,723	\$ 20,766	\$ -	\$ 303,489
Less accumulated depreciation for				
Equipment	\$ 110,885	\$ 48,211	\$ -	\$ 159,096
Total capital assets being depreciated, net	\$ 171,838	\$ (27,445)	\$ -	\$ 144,393

Depreciation expense of \$48,211 for the year ended June 30, 2024, was charged to conservation.

#### 5. COMPENSATION OF BOARD MEMBERS

The board members were reimbursed for travel for the year ended June 30, 2024, as follows:

	Number of meetings attended	Travel reimbursement
Sidney B. Evans, III	12	353
E.J. Giering, III	12	1,074
Patrick Churchman	6	248
Lewis Casey Messenger	9	145
James Wagley	10	28

#### 6. COMPENSATION, BENEFITS AND OTHER PAYMENTS TO AGENCY HEAD

A detail of compensation, benefits, and other payments made to Sidney B. Evans, III, Chairman, for the year ended June 30, 2024, follows:

Purpose	
Travel	\$ 353

#### 7. LITIGATION

Management has advised that there is no litigation pending against the Natchitoches Soil and Water Conservation District at June 30, 2024.

#### 8. SUBSEQUENT EVENTS

Management has evaluated subsequent events through January 6, 2025, which is the date the financial statements were available to be issued and has concluded that there are no significant events requiring recognition or disclosure through that date.

## REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

**SCHEDULE 1**

**NATCHITOCHES SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT**  
**Natchitoches, Louisiana**  
**BUDGETARY COMPARISON SCHEDULE -- GENERAL FUND**  
**For year ended June 30, 2024**

	Budgeted Amounts		Actual	Final Budget to Actual Positive (Negative)
	Original	Final		
<b>Revenues:</b>				
Sales and services	\$ 18,700	\$ 33,122	\$ 33,170	\$ 48
Intergovernmental:				
Federal funds	46,550	46,550	57,724	11,174
State funds	214,305	228,289	228,042	(247)
Contributions & Donations	-	-	18,666	18,666
Interest earnings	1,000	500	5,237	4,737
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>280,555</b>	<b>308,461</b>	<b>342,839</b>	<b>34,378</b>
<b>Expenditures:</b>				
Current:				
Conservation:				
Personnel and related benefits	177,000	176,325	177,334	(1,009)
Operating and administrative	32,500	48,250	64,315	(16,065)
Feral hog expenses	66,055	69,950	69,924	26
Travel	5,000	3,300	2,777	523
Capital outlays	-	-	20,766	(20,766)
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>280,555</b>	<b>297,825</b>	<b>335,116</b>	<b>(37,291)</b>
<b>Net change in Fund Balance</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>10,636</b>	<b>7,723</b>	<b>(2,913)</b>
Fund balance, beginning of year	306,874	306,874	306,874	-
Fund balance, end of year	<u>\$ 306,874</u>	<u>\$ 328,146</u>	<u>\$ 322,320</u>	<u>\$ (5,826)</u>

**NATCHITOCHES PARISH SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT**  
**Natchitoches, Louisiana**

**NOTE TO BUDGETARY COMPARISON SCHEDULE**

As of and for the Year Ended June 30, 2024

**Budgetary Information**

The Natchitoches Parish Soil & Water Conservation District's budget is prepared in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

The Louisiana Local Government Budget Act provides that "the total proposed expenditures shall not exceed the total of estimated funds available for the ensuing year." The "total estimated funds available" is the sum of the respective estimated fund balances at the beginning of the year and the anticipated revenues for the current year.

Expenditures may not legally exceed appropriations at the fund level. Appropriations that are not expended lapse at year-end. The budget comparison schedule presents the original budget and the final amended budget. The District did formally adopt the original budget and the amended budget.

Budgeted revenues were more than actual revenues by 11.15%. Actual expenditures exceeded budgeted expenditures by 11.13%. The budget was amended during the year ended June 30, 2024. The District is not in compliance with the Louisiana Local Government Budget Act because actual expenditures exceeded budgeted expenditures by greater than a 5% variance.

The District follows these budget procedures:

The Chairman prepares a proposed budget for the District on the modified accrual basis of accounting. All budgetary appropriations lapse at the end of each fiscal year. If budgeted expenditures exceed \$500,000 or more, per R.S. 39:1307, the budget is to be made available for public inspection prior to the 15<sup>th</sup> day of the new fiscal year by a public hearing. At least ten days prior to the public hearing, a notice is published that a public meeting is to be held, including the date, time, and place of the hearing. If budgeted expenditures are less than \$500,000, the proposed budget shall be adopted prior to the beginning of the budgeted year. The budget is amended when the District becomes aware of a shortfall of revenues or excess of expenditures greater than 5% variance from the current budget.

OTHER REPORTS REQUIRED BY  
LOUISIANA GOVERNMENTAL AUDIT GUIDE

## **Independent Accountant's Report on Applying Agreed-Upon Procedures**

Natchitoches Soil and Water Conservation District  
6949 Highway 1 Bypass  
Natchitoches, LA 71457

We have performed the procedures enumerated below on the Natchitoches Soil and Water Conservation District's compliance with certain laws and regulations contained in the accompanying Louisiana Attestation Questionnaire during the year ended June 30, 2024, as required by Louisiana Revised Statute 24:513 and the *Louisiana Governmental Audit Gude*. The District's management is responsible for its financial records and compliance with applicable laws and regulations.

The District has agreed to and acknowledged that the procedures performed are appropriate to meet the intended purpose of the engagement, which is to perform specified procedures on the District's compliance with the laws and regulations contained in the accompanying Louisiana Attestation Questionnaire during the fiscal year ended June 30, 2024. Additionally, the Louisiana Legislative Auditor has agreed to and acknowledged that the procedures performed are appropriate for its purposes. 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 this report and may not meet the needs of all users of this report and, as such, users are responsible for determining whether the procedures performed are appropriate for their purposes.

The procedures and associated findings are as follows:

### **Public Bid Law**

1. Obtain documentation for all expenditures made during the year for material and supplies exceeding \$60,000, and public works exceeding \$250,000. Compare the documentation for these expenditures to Louisiana Revised Statute (R.S.) 39:1551-39:1755 (the state procurement code) or R.S. 38:2211-2296 (the public bid law), or the regulations of the Division of Administration and the State Purchasing Office, whichever is applicable; and report whether the expenditures were made in accordance with these laws.

No expenditures were made during the year for materials and supplies exceeding \$60,000 or public works exceeding \$250,000.

### **Code of Ethics for Public Officials and Public Employees**

2. Obtain from management a list of the immediate family members of each board member and management as defined by LSA-RS 42:1101-1124 (the ethics law).

Management provided us with the required list including the noted information.

3. Obtain from management a listing of all employees paid during the fiscal year.

Management provided us with the required list.

4. Report whether any employees' names appear on both lists obtained Procedures 2 and 3.

None of the employees included on the list of employees provided by management (agreed-upon procedure No. 3) appeared on the list provided by management in agreed-upon procedure No. 2.

5. Obtain a list of all disbursements made during the year, and a list of outside business interests of board members, employees, and board members' and employees' immediate families. Report whether any vendors appear on both lists.

Management provided the requested information. None of the businesses of the board members, employees, and board members' and employees' immediate families appeared as vendors on the list of disbursements.

### **Budgeting**

6. Obtain a copy of the legally adopted budget and all amendments.

Management provided us with a copy of the original and amended budgets.

7. Trace documentation for the adoption of the budget and approval of any amendments to the minute book, and report whether there are any exceptions.

The budget was adopted June 10, 2023. The budget was amended once.

8. Compare the revenues and expenditures of the final budget to actual revenues and expenditures. Report whether actual revenues failed to meet budgeted revenues by 5% or more, and whether actual expenditures exceeded budgeted amounts by 5% or more.

We compared the revenues and expenditures of the final budget to actual revenue and expenditures. Actual revenues were within the 5% acceptable range; actual expenditures exceeded budgeted expenditures by 11.13%.

**Recommendation: The Board should review the budget to actual income statement at each meeting and amend budget when aware that expenditures will exceed the budgeted amounts.**

**Management response: We concur.**

### **Accounting and Reporting**

9. Obtain the list of disbursements made during the fiscal year. Randomly select six disbursements and obtain documentation from management for these disbursements. Compare the selected disbursements to the supporting documentation, and

- (a) Report whether the six disbursements agree to the amount and payee in the supporting documentation.

We examined supporting documentation for each of the six selected disbursements and found that payment was for the proper amount and made to the correct payee.

- (b) Report whether the six selected disbursements are coded to the correct fund and general ledger account

All payments were properly coded to the correct fund and general ledger account.

- (c) Report whether the six disbursements were approved in accordance with policies and procedures

Approval of disbursements was not evident on supporting documents.

**Recommendation:** The Board should ensure supporting documents have evidence of approval prior to disbursement of funds.

**Management response:** We concur.

### **Meetings**

10. Obtain evidence from management to support that agendas for meetings recorded in the minute book were posted or advertised as required by RS 42:11 through 42:28 (the open meeting law) and report whether there are any exceptions.

The District is only required to post a notice of each meeting and the accompanying agenda on the door of the district. We were supplied with copies of the agendas signed by the chairman.

### **Debt**

11. Obtain bank deposit slips for the fiscal year and scan the deposit slips in order to identify and report whether there are any deposits that appear to be proceeds of bank loans, bonds, or like indebtedness. If any such proceeds are identified, obtain from management evidence of approval by the State Bond Commission, and report any exceptions.

We scanned deposits for the period under examination and found no indication of new bank loans, bonds, or like indebtedness in the fiscal year ended June 30, 2024.

### **Advances and Bonuses**

12. Obtain the list of payroll disbursements and meeting minutes of the governing board, if applicable. Scan these documents to identify and report whether there are any payments or approval of payments to employees that may constitute bonuses, advances, or gifts.

We scanned records for the year and noted no instances which would indicate payments to employees which would constitute bonuses, advances, or gifts.

### **State Audit Law**

13. Report whether the agency provided for a timely report in accordance with R.S. 24:513.

The report was filed after the deadline due to auditor health issues.

14. Inquire of management and report whether the agency entered into any contracts that utilized state funds as defined in R.S. 39:72.1 A(2); and that were subject to the public bid law (R.S. 38:2211, et seq.), while the agency was not in compliance with R.S. 24:513 (the audit law).

Management represented that the District did not enter into any contracts that utilized state funds while the District was not in compliance with the audit law.

### **Prior-Year Comments and Recommendations**

15. Review any prior-year suggestions, recommendations, and or comments to determine the extent to which such matters have been resolved.

**Capital Assets.** The District has an inventory of assets, but all assets of the District are not included. Purchases of assets are not posted into capital outlay accounts for proper monitoring. This caused omissions in the inventory list for the current year.

**Recommendation.** We recommend that the District set up separate capital outlay accounts in their general ledger for posting fixed assets. We also recommend that they set a threshold amount to be used for capitalizing assets in the future.

Unresolved.

Management's response. We agree and will use a capital outlay account.

**Budget.** The District was not in compliance with the Local Government Budget Act for failing to amend the budget when actual expenditures exceeded budgeted expenditures by more than 5%.

**Recommendation.** The Board should review the budget to actual income statement at each meeting and amend budget when aware that expenditures will exceed the budgeted amounts.

Unresolved.

Management's response. We concur.

We were engaged by the District to perform this agreed-upon procedures engagement and conducted our engagement in accordance with attestation standards established by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants, and the standards applicable to attestation engagements contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the United States Comptroller General. We were not engaged to and did not conduct an examination or review engagement, the objective of which would be the expression of an opinion or conclusion, respectively, on the District's compliance with the foregoing matters. Accordingly, we do not express such an opinion or conclusion. Had we performed additional procedures, other matters might have come to our attention that would have been reported to you.

We are required to be independent of the District and to meet our other ethical responsibilities, in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements related to our agreed-upon procedures engagement.

This report is intended solely to describe the scope of testing performed on the District's compliance with certain laws and regulations contained in the accompanying Louisiana Attestation Questionnaire, as required by Louisiana Revised Statute 24:513 and the *Louisiana Governmental Audit Guide*, and the result of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on control or compliance. Accordingly, this report is not suitable for any other purpose. Under Louisiana Revised Statute 24:513, this report is distributed by the Louisiana Legislative Auditor as a public document.

*Dees Gardner, Certified Public Accountants, LLC*

Dees Gardner, Certified Public Accountants, LLC  
Mansfield, Louisiana  
January 6, 2025

**LOUISIANA ATTESTATION QUESTIONNAIRE**  
**(For Attestation Engagements of Governmental Agencies)**

November 14, 2024 (Date Transmitted)

Dees Gardner, CPAs, LLC

122 Jefferson Street

Mansfield, LA 71052

In connection with your engagement to apply agreed-upon procedures to the control and compliance matters identified below, as of June 30, 2024 and for the year then ended, and as required by Louisiana Revised Statute (R.S.) 24:513 and the *Louisiana Governmental Audit Guide*, we make the following representations to you.

**Public Bid Law**

It is true that we have complied with the state procurement code (R.S. 39:1551 – 39:1755); the public bid law (R.S. 38:2211-2296), and, where applicable, the regulations of the Division of Administration and the State Purchasing Office..

Yes [☒] No [ ☐ ] N/A [ ☐ ]

**Code of Ethics for Public Officials and Public Employees**

It is true that no employees or officials have accepted anything of value, whether in the form of a service, loan, or promise, from anyone that would constitute a violation of R.S. 42:1101-1124.

Yes [☒] No [ ☐ ] N/A [ ☐ ]

It is true that no member of the immediate family of any member of the governing authority, or the chief executive of the governmental entity, has been employed by the governmental entity after April 1, 1980, under circumstances that would constitute a violation of R.S. 42:1119.

Yes [☒] No [ ☐ ] N/A [ ☐ ]

**Budgeting**

We have complied with the state budgeting requirements of the Local Government Budget Act (R.S. 39:1301-15), R.S. 39:33, or the budget requirements of R.S. 39:1331-1342, as applicable.

Yes [☒] No [ ☐ ] N/A [ ☐ ]

**Accounting and Reporting**

All non-exempt governmental records are available as a public record and have been retained for at least three years, as required by R.S. 44:1, 44:7, 44:31, and 44:36.

Yes [☒] No [ ☐ ] N/A [ ☐ ]

We have filed our annual financial statements in accordance with R.S. 24:514, and 33:463 where applicable.

Yes [☒] No [ ☐ ] N/A [ ☐ ]

We have had our financial statements reviewed in accordance with R.S. 24:513.

Yes [☒] No [ ☐ ] N/A [ ☐ ]

We did not enter into any contracts that utilized state funds as defined in R.S. 39:72.1 A. (2); and that were subject to the public bid law (R.S. 38:2211, et seq.), while the agency was not in compliance with R.S. 24:513 (the audit law).

Yes [☒] No [ ] N/A [ ]

We have complied with R.S. 24:513 A. (3) regarding disclosure of compensation, reimbursements, benefits and other payments to the agency head, political subdivision head, or chief executive officer.

Yes [☒] No [ ] N/A [ ]

We have complied with R.S. 24:515.2 regarding reporting of pre- and post- adjudication court costs, fines and fees assessed or imposed; the amounts collected; the amounts outstanding; the amounts retained; the amounts disbursed, and the amounts received from disbursements.

Yes [ ] No [ ] N/A [☒]

### Meetings

We have complied with the provisions of the Open Meetings Law, provided in R.S. 42:11 through 42:28.

Yes [☒] No [ ] N/A [ ]

### Debt

It is true we have not incurred any indebtedness, other than credit for 90 days or less to make purchases in the ordinary course of administration, nor have we entered into any lease-purchase agreements, without the approval of the State Bond Commission, as provided by Article VII, Section 8 of the 1974 Louisiana Constitution, Article VI, Section 33 of the 1974 Louisiana Constitution, and R.S. 39:1410.60-1410.65.

Yes [☒] No [ ] N/A [ ]

### Advances and Bonuses

It is true we have not advanced wages or salaries to employees or paid bonuses in violation of Article VII, Section 14 of the 1974 Louisiana Constitution, R.S. 14:138, and AG opinion 79-729.

Yes [☒] No [ ] N/A [ ]

### Prior-Year Comments

We have resolved all prior-year recommendations and/or comments.

Yes [ ] No [ ] N/A [☒]

### General

We acknowledge that we are responsible for the Agency's compliance with the foregoing laws and regulations and the internal controls over compliance with such laws and regulations.

Yes [☒] No [ ] N/A [ ]

We acknowledge that we are responsible for determining that the procedures performed are appropriate for the purposes of this engagement.

Yes [☒] No [ ] N/A [ ]

We have evaluated our compliance with these laws and regulations prior to making these representations.

Yes [☒] No [ ] N/A [ ]

We have provided you with all relevant information and access under the terms of our agreement.

Yes [☒] No [ ] N/A [ ]

We have disclosed to you all known noncompliance of the foregoing laws and regulations, as well as any contradictions to the foregoing representations.

Yes [ ] No [☒] N/A [☒]

We are not aware of any material misstatements in the information we have provided to you.

Yes [☒] No [ ] N/A [ ]



We have disclosed to you with any communications from regulatory agencies, internal auditors, other independent practitioners or consultants or other sources concerning any possible noncompliance with the foregoing laws and regulations, including any communications received between the end of the period under examination and the issuance of your report.

Yes [ ] No [ ] N/A [☒]

We will disclose to you, the Legislative Auditor, and the applicable state grantor agency/agencies any known noncompliance and other events subsequent to the date of this representation and the date of your report that could have a material effect on our compliance with laws and regulations and the internal controls with such laws and regulations, or would require adjustment or modification to the results of the agreed-upon procedures.

Yes [☒] No [ ] N/A [ ]

The previous responses have been made to the best of our belief and knowledge.

 Chairman 12/10/2024 Date  
 Secretary 12/10/2024 Date

NATCHITOCHE PARISH SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT  
Schedule of Findings  
For the year ended June 30, 2024

FINDINGS RELATED TO COMPLIANCE

2024-01. Late Submission of Report

*Criteria:* Louisiana state law requires that the District have an annual review performed and submitted to the Legislative Auditor within six (6) months after the close of the fiscal year.

*Condition:* For the year ended June 30, 2024, the District did not submit the annual review within six months after the close their fiscal year.

*Cause:* Due to severe health issues of the independent auditor, the auditor was unable to complete the review within six months after the close of the fiscal year.

*Effect:* The District is not in compliance with state law.

*Recommendation:* The District should ensure that the annual review is performed and submitted to the Legislative Auditor within six (6) months after the close of the fiscal year.

*Management Response:* We concur.