

**RAPIDES SOIL AND WATER  
CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

Alexandria, Louisiana

Financial Report

Year Ended June 30, 2023

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## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

\* A Professional Accounting Corporation

To the Board Members of the  
Rapides Soil and Water Conservation District  
Alexandria, Louisiana

### Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements

#### *Opinions*

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the governmental activities and the major fund of the Rapides Soil and Water Conservation District (hereafter, "District"), as of and for the year ended June 30, 2023, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the District's basic financial statements as listed in the table of contents.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the respective financial position of the governmental activities, and the major fund of the District, as of June 30, 2023, and the respective changes in financial position for the year then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

#### *Basis for Opinions*

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

#### *Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statements*

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, and for the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

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

### ***Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements***

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

In performing an audit in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards, and *Government Auditing Standards*, we:

- Exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.
- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, and design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks. Such procedures include examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the District's internal control. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluate the overall presentation of the financial statements.
- Conclude whether, in our judgment, there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the District's ability to continue as a going concern for a reasonable period of time.

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

### ***Required Supplementary Information***

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

The District has omitted management’s discussion and analysis that accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require to be presented to supplement the basic financial statements. Such missing information, although not a part of the basic financial statements, is required by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board, who considers it to be an essential part of financial reporting for placing the basic financial statements in an appropriate operational, economic, or historical context. Our opinion on the basic financial statements is not affected by this missing information.

***Other information***

Management is responsible for the other information included in the annual report. The other information comprises the schedule of revenues and expenditures by source but does not include the basic financial statements and our auditor’s report thereon. Our opinions on the basic financial statements do not cover the other information, and we do not express an opinion or any form of assurance thereon.

In connection with our audit of the basic financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and consider whether a material inconsistency exists between the other information and the basic financial statements, or the other information otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If, based on the work performed, we conclude that an uncorrected material misstatement of the other information exists, we are required to describe it in our report.

***Other Reporting Required by Government Auditing Standards***

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated February 23, 2024, on our consideration of the District’s internal control over financial reporting and on our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts and grant agreements and other matters. The purpose of that report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance, and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the District’s internal control over financial reporting or on compliance. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the District’s internal control over financial reporting and compliance.

***Kolder, Slaven & Company, LLC***  
Certified Public Accountants

Alexandria, Louisiana  
February 23, 2024

**BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**GOVERNMENT-WIDE  
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

RAPIDES SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Statement of Net Position  
June 30, 2023

ASSETS		
Cash and interest-bearing deposits		\$ 1,138,043
Due from other governmental agencies		<u>35,816</u>
Total assets		<u>1,173,859</u>
LIABILITIES		
Accounts payable		52,248
Long-term liabilities:		
Due within one year		6,829
Due after one year		<u>20,486</u>
Total liabilities		<u>79,563</u>
NET POSITION		
Unrestricted		<u>\$ 1,094,296</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the basic financial statements.



RAPIDES SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Statement of Activities  
For the Year Ended June 30, 2023

Activities	Expenses	Program Revenues		Net (Expense) Revenue and Changes in Net Position
<u>Governmental activities:</u>	<u>Expenses</u>	<u>Charges for Services</u>	<u>Operating Grants and Contributions</u>	<u>Governmental Activities</u>
Conservation	<u>\$ 357,643</u>	<u>\$ 288,699</u>	<u>\$ 56,120</u>	<u>\$ (12,824)</u>
General revenues:				
				2,249
				<u>1,566</u>
				<u>3,815</u>
				(9,009)
				<u>1,103,305</u>
				<u>\$ 1,094,296</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the basic financial statements.

**FUND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

RAPIDES SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Balance Sheet  
General Fund  
June 30, 2023

ASSETS

Cash and interest-bearing deposits	\$ 1,138,043
Due from other governmental agencies	<u>35,816</u>
Total assets	<u>\$ 1,173,859</u>

LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCE

Liabilities:	
Accounts payable	<u>\$ 52,248</u>
Fund balance:	
Unassigned	<u>1,121,611</u>
Total liabilities and fund balance	<u>\$ 1,173,859</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the basic financial statements.

RAPIDES SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Reconciliation of the Governmental Fund Balance Sheet  
to the Statement of Net Position  
June 30, 2023

Total fund balance for the governmental fund	\$ 1,121,611
Total net position reported for governmental activities in the statement of net position is different because:	
Long-term liabilities are not due and payable in the current period and are therefore not reported in the governmental fund. Long-term liabilities at year end consist of:	
Compensated absences	<u>(27,315)</u>
Net position at June 30, 2023	<u>\$ 1,094,296</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the basic financial statements.

RAPIDES SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Statement of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balance-  
General Fund  
For the Year Ended June 30, 2023

Revenues:	
Louisiana National Guard	\$ 288,699
Intergovernmental revenues	56,120
Interest	2,249
Miscellaneous	<u>1,566</u>
Total revenues	348,634
Expenditures:	
Current -	
Conservation	<u>354,269</u>
Net change in fund balance	(5,635)
Fund balance, beginning	<u>1,127,246</u>
Fund balance, ending	<u>\$ 1,121,611</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the basic financial statements.

RAPIDES SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Reconciliation of the Statement of Revenues, Expenditures, and  
Changes in Fund Balance of the Governmental Fund  
to the Statement of Activities  
For the Year Ended June 30, 2023

Total net change in fund balance per the statement of revenues, expenditures, and changes in fund balance	\$ (5,635)
The change in net position reported for governmental activities in the statement of activities is different because:	
Some items reported in the statement of activities do not require the use of current financial resources and therefore are not reported as expenditures in the governmental funds	
Change in compensated absences	<u>(3,374)</u>
Total changes in net position per statement of activities	<u>\$ (9,009)</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the basic financial statements.

# RAPIDES SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

## Notes to Basic Financial Statements

### (1) Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

The accompanying financial statements of the Rapides Water and Soil Conservation District (hereinafter, “the District”) have been prepared in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP) as applied to governmental units. GAAP includes all relevant Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) pronouncements. The accounting and reporting framework and the more significant accounting policies are discussed in the subsequent subsections of this note.

#### A. Financial Reporting Entity

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 12, Area III of the State of Louisiana. The purpose of the District is to assist farmers and landowners within their boundaries in the prevention of land erosion and water pollution on their property. The District's board consists of five (5) landowners or occupants, of which two are appointed by the State Soil and Water Conservation District and the other three elected within the district.

Section 2100 of the 2011 Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) Codification of Governmental Accounting and Financial Reporting Standards, “Defining the Financial Reporting Entity” establishes criteria for determining which entities should be considered a component unit and, as such, part of the reporting entity for financial reporting purposes. The basic criteria are as follows:

1. Legal status of the potential component unit including the right to incur its own debt, levy its own taxes and charges, expropriate property in its own name, sue and be sued, and the right to buy, sell and lease property in its own name.
2. Whether the primary government’s governing authority (Board Members) appoints a majority of board members of the potential component unit and is able to impose its will on the potential component unit or whether the potential component unit is fiscally dependent on the primary government.
3. Financial benefit/burden relationship between the primary government and the potential component unit.
4. The nature and significance of the relationship between the potential component units with the primary government are such that exclusion would cause the reporting entity’s financial statements to be misleading.

The District is a primary government and has no component units. The accompanying financial statements present information only on the funds maintained by the District and do not present information on any other governmental unit.

# RAPIDES SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

## Notes to Basic Financial Statements

### B. Basis of Presentation

#### Government-Wide Financial Statements (GWFS)

The government-wide financial statements provide operations accountability information for the District as an economic unit. The government-wide financial statements report the District's ability to maintain service levels and continue to meet its obligations as they come due. The statements generally include all governmental and business-type activities of the primary government, however, the district has no activities that it classifies as business-type.

#### Fund Financial Statements

The accounts of the District are organized on the basis of funds, each of which is considered to be an independent fiscal and accounting entity. The operations of each fund are accounted for within separate sets of self-balancing accounts, which comprise its assets, deferred outflows of resources, liabilities, deferred inflows of resources, fund balance/net position, revenues, and expenditures/expenses, and transfers.

Major funds are determined as funds whose revenues, expenditures/expenses, assets and deferred outflows of resources or liabilities and deferred inflows of resources are at least ten percent of the totals for all governmental or enterprise funds and at least five percent of the aggregate amount for all governmental funds for the same item or funds designated as major at the discretion of the District. Funds not classified as a major fund are aggregated and presented in a single column in the fund financial statements. The District uses the following fund.

#### Governmental Funds –

Governmental Funds are those through which most governmental functions of the District are financed. The acquisition use and balances of the District's expendable financial resources and the related liabilities are accounted for through governmental funds.

#### General Fund

The General Fund is the general operating fund of the District. It is used to account for all financial resources except those required to be accounted for in another fund, if applicable.

### C. Measurement Focus, Basis of Accounting and Financial Statement Presentation

The measurement focus determines the accounting and financial reporting treatment applied to a fund. The governmental activities within the government-wide statement of net position and statement of activities are presented using the economic resources measurement focus. The economic resources measurement focus meets the accounting objectives of determining net income and net position.



# RAPIDES SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

## Notes to Basic Financial Statements

The fund financial statements use either the current financial resources measurement focus or the economic resources measurement focus as appropriate. Governmental funds use the current financial resources measurement focus. The measurement focus is based upon the receipt and disbursement of current available financial resources rather than upon net income.

The accrual basis of accounting is used throughout the government-wide statements; conversely, the financial statements of the governmental funds have been prepared in accordance with the modified accrual basis of accounting, whereby revenues are recognized when considered both measurable and available to finance expenditures of the current period. For this purpose, the District considers revenues to be available if they are collected within 60 days of the end of the current fiscal period. The District accrues intergovernmental revenue based upon this concept. Expenditures generally are recognized when the related fund liabilities are incurred and become payable in the current period.

Interest on invested funds is recognized upon maturity of those investments. Intergovernmental revenues that are reimbursement for specific purposes or projects are recognized in the period in which the expenditures are recorded. All other revenue items are considered to be measurable and available only when cash is received by the District.

Since the fund level financial statements are presented using a different measurement focus and basis of accounting than the government-wide statements, a reconciliation is presented on the page following each fund level statement that summarizes the adjustments necessary to convert the fund level statements into the government-wide presentations.

### D. Assets, Deferred Outflows, Liabilities, Deferred Inflows and Equity

#### Cash and interest-bearing deposits

For purposes of the statement of net position, cash includes all demand accounts, savings accounts, and certificates of deposit of the District. Under state law, the District may deposit funds within a fiscal agent bank organized under the laws of the State of Louisiana, the laws of any other state in the union, or the laws of the United States of America. The District may invest in certificates and time deposits of state banks organized under Louisiana laws and national banks having principal offices in Louisiana.

#### Receivables

In the government-wide statements, receivables consist of all revenues earned at year-end and not yet received. Major receivable balances for the governmental activities are related to intergovernmental revenue.

# RAPIDES SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

## Notes to Basic Financial Statements

### Deferred Outflows of Resources and Deferred Inflows of Resources

In addition to assets, the statement of net position will sometimes report a separate section for deferred outflows of resources. This separate financial statement element, deferred outflows of resources, represents a consumption of net position that applies to a future period(s) and so will not be recognized as an outflow of resources (expense/expenditure) until then.

In addition to liabilities, the statement of net position will sometimes report a separate section for deferred inflows of resources. This separate financial statement element, deferred inflows of resources, represents an acquisition of net position that applies to a future period(s) and so will not be recognized as an inflow of resources (revenue) until that time.

### Compensated Absences

Employees of the District can earn and accumulate annual and sick leave at various rates depending on their years of service. Unused annual and sick leave accumulates without limit. The number of hours of unused annual leave for which an employee may receive a lump sum payment upon termination from District employment may not exceed 300 hours.

### Equity Classifications

In the government-wide statements, equity is classified as net position and displayed in three components:

- a. Net investment in capital assets consists of capital assets including restricted capital assets, net of accumulated depreciation and reduced by the outstanding balances of any bonds, mortgages, notes, or other borrowings that are attributable to the acquisition, construction, or improvement of those assets.
- b. Restricted net position consists of net position with constraints placed on the use either by external groups, such as creditors, grantors, and contributors, laws or regulations of other governments; or law through constitutional provisions or enabling legislation. It is the District's policy to use restricted net position prior to the use of unrestricted net position when both restricted and unrestricted net position are available for an expense which has been incurred.
- c. Unrestricted net position consists of all other assets, deferred outflows of resources, liabilities and deferred inflows of resources that do not meet the definition of "restricted" or "net investment in capital assets."

In the fund financial statements, governmental fund equity is classified as fund balance. Fund balances for governmental funds are reported in classifications that comprise a hierarchy based primarily upon the extent to which the District is bound to honor constraints on the specific purposes for which amounts in those funds can be spent.

## RAPIDES SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

### Notes to Basic Financial Statements

The categories and their purposes are:

- a. Nonspendable includes fund balance amounts that cannot be spent either because they are not in spendable form or because of legal or contractual requirements requiring they remain intact.
- b. Restricted includes fund balance amounts that are constrained for specific purposes which are externally imposed by providers, such as creditors, grantors, contributors or amounts constrained due to constitutional provisions or enabling legislation or the laws or regulations of other governments.
- c. Committed includes fund balance amounts that can be used only for specific purposes that are internally imposed by the District through formal legislative action of the Board Members and does not lapse at year end. A committed fund balance constraint can only be established, modified or rescinded by passage of an Ordinance (Law) by the Board Members.
- d. Assigned includes fund balance amounts that are constrained by the District's intent to be used for specific purposes, that are neither restricted nor committed. The assignment of fund balance is authorized by a directive from the Board Members and approval of a Resolution by the Board Members.
- e. Unassigned includes fund balance amounts which have not been classified within the above mentioned categories.

It is the District's policy to use restricted amounts first when both restricted and unrestricted fund balance is available unless prohibited by legal or contractual provisions. Additionally, the District uses committed, assigned, and lastly unassigned amounts of fund balance in that order when expenditures are made.

#### E. Revenues, Expenditures, and Expenses

##### Revenues

The District considers revenue to be susceptible to accrual in the governmental funds as it becomes measurable and available, as defined under the modified accrual basis of accounting. The District generally defines the availability period for revenue recognition as received within sixty (60) days of year end. The District's major revenue sources that meet this availability criterion are intergovernmental revenues.

Program revenues are derived directly from the program itself or from parties outside the District's taxpayers or citizenry, as a whole. Program revenues reduce the cost of the function to be financed from the District's general revenues. The primary sources of program revenue to the District are allocations received from the state and revenue received under contract with the Louisiana National Guard.

Interest income on certificates of deposits, are recorded upon the certificate of deposits maturity date.

# RAPIDES SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

## Notes to Basic Financial Statements

Substantially all other revenues are recorded when received.

### Expenditures/Expenses

In the government-wide financial statements, expenses are classified by function for the governmental activities. In the fund financial statements, expenditures are classified by character.

In the fund financial statements, governmental funds report expenditures of financial resources.

#### F. Use of Estimates

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenues and expenditures during the reporting period. These estimates include assessing the collectability of accounts receivable and the useful lives and impairment of tangible and intangible assets, among others. Estimates and assumptions are reviewed periodically, and the effects of revisions are reflected in the financial statements in the period they are determined to be necessary. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

#### (2) Cash and Interest-Bearing Deposits

Under state law, the District may deposit funds within a fiscal agent bank organized under the laws of the State of Louisiana, the laws of any other state in the Union, or the laws of the United States. The District may invest in direct obligations of the United States government, bonds, debentures, notes or other evidence of indebtedness issued or guaranteed by federal agencies and/or the United States government, and time certificates of deposit of state banks organized under Louisiana law and national banks having principal offices in Louisiana.

Custodial credit risk for deposits is the risk that in the event of the failure of a depository financial institution, the District's deposits may not be recovered, or the District will not be able to recover the collateral securities that are in the possession of an outside party. These deposits are stated at cost, which approximates market. The District does not have a policy for custodial credit risks; however, under state law, deposits (or the resulting bank balances) must be secured by federal deposit insurance or similar federal security or the pledge of securities owned by the fiscal agent bank. The market value of the pledged securities plus the federal deposits insurance must at all times equal the amount on deposit with the fiscal agent bank. These securities are held in the name of the pledging fiscal agent bank by a holding or custodial bank that is mutually acceptable to both parties. Deposit balances (bank balances) at June 30, 2023, are secured as follows:

RAPIDES SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Notes to Basic Financial Statements

Bank balances	<u>\$ 1,138,019</u>
Federal deposit insurance	\$ 510,552
Uninsured and collateral held by the pledging bank not in the District's name	<u>627,467</u>
Total	<u>\$ 1,138,019</u>

(3) Due from other governmental agencies

Due from other governmental agencies consisted of the following:

Louisiana National Guard	\$ 27,692
State of Louisiana	<u>8,124</u>
Total	<u>\$ 35,816</u>

(4) Long-term liabilities

The following changes occurred in long term liabilities:

	<u>Beginning</u>	<u>Additions</u>	<u>Deletions</u>	<u>Ending</u>	<u>Due within a year</u>
Compensated absences	<u>\$ 23,941</u>	<u>\$ 14,615</u>	<u>\$ 11,241</u>	<u>\$ 27,315</u>	<u>\$ 6,829</u>

(5) Contract with Louisiana National Guard (LANG)

The District entered into a contract with the Louisiana National Guard to provide technical support in assisting the management of environmental resources to the Louisiana National Guard Construction and Facilities Management – Environmental Management Office (CFM-EM). Terms of the current contract are from February 1, 2022 through January 31, 2024. The District has since entered into a new contract with LANG, terms of the new contract are from February 1, 2024 through January 31, 2027.

The District’s contract with the Louisiana National Guard represented approximately 85% of the receipts received by the District for the year ended June 30, 2023.

RAPIDES SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Notes to Basic Financial Statements

(6) Compensation of Board Members

A detail of compensation paid to board members for the year ended June 30, 2023 is as follows:

Board Members	# of Meetings	Amount
Danny Coombs	12	\$ 420
Duana Juneau	11	385
James Decker *	10	-
Edwin Lashney *	10	-
Joel Mathews	1	35
Total		<u>\$ 840</u>

\* These board members have elected not to receive a per diem for each meeting attended.

(7) Compensation, Benefits and Other Payments to Agency Head

A detail of compensation, benefits, and other payments made to Danny Coombs, Chairman, for the year ended June 30, 2023 follows:

<u>Purpose</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Salary	\$ 420

(8) Pending Litigation

There was no pending litigation against the Rapides Soil and Water Conservation District at June 30, 2023.

(9) Risk Management

The District is exposed to various risks of loss related to torts; theft of, damage to and destruction of assets; errors or omissions; injuries to employees; and natural disasters. The District maintains commercial insurance coverage for each of these risks of loss. Management believes coverage is sufficient to preclude any significant uninsured loss to the District. There have been no significant reductions in the insurance during the year, nor have settlements exceeded coverage for the past three years.

**REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY  
INFORMATION**

RAPIDES SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT  
General Fund

Budgetary Comparison Schedule  
For the Year Ended June 30, 2023

	Budget		Actual	Variance with Final Budget Positive (Negative)
	Original	Final		(Negative)
Revenues:				
Louisiana National Guard	\$ 227,812	\$ 242,618	\$ 288,699	\$ 46,081
Intergovernmental revenues	47,458	64,507	56,120	(8,387)
Interest income	230	250	2,249	1,999
Miscellaneous	-	-	1,566	1,566
Total revenues	<u>275,500</u>	<u>307,375</u>	<u>348,634</u>	<u>41,259</u>
Expenditures:				
Current -				
Conservation	<u>275,500</u>	<u>307,375</u>	<u>354,269</u>	<u>(46,894)</u>
Net change in fund balance	-	-	(5,635)	(5,635)
Fund balance, beginning	<u>1,127,246</u>	<u>1,127,246</u>	<u>1,127,246</u>	<u>-</u>
Fund balance, ending	<u>\$ 1,127,246</u>	<u>\$ 1,127,246</u>	<u>\$ 1,121,611</u>	<u>\$ (5,635)</u>



## RAPIDES SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

### Notes to the Required Supplementary Information Year ended June 30, 2023

(1) Budget and Budgetary Accounting

The District follows the following procedures in establishing the budgetary data reflected in the financial statements:

1. The District secretary prepares a proposed operating budget for the General Fund for the fiscal year and submits it to the Board Members prior to the beginning of the fiscal year.
2. The proposed budget is discussed and adopted at the public meeting when presented.
3. The budget is adopted on a basis consistent with generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP).
4. Any amendment to the adopted budget must be approved by the Board Members.
5. All budgetary appropriations lapse at the end of each fiscal year. Budgeted amounts are as originally adopted or as amended by the Board Members. Such amendments were not material to the original appropriations.

(2) Excess of Expenditures over Appropriations

2. The District incurred expenditures in excess of appropriations in the General Fund.

**OTHER SUPPLEMENTARY  
INFORMATION**

RAPIDES SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Schedule of Revenues and Expenditures By Source

General Fund

For the Year Ended June 30, 2023

	<u>General Sources</u>	<u>LANG Contract</u>	<u>Total</u>
Revenues:			
Louisiana National Guard	\$ -	\$ 288,699	\$ 288,699
Intergovernmental revenues	56,120	-	56,120
Interest	2,249	-	2,249
Miscellaneous income	<u>1,566</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,566</u>
Total revenues	<u>59,935</u>	<u>288,699</u>	<u>348,634</u>
Expenditures:			
Current -			
Personnel costs	74,611	251,464	326,075
Office supplies	2,438	-	2,438
Travel/meeting expense	8,327	-	8,327
Dues	1,096	-	1,096
Legal and professional	7,960	-	7,960
Miscellaneous expense	<u>270</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>270</u>
Total expenditures	<u>94,702</u>	<u>251,464</u>	<u>346,166</u>
Net revenue (loss)	<u>\$ (34,767)</u>	<u>\$ 37,235</u>	<u>\$ 2,468</u>

**INTERNAL CONTROL,  
COMPLIANCE AND  
OTHER MATTERS**

# KOLDER, SLAVEN & COMPANY, LLC

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## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT ON INTERNAL CONTROL OVER FINANCIAL REPORTING AND ON COMPLIANCE AND OTHER MATTERS BASED ON AN AUDIT OF FINANCIAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS PERFORMED IN ACCORDANCE WITH *GOVERNMENT AUDITING STANDARDS*

To the Board Members of the  
Rapides Soil and Water Conservation District  
Alexandria, Louisiana

We have audited, in accordance with the auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards* issued by the Comptroller General of the United States, the financial statements of the governmental activities and the major fund of the Rapides Soil and Water Conservation District (the "District"), as of and for the year ended June 30, 2023, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the District's basic financial statements and have issued our report thereon dated February 23, 2024.

### Report on Internal Control over Financial Reporting

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

A *deficiency in internal control* exists when the design or operation of a control does not allow management or employees, in the normal course of performing their assigned functions, to prevent, or detect and correct, misstatements on a timely basis. A *material weakness* is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control, such that there is a reasonable possibility that a material misstatement of the entity's financial statements will not be prevented, or detected and corrected, on a timely basis. A *significant deficiency* is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control that is less severe than a material weakness, yet important enough to merit attention by those charged with governance.

Our consideration of internal control was for the limited purpose described in the first paragraph of this section and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control that might be material weaknesses or significant deficiencies and therefore, material weaknesses or significant deficiencies may exist that were not identified. Given these limitations, during our audit we did not identify any deficiencies in internal control that we consider to be material weaknesses. We identified certain deficiencies in internal control, described in the accompanying schedule of current and prior year findings and management's corrective action plan as items 2023-001 and 2023-002 that we consider to be significant deficiencies.

## **Report on Compliance and Other Matters**

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the District’s financial statements are free from material misstatement, we performed tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements, noncompliance with which could have a direct and material effect on the financial statements. However, providing an opinion on compliance with those provisions was not an objective of our audit, and accordingly, we do not express such an opinion. The results of our tests disclosed instances of noncompliance or other matters that are required to be reported under *Government Auditing Standards* and which are described in the accompanying schedule of current and prior year audit findings and management’s corrective action plan as items 2023-003 and 2023-004.

## **District’s Response to Findings**

*Government Auditing Standards* requires the auditor to perform limited procedures on the District’s response to the findings identified in our audit and described in the accompanying schedule of current and prior year audit findings and managements corrective action plan. The District’s response was not subjected to the other auditing procedures applied in the audit of the financial statements and, accordingly, we express no opinion on the response.

## **Purpose of This Report**

The purpose of this report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity’s internal control or on compliance. This report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the entity’s internal control and compliance. Accordingly, this communication is not suitable for any other purpose. Although the intended use of this report may be limited, under Louisiana Revised Statute 24:513, this report is distributed by the Legislative Auditor as a public document. Accordingly, this report is not suitable for any other purpose.

***Kolder, Slaven & Company, LLC***  
Certified Public Accountants

Alexandria, Louisiana  
February 23, 2024

RAPIDES SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Schedule of Current and Prior Year Audit Findings  
and Management's Corrective Action Plan  
Year Ended June 30, 2023

Part I: Current Year Findings and Management's Corrective Action Plan

A. Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

2023-001 Inadequate Segregation of Functions

Fiscal year finding initially occurred: Unknown.

CONDITION: The Rapides Soil and Water Conservation District did not have adequate segregation of functions within the accounting system.

CRITERIA: AU-C §315.04, Understanding the Entity and its Environment and Assessing the Risks of Material Misstatement, defines internal control as follows:

"Internal control is a process, affected by those charged with governance, management, and other personnel, designed to provide reasonable assurance about the achievement of objectives with regard to reliability of financial reporting, effectiveness and efficiency of operations, and compliance with applicable laws and regulations."

CAUSE: The cause of the condition is the fact that the District does not have a sufficient number of staff performing administrative and financial duties so as to provide adequate segregation of accounting and financial duties.

EFFECT: Failure to adequately segregate accounting and financial functions increases the risk that errors and/or irregularities including fraud and/or defalcations may occur and not be prevented and/or detected.

RECOMMENDATION: The District should evaluate the cost vs. benefit of complete segregation and whenever possible should reassign incompatible duties among different employees to ensure that a single employee does not have control of more than one of the following responsibilities: (1) authorization; (2) custody; (3) recordkeeping; and (4) reconciliation.

MANAGEMENT'S CORRECTIVE ACTION PLAN: The District concurs with the audit finding. Due to the size of staffing, the achievement of adequate segregation of duties is desirable, but cost prohibitive. All efforts are made to segregate duties where feasible. In an effort to establish more sound controls the Board monitors activity and balances in all fund accounts.

RAPIDES SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Schedule of Current and Prior Year Audit Findings  
and Management's Corrective Action Plan  
Year Ended June 30, 2023

2023-002 Application of Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP)

Fiscal year finding initially occurred: Unknown

CONDITION: Management and staff lack the expertise and /or experience in the selection and application of generally accepted accounting principles, as applicable to governmental entities in the financial statement preparation process.

CRITERIA: The District's internal control over financial reporting includes policies and procedures that pertain to its ability to record, process, summarize, and report financial data consistent with the assertions embodied in the financial statements, including the ability of management and staff to detect potential misstatements that may exist in the financial statements and related disclosures.

CAUSE: The cause of the condition results from a reliance on the external auditor as part of the internal control process.

EFFECT: Financial statements and related supporting transactions may reflect a departure from generally accepted accounting principles.

RECOMMENDATION: Management should evaluate the additional costs required to achieve the desired benefit and determine if it is economically feasible in relation to the benefit received.

MANAGEMENT'S CORRECTIVE ACTION PLAN: We evaluated the cost vs benefit of establishing enhanced internal controls over financial statement preparation and determined that it would not be cost effective to enhance these controls. Currently our financial staff receives training related to their job duties and we carefully review the financial statements, related notes, and proposed adjustments. All questions are adequately addressed by our auditors which allows us to appropriately supervise these functions. We feel the appropriate steps have been taken to reduce the financial statement risk related to this finding.

B. Compliance and other matters

2023-003 Local Government Budget Act Noncompliance

Fiscal year finding initially occurred: 2023

CONDITION: Budgeted expenditures exceeded actual expenditures in the General Fund by more than five percent.

CRITERIA: Louisiana State Statue RS 39:1301 *Louisiana's Local Government Budget Act*.



RAPIDES SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Schedule of Current and Prior Year Audit Findings  
and Management's Corrective Action Plan  
Year Ended June 30, 2023

CAUSE: The cause of the condition is the result of a failure to design or implement policies and procedures necessary to ensure the timely preparation and submission of the District's budget as well as monitor actual expenditures in the General Fund.

EFFECT: The District may not comply with the provisions of RS 39:1301 and not prevent and/or detect overspending in the General Fund in a timely manner.

RECOMMENDATION: Management should develop policies and procedure to periodically compare actual expenditures to budgeted expenditures in the General Fund to identify the need for budget amendments.

MANAGEMENT'S CORRECTIVE ACTION PLAN: The District administration will periodically compare actual activity to budgeted amounts and propose budgetary amendments for the District to adopt to ensure compliance with state budgetary statutes.

2023-004 Late Filing of Audit Report

Fiscal year finding initially occurred: 2023

CONDITION: The District did not comply with LA R.S. 24:513, by not submitting its audited financial statements to the Louisiana Legislative Auditor within six months after its fiscal year end.

CRITERIA: LA R.S. 24:513.

CAUSE: The District did not produce records in a timely manner to meet the established deadline.

EFFECT: The District did not comply with applicable state law related to the submission of its annual financial statement audit report.

RECOMMENDATION: The District should ensure compliance with LA R.S. 24:513 by producing adequate information to be audited in a timely manner.

MANAGEMENT'S CORRECTIVE ACTION PLAN: The District will implement procedures to ensure that the report is filed timely with the Louisiana Legislative Auditor.

RAPIDES SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Schedule of Current and Prior Year Audit Findings  
and Management's Corrective Action Plan  
Year Ended June 30, 2023

Part II: Prior Year Findings:

A. Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

2022-001 Inadequate Segregation of Functions

CONDITION: The Rapides Soil and Water Conservation District did not have adequate segregation of functions within the accounting system.

RECOMMENDATION: The District should evaluate the cost vs. benefit of complete segregation and whenever possible should reassign incompatible duties among different employees to ensure that a single employee does not have control of more than one of the following responsibilities: (1) authorization; (2) custody; (3) recordkeeping; and (4) reconciliation.

CURRENT STATUS: Unresolved. See item 2022-001.

2022-002 Application of Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP)

CONDITION: The Rapides Soil and Water Conservation District did not have adequate internal controls over recording the entity's financial transactions or preparing its financial statements, including related notes in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP).

RECOMMENDATION: Management should evaluate the additional costs required to achieve the desired benefit and determine if it is economically feasible in relation to the benefit received.

CURRENT STATUS: Unresolved. See item 2022-002.