FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2021

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WINONA COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT LEWISTON, MINNESOTA TABLE OF CONTENTS

	PAGE
INTRODUCTORY SECTION	
Elected and Appointed Officials	i
FINANCIAL SECTION	
Independent Auditor's Report	1
Management's Discussion and Analysis	4
Basic Financial Statements	-
Governmental Funds Balance Sheet and Statement of Net Position of Government	
Activities	8
Reconciliation of the Net Position in the District-Wide Financial Statements and	0
Fund Balance in the Fund Basis Financial Statements	9
Governmental Funds Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balance	5
and Statement of Activities of Governmental Activities	10
Reconciliation of the Statement of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in	10
Fund Balances of Governmental Funds to the Statement of Activities	11
Statement of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund	
Balances - Budget and Actual - General Fund	12
Statement of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund	12
Balances - Budget and Actual - Root River Watershed One Watershed, One Plan	13
Notes to Financial Statements	14
Notes to Financial Statements	14
REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION	
Schedule of District's Pension Contributions - PERA	29
Schedule of District's and Non-Employer Proportionate Share of Net Pension Liability - PERA	30
OTHER REPORT SECTION	
Independent Auditor's Report on Minnesota Legal Compliance	31

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INTRODUCTORY SECTION

DECEMBER 31, 2021

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WINONA COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT LEWISTON, MINNESOTA ELECTED AND APPOINTED OFFICIALS DECEMBER 31, 2021

Office	Name	Term Expires
Board of Supervisors Chair Vice Chair	Andy Kronebusch Jerry Mueller	2022 2022
Treasurer Secretary Member	Josh Elsing Bill Rowekamp Leo Speltz	2024 2024 2024
Appointed District Manager Interim District Manager	Daryl Buck Wanda Anderson	Retired - July 31, 2021 Indefinite

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FINANCIAL SECTION

DECEMBER 31, 2021

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INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Board of Supervisors **Winona County Soil and Water Conservation District** Lewiston, Minnesota

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 the Winona County Soil and Water Conservation District (the District) as of and for the year ended December 31, 2021, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the District's basic financial statements as listed in the table of contents.

Unmodified Opinions on the Governmental Activities and Major Fund

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the respective financial position of the governmental activities and each major fund of the District as of December 31, 2021, and the respective changes in financial position and budgetary comparison for the General Fund and the special revenue fund, Root River Watershed One Watershed, One Plan (1W1P), 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 (GAAS). 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 Winona County Soil and Water Conservation 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

Winona County Soil and Water Conservation District's management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, 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 Winona County Soil and Water Conservation District's ability to continue as a going concern for one year after the date of the financial statements are issued.

Auditor's Responsibility 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 GAAS 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 GAAS, 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 Winona County Soil and Water Conservation 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 Winona County Soil and Water Conservation 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.

Other Matters

Required Supplementary Information

Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require that the management's discussion and analysis and the required supplementary information as listed in the table of contents be presented to supplement the basic financial statements. Such 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. We have applied certain limited procedures to the required supplementary information in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, which consisted of inquiries of management about the methods of preparing the information and comparing the information for consistency with management's responses to our inquiries, the basic financial statements, and other knowledge we obtained during our audit of the basic financial statements. We do not express an opinion or provide any assurance on the information because the limited procedures do not provide us with sufficient evidence to express an opinion or provide any assurance.

Board of Supervisors Page 3

Other Matters (Continued)

Other Information

Our audit was conducted for the purpose of forming opinions on the financial statements that collectively comprise the District's basic financial statements. The introductory section is presented for purposes of additional analysis and is not a required part of the basic financial statements. The introductory section has not been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the basic financial statements and, accordingly, we do not express an opinion or provide any assurance on it.

Smith, Schapp and associates, Led.

Red Wing, Minnesota December 31, 2022

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This section of the Winona County Soil and Water Conservation District's (the District's) annual financial report presents our discussion and analysis of the District's financial performance during the fiscal year that ended on December 31, 2021. Please read it in conjunction with the District's financial statements, which immediately follow this section.

USING THIS ANNUAL REPORT

This annual report consists of three parts – Management's Discussion and Analysis (this section), the basic financial statements, and required supplementary information. The basic financial statements include a series of financial statements. The Statement of Net Position of Governmental Activities and the Statement of Activities of Governmental Activities provide information about the activities of the District as a whole and present a longer-term view of the District's finances. Fund financial statements start on page 8. For the General Fund, these statements tell how these services were financed in the short term as well as what remains for future spending. The General Fund statements also report the District's fund. Since soil and water conservation districts are single-purpose, special-purpose governments, they are generally able to combine the government-wide and fund financial statements into single presentations. The District has elected to present in this format.

DISTRICT-WIDE STATEMENTS

The district-wide statements report information about the District as a whole using accounting methods similar to those used by private-sector companies. The statement of net position includes all of the District's assets, deferred outflows of resources, liabilities, and deferred inflows of resources. All of the current year's revenues and expenses are accounted for in the statement of activities regardless of when cash is received or paid.

The two district-wide statements report the District's net position and how it has changed. Net position, the difference between the District's assets and deferred outflows of resources and liabilities and deferred inflows of resources, are one way to measure the District's financial health or position. Over time, increases or decreases in the District's net position is an indicator of whether its financial position is improving or deteriorating.

In the district-wide financial statements the District's activities are shown in one category titled Governmental Activities. All of the District's basic services are included here.

FUND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The fund financial statements provide detailed information about the District's funds, not the District as a whole. The District presents a General Fund and a Special Revenue Fund for Root River Watershed One Watershed, One Plan Fund (1W1P), which are governmental funds. All of the District's basic services are reported in the General Fund, which focuses on how money flows into and out of that fund and the balances left at year-end that are available for spending. The Root River Watershed One Watershed, One Plan Fund accounts for the resources related to the watershed based implementation funding grants received from the state of Minnesota. These governmental funds are reported using an accounting method called modified accrual accounting. This method measures cash and all other financial assets that can be readily converted to cash. The governmental funds statements provide a detailed short-term view of the District's general government operations and the basic services it provides.

FINANCIAL ANALYSIS OF THE DISTRICT AS A WHOLE

Net Position. The District's net position from Governmental activities was \$123,653 on December 31, 2021. This was an increase of \$33,098 from the prior year.

	Total					
		2021		2020		
Assets						
Current and other assets	\$	501,903	\$	1,349,441		
Capital assets		22,581		34,307		
Total assets		524,484		1,383,748		
Deferred Outflows of Resources		91,508		22,595		
Liabilities						
Current liabilities		186,869		1,025,294		
Long-Term liabilities		175,446		254,304		
Total liabilities		362,315		1,279,598		
Deferred Inflows of Resources		130,024		36,190		
Net Position						
Investment in capital assets		22,581		34,307		
Unrestricted	_	101,072		56,248		
Total net position	\$	123,653	\$	90,555		

FINANCIAL ANALYSIS OF THE DISTRICT AS A WHOLE (Continued)

District's Revenue. The District's total revenues were \$1,353,052 for the year ended December 31, 2021, compared to \$1,141,723 for the year ended December 31, 2020. This increase of \$211,329 is primarily due to additional grant funding received during 2021 and the spending of Intergovernmental 1W1P funds received and unearned in the prior year.

A condensed version of the Statement of Activities follows:

	Total					
		2021		2020		
Revenue						
Intergovernmental	\$	491,257	\$	708,274		
Intergovernmental 1W1P		838,362		410,607		
Charges for services		15,060		10,568		
Investment earnings		1,012		4,174		
Rental income		2,831		5,096		
Miscellaneous		4,530		3,004		
Total revenues		1,353,052		1,141,723		
Expenses						
Conservation		1,319,954		1,109,514		
Change in net position		33,098		32,209		
Net position, beginning of year		90,555		58,346		
Net position, end of year	\$	123,653	\$	90,555		

The cost of all governmental activities was \$1,319,954 for the year ended December 31, 2021, compared to \$1,109,514 for the year ended December 31, 2020. This increase of \$210,440 is primarily due to an increase in state project expenditures as allowed by the additional funding noted above.

FINANCIAL ANALYSIS OF THE GENERAL FUND

The financial performance of the District as a whole is reflected in its governmental funds as well. As the District completed the year, its governmental funds reported a combined fund balance of \$315,034, a decrease of \$9,113 from last year's ending fund balance of \$324,147.

GENERAL FUND BUDGETARY HIGHLIGHTS

The actual revenue was \$40,180 greater than budgeted due to grant funding being greater than anticipated. The actual charges to appropriations (expenditures) were \$45,260 above the final budgeted amounts primarily due to revenues being higher than anticipated allowing for additional budgeted project expenditures.

CAPITAL ASSETS AND DEBT ADMINISTRATION

Capital Assets

As of December 31, 2021, the District had \$22,581 of capital assets, net of accumulated depreciation. Total depreciation expense for the year was \$11,726.

		Total								
		2021					2021 20			
Equipment	\$	114,681	\$	114,681						
Less accumulated depreciation		92,100		80,374						
Total	\$	22,581	\$	34,307						

Long-Term Liabilities

As of December 31, 2021, the District had \$17,439 in accrued compensated absences and \$158,007 in net pension liability. This compares to \$38,468 as of December 31, 2020 for accrued compensated absences and \$215,836 in net pension liability.

CONTACTING THE DISTRICT'S FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

This financial report is designed to provide citizens, taxpayers, customers, and creditors with a general overview of the District's finances and to demonstrate the District's accountability for the money it receives. If you have questions about this report or need additional information contact the Winona County Soil and Water Conservation District at 400 Wilson St., Lewiston, MN 55952. The phone number is 507-523-2171.

BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

DECEMBER 31, 2021

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WINONA COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT LEWISTON, MINNESOTA GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS BALANCE SHEET AND STATEMENT OF NET POSITION OF GOVERNMENTAL ACTIVITIES December 31, 2021

	Ger	neral	Wa	ot River atershed IW1P	 Total /ernmental Funds	Reconciliation	 vernmental Activities
Assets							
Cash and cash equivalents Due from other governmental units Prepaid expenditures Capital assets		15,129 62,191 7,573	\$	17,010	\$ 432,139 62,191 7,573	\$	\$ 432,139 62,191 7,573
Equipment (net of accumulated depreciation)						22,581	22,581
Total Assets	4	84,893		17,010	501,903	22,581	524,484
Deferred Outflows of Resources							
Deferred pension outflows						91,508	91,508
Liabilities							
Other accrued liabilities	:	21,405			21,405		21,405
Deposit on tree orders		6,421			6,421		6,421
Unearned revenue	14	42,033		17,010	159,043		159,043
Noncurrent liabilities:						450.007	4 5 9 9 9 7
Net pension liability						158,007	158,007
Compensated absences						17,439	17,439
Total Liabilities	1	69,859		17,010	186,869	175,446	362,315
Deferred Inflows of Resources							
Deferred pension inflows						130,024	130,024
Fund Balance / Net Position Fund Balance							
Nonspendable		7,573			7,573	(7,573)	
Assigned:		,			,	()/	
Operating reserve	1	14,071			114,071	(114,071)	
Compensated absences		17,439			17,439	(17,439)	
Scholarship		1,642			1,642	(1,642)	
Unassigned	1	74,309			174,309	(174,309)	
Total Fund Balance	3	15,034			315,034	(315,034)	
Net Position							
Investment in capital assets						22,581	22,581
Unrestricted						101,072	101,072
Total Net Position						123,653	123,653
Total Fund Balance / Net Position	\$ 3	15,034	\$		\$ 315,034	\$ (191,381)	\$ 123,653

WINONA COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT LEWISTON, MINNESOTA RECONCILIATION OF NET POSITION IN THE DISTRICT-WIDE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND FUND BALANCE IN THE FUND BASIS FINANCIAL STATEMENTS December 31, 2021

Amounts reported for governmental activities in the statement of net position are different because:

Total governmental fund balances (page 8)		\$ 315,034
Capital assets used in governmental activities are not financial resources and, therefore, are not reported in the funds. Governmental funds - capital assets Less: Accumulated depreciation	\$ 114,681 92,100	22,581
Long-term liabilities, are not due and payable in the current period and therefore are not reported in the funds. Net pension liability and deferred pension inflows and outflows Compensated absences	\$ (196,523) (17,439)	 <u>(213,962)</u>
Net position of governmental activities (page 8)		\$ 123,653

WINONA COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT LEWISTON, MINNESOTA GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS REVENUES, EXPENDITURES AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCE AND STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES OF GOVERNMENTAL ACTIVITIES For the Year Ended December 31, 2021

	Root River Watershed		Go	Total vernmental			Go	vernmental		
	(General	1W1P		au	Funds	Reconciliation		Activities	
Revenues										
Intergovernmental revenue	\$	491,257	\$	838,362	\$	1,329,619	\$		\$	1,329,619
Charges for services		15,060	•		•	15,060	•		•	15,060
Investment earnings		273		739		1,012				1,012
Rental income		2,831				2,831				2,831
Miscellaneous		4,530				4,530				4,530
Total Revenues		513,951		839,101		1,353,052				1,353,052
Expenditures Conservation:										
Current		523,064		839,101		1,362,165		(42,211)		1,319,954
Total Expenditures		523,064		839,101		1,362,165		(42,211)		1,319,954
Net Change in Fund Balance / Net Position		(9,113)				(9,113)		42,211		33,098
FUND BALANCE / NET POSITION - BEGINNING		324,147				324,147		(233,592)		90,555
FUND BALANCE / NET POSITION - ENDING	\$	315,034	\$		\$	315,034	\$	(191,381)	\$	123,653

WINONA COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT LEWISTON, MINNESOTA RECONCILIATION OF THE STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES, AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES OF GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS TO THE STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES For the Year Ended December 31, 2021

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

Net change in fund balances - total governmental funds (page 10)	\$ (9,113)	
Governmental funds reported capital outlays as expenditures. However, in the statement of activities the cost of those assets is allocated over their estimated useful lives and reported as depreciation expense. Depreciation expense		(11,726)
In the statement of activities, certain operating expenses - net pension liability and compensated absences - are measured by the amounts earned during the year. In the governmental funds, however, expenditures for these items are measured by the amount of financial resources used (essentially, the amounts actually paid).		
Net pension liability and deferred pension inflows and outflows Compensated absences	\$ 32,908 21,029	
		 53,937
Change in net position of governmental activities (page 10)		\$ 33,098

WINONA COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT LEWISTON, MINNESOTA GENERAL FUND STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES, AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCE BUDGET AND ACTUAL For the Year Ended December 31, 2021

	Budgeted Amounts					2021	Ove	er (Under)
		Original		Final	Actual		Final Budget	
REVENUES								
Intergovernmental								
County	\$	235,029	\$	235,029	\$	230,029	\$	(5,000)
State	φ	235,029	φ	235,029	φ	261,228	φ	(3,000) 42,086
Total Intergovernmental		454,171		454,171		491,257		37,086
rotarintergovernmentar				1,171		401,207		07,000
Charges for services		11,100		11,100		15,060		3,960
Miscellaneous								
Interest earnings		2,500		2,500		273		(2,227)
Rental income		2,500		2,500		2,831		331
Other		3,500		3,500		4,530		1,030
Total Miscellaneous		8,500		8,500		7,634		(866)
TOTAL REVENUES		473,771		473,771		513,951		40,180
EXPENDITURES								
District Operations								
Personnel services		373,495		373,495		338,187		(35,308)
Other services and charges		59,802		59,802		58,240		(1,562)
Supplies		2,250		2,250		1,676		(574)
Capital outlay		10,000		10,000				(10,000)
Total District Operations		445,547		445,547		398,103		(47,444)
Project Expenditures								
County		22,507		22,507		9,486		(13,021)
District		9,750		9,750		18,137		8,387
State		-,		-,		97,338		97,338
Total Project Expenditures		32,257		32,257		124,961		92,704
								(=
TOTAL EXPENDITURES		477,804		477,804		523,064		45,260
NET CHANGE IN FUND BALANCE		(4,033)		(4,033)		(9,113)		(5,080)
FUND BALANCE - BEGINNING		324,147		324,147		324,147		
FUND BALANCE - ENDING	\$	320,114	\$	320,114	\$	315,034	\$	(5,080)

WINONA COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT LEWISTON, MINNESOTA ROOT RIVER WATERSHED ONE WATERSHED, ONE PLAN FUND STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES, AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCE BUDGET AND ACTUAL For the Year Ended December 31, 2021

	Budgeted	I Amounts	2021	Over (Under)
	Original	Final	Actual	Final Budget
REVENUES Intergovernmental State	\$ 1,670,882	\$ 1,670,882	\$ 838,362	\$ (832,520)
Miscellaneous Interest earnings			739	739
TOTAL REVENUES	1,670,882	1,670,882	839,101	(831,781)
EXPENDITURES				
Cost-Share	1,014,426	1,014,426	582,426	(432,000)
Grant Administration	91,371	91,371	28,751	(62,620)
Project Development	72,667	72,667	6,747	(65,920)
Technical Assistance	492,418	492,418	221,177	(271,241)
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	1,670,882	1,670,882	839,101	(831,781)
NET CHANGE IN FUND BALANCE				
FUND BALANCE - BEGINNING				
FUND BALANCE - ENDING	\$	\$	\$	\$

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

DECEMBER 31, 2021

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

1. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

The financial statements of the Winona County Soil and Water Conservation District (the District) are prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP) as applied to governmental units. The Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) is the accepted standard setting body for establishing governmental accounting and financial reporting principles. The following is a summary of the more significant accounting policies:

Financial Reporting Entity

The District is organized under the provisions of Minnesota Statutes Chapter 103C. The District is governed by a Board of Supervisors composed of five members nominated by voters of the District and elected to four-year terms by the voters of the County.

The purpose of the District is to assist land occupiers in applying practices for the conservation of soil and water resources. These practices are intended to control wind and water erosion, pollution of lakes and streams, and damage to wetlands and wildlife habitats.

The District provides technical and financial assistance to individuals, groups, districts, and governments in reducing costly waste of soil and water resulting from soil erosion, sedimentation, pollution and improper land use.

Each fiscal year the District develops a work plan which is used as a guide in using resources effectively to provide maximum conservation of all lands within its boundaries. The work plan includes guidelines for employees and technicians to follow in order to achieve the District's objectives.

The District is not considered a part of Winona County because, even though the County provides a significant amount of the District's revenues in the form of an appropriation, it does not retain any control over the operations of the District.

Generally accepted accounting principles require that the financial reporting entity include the primary government and component units for which the primary government is financially accountable. Under these principles the District does not have any component units.

Government-Wide Financial Statements

The government-wide financial statements (the Statement of Net Position and the Statement of Activities) report information on all of the nonfiduciary activities of the District.

The Statement of Activities demonstrates the degree to which the direct expenses of a given function or segment are offset by program revenues. Direct expenses are those that are clearly identifiable with a specific function.

The government-wide financial statements are reported using the economic resources measurement focus and the accrual basis of accounting. Revenues are recorded when earned and expenses are recorded when a liability is incurred, regardless of the timing of cash flows. Grants and similar items are recognized as revenues as soon as all eligibility requirements imposed by the provider have been met.

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

1. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (Continued)

Fund Financial Statements

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

The major funds of the District are presented as follows:

The *general fund* is the District's primary operating fund. It accounts for all financial resources and transactions except those required to be accounted for in other funds.

The *special revenue fund* accounts for all activities associated with the One Watershed, One Plan (1W1P) for the Root River Watershed joint powers agreement for the management, restoration and protection of resources within the Root River Watershed.

Governmental fund financial statements are reported using the current financial resources measurement focus and the modified accrual basis of accounting. Revenues are recognized as soon as they are both measurable and available. Revenues are considered to be available when they are collectible within the current period or soon enough thereafter to pay liabilities of the current period. For this purpose the District considers all revenues, except reimbursement grants, to be available if they are collected within 60 days of the end of the current fiscal period.

Reimbursement grants are considered available if they are collected within one year of the end of the current fiscal period. Expenditures are recorded when a liability is incurred under accrual accounting.

Intergovernmental revenues are reported in conformity with the legal and contractual requirements of the individual programs. Generally, grant revenues are recognized when the corresponding expenditures are incurred.

Investment earnings are recognized when earned. Other revenues are recognized when they are received in cash because they usually are not measurable until then.

In accordance with GASB Statement No. 33, *Accounting and Financial Reporting for Nonexchange Transactions*, revenues for nonexchange transactions are recognized based on the principal characteristics of the revenue. Exchange transactions are recognized as revenue when the exchange occurs.

Budget Information

The District adopts an estimated revenues and expenditures budget for the General Fund and Root River Watershed One Watershed, One Plan Fund. Comparisons of estimated revenues and budgeted expenditures to actual are presented in the financial statements in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles. Amendments to the original budget require Board approval. The District does not use encumbrance accounting.

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

1. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (Continued)

Use of Estimates

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

Cash and Investments

Cash and investments are considered to be cash on hand, demand deposits, and short-term investments with original maturities of three months or less from the date of acquisition. Investments are stated at fair value.

Receivables

Receivables are collectible within one year.

Prepaid Expenses

Certain payments to vendors reflect costs applicable to future accounting periods and are recorded as prepaid items in both the government-wide and fund financial statements.

Capital Assets

Capital assets are reported on a net (depreciated) basis. Capital assets are defined by the District as assets with an initial, individual cost of more than \$5,000 and an estimated useful life greater than one year. General capital assets are valued at historical or estimated historical cost.

The cost of property, plant and equipment is depreciated over the estimated useful lives of the related assets. Leasehold improvements are depreciated over the lesser of the term of the related lease or the estimated useful lives of the assets. Depreciation is computed on the straight-line method. For the purpose of computing depreciation, the useful life for machinery and equipment is five to ten years.

Deferred Outflows of Resources

In addition to assets, the financial statements will sometimes report a separate section of deferred outflows of resources. This separate financial statement element represents a consumption of net position that applies to a future period(s) and so will not be recognized as an outflow of resources (expense/expenditure) until that time. The District has one type and is pension related and is reported on the statement of net position.

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

1. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (Continued)

Unearned Revenue

Governmental funds and government-wide financial statements report unearned revenue in connection with resources that have been received, but not yet earned. Unearned revenue as of December 31, 2021 represents unearned advances from the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) for administrative service grants and for the cost-share program. Revenues will be recognized when the related program expenditures are recorded.

Vacation and Sick Leave

Under the District's personnel policies, employees are granted annual leave and sick leave in varying amounts based on their length of service. Annual leave accrual varies from 8 to 17 hours per month. Sick leave accrual is 8 hours per month. The limit on the accumulation of annual leave is 175 hours and the limit on the accumulation of sick leave is 800 hours. Upon termination of employment from the District, employees are paid annual leave and up to 50% of unused sick leave.

The amount reported as compensated absences benefits consists of unpaid, accumulated vacation and sick balances. The liability has been calculated using the vested method, in which leave amounts are accrued for both employees who currently are eligible to receive termination payments and other employees who are expected to become eligible in the future to receive such payments upon termination. The liability is reported in governmental funds only if they have matured and is accrued when incurred in the government-wide statements.

Deferred Inflows of Resources

In addition to liabilities, the financial statements will sometimes report a separate financial statement element, deferred inflows of resources. This separate financial statement element, deferred inflows of resources, represents an acquisition of net position that applies to a future period(s) and so will not be recognized as an inflow of resources (revenue) until that time. The District has one type and is pension related and reported in the statement of net position.

Pensions

For purposes of measuring the net pension liability, deferred outflows/inflows of resources, and pension expense, information about the fiduciary net position of the Public Employees Retirement Association (PERA) and additions to/deductions from PERA's fiduciary net position have been determined on the same basis as they are reported by PERA except that PERA's fiscal year end is June 30. For this purpose, plan contributions are recognized as of employer payroll paid dates and benefit payments and refunds are recognized when due and payable in accordance with the benefit terms. Investments are reported at fair value.

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

1. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (Continued)

Classification of Net Position

Net position in the government-wide financial statements is classified in the following categories:

<u>Investment in Capital Assets</u> – the amount of net position representing capital assets net of accumulated depreciation.

<u>Restricted Net Position</u> – the amount of net position for which external restrictions have been imposed by creditors, grantors, contributors, or laws or regulations of other governments; and restrictions imposed by law through constitutional provisions or enabling legislation.

<u>Unrestricted Net Position</u> – the amount of net position that does not meet the definition of investment in capital assets or restricted

Classifications of Fund Balances

Fund balance is divided into five classifications based primarily on the extent to which the District is bound to observe constraints imposed upon the use of the resources in the General Fund. The classifications are as follows:

<u>Nonspendable</u> – the nonspendable fund balance category includes amounts that cannot be spent because they are not in spendable form, or are legally or contractually required to be maintained intact. The "not in spendable form" criterion includes items that are not expected to be converted to cash.

<u>Restricted</u> – fund balance is reported as restricted when constraints placed on the use of resources are either externally imposed by creditors (such as through debt covenants), grantors, contributors, or laws and regulations of other governments; or are imposed by law through constitutional provisions or enabling legislation.

<u>Committed</u> – the committed fund balance classification includes amounts that can be used only for the specific purposes imposed by formal action (resolution) of the Board. Those committed amounts cannot be used for any other purposes unless the Board removes or changes the specified use by taking the same type of action (resolution) it employed to previously commit those amounts.

<u>Assigned</u> – amounts in the assigned fund balance classification the District intends to use for specific purposes that do not meet the criteria to be classified as restricted or committed. In the General Fund, assigned amounts represent intended uses established by the Board or the Board Administrator who has been delegated that authority by Board resolution.

<u>Unassigned</u> – unassigned fund balance is the residual classification for the General Fund and includes all spendable amounts not contained in the other fund balance classifications.

The District applies restricted resources first when expenditures are incurred for purposes for which either restricted or unrestricted (committed, assigned, and unassigned) amounts are available. Similarly, within unrestricted fund balance, committed amounts are reduced first followed by assigned, and then unassigned amounts when expenditures are incurred for purposes for which amounts in any of the unrestricted fund balance classifications could be used.

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

2. Stewardship and Accountability

Excess expenditures over appropriation during 2021 – The General Fund had expenditures in excess of budget of \$59,946. All excess expenditures were a result of planned process.

3. Cash and Investments

<u>Deposits</u>

Minnesota Statutes 118A.02 and 118A.04 authorize the District to designate a depository for public funds and to invest in certificates of deposit. Minnesota Statute 118A.03 requires that all District deposits be protected by insurance, surety bond, or collateral. When not covered by insurance or surety bonds, the market value of collateral pledged shall be at least ten percent more than the amount on deposit (plus accrued interest) at the close of the financial institution's banking day.

Authorized collateral includes treasury bills, notes and bonds; issues of U.S. government agencies; general obligations rated "A" or better; irrevocable standards letters of credit issued by the Federal Home Loan Bank; and certificates of deposit. Minnesota Statutes require that securities pledged as collateral be held in safekeeping in a restricted account at the Federal Reserve Bank or in an account at a trust department of a commercial bank or other financial institution that is not owned or controlled by the financial institution furnishing the collateral.

Custodial Credit Risk

Custodial credit risk is the risk that in the event of a bank failure, the District's deposits may not be returned to it. The District does not have a deposit policy for custodial credit risk. As of December 31, 2021, the District's deposits were not exposed to custodial credit risk.

Fair Value Measurement

Fair value measurements are determined utilizing the framework established by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board. The framework provides a fair value hierarchy that prioritizes the inputs to valuation techniques used to measure fair value. The hierarchy gives the highest priority to unadjusted quoted prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities (Level 1 measurements) and the lowest priority to unobservable inputs (Level 3 measurements).

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

3. Cash and Investments (Continued)

Fair Value Measurement (continued)

The three levels of the fair value hierarchy are as follows:

- Level 1: Inputs to the valuation methodology are unadjusted quoted prices for identical assets or liabilities in active markets that the District has the ability to access
- Level 2: Observable market-based inputs or unobservable inputs that are corroborated by market data. Inputs to the valuation methodology include:
 - Quoted prices for similar assets or liabilities in active markets
 - o Quoted prices for identical assets or liabilities in inactive markets
 - o Inputs other than quoted prices that are observable for the asset or liability
 - Inputs that are derived principally from or corroborated by observable market data by correlation or other means

If the asset or liability has a specific (contractual) term, Level 2 input must be observable for substantially the full term of the asset or liability

• Level 3: Inputs to the valuation methodology are unobservable and significant to the fair value measurement

The asset's or liability's fair value measurement level within the fair value hierarchy is based on the lowest level of any input that is significant to the fair value measurement. Valuation techniques used need to maximize the use of observable inputs and minimize the use of unobservable inputs.

There were no assets measured at fair value on a recurring basis noted at the District.

4. Capital Assets

Capital asset activity for the year ended December 31, 2021 was as follows:

Governmental Activities	eginning Balance			Disposals	Ending Balance
Capital assets, being depreciated: Equipment	\$ 114,681	\$		\$	\$ 114,681
Less accumulated depreciation for: Equipment	 80,374		11,726		 92,100
Governmental activities capital assets, net	\$ 34,307	\$	(11,726)	\$	\$ 22,581

Depreciation for the year ended December 31, 2021 was \$11,726.

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

5. Long-Term Liabilities

The following is a summary of changes in long-term obligations for the year ended December 31, 2021.

					Amounts
	Beginning			Ending	Due Within
	Balance	Additions	Reductions	Balance	One Year
Governmental Activities					
Compensated Absences	\$ 38,468	\$ 4,223	\$ 25,252	\$ 17,439	\$

6. Risk Management

The District is exposed to various risks of loss related to torts, theft of, damage to, or destruction of assets; errors and omissions; injuries to employees; workers' compensation claims; and natural disasters. Property and casualty liabilities and workers' compensation are insured through Minnesota Counties Intergovernmental Trust. The District retains risk for the deductible portion of the insurance. The amounts of these deductibles are considered immaterial to the financial statements.

The Minnesota Counties Intergovernmental Trust is a public entity risk pool currently operated as a common risk management and insurance program for its members. The District pays an annual premium based on its annual payroll. There were no significant increases or reductions in insurance from the previous year or settlements in excess of insurance coverage for any of the past three fiscal years.

7. Operating Leases

The District leases office space on a yearly basis. Under the current agreement total costs for the year ended December 31, 2021 were \$12,464.

8. Commitments and Contingencies

The District participates in a number of federal and state agency assisted grant programs. These programs are subject to program compliance audits by the grantors or their representatives. The District does not anticipate any audit adjustments or disallowed program expenditures that would-be material in relation to the general purpose financial statements taken as a whole.

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

9. Defined Benefit Pension Plans – Statewide

Plan Description

The District participates in the following cost-sharing multiple-employer defined benefit pension plan administered by the Public Employees Retirement Association of Minnesota (PERA). PERA's defined benefit pension plans are established and administered in accordance with Minnesota Statutes, Chapters 353 and 356. PERA's defined benefit pension plans are tax qualified plans under Section 401 (a) of the Internal Revenue Code.

1. General Employees Retirement Plan

All full-time and certain part-time employees of the District are covered by the General Employees Plan. General Employees Plan members belong to the Coordinated Plan. Coordinated Plan members are covered by Social Security.

Benefits Provided

PERA provides retirement, disability, and death benefits. Benefit provisions are established by state statute and can only be modified by the state legislature. Vested, terminated employees who are entitled to benefits but are not receiving them yet are bound by the provisions in effect at the time they last terminated their public service.

1. General Employees Plan Benefits

General Employees Plan benefits are based on a member's highest average salary for any five successive years of allowable service, age, and years of credit at termination of service. Two methods are used to compute benefits for PERA's Coordinated Plan members. Members hired prior to July 1, 1989, receive the higher of Method 1 or Method 2 formulas. Only Method 2 is used for members hired after June 30, 1989. Under Method 1, the accrual rate for Coordinated members is 1.2 percent for each of the first 10 years of service and 1.7 percent for each additional year. Under Method 2, the accrual rate for Coordinated members is 1.7 percent for all years of service. For members hired prior to July 1, 1989 a full annuity is available when age plus years of service equal 90 and normal retirement age is 65. For members hired on or after July 1, 1989, normal retirement age is the age for unreduced Social Security benefits capped at 66.

Benefit increases are provided to benefit recipients each January. The postretirement increase is equal to 50 percent of the cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) announced by the SSA, with a minimum increase of at least 1 percent and a maximum of 1.5 percent. Recipients that have been receiving the annuity or benefit for at least a full year as of the June 30 before the effective date of the increase will receive the full increase. Recipients receiving the annuity or benefit for at least one month but less than a full year as of the June 30 before the effective a reduced prorated increase. For members retiring on January 1, 2024, or later, the increase will be delayed until normal retirement age (age 65 if hired prior to July 1, 1989, or age 66 for individuals hired on or after July 1, 1989). Members retiring under Rule of 90 are exempt from the delay to normal retirement.

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

9. Defined Benefit Pension Plans – Statewide (Continued)

Contributions

Minnesota Statutes Chapter 353 sets the rates for employer and employee contributions. Contribution rates can only be modified by the state Legislature.

1. General Employees Fund Contributions

Coordinated Plan members were required to contribute 6.50 percent of their annual covered salary in fiscal year 2021 and the District was required to contribute 7.50 percent for Coordinated Plan members. The District's contributions to the General Employees Fund for the year ended December 31, 2021 were \$19,711. The District's contributions were equal to the required contributions as set by the state statute.

Pension Costs

1. General Employees Fund Pension Costs

At December 31, 2021, the District reported a liability of \$158,007 for its proportionate share of the General Employees Fund's net pension liability. The District's net pension liability reflected a reduction due to the State of Minnesota's contribution of \$16 million. The State of Minnesota is considered a non-employer contributing entity and the state's contribution meets the definition of a special funding situation. The State of Minnesota's proportionate share of the net pension liability associated with the District totaled \$4,809.

The net pension liability was measured as of June 30, 2021, and the total pension liability used to calculate the net pension liability was determined by an actuarial valuation as of that date. The District's proportion of the net pension liability was based on the District's contributions received by PERA during the measurement period for employer payroll paid dates from July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021 relative to the total employer contributions received from all of PERA's participating employers. At June 30, 2021, the District's proportionate share was 0.0037 percent at the end of the measurement period and 0.0036 percent for the beginning of the period.

District's proportionate share of the net pension liability	\$ 158,007
State of Minnesota's proportionate share of the net pension	
liability associated with the District	 4,809
Total	\$ 162,816

For the year ended December 31, 2021, the District recognized pension expense of (\$32,908) for its proportionate share of the General Employees Plan's pension expense. In addition, the District recognized an additional \$388 as pension expense (and grant revenue) for its proportionate share of the State of Minnesota's contribution of \$16 million to the General Employees Fund.

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

9. Defined Benefit Pension Plans – Statewide (Continued)

Pension Costs (continued)

At December 31, 2021, the District reported its proportionate share of General Employees Plan's deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to pensions from the following sources:

	 ed Outflows	Deferred Inflows of Resources		
Difference between expected and				
actual economic experience	\$ 865	\$	3,616	
Changes in actuarial assumptions	72,357		2,731	
Difference between projected and				
actual investment earnings			111,195	
Changes in proportion	9,593		12,482	
Contributions paid to PERA subsequent				
to the measurement date	 8,693			
Total	\$ 91,508	\$	130,024	

The \$8,693 reported as deferred outflows of resources related to pensions resulting from District contributions subsequent to the measurement date will be recognized as a reduction of the net pension liability in the year ended December 31, 2022. Other amounts reported as deferred outflows and deferred inflow of resources related to pensions will be recognized in pension expense as follows:

Year Ending	Pensi	Pension Expense		
December 31:	1	Amount		
2022	\$	(16,655)		
2023		817		
2024		(1,513)		
2025		(29,858)		

Total Pension Expense

Pension expense recognized by the District for the year ended December 31, 2021 is as follows:

General Employee Fund

\$ (32,520)

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

9. Defined Benefit Pension Plans – Statewide (Continued)

Long-Term Expected Return on Investment

The State Board of Investment, which manages the investments of PERA, prepares an analysis of the reasonableness on a regular basis of the long-term expected rate of return using a building-block method in which best-estimate ranges of expected future rates of return are developed for each major asset class. These ranges are combined to produce an expected long-term rate of return by weighting the expected future rates of return by the target asset allocation percentages. The target allocation and best estimates of geometric real rates of return for each major asset class are summarized in the following table:

Asset Class	Target Allocation	Long-Term Expected Real Rate of Return		
Domestic Equity	33.5%	5.10%		
International Equity	16.5%	5.30%		
Fixed Income	25.0%	0.75%		
Private Markets	25.0%	5.90%		
Total	100%			

Actuarial Methods and Assumptions

The total pension liability in the June 30, 2021, actuarial valuation was determined using an individual entry-age normal actuarial cost method. The long-term rate of return on pension plan investments used in the determination of the total liability is 6.5 percent. This assumption is based on a review of inflation and investments return assumptions from a number of national investment consulting firms. The review provided a range of return investment return rates deemed to be reasonable by the actuary. An investment return of 6.5 percent was deemed to be within that range of reasonableness for financial reporting purposes.

Inflation is assumed to be 2.25 percent for the General Employees Plan. Benefit increases after retirement are assumed to be 1.25 percent for the General Employees Plan.

Salary growth assumptions in the General Employees Plan range in annual increments from 10.25 percent after one year of service to 3.0 percent after 29 years of service and 6.0 percent per year thereafter.

Mortality rates for the General Employees Plan are based on the Pub-2010 General Employee Mortality Table. The tables are adjusted slightly to fit PERA's experience.

Actuarial assumptions for the General Employees Plan are reviewed every four years. The most recent four-year experience study for the General Employees Plan was completed in 2019. The assumption changes were adopted by the Board and became effective with the July 1, 2020 actuarial valuation.

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

9. Defined Benefit Pension Plans – Statewide (Continued)

Actuarial Methods and Assumptions (continued)

The following changes in actuarial assumptions and plan provisions occurred in 2021:

General Employees Fund

Changes in Actuarial Assumptions:

- The investment return and single discount rates were changed from 7.50 percent to 6.50 percent, for financial reporting purposes.
- The mortality improvement scale was changed from Scale MP-2019 to Scale MP-2020.

Changes in Plan Provisions Assumptions:

• There were no changes in plan provisions since the previous valuation.

Discount Rate

The discount rate used to measure the total pension liability in 2021 was 6.50 percent. The projection of cash flows used to determine the discount rate assumed that contributions from plan members and employers will be made at the rates specified in Minnesota Statutes. Based on these assumptions, the fiduciary net position of the General Employees Fund was projected to be available to make all projected future benefit payments of current plan members. Therefore, the long-term expected rate of return on pension plan investments was applied to all periods of projected benefit payments to determine the total pension liability.

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

9. Defined Benefit Pension Plans – Statewide (Continued)

Pension Liability Sensitivity

The following presents the District's proportionate share of the net pension liability for all plans it participates in, calculated using the discount rate disclosed in the preceding paragraph, as well as what the District's proportionate share of the net pension liability would be if it were calculated using a discount rate one percentage point lower or one percentage point higher than the current discount rate:

Sensitivity Analysis						
Net Pension Liability at Different Discount Rates						
General Employees Fund						
1% Lower	5.50% \$	322,253				
Current Discount Rate	6.50%	158,007				
1% Higher	7.50%	23,233				

Pension Plan Fiduciary Net Position

Detailed information about each pension plan's fiduciary net position is available in a separately-issued PERA financial report that includes financial statements and required supplementary information. That report may be obtained on the Internet at www.mnpera.org.

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

10. Joint Powers Agreement

In early 2014, the Winona County Soil and Water Conservation District joined together with other planning partners located in Root River Watershed area to submit a nomination to pilot a One Watershed, One Plan (1W1P). The six-county watershed planning area includes those portions of Dodge, Fillmore, Houston, Mower, Olmsted and Winona counties that drain to the Root River, the Minnesota portion of the Upper Iowa River Watershed and the Mississippi-Reno Watershed in Houston County.

With the development of the initial One Watershed, One Plan for the Root River Watershed almost completed in 2017, the Counties of Dodge, Fillmore, Houston, Mower, Olmsted and Winona by and through their respective County Boards of Commissioners; the Dodge, Fillmore, Root River, Mower, Olmsted and Winona County Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs), by and through their respective Soil and Water Conservation District Boards of Supervisors; and the Crooked Creek Watershed District, by and through its Board of Managers entered into a joint powers agreement pursuant to Minnesota Statues Chapter 471.59.

This agreement does not establish a joint powers entity but sets out the terms and provisions by which the parties will continue the cooperative and collaborative work of the Counties, the Soil and Water Conservation Districts and the Crooked Creek Watershed District with the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) in an advisory capacity for the continued planning and implementation of the One Watershed, One Plan for the Root River Watershed in the future.

Winona County Soil and Water Conservation District has been designated, by the JPA Policy Committee, the Fiscal Agent for the Root River Watershed One Watershed, One Plan.

As Fiscal Agent they agreed to:

- a. Accept all fiscal responsibilities associated with grant agreements applied for and received by the One Watershed, One Plan.
- b. Perform financial transactions as part of contract implementation.
- c. Pursuant to Minn. Stat. Section 471.59, Subd. 3, provide for strict accountability of all funds and report of all receipts and disbursements and annually provide a full and complete audit report.
- d. Provide the Policy Committee and its members with such records as are necessary to describe the financial condition of the grant agreements the Policy Committee reviews.
- e. Responsible for fiscal records retention consistent with the Fiscal Agent's records retention schedule until termination of agreement. At that time, the fiscal records will be turned over to the Day-to-Day Contact.

REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

DECEMBER 31, 2021

Schedule of District's Pension Contributions PERA General Employee Retirement Fund Last Ten Years (presented prospectively)

Fiscal Year Ended	R	atutorily equired ntribution	R Sta	contributions in Relation to the tutorily Required	Contribution Deficiency	(Covered	Contribut a Percer Cove	ntage of
December 31		(a)	C	ontributions (b)	(Excess) (a-b)	P	ayroll (c)	Payroll (b/d)	
2015	\$	14,123	\$	14,123	\$	\$	188,307		7.50%
2016		17,432		17,432			232,426		7.50%
2017		20,310		20,310			270,795		7.50%
2018		19,846		19,846			264,613		7.50%
2019		18,617		18,617			248,227		7.50%
2020		19,055		19,055			254,067		7.50%
2021		19,711		19,711			262,813		7.50%
2022									
2023									
2024									

NOTE: This schedule is intended to show information for ten years. Additional years will be displayed as they become available.

Schedule of District's Proportionate Share of Net Pension Liability PERA General Employees Retirement Fund Last Ten Years (presented prospectively)

Fiscal Year Ended June 30	Employer's Proportionate Share (Percentage) of Net Pension Liability (Asset)	Employer's Proportionate Share (Amount) of the Net Pension Liability (Asset) (a)	State's Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability (Asset) (b)	Employer's Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability and the State's Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability Associated with the District (a+b)	Covered Payroll (c)	Employer's Proportionate Share (Amount) of the Net Pension Liability (Asset) as a Percentage of its Covered Payroll (a+b)/c	Plan Fiduciary Net Position as a Percentage of the Total Pension Liability
2015 2016	0.0033% 0.0033%	267,944	3,454	\$ 171,023 271,398	204,977	87.38% 130.72%	68.90%
2017 2018	0.0041% 0.0042%	261,741 232,999	3,267 7,576	265,008 240,575	262,212 267,704	99.82% 87.04%	
2019 2020	0.0042 % 0.0033% 0.0036%	182,450 215,836	5,666 6,636	188,116 222,472	256,420 251,147	71.15% 85.94%	80.20%
2021 2022 2023 2024	0.0037%	158,007	4,809	162,816	258,440	61.14%	87.00%

NOTE: This schedule is intended to show information for ten years. Additional years will be displayed as they become available.

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OTHER REPORT SECTION

DECEMBER 31, 2021

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MINNESOTA LEGAL COMPLIANCE

Independent Auditor's Report

To the Board of Supervisors Winona County Soil and Water Conservation District Lewiston, Minnesota

We have audited, in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, the financial statements of Winona County Soil and Water Conservation District, Lewiston, Minnesota, as of and for the year ended December 31, 2021, and the related notes to financial statements, which collectively comprise the District's basic financial statements and have issued our report thereon dated December 31, 2022.

In connection with our audit, nothing came to our attention that caused us to believe that the District failed to comply with the provisions of the contracting – bid laws, depositories of public funds and public investments, conflicts of interests, claims and disbursements, and miscellaneous provisions sections of the *Minnesota Legal Compliance Audit Guide for Political Subdivisions*, promulgated by the State Auditor pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 6.65, insofar as they relate to accounting matters. However, our audit was not directed primarily toward obtaining knowledge of such noncompliance. Accordingly, had we performed additional procedures, other matters may have come to our attention regarding the District's noncompliance with the above referenced provisions, insofar as they relate to accounting matters.

This report is intended solely for the information and use of those charged with governance and management of Winona County Soil and Water Conservation District and the State Auditor and is not intended to be and should not be used by anyone other than these specified parties.

Smith, Schape and associates, Led.

Red Wing, Minnesota December 31, 2022

Offices in: Twin Cities • Rochester • Red Wing www.smithschafer.com | info@smithschafer.com