Management Letter

Vadnais Lake Area Water Management Organization

Vadnais Heights, Minnesota

For the Year Ended
December 31, 2014

ABDO EICK & MEYERS LLP
Certified Public Accountants & Consultants

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Certified Public Accountants & Consultants

February 13, 2015

Management and Board of Directors
Vadnais Lake Area Water Management Organization
Vadnais Heights, Minnesota

We have audited the financial statements of the governmental activities the each major fund of the Vadnais Lake Area Water Management Organization (the Organization), Vadnais Heights, Minnesota, for the year ended December 31, 2014. Professional standards require that we provide you with information about our responsibilities under generally accepted auditing standards as well as certain information related to the planned scope and timing of our audit. We have communicated such information in our letter to you dated December 2, 2014. Professional standards require that we provide you with the following information related to our audit.

Our Responsibility Under Auditing Standards Generally Accepted in the United States of America

As stated in our engagement letter, our responsibility, as described by professional standards, is to express opinions about whether the financial statements prepared by management with your oversight are fairly presented, in all material respects, in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. Our audit of the financial statements does not relieve you or management of your responsibilities.

Our responsibility is to plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable, but not absolute, assurance that the financial statements are free of material misstatement. As part of our audit, we considered the internal control over financial reporting (internal control) of the Organization. Such considerations were solely for the purpose of determining our audit procedures and not to provide any assurance concerning such internal control. We are responsible for communicating significant matters related to the audit that are, in our professional judgment, relevant to your responsibilities in overseeing the financial reporting process. However, we are not required to design procedures specifically to identify such matters.

Significant Audit Findings

In planning and performing our audit of the financial statements, we considered the Organization's internal control over financial reporting (internal control) to determine the 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 Organization's internal control. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the Organization's internal control.

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

Our consideration of internal control was for the limited purpose described in the first paragraph of this section and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control that might be material weaknesses or significant deficiencies and therefore, material weaknesses or significant deficiencies may exist that were not identified. Given these limitations, during our audit we did not identify any deficiencies in internal control that we consider to be material weaknesses. However, material weaknesses may exist that have not been identified. We did identify certain deficiencies in internal control, described below as items 2014-001 and 2014-002 that we consider to be significant deficiencies.

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2014-001 Limited segregation of duties - cash disbursements and cash receipts

Condition: During our audit we reviewed procedures over cash disbursements and cash receipts and found the Organization to have limited segregation of duties related to these procedures.

Criteria: There are four general categories of duties: authorization, custody, record keeping and reconciliation. In an ideal system, different employees perform each of these four major functions. In other words, no one person has control of two or more of these responsibilities.

Cause: As a result of the limited number of staff, the Organization is not able to completely segregate all accounting functions. For both transaction cycles, one person is performing two or more of the major functions described above.

Effect: The existence of this limited segregation of duties increases the risk of fraud and errors.

Recommendation: While we recognize the current staff is not large enough to eliminate this deficiency, we recommend the following compensating controls be implemented by the Organization. For cash disbursements, we suggest that the Administrator be removed as an authorized signatory. For cash receipts, we suggest that someone other than the Administrator either prepare the deposit slip or take it to the bank.

Management response:

Efforts have been made to increase the internal control available by segregating duties. A part-time Bookkeeper reconciles bank statements, prepares checks and monthly financial reports. The Program Manager, Water Resources Manager or the Education and outreach Manager open and initial bank statements and credit card statements. The same program staff also reviews and approves invoice payments within their own program areas The Administrator reviews payments and reports, makes deposits and can be one of two required signatures on checks. Monthly expenditures within budget are authorized by the Technical Commission at their monthly meeting. The Board officers are check signers and the Board of Directors must approve any changes to budgeted expenses. For now, the Organization accepts the degree of risk associated with any further segregation of duties.

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2014-002 Preparation of financial statements

Condition: We were requested to draft the audited financial statements and related footnote disclosures as part of our regular audit services. Ultimately, it is management's responsibility to provide for the preparation of your statements and footnotes, and the responsibility of the auditor to determine the fairness of presentation of those statements. However, based on recent auditing standards, it is our responsibility to inform you that this deficiency could result in a material misstatement to the financial statements that could have been prevented or detected by your management. Essentially, the auditors cannot be part of your internal control process.

Criteria: Internal controls should be in place to provide reasonable assurance over financial reporting.

Cause: From a practical standpoint, we both prepare the statements and determine the fairness of the presentation at the same time in connection with our audit. This is not unusual for us to do with organizations of your size.

Effect: The effectiveness of the internal control system relies on enforcement by management. The effect of deficiencies in internal controls can result in undetected errors in financial reporting.

Recommendation: It is your responsibility to make the ultimate decision to accept this degree of risk associated with this condition because of cost and other considerations. We have instructed management to review a draft of the auditor prepared financials in detail for accuracy; we have answered any questions that management might have, and have encouraged research of any accounting guidance in connection with the adequacy and appropriateness of classification of disclosures in your statements. We are satisfied that the appropriate steps have been taken to provide you with the completed financial statements. While the Organization is reviewing the financial statements we recommend a disclosure checklist is utilized to ensure all required disclosures are presented and the Organization should agree its financial software to the numbers reported in the financial statements.

Management response:

For now, the Organization's management accepts the degree of risk associated with this condition and thoroughly reviews a draft of the financial statements.

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Compliance

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement, we performed tests of compliance with certain provisions of Minnesota statutes. 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. While our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion, it does not provide a legal determination on the Organization's compliance with those requirements. We noted no instances of noncompliance with Minnesota statues.

Planned Scope and Timing of the Audit

We performed the audit according to the planned scope and timing.

Qualitative Aspects of Accounting Practices

Management is responsible for the selection and use of appropriate accounting policies. The significant accounting policies used by the Organization are described in Note 1 to the financial statements. No new accounting policies were adopted and the application of existing policies was not changed during the year ended December 31, 2014. We noted no transactions entered into by the Organization during the year for which there is a lack of authoritative guidance or consensus. All significant transactions have been recognized in the financial statements in the proper period.

Accounting estimates are an integral part of the financial statements prepared by management and are based on management's knowledge and experience about past and current events and assumptions about future events. Certain accounting estimates are particularly sensitive because of their significance to the financial statements and because of the possibility that future events affecting them may differ significantly from those expected. The most sensitive estimates affecting the financial statements include depreciation on capital assets and allocation of payroll.

- Management's estimate of depreciation is based on estimated useful lives of the assets. Depreciation is calculated using the straight-line method.

- Allocations of gross wages and payroll benefits are approved by the Board of Directors within the Board of Director's budget and are derived from each employee's estimated time to be spent servicing the respective functions of the Organization. These allocations are also used in allocating accrued compensated absences payable.

We evaluated the key factors and assumptions used to develop these estimates in determining that they are reasonable in relation to the financial statements taken as a whole. The disclosures in the financial statements are neutral, consistent, and clear. Certain financial statement disclosures are particularly sensitive because of their significance to financial statement users.

Difficulties Encountered in Performing the Audit

We encountered no significant difficulties in dealing with management in performing our audit.

Corrected and Uncorrected Misstatements

Professional standards require us to accumulate all known and likely misstatements identified during the audit, other than those that are trivial, and communicate them to the appropriate level of management. Management has corrected all such misstatements. In addition, none of the misstatements detected as a result of audit procedures and corrected by management were material, either individually or in the aggregate, to the opinion unit's financial statements taken as a whole.

We also assisted in preparing a number of year end accounting entries. These were necessary to adjust the Organization's records at year end to correct ending balances. The Organization should establish more detailed processes and procedures to reduce the total number of entries in each category. The Organization will receive better and timelier information if the preparation of year end entries is completed internally.

Disagreements with Management

For purposes of this letter, professional standards define a disagreement with management as a financial accounting, reporting, or auditing matter, whether or not resolved to our satisfaction, that could be significant to the financial statements or the auditor's report. We are pleased to report that no such disagreements arose during the course of our audit.

Management Representations

We have requested certain representations from management that are included in the management representation letter dated February 13, 2015.

Management Consultations with Other Independent Accountants

In some cases, management may decide to consult with other accountants about auditing and accounting matters, similar to obtaining a "second opinion" on certain situations. If a consultation involves application of an accounting principle to the Organization's financial statements or a determination of the type of auditor's opinion that may be expressed on those statements, our professional standards require the consulting accountant to check with us to determine that the consultant has all the relevant facts. To our knowledge, there were no such consultations with other accountants.

Other Audit Findings or Issues

We generally discuss a variety of matters, including the application of accounting principles and auditing standards, with management each year prior to retention as the Organization's auditors. However, these discussions occurred in the normal course of our professional relationship and our responses were not a condition to our retention.

Other Matters

With respect to the supplementary information accompanying the financial statements, we made certain inquiries of management and evaluated the form, content, and methods of preparing the information to determine that the information complies with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, the method of preparing it has not changed from the prior period, and the information is appropriate and complete in relation to our audit of the financial statements. We compared and reconciled the supplementary information to the underlying accounting records used to prepare the financial statements or to the financial statements themselves.

Financial Position and Results of Operations

Our principal observations and recommendations are summarized on the following pages. These recommendations resulted from our observations made in connection with our audit of the Organization's financial statements for the year ended December 31, 2014.

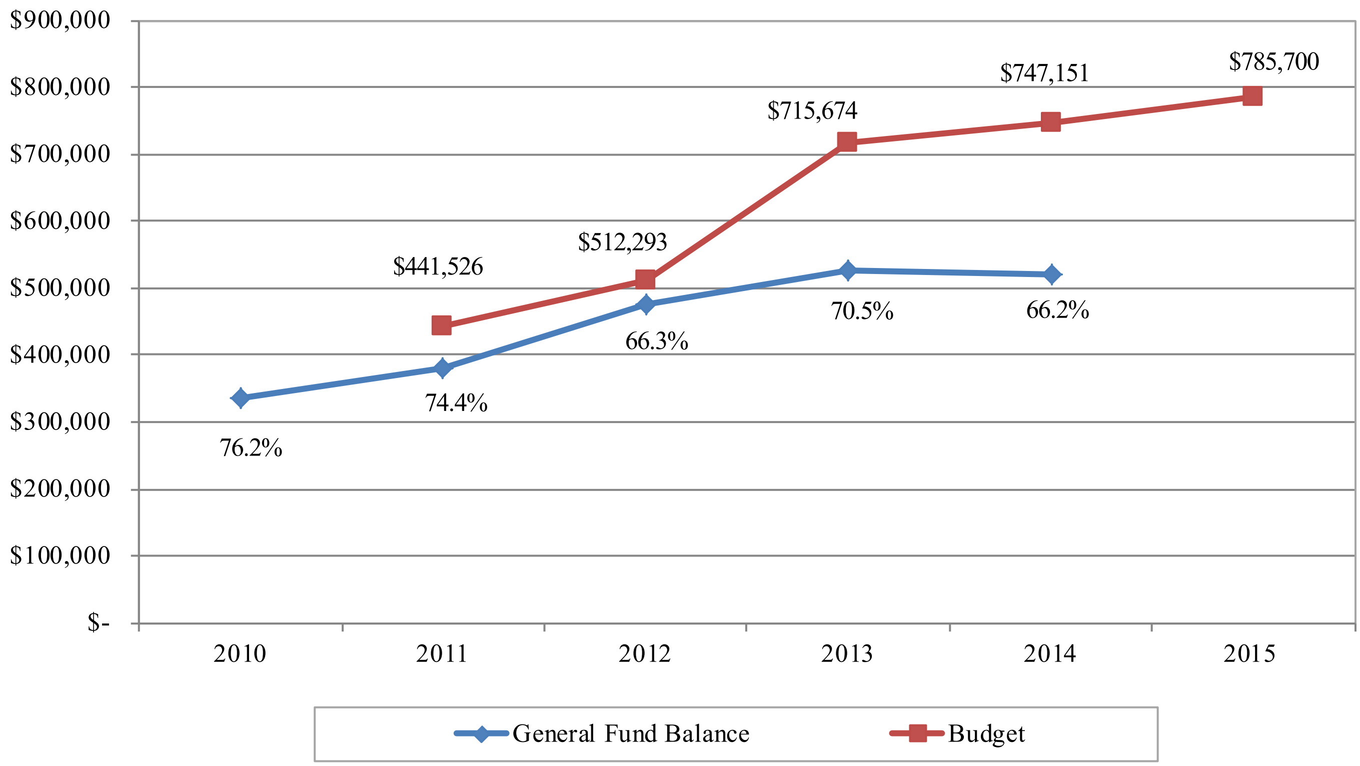
General Fund

The fund balance at December 31, 2014 was $520,068, a decrease of $6,539 in comparison with the prior year. The total unassigned fund balance ($345,068) represents 65 percent of the 2014 total expenditures, while total fund balance represents 66 percent of the 2015 budgeted expenditures.

A table summarizing the General fund balance in relation to budget follows:

Year	General Fund Balance December 31	Budget Year	General Fund Budget	Percent of Fund Balance to Budget
2010	$ 336,309	2011	$ 441,526	76.2 %
2011	381,076	2012	512,293	74.4
2012	474,533	2013	715,674	66.3
2013	526,607	2014	747,151	70.5
2014	520,068	2015	785,700	66.2

Fund Balance as a Percent of Next Year's Budget



The purposes and benefits of a General fund balance are as follows:

- Expenditures are incurred somewhat evenly throughout the year. However revenues are not received evenly. An adequate fund balance will provide the cash flow required to finance the General fund expenditures.

- Expenditures not anticipated at the time the annual budget was adopted may need immediate Board of Directors action. These would include capital outlay replacement, lawsuits and other items. An adequate fund balance will provide the financing needed for such expenditures.

The 2014 General fund operations are summarized as follows:

	Final Budgeted Amounts	Actual Amounts	Variance with Final Budget
Revenues	$ 456,151	$ 521,026	$ 64,875
Expenditures	747,151	527,565	219,586
Net change in fund balances	(291,000)	(6,539)	284,461
Fund balances, January 1	526,607	526,607	-
Fund balances, December 31	$ 235,607	$ 520,068	$ 284,461

The positive variance in revenues was due to grants that the Organization received during the year. Expenditures were under budget mostly due to program and project costs being less than anticipated.

Future Accounting Standard Changes

The following Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) Statements have been issued and may have an impact on future Organization's financial statements: [1]

GASB Statement No. 68 - *The Accounting and Financial Reporting of Pensions- an Amendment of GASB Statement No. 27*

The primary objective of this Statement is to improve accounting and financial reporting by state and local governments for pensions. It also improves information provided by state and local governmental employers about financial support for pensions that is provided by other entities. This Statement results from a comprehensive review of the effectiveness of existing standards of accounting and financial reporting for pensions with regard to providing decision-useful information, supporting assessments of accountability and interperiod equity, and creating additional transparency.

This Statement replaces the requirements of Statement No. 27, Accounting for Pensions by State and Local Governmental Employers, as well as the requirements of Statement No. 50, Pension Disclosures, as they relate to pensions that are provided through pension plans administered as trusts or equivalent arrangements (hereafter jointly referred to as trusts) that meet certain criteria. The requirements of Statements 27 and 50 remain applicable for pensions that are not covered by the scope of this Statement.

This Statement is effective for fiscal years beginning after June 15, 2014. Earlier application is encouraged.

How the Changes in This Statement Will Improve Financial Reporting

The requirements of this Statement will improve the decision-usefulness of information in employer and governmental nonemployer contributing entity financial reports and will enhance its value for assessing accountability and interperiod equity by requiring recognition of the entire net pension liability and a more comprehensive measure of pension expense. Decision-usefulness and accountability also will be enhanced through new note disclosures and required supplementary information.

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Future Accounting Standard Changes – continued

GASB Statement No. 71 - *Pension Transition for Contributions Made Subsequent to the Measure Date - an Amendment of GASB Statement No. 68*

Summary

The objective of this Statement is to address an issue regarding application of the transition provisions of Statement No. 68, Accounting and Financial Reporting for Pensions. The issue relates to amounts associated with contributions, if any, made by a state or local government employer or nonemployer contributing entity to a defined benefit pension plan after the measurement date of the government's beginning net pension liability.

Statement No. 68 requires a state or local government employer (or nonemployer contributing entity in a special funding situation) to recognize a net pension liability measured as of a date (the measurement date) no earlier than the end of its prior fiscal year. If a state or local government employer or nonemployer contributing entity makes a contribution to a defined benefit pension plan between the measurement date of the reported net pension liability and the end of the government's reporting period, Statement No. 68 requires that the government recognize its contribution as a deferred outflow of resources. In addition, Statement No. 68 requires recognition of deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources for changes in the net pension liability of a state or local government employer or nonemployer contributing entity that arise from other types of events. At transition to Statement No. 68, if it is not practical for an employer or nonemployer contributing entity to determine the amounts of all deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to pensions, paragraph 137 of Statement No. 68 required that beginning balances for deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources not be reported.

Consequently, if it is not practical to determine the amounts of all deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to pensions, contributions made after the measurement date of the beginning net pension liability could not have been reported as deferred outflows of resources at transition. This could have resulted in a significant understatement of an employer or nonemployer contributing entity's beginning net position and expense in the initial period of implementation.

This Statement amends paragraph 137 of Statement No. 68 to require that, at transition, a government recognize a beginning deferred outflow of resources for its pension contributions, if any, made subsequent to the measurement date of the beginning net pension liability. Statement No. 68, as amended, continues to require that beginning balances for other deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to pensions be reported at transition only if it is practical to determine all such amounts.

The provisions of this Statement are required to be applied simultaneously with the provisions of Statement No. 68.

How the Changes in This Statement Will Improve Financial Reporting

The requirements of this Statement will eliminate the source of a potential significant understatement of restated beginning net position and expense in the first year of implementation of Statement No. 68 in the accrual-basis financial statements of employers and nonemployer contributing entities. This benefit will be achieved without the imposition of significant additional costs.

[1] *Note*. From GASB Pronouncements Summaries. Copyright 2014 by the Financial Accounting Foundation, 401 Merritt 7, Norwalk, CT 06856, USA, and is reproduced with permission.

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This communication is intended solely for the information and use of Board of Directors, management and the Minnesota Office of the State Auditor and is not intended to be and should not be used by anyone other than these specified parties.

Our audit would not necessarily disclose all weaknesses in the system because it was based on selected tests of the accounting records and related data. The comments and recommendations in the report are purely constructive in nature, and should be read in this context.

If you have any questions or wish to discuss any of the items contained in this letter, please feel free to contact us at your convenience. We wish to thank you for the opportunity to be of service and for the courtesy and cooperation extended to us by your staff.

Abdo Eick & Meyers, LLP

ABDO, EICK & MEYERS, LLP
Minneapolis, Minnesota
February 13, 2015

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