

**AVOUELLES PARISH PORT COMMISSION**

**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
JUNE 30, 2023**

**DUCOTE & COMPANY  
Certified Public Accountants  
P. O. Box 309  
219 North Washington St.  
Marksville, LA 71351**

**AVOYELLES PARISH PORT COMMISSION**  
**Simmesport, Louisiana**

**June 30, 2023**

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**INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANTS' REVIEW REPORT**

Mr. Barry Laiche  
Chairperson  
Avoyelles Parish Port Commission  
Simmesport, Louisiana 71369

We have reviewed the accompanying financial statements of the governmental activities of the Avoyelles Parish Port Commission, as of and for the year ended June 30, 2023, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the Commission's basic financial statements as listed in the table of contents. A review includes primarily applying analytical procedures to the management's financial data and making inquiries of the management of the Avoyelles Parish Port Commission. 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 express such an opinion.

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

Management of the Avoyelles Parish Port Commission 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 designing, implementing, and maintaining internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements that are free from material misstatement whether due to fraud or error.

***Accountants' Responsibility***

Our responsibility is to conduct the review in accordance with Statements on Standards for Accounting and Review Services promulgated by the Accounting and Review Services Committee of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants and the standards applicable to review engagements contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the United State Comptroller General. 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.

### ***Accountants' Conclusion***

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

Management has omitted the management's discussion and analysis, information that is required to be presented for purposes of additional analysis. 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. The results of our review of the basic financial statements were not affected this missing information.

### **Other Supplemental Information**

Act 706 of the Louisiana 2014 Legislative Session, as amended by Act 462 of the 2015 session requires a Schedule of Compensation, Reimbursements, Benefits and Other Payments to Agency Heads, to supplement the financial statements. The Schedule of Compensation Benefits and Other Payments to Agency Head or Chief Executive Officer presented on page 21 has not been subjected to the inquiry and analytical procedures applied in the review of the basic financial statements, but it has been compiled from information that is the representation of management. We have not audited or reviewed such information and we do not express an opinion, a conclusion, nor provide any assurance on it.

### ***Ducote & Company***

Certified Public Accountants  
Marksville, Louisiana  
December 12, 2023

## **BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**GOVERNMENT-WIDE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**AVOYELLES PARISH PORT COMMISSION**  
**Simmesport, Louisiana**

**STATEMENT OF NET POSITION**  
**June 30, 2023**

**ASSETS**

Cash	\$1,172,086
Accounts receivable	4,500
Property and equipment (net of accum depr)	<u>18,621,089</u>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<u><u>19,797,675</u></u>

**LIABILITIES**

Accounts payable	1,232
Accrued liabilities	<u>1,303</u>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<u><u>2,535</u></u>

**NET POSITION**

Investment in capital assets	18,621,089
Restricted	<u>1,174,051</u>
<b>TOTAL NET POSITION</b>	<u><u>\$19,795,140</u></u>

See independent accountants' review report and the accompanying notes.

**AVOYELLES PARISH PORT COMMISSION**  
**Simmesport, Louisiana**

**STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES**  
**For the Year Ended June 30, 2023**

<b>FUNCTIONS/PROGRAMS</b>	<u>Expenses</u>	<u>Program Operating Grants</u>	<u>Net (Expenses) Revenues</u>
<i>Governmental Activities</i>			
General Government			
Insurance	\$54,952	\$16,921	(\$38,031)
Professional fees	58,554	18,030	(40,524)
Operating services	74,082	22,812	(51,270)
Facilities maintenance	22,318	6,872	(15,446)
Depreciation	<u>677,153</u>	<u>208,513</u>	<u>(468,640)</u>
<b>TOTAL GOVERNMENTAL ACTIVITIES</b>	<u><u>\$887,059</u></u>	<u><u>\$273,148</u></u>	<u><u>(613,911)</u></u>
General Revenues:			
Miscellaneous revenues			<u>5,940</u>
Total general revenues			<u>5,940</u>
Changes in net assets			(607,971)
Net position - beginning of year			<u>20,403,111</u>
Net position - end of year			<u><u>\$19,795,140</u></u>

See independent accountants' review report and the accompanying notes.

**FUND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**AVOYELLES PARISH PORT COMMISSION**  
**Simmesport, Louisiana**

**BALANCE SHEET**  
**GOVERNMENTAL FUND-SPECIAL REVENUE FUND**  
**June 30, 2023**

**ASSETS**

Cash	\$1,172,086
Accounts receivable	<u>4,500</u>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b><u><u>\$1,176,586</u></u></b>

**LIABILITIES**

Accounts payable	\$1,232
Accrued liabilities	<u>1,303</u>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<b><u>2,535</u></b>

**FUND BALANCE**

Fund balance, restricted	<u>1,174,051</u>
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<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCE</b>	<b><u><u>\$1,176,586</u></u></b>
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See independent accountants' review report and the accompanying notes.

**AVOYELLES PARISH PORT COMMISSION  
Simmesport, Louisiana**

**RECONCILIATION OF THE GOVERNMENTAL FUND BALANCE SHEET  
TO THE STATEMENT OF NET POSITION  
June 30, 2023**

Total fund balance for the governmental fund at June 30, 2023		\$1,174,051
Total net assets reported for the governmental activities in the statement of net assets is different because:		
Capital assets used in the governmental activities are not financial resources, and therefore are not reported in the funds. These assets consist of:		
Cost of capital assets at June 30, 2023	\$26,576,686	
Less: accumulated depreciation as of June 30, 2023	<u>(7,955,597)</u>	18,621,089
Net position at June 30, 2023		<u>\$19,795,140</u>

See independent accountants' review report and the accompanying notes.

**AVOYELLES PARISH PORT COMMISSION**  
**Simmesport, Louisiana**

**STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES, AND  
CHANGES IN FUND BALANCE - BUDGET (GAAP BASIS) AND ACTUAL  
GOVERNMENTAL FUND-SPECIAL REVENUE FUND  
For the Year Ended June 30, 2023**

	<u>Original Budget</u>	<u>Final Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Variance Favorable (Unfavorable)</u>
<b>REVENUES</b>				
Intergovernmental revenues	\$40,000	\$40,000	\$40,000	\$0
Rental income	216,000	215,902	215,902	0
Miscellaneous	761	1,246	17,246	16,000
Total revenues	<u>256,761</u>	<u>257,148</u>	<u>273,148</u>	<u>16,000</u>
<b>EXPENDITURES</b>				
General government				
Insurance	42,500	55,000	54,952	48
Contract services	65,500	51,800	48,554	3,246
Operating services	84,200	71,990	74,082	(2,092)
Facilities maintenance	10,000	22,000	22,318	(318)
Capital outlay	0	0	57,127	(57,127)
Total expenditures	<u>202,200</u>	<u>200,790</u>	<u>257,033</u>	<u>(56,243)</u>
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over expenditures	54,561	56,358	16,115	(40,243)
Other Financing Sources (Uses)				
Proceeds from sale of assets	0	13,940	5,940	(8,000)
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over expenditures and other sources (uses)	54,561	70,298	22,055	<u>(48,243)</u>
Fund balance, beginning of year	<u>1,151,996</u>	<u>1,151,996</u>	<u>1,151,996</u>	
Fund balance, end of year	<u>\$1,206,557</u>	<u>\$1,222,294</u>	<u>\$1,174,051</u>	

See independent accountants' review report and the accompanying notes.

**AVOYELLES PARISH PORT COMMISSION  
Simmesport, Louisiana**

**RECONCILIATION OF STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES, AND  
CHANGES IN FUND BALANCE TO THE STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES  
For the Year Ended June 30, 2023**

Total net changes in fund balance for the year ended June 30, 2023, per in Statement of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balance		\$22,055
The changes in net assets reported for governmental activities in the statement of activities is different because:		
Governmental funds report capital outlays as expenditures.		
However, in the statement of activities, the costs of those assets are allocated over their estimated useful lives and reported as depreciation expense.		
Capital outlays which are considered expenditures on the Statement of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balance	\$57,127	
Expensing of Prior Year Construction in Progress	(10,000)	
Depreciation expense for the year ended June 30, 2023	<u>(677,153)</u>	<u>(630,026)</u>
 Total changes in net position for the year ended June 30, 2023, per the Statement of Activities		 <u><u>(\$607,971)</u></u>

See independent accountants' review report and the accompanying notes.

## **AVOYELLES PARISH PORT COMMISSION**

### **NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AS OF AND FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023**

#### **INTRODUCTION**

The Avoyelles Parish Port Commission (the "Commission") was created by the provisions of Louisiana Revised Statute (LRS) 34:1801. The statute provides for the Commission to be composed of seven members who shall serve without compensation. Four commissioners are to be appointed by the Avoyelles Parish Police Jury, two are to be appointed by the Town of Simmesport, and the final commissioner is to be elected by the appointed commissioners. The commissioners serve terms from two to six years. The Port Commission has the authority to regulate commerce and traffic, to administer docks and landings, and to construct or acquire equipment, wharves, and buildings for the commerce of the port area within Avoyelles Parish.

Act 594 of the 2016 Louisiana Legislature, enacted on June 17, 2016 amended LRS 34:1801, provided for changes in the membership of the Avoyelles Parish Port Commission. Effective on June 17, 2016, membership of the Commission is comprised of nine members, at least three of which shall be minorities, with one member domiciled in each police jury district who shall serve without compensation and who shall be appointed, subject to Senate confirmation.

Act 332 of the 2021 Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature, enacted on June 14, 2021, amended LRS 34:1801, providing for changes in the membership of the Avoyelles Parish Port Commission. Effective June 14, 2021, membership of the Commission is comprised of five members, two appointed by the Avoyelles Parish Police Jury, one appointed by the Town of Simmesport and two appointed by the District 28 House Representative and State Senator, collectively. Each commissioner shall be domiciled in Avoyelles Parish and will serve 4-year staggered terms.

The Avoyelles Parish Port at Simmesport, LA is an inland port located on the Atchafalaya River, an 18 foot draft river in central Louisiana. The Port's Master Plan outlines a multi-purpose, four phase development on 2,200 acres of land, including a 200 acre industrial park, port dock, and recreational area and boat launch.

#### **NOTE 1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICES**

##### **A. REPORTING ENTITY**

The Commission, for financial purposes, includes all the funds relevant to the operations of the Avoyelles Parish Port Commission. The financial statements presented herein do not include agencies which have been formed under applicable laws or separate and distinct units of government apart from the Avoyelles Parish Port Commission.

The Commission is considered a primary government and is financially independent and is responsible for its debts and is entitled to surpluses. No separate agency receives a financial benefit nor imposes a financial burden on the Commission.

**AVOYELLES PARISH PORT COMMISSION**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
AS OF AND FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023**

**NOTE 1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICES (continued)**

**B. BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS – GOVERNMENT-WIDE STATEMENTS**

The government wide fund financial statements report the information on all of the non-fiduciary activities of the Avoyelles Parish Port Commission. Governmental activities are normally supported by rentals, fees and assessments which are reported separately from the business-type activities, which relay to a significant extent on fees and user charges for support.

The statement of activities demonstrates the degree to which the direct expenses of a given function are offset by program revenues. Direct expenses are those that are clearly identifiable with a specific function. Program revenues include rentals, fees and assessments authorized for collection by the Port Commission.

The government wide financial statements are reported using the economic resources measurement focus and the accrual basis of accounting. Revenues are recorded when earned and expenses are recorded when a liability is incurred, regardless of the timing of the related cash flows.

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. Expenditures generally are recorded when a liability is incurred, as under accrual accounting.

In accordance with Statement No. 63, in some instances, the Governmental Standards Board requires a government to delay recognition of decreases in net position as expenditures until a future period. In other instances, governments are required to delay recognition of increase in net position as revenues until a future period. In these circumstances, deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources result from the delay recognition of expenditures or revenues, respectively.

**C. FUND ACCOUNTING**

The accounts of the Port Commission are organized on the basis of funds or account groups, each of which is considered a separate accounting entity. The operations of each fund or account group are accounted for with a separate set of self-balancing accounts that comprise its assets, liabilities, fund equity, revenues and expenditures. Resources are allocated to and accounted for in individual funds based upon the purposes for which they are to be spent and the means by which spending activities are to be controlled.

**AVOYELLES PARISH PORT COMMISSION**  
**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**AS OF AND FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023**

**NOTE 1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICES (continued)**

**GOVERNMENTAL FUND**

Governmental funds account for all or most of the Avoyelles Parish Port Commission's general activities, including the collection and disbursement of specific or legally restricted monies, the acquisition or construction of general fixed assets, and the servicing of general long-term obligations. Governmental funds include:

**Special Revenue Fund**

Special revenue funds are used to account for the proceeds of specific revenue sources that are legally restricted to expenditures for specified purposes

**D. BUDGETARY PRACTICES**

In accordance with Louisiana Revised Statute 39:1303, the Port Commission is required to adopt an annual budget. The annual budget is prepared on a GAAP basis and all annual appropriations lapse at year end. Encumbrance accounting is not utilized.

**E. CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS AND INVESTMENTS**

Cash includes amounts in demand deposits, interest-bearing demand deposits, and money market accounts. Cash equivalents include amounts in time deposits and those investments with original maturities of 90 days or less. Under state law, the Port Commission may deposit funds in demand deposits, interest-bearing demand deposits, money market accounts, or time deposits with state banks organized under Louisiana law and national banks having their principal offices in Louisiana.

Under state law, the Port Commission may invest in United States bonds, treasury notes, or certificates. These are classified as investments if their original maturities exceed 90 days; however, if the original maturities are 90 days or less, they are classified as cash equivalents. Investments are stated at cost.

**F. FIXED ASSETS**

Fixed assets of governmental funds are recorded as expenditures at the time they are purchased or constructed, and the related assets are capitalized (reported) in the general fixed assets account group. No depreciation has been provided on general fixed assets. All fixed assets are valued at historical cost or estimated cost if historical cost is not available. Donated assets are valued at the fair market value at the time of the donation.

**AVOUELLES PARISH PORT COMMISSION**  
**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**AS OF AND FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023**

**NOTE 1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICES (continued)**

**G. COMPENSATED ABSENCES**

The Port Commission has two part-time employees who are paid on an hourly basis per hours worked; all other services are performed by volunteers or are contracted out to independent contractors. The Port Commission has no policy relating to compensated absences.

**H. LONG-TERM OBLIGATIONS**

Long-term obligations expected to be financed from governmental funds are reported in the general long-term obligations account group. Expenditures for principal and interest payments for long-term obligations are recognized in the governmental funds when due.

**I. USE OF 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 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.

**J. EQUITY CLASSIFICATIONS**

In the government-wide financial statements, equity is classified as net assets and displayed in two components:

***Investment in capital assets*** – consists of capital assets including restricted assets, net of accumulated depreciation and net of related debt

***Restricted net assets*** - consists of net assets restricted for port commission activities.

**K. GOVERNMENTAL FUND BALANCES**

In the governmental fund financial statements, fund balances are classified as follows:

***Non-spendable fund balance*** – amounts that cannot be spent either because they are in a non-spendable form or because they are legally or contractually required to be maintained intact.

***Restricted fund balances*** – amounts that can be spent only for specific purposes because of state or federal laws or externally imposed conditions by grantors, creditors, or citizens.

**AVOYELLES PARISH PORT COMMISSION**  
**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**AS OF AND FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023**

**NOTE 1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICES (continued)**

**K. GOVERNMENTAL FUND BALANCES (continued)**

*Committed fund balance* – amounts that can be used only for specific purposes determined by a formal action by the commissioners of the Avoyelles Parish Port Commission.

*Assigned fund balance* – amounts that are constrained by the Port Commission's intent that they will be used for specific purpose.

*Unassigned fund balance* - all other amounts not included in the other spendable classifications.

*Net position flow assumption:* Sometimes the government will fund outlays for a particular purpose from both restricted and unrestricted net resources. In order to calculate the amounts to report as restricted net position and unrestricted net position in the government wide financial statements, a flow assumption must be made about the order in which resources are considered to be applied. It is the Commission's policy to consider restricted net position to have been depleted before unrestricted net position is applied.

**NOTE 2. CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS**

At June 30, 2023, the Port Commission has cash and cash equivalents (book balances) as follows:

Demand Deposits	<u>\$1,172,086</u>
Total	<u>\$1,172,086</u>

These deposits are stated at cost, which approximates market and are on deposit at federally insured banks. 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 at all times 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.

**AVOYELLES PARISH PORT COMMISSION**  
**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**AS OF AND FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023**

**NOTE 2. CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS (continued)**

*Custodial Credit Risk:* At June 30, 2023, the Commission had bank balance of \$1,158,688. These deposits were secured by \$250,000 of federal depository insurance and \$908,688 of pledged securities.

The Avoyelles Parish Port Commission has not formally adopted a deposit or investment policy that limits the government's allowable deposits or investment and addresses custodial credit risk or interest rate risks.

**NOTE 3. CAPITAL ASSETS**

A summary of changes in capital assets for the year ended June 30, 2023 is as follows:

	<u>Balance</u> <u>June 30, 2022</u>	<u>Additions</u>	<u>Deletions</u>	<u>Balance</u> <u>June 30, 2022</u>
Capital assets, not being depreciated				
Land	\$1,969,676	\$0	\$0	\$1,969,676
Construction in progress	10,000	0	(10,000)	0
	<u>1,979,676</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>(10,000)</u>	<u>1,969,676</u>
Capital assets, being depreciated				
Buildings	4,090,750	0	0	4,090,750
Land improvements	562,770	0	0	562,770
Equipment	445,535	57,127	(8,500)	494,162
Infrastructure	19,459,328	0	0	19,459,328
	<u>24,558,383</u>	<u>57,127</u>	<u>(8,500)</u>	<u>24,607,010</u>
Total Capital Assets	26,538,059	<u>\$57,127</u>	<u>(\$18,500)</u>	26,576,686
Less accumulated depreciation	<u>(7,286,944)</u>	<u>(\$677,153)</u>	<u>\$8,500</u>	<u>(7,955,597)</u>
Net Capital Assets	<u>\$19,251,115</u>			<u>\$18,621,089</u>

All capital assets, other than land, are depreciated using the straight-line method over the following useful lives:

Buildings and improvements	40 years
Machinery and equipment	7-15 years
Transportation equipment	5-15 years

**AVOYELLES PARISH PORT COMMISSION**  
**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**AS OF AND FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023**

**NOTE 5. STEWARDSHIP, COMPLIANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY**

The statutes which created the Port Commission, place certain limitations and restrictions on the collections and disbursements of the Fund. The Fund is compliant with all significant limitations and restrictions for the year ended June 30, 2023.

**NOTE 6. FUND BALANCES**

Fund balances for the Port Commission consisted of the following as of June 30, 2023:

**Restricted fund balance** – The committed fund balance consists of funds which are restricted by Louisiana State Statute for the activities of the Port Commission

**NOTE 7. AGREEMENTS**

*Brudd Construction Co LLC*

On February 15, 2012, the Port Commission entered into a lease agreement with Brudd Construction LLC (Brudd) for Brudd to occupy and use property at the Port as a tenant, for a period of 10 years, beginning April 1, 2012 and ending on April 12, 2022. The lease was renewed effective February 15, 2022 for a period of ten years at a rate of \$4,500 per month.

*Helena Chemical*

In 2009, the Port Commission entered into a lease agreement with Helena Chemical for the use of the Liquid Fertilizer Terminal at the Port. The lease term is for 10 years, with an option to renew. The annual rental rate is \$60,000 flat rate for the first 20,000 tons and then \$4 per ton over the first 20,000 tons of liquid fertilizer transported through the terminal. The lease continues to be renewed on an annual basis.

*Farmland*

The Port Commission entered a lease for the rental of the 693.21 acres of farmland at an annual rental rate of \$147 per plantable acre for a total annual rent of \$101,902. The rental term is for 5 years, beginning January 1, 2021, with the first payment due January 1, 2021, and then on January 1<sup>st</sup> of each subsequent year.

**AVOYELLES PARISH PORT COMMISSION**  
**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**AS OF AND FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023**

**NOTE 8. SCHEDULE OF COMMISSIONERS**

<u>Commissioners</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Term Expires</u>	<u>Compensation</u>
Barry Laiche	Chairman	February 12, 2024	\$0
Scott Williams	Vice-Chairman	February 12, 2025	0
Patrick Deshotels	Commissioner	February 12, 2024	0
Tony Pierite	Commissioner	February 12, 2025	0
Andre Webb	Commissioner	February 12, 2024	0

**NOTE 9. LITIGATION AND CONTINGENCIES**

At June 30, 2023, the Avoyelles Parish Port Commission was not involved in any litigation that would materially affect the financial statements.

**NOTE 10. SUBSEQUENT EVENTS**

The Commission is planning an expansion to the Port to construct an additional storage facility to be rented by a port tenant. The projected cost is \$1,000,000 and the Commission has secured project financing to date with a \$850,000 commitment from the Red River Water Way Commission and \$150,000 from the State of Louisiana. The construction project is projected to span over the next two fiscal years.

Commissioner Pierite resigned in November 2023; as of the date of the report he has not been replaced.

Subsequent events were evaluated through December 11, 2023, which is the date the financial statements were available to be issued. There are no further subsequent events to disclose.

**OTHER SUPPLEMENTAL SCHEDULE**

**AVOYELLES PARISH PORT COMMISSION  
SCHEDULE OF COMPENSATION, BENEFITS, AND  
OTHER PAYMENTS TO AGENCY HEAD OR CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023**

Agency Head Name: Barry Laiche, Chairman

Salary	\$ 0
Telephone	0
Mileage reimbursement	<u>0</u>
 Total	 <u>\$ 0</u>

See independent accountants' review report.

## OTHER INFORMATION

**INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANTS' REPORT  
ON APPLYING AGREED-UPON PROCEDURES**

Mr. Barry Laiche  
President  
Avoyelles Parish Port Commission  
Simmesport, Louisiana 71369

We have performed the procedures enumerated below, which were agreed to by the Avoyelles Parish Port Commission and the Louisiana Legislative Auditor (the specified parties), on the Commission's compliance with certain laws and regulations contained in the accompanying Louisiana Attestation Questionnaire during the fiscal year ended June 30, 2023, as required by Louisiana Revised Statute 24:513 and the *Louisiana Government Audit Guide*. The Commission's management is responsible for its financial records and compliance with applicable laws and regulations.

The sufficiency of these procedures is solely the responsibility of the specific parties. Consequently, we make no representation regarding the sufficiency of the procedures enumerated below either for the purpose for which this report has been requested or for any other purposes.

**PUBLIC BID LAW**

1. Obtain documentation for all expenditures made during the year for material and supplies exceeding \$60,000, or public works exceeding \$250,000. Compare the documentation for these expenditures to Louisiana Revised Statute (RS) 39:1551-39:1755 (the state procurement code) or RS 38:2211-2296 (the public bid law), 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 and no expenditures were made for public works exceeding \$250,000.

**CODE OF ETHICS FOR PUBLIC OFFICIALS AND PUBLIC EMPLOYEES**

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

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

3. Obtain a list of all employees paid during the fiscal year.

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

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

None of the employees included on the list of employees provided by management per item (3) appeared on the list provided by management per item (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 business of 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 budget and the amended budget.

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

The budget was adopted and amended, and the adoption of the both the original budget and budget amendment were documented in the minutes.

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

Revenues and expenditures of the final budget were compared to actual revenues and expenditures. Actual expenditures exceeded the final budget by more than 5%. See *Current Year Finding 2023-01*.

## ACCOUNTING AND REPORTING

9. Obtain the list of all 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 disbursements were coded to the correct fund and general ledger account.

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

(c) Report whether the six disbursements were approved in accordance with management's policies and procedures.

All six of the payments were properly approved and signed.

## 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 meetings law) and report whether there are any exceptions.

The Commission is only required to post a notice of each meeting and the related agenda on the door of the Commission's office. The Commission complied with this requirement.

## DEBT

11. Obtain bank deposit slips for the fiscal year and scan bank slips in order to identify and report whether any deposits 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 inspected copies of all bank deposit slips for the period under examination and noted no deposits which appeared to be proceeds of bank loans, bonds, or like indebtedness.

### **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.

An inspection of the payroll records and the meeting minutes of the Commission for the year 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 RS 24:513

The Avoyelles Parish Port Commission provided for a timely report in accordance with RS 24:513.

14. Inquire of management and report whether the agency (1) entered into any contracts that utilized state funds as defined by RS39:72.1 A. (2); and that were subject to the public bid law (RS 38:2211, et seq), while the agency was not in compliance with RS 24:513 (the audit law)

The management of the Avoyelles Parish Port Commission represented that the Commission was in compliance with RS 24:513 (the audit law). Management further represented that the Commission did not enter into any contract that utilized state funds as defined in RS 39:72.1A.(2), while not in compliance with RS 24:513 (the audit law)

### **PRIOR COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

15. Obtain and report management's representation as to whether any prior suggestions, exceptions, recommendations, and/or comments have been resolved.

There were no findings in our audit report issued on December 20, 2022, for the June 30, 2022, year end. See the current year's findings and management's corrective action plan for any comments or unresolved matters.

We were not engaged to, and did not, perform an examination, the objective of which would be the expression of an opinion on management's assertions. Accordingly, we do not express such an opinion. Had we performed additional procedures, other matters might have come to our attention that would have been reported to you.

This report is intended solely to describe the scope of testing performed on the Avoyelles Parish Port Commission'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 results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on control or compliance. Accordingly, this report is not suitable for any other purposes. Under Louisiana Revised Statute 24:513, this report is distributed by the Louisiana Legislative Auditor as a public document.

### *Ducote & Company*

Certified Public Accountants  
Marksville, Louisiana  
December 12, 2023

**Avoyelles Parish Port Commission**

P O Box 126

Simmesport, Louisiana 71369

**LOUISIANA ATTESTATION QUESTIONNAIRE**

December 12, 2023

Ducote & Company  
Certified Public Accountants  
P. O. Box 309  
Marksville, Louisiana 71351

In connection with your engagement to apply agreed-upon procedures to the control and compliance matters identified below, as of June 30, 2023 and for the year then ended, and as required by Louisiana Revised Statute 24:513 and the *Louisiana Government Audit\_Guide*, we make the following representations to you.

These representations are based on the information available to us as of December 12, 2023

**PUBLIC BID LAW**

It is true that we have complied with the state procurement code (RS 39:551-39:1755) public bid law, (RS Title 38:2211-2296), and, where applicable, the regulations of the Division of Administration and the State Purchasing Office.

Yes  No

**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 RS 42:1101-1124.

Yes  No

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 RS 42:1119.

Yes  No

**BUDGETING**

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

Yes [ ] No [X]

**ACCOUNTING AND REPORTING**

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

Yes [X] No [ ]

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

Yes [X] No [ ]

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

Yes [X] No [ ]

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

Yes [X] No [ ]

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

Yes [X] No [ ]

We have complied with RS 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 [X]

**MEETINGS**

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

Yes [X] No [ ]

**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 RS 39:1410.60-1410.65.

Yes  No

**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, RS 14:138, and AG opinion 79-729.

Yes  No

**PRIOR YEAR COMMENTS**

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

Yes  No

**GENERAL**

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

Yes  No

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

Yes  No

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

Yes  No

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

Yes  No

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

Ducote & Company  
Page 4  
December 12, 2023

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

Yes  No

We have provided 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 will disclose to you any such communication received between the end of the period under examination and the date of your report.

Yes  No

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

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



Barry Leiche, Chairman

December 12, 2023

**AVOYELLES PARISH PORT COMMISSION  
SCHEDULE OF RESULTS OF CURRENT  
AND PRIOR YEAR FINDINGS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023**

**Current Year Findings:**

**Compliance:**

**2023-01 – *Noncompliance with Louisiana Local Government Budget Act***

**Finding:** The Commission had an unfavorable expenditure variance of \$56,243 or 28% for the year ended June 30, 2023.

**Criteria:** The Budget Act requires that budgets be amended when the unfavorable variance exceeds 5%.

**Cause of Condition:** The Commission expended approved capital outlay funds that were not included in either the original or amended budgets.

**Effect of Condition:** Violation of the Budget Act.

**Recommendation:** Managements should monitor their budget more closely during the year and properly amend the budget when there is an unfavorable variance of more than 5%.

**Client Response and Correction Action:** Management concurs with the finding and will monitor their budget variances more closely and adopt amendments to the budget as needed.

**Prior Year Findings:**

**None**