

**WAX LAKE EAST DRAINAGE DISTRICT
OF THE PARISH OF ST. MARY**

Financial Statements

Year Ended September 30, 2023

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INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

The Board of Commissioners
Wax Lake East Drainage District of the Parish of St. Mary
Patterson, Louisiana

Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements

Opinions

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the governmental activities and each major fund of Wax Lake East Drainage District of the Parish of St. Mary (hereinafter, the "District"), a component unit of the Parish of St. Mary, as of and for the year ended September 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 financial position of the governmental activities and each major fund of the District, as of September 30, 2023, and the 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 budgetary comparison information to 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 budgetary comparison 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 Reporting Required by *Government Auditing Standards*

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated February 28, 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

Morgan City, Louisiana
February 28, 2024

BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

GOVERNMENT-WIDE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

WAX LAKE EAST DRAINAGE DISTRICT
OF THE PARISH OF ST. MARY

Statement of Net Position
September 30, 2023

	Governmental Activities
ASSETS	
Current assets:	
Cash and interest-bearing deposits	\$ 11,422
Investments	1,620,078
Receivables -	
Ad valorem taxes receivable	8,946
Due from other governments	36,773
Prepaid expenses	28,809
Total current assets	1,706,028
Noncurrent assets:	
Capital assets -	
Construction in progress	285,643
Other capital assets, net of accumulated depreciation	1,371,982
Total noncurrent assets	1,657,625
Total assets	3,363,653
LIABILITIES	
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	76,578
NET POSITION	
Net investment in capital assets	1,657,625
Restricted for debt service	27,485
Unrestricted	1,601,965
Total net position	\$ 3,287,075

The accompanying notes to financial statements are an integral part of this statement.

WAX LAKE EAST DRAINAGE DISTRICT
OF THE PARISH OF ST. MARY

Statement of Activities
Year Ended September 30, 2023

Functions/Programs	Expenses	<u>Program Revenues</u> Operating Grants and Contributions	Net (Expenses) Revenues And Changes in Net Position
Governmental activities:			
Drainage works	\$ 896,928	\$ 51,531	\$ (845,397)
Interest on debt	<u>1,551</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(1,551)</u>
Total governmental activities	<u>\$ 898,479</u>	<u>\$ 51,531</u>	<u>(846,948)</u>
General revenues:			
Ad valorem taxes			952,071
State revenue sharing			33,926
Interest income			77,702
Miscellaneous			<u>11,137</u>
Total general revenues			<u>1,074,836</u>
Change in net position			227,888
Net position, beginning			<u>3,059,187</u>
Net position, ending			<u>\$ 3,287,075</u>

The accompanying notes to financial statements are an integral part of this statement.

FUND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

WAX LAKE EAST DRAINAGE DISTRICT
OF THE PARISH OF ST. MARY

Balance Sheet
Governmental Funds
September 30, 2023

	General	Debt Service	Total Governmental Funds
ASSETS			
Cash and interest-bearing deposits	\$ 11,422	\$ -	\$ 11,422
Investments	1,594,358	25,720	1,620,078
Receivables -			
Ad valorem taxes	7,181	1,765	8,946
Due from other governments	36,773	-	36,773
Prepaid expenditures	28,809	-	28,809
Total assets	\$ 1,678,543	\$ 27,485	\$ 1,706,028
LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCES			
Liabilities:			
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$ 76,578	\$ -	\$ 76,578
Fund balances:			
Nonspendable	28,809	-	28,809
Restricted	-	27,485	27,485
Unassigned	1,573,156	-	1,573,156
Total fund balances	1,601,965	27,485	1,629,450
Total liabilities fund balances	\$ 1,678,543	\$ 27,485	\$ 1,706,028

(continued)

WAX LAKE EAST DRAINAGE DISTRICT
OF THE PARISH OF ST. MARY

Balance Sheet (continued)
Governmental Funds
September 30, 2023

Reconciliation of the Governmental Funds Balance Sheet to the Statement of Net Position

Total fund balances for governmental funds at September 30, 2023		\$ 1,629,450
Cost of capital assets:		
Construction in progress	\$ 285,643	
Capital assets, net of accumulated depreciation	<u>1,371,982</u>	<u>1,657,625</u>
Total net position of governmental activities at September 30, 2023		<u>\$3,287,075</u>

The accompanying notes to financial statements are an integral part of this statement.

WAX LAKE EAST DRAINAGE DISTRICT
OF THE PARISH OF ST. MARY

Statement of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balances
Governmental Funds
Year Ended September 30, 2023

	General	Debt Service	Total Governmental Funds
Revenues:			
Taxes	\$ 763,905	\$ 188,166	\$ 952,071
Intergovernmental	114,336	-	114,336
Interest income	75,195	2,507	77,702
Miscellaneous	11,137	-	11,137
Total revenues	964,573	190,673	1,155,246
Expenditures:			
Current -			
Drainage works	705,660	6,141	711,801
Debt Service -			
Principal	-	210,000	210,000
Interest and fiscal charges	-	1,861	1,861
Capital outlay	95,054	-	95,054
Total expenditures	800,714	218,002	1,018,716
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over expenditures	163,859	(27,329)	136,530
Fund balances, beginning	1,438,106	54,814	1,492,920
Fund balances, ending	\$ 1,601,965	\$ 27,485	\$ 1,629,450

(continued)

WAX LAKE EAST DRAINAGE DISTRICT
OF THE PARISH OF ST. MARY

Statement of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balances (continued)
Governmental Funds
Year Ended September 30, 2023

Reconciliation of the Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balances of
Governmental Funds to the Statement of Activities

Net change in fund balances - governmental funds	\$ 136,530
Cost of capital asset additions	95,054
Depreciation expense	(185,127)
Bond principal payments	210,000
Change in accrued interest	310
Change in unavailable revenues	<u>(28,879)</u>
Total changes in net position at September 30, 2023 per statement of activities	<u>\$ 227,888</u>

The accompanying notes to financial statements are an integral part of this statement.

WAX LAKE EAST DRAINAGE DISTRICT
OF THE PARISH OF ST. MARY

Notes to Financial Statements

(1) Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

The Wax Lake East Drainage District of the Parish of St. Mary (District), which is a component unit of the Parish of St. Mary, was created by Ordinance No. 706 of the St. Mary Parish Police Jury on August 11, 1965. The purpose of the District is the draining and reclaiming of the undrained or partially drained marsh, swamp, and overflowed lands in the area specified in its creation ordinance.

A. Financial Reporting Entity

This report includes all funds which are controlled by or dependent on the District's executive and legislative branches (the Board of Commissioners). Control by or dependence on the District was determined on the basis of budget adoptions, taxing authority, authority to issue debt, election or appointment of governing body, and other general oversight responsibility. The District is an integral part of the Parish of St. Mary.

B. Government-Wide and Fund Financial Statements

The government-wide financial statements report information on all of the activities of the government. For the most part, the effect of interfund activity has been removed from these statements. Both the government-wide and the fund financial statements categorize primary activities as governmental.

The statement of activities demonstrates the degree to which the direct expenses of a given function or segment is offset by program revenues. Direct expenses are those that are clearly identifiable with a specific function or segment. Taxes and items not properly included among program revenues are reported as general revenues.

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

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 the liability is incurred, regardless of the timing of the related cash flows. Property taxes are recognized as revenues in the year for which they are levied. Grants and similar items are recognized as revenues in the year for which they are earned.

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 for the current period. For this purpose, the government considers revenues to be available if they are collectible within the current period or soon enough thereafter to pay liabilities of the current period. Revenues are considered to be available if they are collected within 60 days of the end of the current fiscal period. Expenditures generally are recorded when a liability is incurred, as under accrual accounting.

WAX LAKE EAST DRAINAGE DISTRICT
OF THE PARISH OF ST. MARY

Notes to Basic Financial Statements (continued)

Ad valorem taxes and interest associated with the current fiscal period are all considered to be susceptible to accrual and have been recognized as revenues of the current fiscal period. Ad valorem taxes are recognized as revenues in the year in which such taxes are levied and billed to taxpayers. Other major revenues that are considered susceptible to accrual include earned grant revenues and other intergovernmental revenues, and interest on investments.

The District maintains two funds. They are categorized as governmental funds. The emphasis on fund financial statements is on major governmental funds, each displayed in a separate column. A fund is considered major if it is the primary operating fund of the entity or meets the following criteria:

- a. Total assets, liabilities, revenues, or expenditures/expenses of that individual governmental or enterprise fund are at least 10 percent of the corresponding total for all funds of that category or type; and
- b. Total assets, liabilities, revenues, or expenditures/expenses of the individual governmental or enterprise fund are at least 5 percent of the corresponding total for all governmental and enterprise funds combined.

Governmental Funds –

The focus of the governmental funds' measurement (in the fund statement) is upon determination of financial position and changes in financial position (sources, uses, and balances of financial resources) rather than upon net income. The following is a description of the governmental funds of the District, which are also the major 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.

Debt Service Fund

The Debt Service Fund is used to account for the accumulation of funds for the periodic payment of principal and interest on general long-term debt.

D. Interest-Bearing Deposits

Interest-bearing deposits are stated at cost, which approximates market.

E. Investments

Under state law, the District may invest in Louisiana Asset Management Pool (LAMP), United States bonds, treasury notes, or certificates. Investments are valued in accordance with GASB Statement No. 72, *Fair Value Measurements and Application*.

WAX LAKE EAST DRAINAGE DISTRICT
OF THE PARISH OF ST. MARY

Notes to Basic Financial Statements (continued)

F. Receivables

All receivables are shown net of an allowance account, as applicable.

G. Prepaid Items

Insurance payments made to insurance agencies that will benefit periods beyond the current period are recorded as prepaid items.

H. Interfund Activity

Interfund receivables and payables arise from interfund transactions and are recorded by all funds affected in the period in which transactions are executed. The balances result from the time lag between the dates that interfund goods and services are provided or reimbursable expenditures occur, transactions are recorded in the accounting system, and payments between funds are made. These amounts are reported as "Due to/from other funds." For the purpose of the statement of net position, these amounts have been eliminated.

Permanent allocations of resources between funds are classified as interfund transfers. For the purpose of the statement of activities, all interfund transfers between governmental funds have been eliminated.

I. Capital Assets

All capital assets purchased or acquired with an original cost of \$1,000 or more are reported at historical cost or estimated historical cost. Contributed assets are reported at acquisition value as of the date received. Additions, improvements, and other capital outlays that significantly extend the useful life of an asset are capitalized. Other costs incurred for repairs and maintenance are expensed as incurred. Depreciation on all assets is provided on the straight-line basis over the following estimated useful lives:

Drainage system	10-25 years
Equipment	5-10 years
Improvements	5-25 years

J. Deferred Inflows of Resources

Deferred inflows of resources represent an acquisition of net assets that applies to a future period and will not be recognized as an inflow of resources (revenue) until that time. The District may report deferred inflows arising from unavailable revenues. Unavailable revenue occurs under a modified accrual basis of accounting and is reported only in the governmental funds balance sheet.

K. Equity Classifications

Government-wide Financial Statements

Equity is classified as net position and displayed in three components:

WAX LAKE EAST DRAINAGE DISTRICT
OF THE PARISH OF ST. MARY

Notes to Basic Financial Statements (continued)

1. 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, certificates of indebtedness, or other borrowings that are attributable to the acquisition, construction, or improvement of those assets.
2. Restricted - consist of net position with constraints placed on the use either by (a) external group such as creditors, grantors, contributors, or laws or regulations of other governments; or (b) law through constitutional provisions or enabling legislation.
3. Unrestricted - all other net position that does not meet the definition of “restricted” or “net investment in capital assets”.

When an expense is incurred for purposes for which both restricted and unrestricted net position is available, the District considers restricted funds to have been spent first.

Fund Financial Statements

Fund balance for the District’s governmental funds is displayed in the following classifications depicting the relative strength of the spending constraints placed on the purposes for which resources can be used:

1. Nonspendable - amounts that cannot be spent either because they are in nonspendable form (such as prepaid amounts) or because they are legally or contractually required to be maintained intact.
2. Restricted - amounts that can be spent only for specific purposes because of constitutional provisions or enabling legislation or because of constraints that are externally imposed by creditors, grantors, contributors, or the laws or regulations of other governments.
3. Committed - amounts that can be used only for specific purposes determined by a formal action of the government’s highest level of decision-making authority. Commitments may be established, modified, or rescinded only through formal actions by the Board of Commissioners.
4. Assigned - amounts the government intends to use for specific purposes that do not meet the criteria to be classified as restricted or committed. Only the Board of Commissioners may assign amounts for specific purposes.
5. Unassigned - amounts that are available for any purpose.

When an expenditure is incurred for purposes for which both restricted and unrestricted fund balance is available, the District considers restricted funds to have been spent first. When an expenditure is incurred for which committed, assigned, or unassigned fund balances are available, the District considers amounts to have been spent first out of committed funds, then assigned funds, and finally unassigned funds, as needed, unless the Board of Commissioners have provided otherwise in its commitment or assignment actions.

WAX LAKE EAST DRAINAGE DISTRICT
OF THE PARISH OF ST. MARY

Notes to Basic Financial Statements (continued)

L. Use of Estimates

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles requires management to make certain estimates and assumptions. Those estimates affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements. Actual results may differ from these 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 certificates and time deposits of state banks organized under Louisiana law and national banks having principal offices in Louisiana. At September 30, 2023, the District has cash and interest-bearing deposits (book balances) totaling \$11,422 as follows:

Demand deposits	\$ <u>11,422</u>
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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 deposit insurance must at all times equal the amount on deposit with the fiscal agent bank. These securities are held in the name of the District in a holding or custodial bank that is mutually acceptable to both parties.

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 collateral securities that are in the possession of an outside party. The District does not have a policy to monitor or attempt to reduce exposure to custodial credit risk. At September 30, 2023, the District has \$12,032 in deposits (bank balances). These deposits are fully secured from risk by federal deposit insurance and are, therefore, not exposed to custodial credit risk.

(3) Investments

Investments held at September 30, 2023 consist of \$1,620,078 in the Louisiana Asset Management Pool (LAMP). LAMP is administered by LAMP, Inc., a non-profit corporation organized under the laws of the State of Louisiana. Only local governments having contracted to participate in LAMP have an investment interest in its pool of assets. The primary objective of LAMP is to provide a safe environment for the placement of public funds in short-term, high quality investments. The LAMP portfolio includes only securities and other obligations in which local governments in Louisiana are authorized to invest in accordance with LSA-R.S. 33:2955.

GASB Statements No. 40, *Deposit and Investment Risk Disclosure*, requires the disclosure of credit risk, custodial credit risk, concentration of credit risk, and foreign currency risk for all public entity investments.

LAMP is a 2a7-like investment pool. The following facts are relevant for 2a7-like investments pools:

Credit risk – LAMP is rated AAAM by Standard & Poor's.

WAX LAKE EAST DRAINAGE DISTRICT
OF THE PARISH OF ST. MARY

Notes to Basic Financial Statements (continued)

Custodial credit risk – LAMP participants’ investments in the pool are evidenced by shares of the pool. Investments in pools should be disclosed, but not categorized because they are not evidenced by securities that exist in physical or book-entry form. The public entity’s investment is with the pool, not with the securities that make up the pool; therefore, no disclosure is required.

Concentration of credit risk – pooled investments are excluded from the 5 percent disclosure requirement.

Interest rate risk – 2a7-like investment pool are excluded from this disclosure requirement, per paragraph 15 of the GASB 40 statement.

Foreign currency risk – not applicable to 2a7-like pools.

The dollar weighted average portfolio maturity of LAMP assets is restricted to not more than 90 days, and consists of no securities with a maturity in excess of 397 days. LAMP is designed to be highly liquid to give its participants immediate access to their account balances. The investments in LAMP are stated at fair value based on quoted market rates. The fair market value of investments is determined on a weekly basis by LAMP and the value of the position in the external investment pool is the same as the value of the pool shares.

LAMP, Inc. is subject to regulatory oversight of the state treasurer and the board of directors. LAMP is not registered with the SEC as an investment company.

Fair Value Measurements

To the extent available, the District’s investments are recorded at fair value as of September 30, 2023, GASB Statement No. 72, *Fair Value Measurements and Application*, defines fair value as the price that would be received to sell an asset or paid to transfer a liability in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date.

The District measures and records its investments using fair value guidelines established by GASB 72, which recognizes a three-tiered fair value hierarchy as follows:

- Level 1 – quoted prices for identical investments in active markets
- Level 2 – observable inputs other than quoted market prices
- Level 3 – unobservable inputs

The District’s investments in LAMP are measured using observable inputs other than quoted market prices (Level 2 inputs). The investments in LAMP are valued using quoted market prices of the underlying investment of LAMP on a weekly basis and the value of the position in the external investment pool is the same as the net asset value of the pool shares.

(4) Ad Valorem Taxes

Ad valorem taxes attach as an enforceable lien on property within the District's taxing area as of January 1 of each year. Taxes are levied by the District in September or October and are actually billed to taxpayers in November or December. Billed taxes become delinquent on January 1 of the following year. The St. Mary Parish Sheriff bills and collects the District's property taxes using the assessed values determined by the tax assessor of St. Mary Parish. District property tax revenues are budgeted in the year billed.

WAX LAKE EAST DRAINAGE DISTRICT
OF THE PARISH OF ST. MARY

Notes to Basic Financial Statements (continued)

For the year ended September 30, 2023, taxes of 6.59 mills were levied on property with assessed valuations totaling \$144,366,889 and were dedicated as follows:

Maintenance and operations	3.26 Mills
Construction and maintenance	2.03 Mills
Debt service	1.30 Mills

Total taxes assessed were \$951,378.

(5) Tax Abatements

The District is subject to certain property tax abatements granted by the Louisiana Board of Commerce and Industry ("LBCI"), a state entity governed by board members representing major economic groups and gubernatorial appointees. Abatements to which the District may be subject include those issued for property taxes under the Industrial Tax Exemption Program ("ITEP") and the Restoration Tax Abatement Program ("RTAP"). For the year ended September 30, 2023, the District incurred abatements of ad valorem taxes through ITEP.

ITEP is authorized by Article 7, Section 21(F) of the Louisiana Constitution. Companies qualifying as manufacturers can apply to the LBCI for a property tax exemption on all new property, as defined, used in the manufacturing process. Under ITEP, companies are required to promise to expand or build manufacturing facilities in Louisiana, with a minimum investment of \$5 million. The exemptions are granted for a 5 year term and are renewable for an additional 5 year term upon approval by LBCI. These state-granted abatements have resulted in reductions of property taxes, which is administered as a temporary reduction in the assessed value of the property involved. The abatement agreements stipulate a percentage reduction of property taxes, which can be as much as 100 percent. The local government may recapture abated taxes if a company fails to expand facilities or otherwise fail to fulfill its commitments under the agreement. For the year ended September 30, 2023, \$46,145 of the District's ad valorem tax revenues were abated by the state of Louisiana through ITEP.

(6) Due from Other Governments

Amounts due from other governments at September 30, 2023 consisted of the following:

Other	\$ 600
United States Army Corps of Engineers	36,173
Total	<u>\$ 36,773</u>

WAX LAKE EAST DRAINAGE DISTRICT
OF THE PARISH OF ST. MARY

Notes to Basic Financial Statements (continued)

(7) Capital Assets

Capital asset activity as of and for the year ended September 30, 2023 was as follows:

	Beginning Balance	Additions	Deletions	Ending Balance
Capital assets not being depreciated				
Construction in progress	\$ 190,589	\$ 95,054	\$ -	\$ 285,643
Capital assets being depreciated:				
Drainage system	4,738,002	-	-	4,738,002
Equipment	430,463	-	-	430,463
Improvements	57,594	-	-	57,594
Total capital assets being depreciated	5,226,059	-	-	5,226,059
Less accumulated depreciation:				
Drainage system	(3,289,675)	(172,785)	-	(3,462,460)
Equipment	(350,134)	(9,900)	-	(360,034)
Improvements	(29,141)	(2,442)	-	(31,583)
Total accumulated depreciation	(3,668,950)	(185,127)	-	(3,854,077)
Total capital assets, being depreciated, net	1,557,109	(185,127)	-	1,371,982
Total capital assets, net	\$ 1,747,698	\$ (90,073)	\$ -	\$ 1,657,625

Depreciation expense in the amount of \$185,127 was charged to drainage works.

(8) Accounts Payable and Accrued Liabilities

Accounts payable and accrued liabilities at September 30, 2023 consist of the following:

Accounts payable	\$ 66,841
Accrued salaries	9,045
Accrued payroll taxes	692
	\$ 76,578

WAX LAKE EAST DRAINAGE DISTRICT
OF THE PARISH OF ST. MARY

Notes to Basic Financial Statements (continued)

(9) Changes in Long-Term Debt

During year ended September 30, 2023, the following changes occurred in long-term debt:

	Balance 10/1/2022	Additions	Reductions	Balance 9/30/2023
Direct placements-				
General obligation refunding bonds	\$ 210,000	\$ -	\$ 210,000	\$ -

The general obligation refunding bond issue is secured by a pledge and dedication of a debt service bond millage and is being liquidated through the District's debt service fund.

(10) Fund Balance

Fund balance is classified as nonspendable, restricted, committed, and/or unassigned based primarily on the extent to which the District is bound to observe constraints imposed upon the use of the resources in the government funds. The constraints places on fund balance for the major governmental funds are presented as follows:

	General	Debt Service
Fund balances:		
Nonspendable -		
Prepaid expenditures	\$ 28,809	\$ -
Restricted for -		
Debt service	-	27,485
Unassigned	1,573,156	-
Total fund balances	\$ 1,601,965	\$ 27,485

(11) Compensation Paid to Board Members

For the year ended September 30, 2023, the following individuals served on the Board of Commissioners and received a per diem allowance as follows:

Jeffery LaGrange	\$ 480
William Hidalgo, Jr.	600
Wayne Cantrell	600
Lee Felterman	420
Chad Ross	600
Raymond Beadle	480
Chris Cooper	600
Total	\$ 3,780

WAX LAKE EAST DRAINAGE DISTRICT
OF THE PARISH OF ST. MARY

Notes to Basic Financial Statements (continued)

Act 706 of the 2014 Legislative Session amended RS 24:513A requiring additional disclosure of total compensation, reimbursements, benefits, or other payments made to a political subdivision head. For the year ended September 30, 2023, payments made to the chief officer, Jeffery LaGrange, requiring disclosure are as follows:

Per diem payments	480
Reimbursements	14
	\$ 494

(12) Risk Management

The District is exposed to various risks of loss related to torts; theft of, damage to, and destruction of assets; errors and omissions; injuries to employees; and natural disasters. The District has elected to purchase insurance coverage through the commercial insurance market to cover its exposure to loss. The District is insured up to policy limits for each of the above risks. There were no significant changes in coverage, retentions, or limits during the year ended September 30, 2023. Settled claims have not exceeded the commercial coverage in any of the previous three fiscal years.

(13) Related Party Transactions

During the year ended September 30, 2023, the District paid \$2,345 for payroll processing and received \$2,129 of reimbursements for maintenance expenditures from the St. Mary Parish Government. This activity is recorded in the financial statements as intergovernmental revenue.

(14) New Accounting Pronouncements

The following is a summary of accounting standards adopted by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) that are scheduled to be implemented in the future that may affect the District's financial report:

GASB Statement 100, *Accounting Changes and Error Corrections - An Amendment of GASB Statement No. 62*. The primary objective of this Statement is to enhance accounting and financial reporting requirements for accounting changes and error corrections to provide more understandable, reliable, relevant, consistent, and comparable information for making decisions or assessing accountability. The standard is effective for annual reporting periods beginning after June 15, 2023. The effect of implementation on the District's financial statements has not yet been determined.

GASB Statement No. 101, *Compensated Absences*. The objective of this Statement is to better meet the information needs of financial statement users by updating the recognition and measurement guidance for compensated absences. That objective is achieved by aligning the recognition and measurement guidance under a unified model and by amending certain previously required disclosures. This standard is effective for annual reporting periods beginning after December 15, 2023. The effect of implementation on the District's financial statements has not yet been determined.

REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

WAX LAKE EAST DRAINAGE DISTRICT
OF THE PARISH OF ST. MARY

General Fund
Budgetary Comparison Schedule
Year Ended September 30, 2023

	Budgeted Amounts		Actual Amounts	Variance with Final Budget Favorable (Unfavorable)
	Original	Final		
Revenues:				
Taxes	\$ 700,000	\$ 756,650	\$ 763,905	\$ 7,255
Intergovernmental	50,000	50,224	114,336	64,112
Interest earned	500	60,600	75,195	14,595
Miscellaneous	5,000	7,537	11,137	3,600
Total revenues	<u>755,500</u>	<u>875,011</u>	<u>964,573</u>	<u>89,562</u>
Expenditures:				
Current -				
Drainage works:				
Advertising	4,000	1,116	1,124	(8)
Car and truck	13,000	15,491	15,382	109
Contract labor	2,000	18,374	15,312	3,062
Deductions from ad valorem taxes	25,000	24,990	24,990	-
Electrical	1,000	914	910	4
Insurance	60,000	100,000	59,058	40,942
Maintenance and repairs	255,000	255,000	219,577	35,423
Miscellaneous	2,000	2,218	313	1,905
Natural gas	100,000	76,489	63,486	13,003
Office supplies	1,000	1,097	1,362	(265)
Payroll tax expense	18,000	15,617	16,204	(587)
Per diem - board	18,000	5,000	3,794	1,206
Professional fees	70,000	70,000	54,238	15,762
Salaries and wages	225,000	225,000	205,419	19,581
Supplies	50,000	50,000	24,491	25,509
Total drainage works	<u>844,000</u>	<u>861,306</u>	<u>705,660</u>	<u>155,646</u>
Capital outlay	1,100,000	105,000	95,054	9,946
Total expenditures	<u>1,944,000</u>	<u>966,306</u>	<u>800,714</u>	<u>165,592</u>
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over expenditures	(1,188,500)	(91,295)	163,859	255,154
Fund balance, beginning	<u>1,438,106</u>	<u>1,438,106</u>	<u>1,438,106</u>	<u>-</u>
Fund balance, ending	<u>\$ 249,606</u>	<u>\$ 1,346,811</u>	<u>\$ 1,601,965</u>	<u>\$ 255,154</u>

See independent auditor's report and notes to budgetary comparison schedule.

WAX LAKE EAST DRAINAGE DISTRICT
OF THE PARISH OF ST. MARY

Notes to Budgetary Comparison Schedule

(1) Basis of Accounting

The budget for the General Fund is adopted on a basis consistent with generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP).

(2) Budgetary Practices

Annually, the District adopts a budget for all funds. The budgetary practices include public notice of the proposed budget, public inspection of the proposed budget, and public hearings on the budget. Formal budgetary integration is employed as a management control device during the year. Budget amounts included in the accompanying financial statements reflect originally adopted budget amounts and all subsequent amendments. All budgetary appropriations lapse at the end of each fiscal year. The level of budgetary control is set at the fund level.

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 STATEMENTS PERFORMED IN ACCORDANCE WITH *GOVERNMENT AUDITING STANDARDS*

The Board of Commissioners
Wax Lake East Drainage District of the Parish of St. Mary
Patterson, 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 each major fund of Wax Lake East Drainage District of the Parish of St. Mary (hereinafter, the “District”), a component unit of the Parish of St. Mary, as of and for the year ended September 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 28, 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 District’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 have not been identified. However, we identified a deficiency in internal control that we consider to be a material weakness which is described in the accompanying schedule of audit results and findings as item 2023-001.

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 no instances of noncompliance or other matters that are required to be reported under *Government Auditing Standards*.

District's Response to Finding

Government Auditing Standards requires the auditor to perform limited procedures on District's response to the finding identified in our audit and described in the accompanying schedule of audit results and findings. 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 District'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 District's internal control and compliance. Accordingly, this communication is not suitable for any other purpose. In accordance with Louisiana Revised Statute 24:513, this report is distributed by the Louisiana Legislative Auditor as a public document.

Kolder, Slaven & Company, LLC
Certified Public Accountants

Morgan City, Louisiana
February 28, 2024

WAX LAKE EAST DRAINAGE DISTRICT
OF THE PARISH OF ST. MARY

Schedule of Audit Results and Findings
Year Ended September 30, 2023

Part I: Summary of Auditor’s Results

Financial Statements

1. Type of auditor's report issued on financial statements:

Opinion Unit	Type of Opinion
Governmental activities	Unmodified
Major funds:	
General	Unmodified
Debt Service	Unmodified

2. Internal control over financial reporting:

Material weakness(es) identified?	✓	yes		no
Significant deficiency(ies) identified?		yes	✓	none reported

3. Noncompliance material to the financial statements? yes ✓ no

Other

4. Management letter issued? ✓ yes no

Part II: Findings reported in accordance with Governmental Auditing Standards

A. Internal Control

2023-001 Inadequate Segregation of Duties

Year Initially Occurring: Unknown

CONDITION: Accounting and financial functions are not adequately segregated.

CRITERIA: *Internal control* is a process – effected 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. The District’s internal control over financial reporting includes those policies and procedures that pertain to the District’s ability to record, process, summarize, and report financial data consistent with the assertions embodied in either annual financial statements or interim financial statements, or both.

CAUSE: The cause of the condition is the result of a failure to design and implement policies and procedures necessary to achieve adequate internal control.

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.

WAX LAKE EAST DRAINAGE DISTRICT
OF THE PARISH OF ST. MARY

Schedule of Audit Results and Findings (continued)
Year Ended September 30, 2023

RECOMMENDATION: Due to the size of the operation and the cost-benefit of additional personnel, it may not be feasible to achieve complete segregation of duties.

B. Compliance

No items are reported under this section.

Part III: Findings and questioned costs reported in accordance with the Uniform Guidance:

The requirements of the Uniform Guidance do not apply to the District.

WAX LAKE EAST DRAINAGE DISTRICT
OF THE PARISH OF ST. MARY

Summary Schedule of Prior Audit Findings
Year Ended September 30, 2023

A. Internal Control –

2022-001 Segregation of Duties

CONDITION: Accounting and financial functions are not adequately segregated.

RECOMMENDATION: Due to size of the operation and the cost-benefit of additional personnel, it may not be feasible to achieve complete segregation of duties.

CURRENT STATUS: See schedule of audit results and findings, item 2023-001.

B. Compliance –

No items were reported under this section.

C. Uniform Guidance –

This section was not applicable.

D. Management Letter –

2022-ML-1 Per Diem Payments

CONDITION: The District should not pay a board member an amount in excess of \$65 per day regardless of how many meetings/business matters attended.

RS 38:1607 states, in part: "No commissioner shall receive compensation for his services in excess of sixty-five dollars per day including all actual expenses, while attending to the business of the district." On three occasions, a board member was paid per diem of \$60 for attending the District's monthly board meeting in addition to receiving \$60 per diem for tending to other business of the District during the same day. Also, supporting documents provided for two per diem payments processed did not include adequate supporting documentation.

RECOMMENDATION: The District should maintain proper documentation supporting each per diem payment.

CURRENT STATUS: This condition has been resolved.

WAX LAKE EAST DRAINAGE DISTRICT
OF THE PARISH OF ST. MARY

Corrective Action Plan for Current Audit Findings
Year Ended September 30, 2023

2023-001 Segregation of Duties

CONDITION: Accounting and financial functions are not adequately segregated

MANAGEMENT'S RESPONSE: Due to the size of the operation and the cost-benefit of additional personnel, it may not be feasible to achieve adequate segregation of duties.

**WAX LAKE EAST DRAINAGE DISTRICT
OF THE PARISH OF ST. MARY**

Statewide Agreed-Upon Procedures

Fiscal period October 1, 2022 through September 30, 2023

KOLDER, SLAVEN & COMPANY, LLC

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INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANT'S REPORT ON APPLYING AGREED-UPON PROCEDURES TO CONTROL AND COMPLIANCE AREAS IDENTIFIED BY THE LOUISIANA LEGISLATIVE AUDITOR

The Board of Commissioners
Wax Lake East Drainage District of the Parish of St. Mary, and
Louisiana Legislative Auditor

We have performed the procedures enumerated below on the control and compliance areas identified in the Louisiana Legislative Auditor's (LLA's) Statewide Agreed-Upon Procedures (SAUPs) for the fiscal period October 1, 2022 through September 30, 2023. The management of the Wax Lake East Drainage District of the Parish of St. Mary (hereinafter "District") is responsible for those control and compliance areas identified in the SAUPs.

An agreed-upon procedures engagement involves the performing of specific procedures that the District has agreed to and acknowledged to be appropriate on those control and compliance areas identified in the LLA's SAUPs for the fiscal period October 1, 2022 through September 30, 2023 and report on exceptions based upon the procedures performed. Additionally, the LLA has agreed to and acknowledged that the procedures performed are appropriate for its purposes. However, 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 exceptions, if any, are as follows:

1) Written Policies and Procedures

- A. Obtain and inspect the entity's written policies and procedures and observe whether they address each of the following categories and subcategories if applicable to public funds and the entity's operations:
- i. ***Budgeting***, including preparing, adopting, monitoring, and amending the budget.

The District has no written policies and procedures for budgeting.

- ii. **Purchasing**, including (1) how purchases are initiated, (2) how vendors are added to the vendor list, (3) the preparation and approval process of purchase requisitions and purchase orders, (4) controls to ensure compliance with the Public Bid Law, and (5) documentation required to be maintained for all bids and price quotes.
The District has no written policies and procedures for purchasing.
- iii. **Disbursements**, including processing, reviewing, and approving.
The District has no written policies and procedures for disbursements.
- iv. **Receipts/Collections**, including receiving, recording, and preparing deposits. Also, policies and procedures should include management's actions to determine the completeness of all collections for each type of revenue or agency fund additions (e.g., periodic confirmation with outside parties, reconciliation to utility billing after cutoff procedures, reconciliation of traffic ticket number sequences, agency fund forfeiture monies confirmation).
The District has no written policies and procedures for receipts/collections.
- v. **Payroll/Personnel**, including (1) payroll processing, (2) reviewing and approving time and attendance records, including leave and overtime worked, and (3) approval process for employee rates of pay or approval and maintenance of pay rate schedules.
Written policies and procedures were obtained and address the subcategories above.
- vi. **Contracting**, including (1) types of services requiring written contracts, (2) standard terms and conditions, (3) legal review, (4) approval process, and (5) monitoring process.
The District has no written policies and procedures for contracting.
- vii. **Travel and Expense Reimbursement**, including (1) allowable expenses, (2) dollar thresholds by category of expense, (3) documentation requirements, and (4) required approvers.
Written policies and procedures were obtained and address the subcategories above with exception of (2) dollar thresholds by category of expense.
- viii. **Credit Cards (and debit cards, fuel cards, purchase cards, if applicable)**, including (1) how cards are to be controlled, (2) allowable business uses, (3) documentation requirements, (4) required approvers of statements, and (5) monitoring card usage (e.g., determining the reasonableness of fuel card purchases).
The District has no written policies and procedures for credit cards, debit cards, fuel cards, or purchase cards. However, management asserted that the District maintains no such cards.
- ix. **Ethics**, including (1) the prohibitions as defined in Louisiana Revised Statute (R.S.) 42:1111-1121, (2) actions to be taken if an ethics violation takes place, (3) system to monitor possible ethics violations, and (4) a requirement that documentation is maintained to demonstrate that all employees and officials were notified of any changes to the entity's ethics policy.
The District has no written policies and procedures for ethics.
- x. **Debt Service**, including (1) debt issuance approval, (2) continuing disclosure/EMMA reporting requirements, (3) debt reserve requirements, and (4) debt service requirements.
The District has no written policies and procedures for debt service.

- xi. **Information Technology Disaster Recovery/Business Continuity**, including (1) identification of critical data and frequency of data backups, (2) storage of backups in a separate physical location isolated from the network, (3) periodic testing/verification that backups can be restored, (4) use of antivirus software on all systems, (5) timely application of all available system and software patches/updates, and (6) identification of personnel, processes, and tools needed to recover operations after a critical event.

The District has no written policies and procedures for information technology disaster recovery/business continuity.

- xii. **Prevention of Sexual Harassment**, including R.S. 42:342-344 requirements for (1) agency responsibilities and prohibitions, (2) annual employee training, and (3) annual reporting.

Written policies and procedures were obtained and address the subcategories above, with the exception of (2) annual employee training and (3) annual reporting.

2) Board or Finance Committee

- A. Obtain and inspect the board/finance committee minutes for the fiscal period, as well as the board's enabling legislation, charter, bylaws, or equivalent document in effect during the fiscal period, and

- i. Observe that the board/finance committee met with a quorum at least monthly, or on a frequency in accordance with the board's enabling legislation, charter, bylaws, or other equivalent document.

The District did not meet one (1) month of the fiscal period due to lack of quorum.

- ii. For those entities reporting on the governmental accounting model, observe whether the minutes referenced or included monthly budget-to-actual comparisons on the general fund, quarterly budget-to-actual, at a minimum, on proprietary funds, and semi-annual budget-to-actual, at a minimum, on all special revenue funds.

With the exception of September 2023, the District's minutes did not reference or include monthly budget-to-actual comparisons.

- iii. For governmental entities, obtain the prior year audit report and observe the unassigned fund balance in the general fund. If the general fund had a negative ending unassigned fund balance in the prior year audit report, observe that the minutes for at least one meeting during the fiscal period referenced or included a formal plan to eliminate the negative unassigned fund balance in the general fund.

Not applicable – The general fund did not have a negative ending unassigned fund balance in the prior year audit report.

- iv. Observe whether the board/finance committee received written updates of the progress of resolving audit finding(s), according to management's corrective action plan at each meeting until the findings are considered fully resolved.

Not applicable – No items needing corrective action plan observed.

3) Bank Reconciliations

- A. Obtain a listing of entity bank accounts for the fiscal period from management and management's representation that the listing is complete. Ask management to identify the entity's main operating account. Select the entity's main operating account and randomly select 4 additional accounts (or all accounts if less than 5). Randomly select one month from the fiscal period, obtain and inspect the corresponding bank statement and reconciliation for each selected account, and observe that:

Obtained a listing of bank accounts for the fiscal period from management and management's representation that the listing is complete. Management identified the main operating account. No other accounts are used for daily operations. One (1) month from the fiscal period was randomly selected.

- i. Bank reconciliations include evidence that they were prepared within 2 months of the related statement closing date (e.g., initialed and dated or electronically logged);

No exceptions were found as a result of this procedure.

- ii. Bank reconciliations include written evidence that a member of management or a board member who does not handle cash, post ledgers, or issue checks has reviewed each bank reconciliation (e.g., initialed and dated, electronically logged); and

Bank reconciliations did not include evidence of review by a member of management/board member who does not handle cash, post ledgers, or issue checks.

- iii. Management has documentation reflecting it has researched reconciling items that have been outstanding for more than 12 months from the statement closing date, if applicable.

Not applicable – No outstanding reconciling items exceeding 12 months were observed.

4) Collections (excluding electronic funds transfers)

- A. Obtain a listing of deposit sites for the fiscal period where deposits for cash/checks/money orders (cash) are prepared and management's representation that the listing is complete. Randomly select 5 deposit sites (or all deposit sites if less than 5).

Obtained a listing of deposit sites for the fiscal period where deposits for cash/checks/money orders (cash) are prepared and management's representation that the listing is complete. Selected the District's one (1) deposit site.

- B. For each deposit site selected, obtain a listing of collection locations and management's representation that the listing is complete. Randomly select one collection location for each deposit site (e.g., 5 collection locations for 5 deposit sites), obtain and inspect written policies and procedures relating to employee job duties (if there are no written policies or procedures, then inquire of employees about their job duties) at each collection location, and observe that job duties are properly segregated at each collection location such that:

- i. Employees responsible for cash collections do not share cash drawers/registers;

Not applicable- District employees are not responsible for cash collections. The District has contracted a third-party to perform certain collection functions.

- ii. Each employee responsible for collecting cash is not also responsible for preparing/making bank deposits, unless another employee/official is responsible for reconciling collection documentation (e.g., pre-numbered receipts) to the deposit;

Not applicable- District employees are not responsible for collecting cash. The District has contracted a third-party to perform certain collection functions.

- iii. Each employee responsible for collecting cash is not also responsible for posting collection entries to the general ledger or subsidiary ledgers, unless another employee/official is responsible for reconciling ledger postings to each other and to the deposit; and

Not applicable- District employees are not responsible for collecting cash. The District has contracted a third-party to perform certain collection functions.

- iv. The employee(s) responsible for reconciling cash collections to the general ledger and/or subsidiary ledgers, by revenue source and/or agency fund additions, is (are) not also responsible for collecting cash, unless another employee/official verifies the reconciliation.

Not applicable- District employees are not responsible for collecting cash. The District has contracted a third-party to perform certain collection functions.

- C. Obtain from management a copy of the bond or insurance policy for theft covering all employees who have access to cash. Observe that the bond or insurance policy for theft was in force during the fiscal period.

Not applicable- Employees do not have access to cash. The District has contracted a third-party to perform certain collection functions.

- D. Randomly select two deposit dates for each of the 5 bank accounts selected for Bank Reconciliations procedure #3A (select the next deposit date chronologically if no deposits were made on the dates randomly selected and randomly select a deposit if multiple deposits are made on the same day). Obtain supporting documentation for each of the 10 deposits and:

- i. Observe that receipts are sequentially pre-numbered.

No exceptions were found as a result of this procedure.

- ii. Trace sequentially pre-numbered receipts, system reports, and other related collection documentation to the deposit slip.

No exceptions were found as a result of this procedure.

- iii. Trace the deposit slip total to the actual deposit per the bank statement.

No exceptions were found as a result of this procedure.

- iv. Observe that the deposit was made within one business day of receipt at the collection location (within one week if the depository is more than 10 miles from the collection location or the deposit is less than \$100 and the cash is stored securely in a locked safe or drawer).

No exceptions were found as a result of this procedure.

- v. Trace the actual deposit per the bank statement to the general ledger.

No exceptions were found as a result of this procedure.

5) Non-Payroll Disbursements (excluding card purchases, travel reimbursements, and petty cash purchases)

- A. Obtain a listing of locations that process payments for the fiscal period and management's representation that the listing is complete. Randomly select 5 locations (or all locations if less than 5).

Obtained a listing of locations that process payments and management's representation that the listing is complete. Selected the District's one (1) location.

- B. For each location selected under procedure #5A above, obtain a listing of those employees involved with non-payroll purchasing and payment functions. Obtain written policies and procedures relating to employee job duties (if the agency has no written policies and procedures, then inquire of employees about their job duties), and observe that job duties are properly segregated such that:

Obtained a listing of those employees involved with non-payroll purchasing and payment functions and inquired regarding job duties.

- i. At least two employees are involved in initiating a purchase request, approving a purchase, and placing an order or making the purchase;
One employee initiates a purchase request, approves a purchase, and places and order for purchase.
 - ii. At least two employees are involved in processing and approving payments to vendors;
No exceptions were found as a result of this procedure.
 - iii. The employee responsible for processing payments is prohibited from adding/modifying vendor files, unless another employee is responsible for periodically reviewing changes to vendor files;
Not applicable- District employees are not responsible for processing payments. The District has contracted a third-party to perform certain disbursement functions.
 - iv. Either the employee/official responsible for signing checks mails the payment or gives the signed checks to an employee to mail who is not responsible for processing payments; and
The District's third-party contractor is responsible for mailing payments.
 - v. Only employees/officials authorized to sign checks approve the electronic disbursement (release) of funds, whether through automated clearinghouse (ACH), electronic funds transfer (EFT), wire transfer, or some other electronic means.
No exceptions were found as a result of this procedure.
- C. For each location selected under procedure #5A above, obtain the entity's non-payroll disbursement transaction population (excluding cards and travel reimbursements) and obtain management's representation that the population is complete. Randomly select 5 disbursements for each location, obtain supporting documentation for each transaction, and
Obtained the non-payroll disbursements population for the District's one (1) location and management's representation that the population is complete. Randomly selected five (5) disbursements for the one (1) location and obtained supporting documentation.
- i. Observe whether the disbursement, whether by paper or electronic means, matched the related original itemized invoice and supporting documentation indicates that deliverables included on the invoice were received by the entity, and
No exceptions were found as a result of this procedure.
 - ii. Observe whether the disbursement documentation included evidence (e.g., initial/date, electronic logging) of segregation of duties tested under procedure #5B above, as applicable.
No exceptions were found as a result of this procedure.
- D. Using the entity's main operating account and the month selected in Bank Reconciliations procedure #3A, randomly select 5 non-payroll-related electronic disbursements (or all electronic disbursements if less than 5) and observe that each electronic disbursement was (a) approved by only those persons authorized to disburse funds (e.g., sign checks) per the entity's policy, and (b) approved by the required number of authorized signers per the entity's policy. Note: If no electronic payments were made from the main operating account during the month selected the practitioner should select an alternative month and/or account for testing that does include electronic disbursements.
Obtained the non-payroll-related electronic disbursements population for main operating account and management's representation that the population is complete. Randomly selected five (5) electronic disbursements for the main operating account. Supporting documentation did not evidence approval by an authorized signer.

6) Credit Cards/Debit Cards/Fuel Cards/Purchase Cards

- A. Obtain from management a listing of all active credit cards, bank debit cards, fuel cards, and purchase cards (cards) for the fiscal period, including the card numbers and the names of the persons who maintained possession of the cards. Obtain management's representation that the listing is complete.
- Obtained management's representation that there were no credit card/debit cards/fuel cards/purchase cards maintained during the fiscal period. Therefore, the procedures below are not applicable.*
- B. Using the listing prepared by management, randomly select 5 cards (or all cards if less than 5) that were used during the fiscal period. Randomly select one monthly statement or combined statement for each card (for a debit card, randomly select one monthly bank statement). Obtain supporting documentation, and
- i. Observe whether there is evidence that the monthly statement or combined statement and supporting documentation (e.g., original receipts for credit/debit card purchases, exception reports for excessive fuel card usage) were reviewed and approved, in writing (or electronically approved) by someone other than the authorized card holder (those instances requiring such approval that may constrain the legal authority of certain public officials, such as the mayor of a Lawrason Act municipality, should not be reported); and
 - ii. Observe that finance charges and late fees were not assessed on the selected statements.
- C. Using the monthly statements or combined statements selected under procedure #6B above, excluding fuel cards, randomly select 10 transactions (or all transactions if less than 10) from each statement, and obtain supporting documentation for the transactions (e.g., each card should have 10 transactions subject to inspection). For each transaction, observe that it is supported by (1) an original itemized receipt that identifies precisely what was purchased, (2) written documentation of the business/public purpose, and (3) documentation of the individuals participating in meals (for meal charges only). For missing receipts, the practitioner should describe the nature of the transaction and observe whether management had a compensating control to address missing receipts, such as a "missing receipt statement" that is subject to increased scrutiny.

7) Travel and Travel-Related Expense Reimbursements (excluding card transactions)

- A. Obtain from management a listing of all travel and travel-related expense reimbursements during the fiscal period and management's representation that the listing or general ledger is complete. Randomly select 5 reimbursements and obtain the related expense reimbursement forms/prepaid expense documentation of each selected reimbursement, as well as the supporting documentation. For each of the 5 reimbursements selected
- Obtained management's representation that there were no travel and travel related expense reimbursements during the fiscal period. Therefore, the procedures below are not applicable.*
- i. If reimbursed using a per diem, observe that the approved reimbursement rate is no more than those rates established either by the State of Louisiana or the U.S. General Services Administration (www.gsa.gov);
 - ii. If reimbursed using actual costs, observe that the reimbursement is supported by an original itemized receipt that identifies precisely what was purchased;
 - iii. Observe that each reimbursement is supported by documentation of the business/public purpose (for meal charges, observe that the documentation includes the names of those individuals participating) and other documentation required by Written Policies and Procedures procedure #1A(vii); and

- iv. Observe that each reimbursement was reviewed and approved, in writing, by someone other than the person receiving reimbursement.

8) Contracts

- A. Obtain from management a listing of all agreements/contracts for professional services, materials and supplies, leases, and construction activities that were initiated or renewed during the fiscal period. Obtain management's representation that the listing is complete. Randomly select 5 contracts (or all contracts if less than 5) from the listing, excluding the practitioner's contract, and

Obtained a listing of all agreements/contracts for professional services, materials and supplies, leases, and construction activities that were initiated or renewed during the fiscal period and management's representation that the listing is complete. Selected the one (1) contract for the fiscal period.

- i. Observe whether the contract was bid in accordance with the Louisiana Public Bid Law (e.g., solicited quotes or bids, advertised), if required by law;

Not applicable- The one (1) contract was not subject to the requirements of the Louisiana Public Bid Law.

- ii. Observe whether the contract was approved by the governing body/board, if required by policy or law (e.g., Lawrason Act, Home Rule Charter);

No exceptions were found as a result of this procedure.

- iii. If the contract was amended (e.g., change order), observe that the original contract terms provided for such an amendment and that amendments were made in compliance with the contract terms (e.g., if approval is required for any amendment, the documented approval); and

Not applicable – The one (1) contract was not amended.

- iv. Randomly select one payment from the fiscal period for each of the 5 contracts, obtain the supporting invoice, agree the invoice to the contract terms, and observe that the invoice and related payment agreed to the terms and conditions of the contract.

No exceptions were found as a result of this procedure.

9) Payroll and Personnel

- A. Obtain a listing of employees and officials employed during the fiscal period and management's representation that the listing is complete. Randomly select 5 employees or officials, obtain related paid salaries and personnel files, and agree paid salaries to authorized salaries/pay rates in the personnel files.

Obtained a listing of all employees and officials employed during the fiscal period and management's representation that the listing is complete. Randomly selected five (5) employees or officials and obtained related paid salaries. Personnel files maintained by the District do not contain authorized salary/pay rates.

- B. Randomly select one pay period during the fiscal period. For the 5 employees or officials selected under procedure #9A above, obtain attendance records and leave documentation for the pay period, and

- i. Observe that all selected employees or officials documented their daily attendance and leave (e.g., vacation, sick, compensatory);

No exceptions were found as result of this procedure.

- ii. Observe whether supervisors approved the attendance and leave of the selected employees or officials;

No exceptions were found as result of this procedure.

- iii. Observe that any leave accrued or taken during the pay period is reflected in the entity's cumulative leave records; and

No exceptions were found as a result of this procedure.

- iv. Observe the rate paid to the employees or officials agrees to the authorized salary/pay rate found within the personnel file.

No exceptions were found as a result of this procedure.

- C. Obtain a listing of those employees or officials that received termination payments during the fiscal period and management's representation that the list is complete. Randomly select two employees or officials and obtain related documentation of the hours and pay rates used in management's termination payment calculations and the entity's policy on termination payments. Agree the hours to the employee's or official's cumulative leave records, agree the pay rates to the employee's or official's authorized pay rates in the employee's or official's personnel files, and agree the termination payment to entity policy.

Obtained management's representation that there were no termination payments during the fiscal period.

- D. Obtain management's representation that employer and employee portions of third-party payroll related amounts (e.g., payroll taxes, retirement contributions, health insurance premiums, garnishments, workers' compensation premiums, etc.) have been paid, and any associated forms have been filed, by required deadlines.

Obtained management's representation that all amounts have been paid, and any associated forms have been filed, by required deadlines.

10) Ethics

- A. Using the 5 randomly selected employees/officials from Payroll and Personnel procedure #9A obtain ethics documentation from management, and

- i. Observe whether the documentation demonstrates that each employee/official completed one hour of ethics training during the calendar year as required by R.S. 42:1170; and

Documentation of ethics training was not provided for two (2) of the five (5) employees/officials selected.

- ii. Observe whether the entity maintains documentation which demonstrates that each employee and official were notified of any changes to the entity's ethics policy during the fiscal period, as applicable.

The District has not adopted an ethics policy.

- B. Inquire and/or observe whether the agency has appointed an ethics designee as required by R.S. 42:1170.

No exceptions were found as a result of this procedure.

11) Debt Service

- A. Obtain a listing of bonds/notes and other debt instruments issued during the fiscal period and management's representation that the listing is complete. Select all debt instruments on the listing, obtain supporting documentation, and observe that State Bond Commission approval was obtained for each debt instrument issued as required by Article VII, Section 8 of the Louisiana Constitution.

Obtained management's representation that no bonds/notes were issued during the fiscal period.

- B. Obtain a listing of bonds/notes outstanding at the end of the fiscal period and management's representation that the listing is complete. Randomly select one bond/note, inspect debt covenants, obtain supporting documentation for the reserve balance and payments, and agree actual reserve balances and payments to those required by debt covenants (including contingency funds, short-lived asset funds, or other funds required by the debt covenants).

Obtained management's representation that no bonds/notes were outstanding at the end of the fiscal period.

12) Fraud Notice

- A. Obtain a listing of misappropriations of public funds and assets during the fiscal period and management's representation that the listing is complete. Select all misappropriations on the listing, obtain supporting documentation, and observe that the entity reported the misappropriation(s) to the legislative auditor and the district attorney of the parish in which the entity is domiciled as required by R.S. 24:523.

Obtained management's representation that there were no misappropriations of public funds and assets during the fiscal period.

- B. Observe that the entity has posted, on its premises and website, the notice required by R.S. 24:523.1 concerning the reporting of misappropriation, fraud, waste, or abuse of public funds.

The District does not maintain a premises or website to post the notice required by R.S. 24:523.1.

13) Information Technology Disaster Recovery/Business Continuity

- A. Perform the following procedures:

- i. Obtain and inspect the entity's most recent documentation that it has backed up its critical data (if there is no written documentation, then inquire of personnel responsible for backing up critical data) and observe evidence that such backup (a) occurred within the past week, (b) was not stored on the government's local server or network, and (c) was encrypted.

We performed the procedure and discussed the results with management.

- ii. Obtain and inspect the entity's most recent documentation that it has tested/verified that its backups can be restored (if there is no written documentation, then inquire of personnel responsible for testing/verifying backup restoration) and observe evidence that the test/verification was successfully performed within the past 3 months.

We performed the procedure and discussed the results with management.

- iii. Obtain a listing of the entity's computers currently in use and their related locations, and management's representation that the listing is complete. Randomly select 5 computers and observe while management demonstrates that the selected computers have current and active antivirus software and that the operating system and accounting system software in use are currently supported by the vendor.

We performed the procedure and discussed the results with management.

- B. Randomly select 5 terminated employees (or all terminated employees if less than 5) using the list of terminated employees obtained in procedure #9C. Observe evidence that the selected terminated employees have been removed or disabled from the network.

We performed the procedure and discussed the results with management.

14) Prevention of Sexual Harassment

- A. Using the 5 randomly selected employees/officials from Payroll and Personnel procedure #9A, obtain sexual harassment training documentation from management, and observe that the documentation demonstrates each employee/official completed at least one hour of sexual harassment training during the calendar year as required by R.S. 42:343.

Documentation of one hour training was not provided for three (3) of the five (5) employees/officials selected for testing.

- B. Observe that the entity has posted its sexual harassment policy and complaint procedure on its website (or in a conspicuous location on the entity's premises if the entity does not have a website).

The District does not maintain a premises or website to posts its sexual harassment policy and complaint procedure.

- C. Obtain the entity's annual sexual harassment report for the current fiscal period, observe that the report was dated on or before February 1, and observe that the report includes the applicable requirements of R.S. 42:344:

The annual report required by RS 42:344 was not compiled.

- i. Number and percentage of public servants in the agency who have completed the training requirements;

Not applicable – Annual report was not compiled.

- ii. Number of sexual harassment complaints received by the agency;

Not applicable – Annual report was not compiled.

- iii. Number of complaints which resulted in a finding that sexual harassment occurred;

Not applicable – Annual report was not compiled.

- iv. Number of complaints in which the finding of sexual harassment resulted in discipline or corrective action; and

Not applicable – Annual report was not compiled.

- v. Amount of time it took to resolve each complaint

Not applicable – Annual report was not compiled.

Management's Response

The District concurs with the exceptions and is working to address the deficiencies identified.

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 applicable provisions of *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 those control and compliance areas identified in the SAUPs. 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 those control and compliance areas identified in the SAUPs, and the result of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on control or compliance. This report is intended solely for the information of and use by the District's management and the LLA and is not intended to be and should not be used by anyone other than these specified parties. Accordingly, this report is not suitable for any other purpose. In accordance with Louisiana Revised Statute 24:513, this report is distributed by the LLA as a public document.

Kolder, Slaven & Company, LLC
Certified Public Accountants

Morgan City, Louisiana
February 28, 2024

KOLDER, SLAVEN & COMPANY, LLC

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MANAGEMENT LETTER

The Board of Commissioners
Wax Lake East Drainage District of the Parish of St. Mary
Patterson, Louisiana

In planning and performing our audit of the financial statements of Wax Lake East Drainage District of the Parish of St. Mary (hereinafter “District”), in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, we considered the District’s internal control over financial reporting (internal control) as a basis for designing our auditing procedures for the purpose of expressing our opinion on the financial statements but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the District’s internal control or on its compliance with provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements and other matters. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the District’s internal control or on compliance.

During our audit we became aware of a matter involving internal control or compliance that is summarized below for your consideration. Communication of the matters presents an opportunity for strengthening the District’s internal control or improving its compliance with laws, regulations, contracts, or grant agreements or other matters. Our opinions dated February 28, 2024 on the District’s financial statements are not affected by these matters. Our comments are not intended to reflect upon the ability or integrity of the District’s personnel.

2023-ML-1 Personnel Policy

The District adopted the Parish Employee Handbook of the St. Mary Parish Government. However, the District has not implemented certain policies in practice (e.g., personnel policies relative to vacation and sick leave).

We recommend that the District adhere to adopted policies or revise written policies and procedures to prevent potential misstatements or discrepancies in regard to the District’s obligations.

Our audit procedures are designed primarily to enable us to form an opinion on the financial statements and therefore may not identify all weaknesses in policies and procedures or incidents of noncompliance that may exist. We aim, however, to use our knowledge of the District’s operations gained during our work to make comments and suggestions that we hope will be useful to you.

Wax Lake East Drainage District of the Parish of St. Mary
Management Letter

We will review the status of this comment during our next audit engagement. We have already discussed the comment and suggestion with various District personnel, and we will be pleased to discuss them in further detail at your convenience.

This communication is intended solely for the information and use of the District's management and the Louisiana Legislative Auditor and is not intended to be and should not be used by anyone other than these specified parties.

We would like to express our appreciation to you for the courtesies and assistance rendered to us in the performance of our audit. Should you have any questions or need additional assistance, please feel free to contact us.

KOLDER, SLAVEN & COMPANY, LLC
Certified Public Accountants

Morgan City, Louisiana
February 28, 2024

**WAX LAKE EAST DRAINAGE DISTRICT
OF THE PARISH OF ST. MARY
P.O. BOX 245
PATTERSON, LOUISIANA 70392**

February 28, 2024

Kolder, Slaven & Company, LLC
1201 David Dr.
Morgan City, LA 70380

The following is in response to the management letter resulting from the audit of Wax Lake East Drainage District of the Parish of St. Mary for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2023.

2023-ML-1 Personnel Policy

The District adopted the Parish Employee Handbook of the St. Mary Parish Government. However, the District has not implemented certain policies in practice (e.g., personnel policies relative to vacation and sick leave).

We recommend that the District adhere to adopted policies or revise written policies and procedures to prevent potential misstatements or discrepancies in regard to the District's obligations.

The district will revise the policy to better match the work schedules and duties of the employees.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jeffery LaGrange".

Jeffery LaGrange
Chairman