

**BLUE EARTH COUNTY SOIL AND WATER  
CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**DECEMBER 31, 2019**

**BLUE EARTH COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT  
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FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2019**

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## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Board of Supervisors  
Blue Earth County Soil and Water Conservation District  
Mankato, Minnesota

### Report on the Financial Statements

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the governmental activities and the general fund of Blue Earth County Soil and Water Conservation District, Mankato, Minnesota, as of and for the year ended December 31, 2019, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise Blue Earth County Soil and Water Conservation District's basic financial statements as listed in the table of contents.

### Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America; this includes the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

### Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express opinions on these financial statements based on our audit. 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. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements 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 entity's internal control. Accordingly, we express no such opinion. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinions.

## Opinions

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the respective financial position of the governmental activities and the general fund of Blue Earth County Soil and Water Conservation District as of December 31, 2019, and the respective changes in financial position for the general fund for the year then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

## Other Matters

### *Required Supplementary Information*

Management has omitted the 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.

Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require that the budgetary comparison statement on page 17 and defined benefit pension plan schedules on page 18 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.

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

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated September 21, 2020, on our consideration of the Blue Earth County Soil and Water Conservation 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 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 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 Blue Earth County Soil and Water Conservation District's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.

*Peterson Company Ltd*

PETERSON COMPANY LTD  
Certified Public Accountants  
Waconia, Minnesota

September 21, 2020

**BLUE EARTH COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT  
MANKATO, MINNESOTA  
STATEMENT OF NET POSITION AND  
GOVERNMENTAL FUND BALANCE SHEET  
DECEMBER 31, 2019**

	General Fund	Adjustments	Statement of Net Position
<b>Assets</b>			
Cash	\$ 613,645	\$ -	\$ 613,645
Accounts Receivable	2,334	-	2,334
Due from Other Governments	2,704	-	2,704
Prepaid Items	11,172	-	11,172
Capital Assets:			
Equipment (net of accumulated depreciation)	-	127,175	127,175
Total Assets	<u>629,855</u>	<u>127,175</u>	<u>757,030</u>
<b>Deferred Outflows of Resources</b>			
Defined Benefit Pension Plan	-	39,389	39,389
<b>Combined Assets and Deferred Outflows of Resources</b>			
	<u>\$ 629,855</u>	<u>\$ 166,564</u>	<u>\$ 796,419</u>
<b>Liabilities</b>			
Current Liabilities:			
Accrued Wages	\$ 5,688	\$ -	\$ 5,688
Sales Tax Payable	203	-	203
Unearned Revenue	313,168	-	313,168
Long-term Liabilities:			
Net Pension Liability	-	171,392	171,392
Compensated Absences	-	19,221	19,221
Total Liabilities	<u>319,059</u>	<u>190,613</u>	<u>509,672</u>
<b>Deferred Inflows of Resources</b>			
Defined Benefit Pension Plan	-	31,528	31,528
<b>Combined Liabilities and Deferred Inflows of Resources</b>			
	<u>\$ 319,059</u>	<u>\$ 222,141</u>	<u>\$ 541,200</u>
<b>Fund Balance/Net Position</b>			
Fund Balance			
Nonspendable - Prepays	\$ 11,172	\$ (11,172)	\$ -
Assigned - Compensated Absences	19,221	(19,221)	-
Unassigned	280,403	(280,403)	-
Total Fund Balance	<u>\$ 310,796</u>	<u>\$ (310,796)</u>	<u>\$ -</u>
Net Position			
Investments in Capital Assets		\$ 127,175	\$ 127,175
Unrestricted		128,044	128,044
Total Net Position		<u>\$ 255,219</u>	<u>\$ 255,219</u>

Notes are an integral part of the basic financial statements.

**BLUE EARTH COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT  
MANKATO, MINNESOTA  
STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES AND  
GOVERNMENTAL FUND REVENUES, EXPENDITURES AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCE  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2019**

	General Fund	Adjustments	Statement of Activities
<b>Revenues</b>			
Intergovernmental	\$ 1,252,706	\$ -	\$ 1,252,706
Charges for Services	77,115	-	77,115
Interest Earnings	59	-	59
Miscellaneous	-	-	-
Total Revenues	<u>\$ 1,329,880</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 1,329,880</u>
<b>Expenditures/Expenses</b>			
Conservation			
Current	\$ 1,200,818	\$ 53,199	\$ 1,254,017
Capital Outlay	69,881	(69,881)	-
Total Expenditures/Expenses	<u>\$ 1,270,699</u>	<u>\$ (16,682)</u>	<u>\$ 1,254,017</u>
Excess of Revenues Over (Under) Expenditures/Expenses	\$ 59,181	\$ 16,682	\$ 75,863
Fund Balance/Net Position January 1	<u>\$ 251,615</u>	<u>\$ (72,259)</u>	<u>\$ 179,356</u>
Fund Balance/Net Position December 31	<u>\$ 310,796</u>	<u>\$ (55,577)</u>	<u>\$ 255,219</u>

Notes are an integral part of the basic financial statements.

**BLUE EARTH COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT  
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
DECEMBER 31, 2019**

**Note 1 – Summary of Significant Accounting Policies**

The financial reporting policies of the Blue Earth County Soil and Water Conservation District conform to generally accepted accounting principles. The Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) is responsible for establishing GAAP for state and local governments through its pronouncements (statements and interpretations).

**Financial Reporting Entity**

The Blue Earth County Soil and Water Conservation 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.

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 (i.e. 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.

**Fund Financial Statements**

The government reports the General Fund as its only major governmental fund. The general fund accounts for all financial resources of the government.

**BLUE EARTH COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT**  
**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
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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.

Interest 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 Governmental Accounting Standards Board 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. 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. Appropriations lapse at year-end. The District does not use encumbrance accounting.

**Use of Estimates**

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

**Assets, Deferred Outflows of Resources, Liabilities, Deferred Inflows of Resources, and Net Position**

**Assets**

Cash is stated at fair value, except for non-negotiable certificates of deposit, which are on a cost basis and short-term money market investments, which are stated at amortized cost.

Receivables are collectible within one year.

Prepaid expenses are for items that will provide future benefit over the next twelve months.



**BLUE EARTH COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT  
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Capital assets are reported on a net (depreciated) basis. General capital assets are valued at historical or estimated historical cost.

Unearned Revenue

Governmental funds and government-wide financial statements report unearned revenue in connection with resources that have been received, but not yet earned.

Long-Term Liabilities

Compensated Absences and Net Pension Liability are accounted for as an adjustment to net position.

Classification of Net Position

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

Investment in capital assets – the amount of net position representing capital assets net of accumulated depreciation.

Restricted net position – 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.

Unrestricted net position – the amount of net position that does not meet the definition of restricted or investment in capital assets.

Deferred Outflows/Inflows of Resources

In addition to assets, the statement of net position will sometimes report a separate section for deferred outflows of resources. This separate financial statement element, deferred outflows of resources, represents a consumption of net position that applies to a future period(s) and so will not be recognized as an outflow of resources (expense/expenditure) until then. Currently, the District has only one item that qualifies for reporting in this category, deferred amounts related to their pension obligations. This item results from actuarial calculations and current year pension contributions made subsequent to the measurement date.

In addition to liabilities, the statement of net position will sometimes report a separate section for deferred inflows of resources. This separate financial statement element, deferred inflows of resources, represents an acquisition of net position that applies to a future period(s) and so will not be recognized as an inflow of resources (revenue) until that time. The District has only one type of item that qualifies for reporting in this category, amounts related to their pension obligations. This item results from actuarial calculations.

**BLUE EARTH COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT  
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
DECEMBER 31, 2019**

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.

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:

Nonspendable – The non-spendable 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.

Restricted – 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 or regulations of other governments; or are imposed by law through constitutional provisions or enabling legislation.

Committed – 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.

Assigned – 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.

Unassigned – 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 restricted fund balance classifications could be used.

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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
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Subsequent Events

In December 2019, a novel strain of coronavirus was reported in Wuhan, China. The World Health Organization has declared the outbreak to constitute a “Public Health Emergency of International Concern.” The COVID-19 outbreak is disrupting supply chains and affecting production and sales across a range of industries. The extent of the impact of COVID-19 on the District’s operational and financial performance will depend on certain developments, including the duration and spread of the outbreak, impact on the District’s customers, employees and vendors all of which are uncertain and cannot be predicted. At this point, the extent to which COVID-19 may impact the District’s financial condition or results of operations is uncertain.

In preparing these financial statements, the District has evaluated events and transactions for potential recognition or disclosure through September 21, 2020, the date the financial statements were available to be issued.

Explanation of Adjustments Column in Statements

Capital Assets: In the Statement of Net Position and Governmental Fund Balance Sheet, an adjustment is made if the District has capital assets. This adjustment equals the net book balance of capitalized assets as of the report date and reconciles to the amount reported in the Capital Assets Note.

Long-Term Liabilities: In the Statement of Net Position and Governmental Fund Balance Sheet, an adjustment is made to reflect the total Compensated Absences and Net Pension Liability the District has as of the report date. See note on Long-Term Liabilities.

Depreciation, Net Pension Expense and Change in Compensated Absences for the year:  
In the Statement of Activities and Governmental Fund Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balance, the adjustment equals the total depreciation for the year reported, plus or minus the net pension expense and the change in compensated absences between the reporting year and the previous year.

Vacation and Sick Leave

Under the District’s personnel policies, employees are granted vacation leave in varying amounts based on their length of service. Vacation leave accrual varies from 4 to 5 hours per pay period. Sick leave accrual is 4 hours per pay period. The limit on the accumulation of vacation leave is 240 hours and the limit on the accumulation of sick leave is 960 hours. Upon termination of employment from the District, employees are paid accrued vacation leave, and employees with five or more years of service are paid 20% of accrued sick leave hours.

Risk Management

The District is exposed to various risks of loss related to tort; theft of, damage to, and 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.

**BLUE EARTH COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT  
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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.

**Note 2 – Detailed Notes**

Capital Assets

Changes in Capital Assets, Asset Capitalization and Depreciation:

	<u>Beginning</u>	<u>Addition</u>	<u>Deletion</u>	<u>Ending</u>
Equipment	\$ 204,058	\$ 69,881	\$ -	\$ 273,939
Less: Accumulated Depreciation	113,963	32,801	-	146,764
Net Capital Assets	<u>\$ 90,095</u>			<u>\$ 127,175</u>

The cost of property 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 5 to 10 years. Current year depreciation is \$32,801.

The District uses the threshold of \$5,000 for capitalizing assets purchased.

Unearned Revenue

Unearned revenue 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. Unearned revenue for the year ended December 31, 2019, consists of the following: BWSR Cost Share Program \$51,218; Conservation Delivery \$8,618; Local Capacity \$149,990; Crystal Lake Phosphorus \$44,488; Targeted Implementation \$2,183; Buffer Law \$56,671; Total \$313,168.

Long-Term Liabilities

Changes in long-term liabilities for the period ended December 31, 2019 are:

	<u>January 1, 2019</u>	<u>Increases</u>	<u>Decreases</u>	<u>December 31, 2019</u>
Net Pension Liability	\$ 160,880	\$ 10,512	\$ -	\$ 171,392
Compensated Absences	14,653	4,568	-	19,221
Total	<u>\$ 175,533</u>	<u>\$ 15,080</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 190,613</u>

**BLUE EARTH COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT  
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Deposits

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; revenue obligations rated "AA" or better; irrevocable standard 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 Deposits

Custodial credit risk is the risk that in the event of a financial institution failure, the District's deposits may not be returned to it. The District does not have a deposit policy for custodial credit risk. The market value of collateral pledged must equal 110% of deposits not covered by insurance or bonds. The District has no additional deposit policies addressing custodial credit risk. As of December 31, 2019, the District's deposits were not exposed to custodial credit risk.

**Note 3 – Defined Benefit Pension Plan**

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.

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.

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 of average salary for each of the first ten years of service and 1.7 percent of average salary for each additional year. Under Method 2, the accrual rate for Coordinated members is 1.7 percent of average salary for all years

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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.

Annuities, disability benefits, and survivor benefits are increased effective every January 1. Beginning January 1, 2019, the postretirement increase will be equal to 50 percent of the cost-of-living (COLA) announced by the SSA, with a minimum increase of at least 1.00 percent and a maximum of 1.50 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. For 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 date of the increase will receive 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.

Contributions

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

Coordinated Plan members were required to contribute 6.50 percent of their annual covered salary in fiscal year 2019 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, 2019, were \$13,665. The District's contributions were over the required contributions as set by state statute.

Pension Costs

At December 31, 2019, the District reported a liability of \$171,392 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 to the fund in 2019. 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 \$5,333. The net pension liability was measured as of June 30, 2019, 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 proportionate share 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, 2018 through June 30, 2019, relative to the total employer contributions received from all of PERA's participating employers. At June 30, 2019, the District's proportionate share was .0031 percent, which was an increase of .0002 percent from its proportionate share measured as of June 30, 2018.

The District's proportionate share of the net pension liability	\$ 171,392
State of Minnesota's proportionate share of the net pension liability associated with the District	5,333
Total	\$ 176,725

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For the year ended December 31, 2019, the District recognized pension expense of \$15,830 for its proportionate share of the General Employees Plan's pension expense. In addition, the District recognized an additional \$399 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.

At December 31, 2019, the District reported its proportionate share of the General Employees Plan's deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources from the following sources:

	Deferred Outflows of Resources	Deferred Inflows of Resources
Differences between expected and actual economic experience	\$ 4,504	\$ -
Changes in actuarial assumptions	1,671	12,142
Difference between projected and actual investment earnings	-	19,386
Changes in Proportion	26,753	-
Contributions paid to PERA subsequent to the measurement date	6,461	-
Total	\$ 39,389	\$ 31,528

The \$6,461 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, 2020. Other amounts reported as deferred outflows and inflows of resources related to pensions will be recognized in pension expense as follows:

Year ended December 31:	Pension Expense Amount
2020	\$ 6,503
2021	(3,740)
2022	(1,562)
2023	199

**Actuarial Assumptions**

The total pension liability in the June 30, 2019, actuarial valuation was determined using an individual entry-age normal actuarial cost method and the following actuarial assumptions:

Inflation	2.50 percent per year
Active Member Payroll Growth	3.25 percent per year
Investment Rate of Return	7.50 percent

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Salary increases were based on a service-related table. Mortality rates for active members, retirees, survivors and disabilitants were based on RP 2014 tables for males or females, as appropriate, with slight adjustments to fit PERA's experience. Cost of living benefit increases after retirement for retirees are assumed to be 1.25 percent per year for the General Employees Plan.

Actuarial assumptions used in the June 30, 2019 valuation were based on the results of actuarial experience studies. The most recent four-year experience study in the General Employees Plan was completed in 2019. Economic assumptions were updated in 2018 based on a review of inflation and investment return assumptions.

The following changes in actuarial assumptions occurred in 2019:

Changes in Actuarial Assumptions

- The mortality projection scale was changed from MP-2017 to MP-2018.

Changes in Plan Provisions

- The employer supplemental contribution was changed prospectively, decreasing from \$31.0 million to \$21.0 million per year. The State's special funding contribution was changed prospectively, requiring \$16.0 million due per year through 2031.

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	36	5.10
Private Markets	25	5.90
Fixed Income	20	0.75
International Equity	17	5.90
Cash Equivalents	2	0.00
Total	100%	

Discount Rate

The discount rate used to measure the total pension liability in 2019 was 7.50 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 set 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 projected benefit payments to determine the total pension liability.



**BLUE EARTH COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT  
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
DECEMBER 31, 2019**

**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 1 percentage point lower or 1 percentage point higher than the current discount rate:

	1% Decrease in Discount Rate (6.5%)	Discount Rate (7.5%)	1% Increase in Discount Rate (8.5%)
District's proportionate share of the GERS net pension liability:	\$ 281,759	\$ 171,392	\$ 80,262

**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](http://www.mnpera.org).

**Note 4 – Operating Leases**

The District leases office space under a non-cancelable operating lease agreement. Under the current agreements, the total cost in 2019 for office space was \$29,523. The lease expires on May 31, 2021. Future minimum lease payments required under the non-cancelable operating leases are as follows:

Year	Amount
2020	\$ 32,819
2021	13,787
Total	\$ 46,606

**Note 5 – Stewardship, Compliance and Accountability**

Excess of expenditures over budget – The General Fund had expenditures in excess of budget for the year as follows: Expenditures \$1,270,699; Budget \$749,235; Excess \$521,464.

**Note 6 – Commitments and Contingencies**

The District is not aware of any existing or pending lawsuits, claims or other actions in which the District is a defendant.

**BLUE EARTH COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT  
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
DECEMBER 31, 2019**

**Note 7 – Reconciliation of Fund Balance to Net Position**

Governmental Fund Balance, January 1	\$	251,615
Plus: Excess of Revenues Over Expenditures		59,181
Governmental Fund Balance, December 31	\$	310,796
Adjustments from Fund Balance to Net Position:		
Plus: Capital Assets	\$	127,175
Plus: Deferred Outflows of Resources		39,389
Less: Long-Term Liabilities		(190,613)
Less: Deferred Inflows of Resources		(31,528)
Net Position	\$	255,219

**Note 8 – Reconciliation of Change in Fund Balance to Change in Net Position**

Change in Fund Balance	\$	59,181
Capital Outlay		69,881
Pension Expense, net		(15,830)
The cost of capital assets are allocated over the capital assets' useful lives at the government-wide level.		(32,801)
In the statement of activities certain operating expenses including compensated absences are measured by the amounts earned.		(4,568)
Change in Net Position	\$	75,863

**BLUE EARTH COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT  
MANKATO, MINNESOTA  
BUDGETARY COMPARISON STATEMENT  
BUDGET AND ACTUAL  
GENERAL FUND  
YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2019**

	Original/ Final Budget	Actual	Variance With Final Budget Positive (Neg)
<b>Revenues</b>			
Intergovernmental			
County	\$ 111,577	\$ 108,992	\$ (2,585)
State Grant	558,745	1,143,714	584,969
Total Intergovernmental	<u>\$ 670,322</u>	<u>\$ 1,252,706</u>	<u>\$ 582,384</u>
Charges for Services	<u>\$ 78,600</u>	<u>\$ 77,115</u>	<u>\$ (1,485)</u>
Miscellaneous			
Interest Earnings	\$ 50	\$ 59	\$ 9
Other	1,000	-	(1,000)
Total Miscellaneous	<u>\$ 1,050</u>	<u>\$ 59</u>	<u>\$ (991)</u>
Total Revenues	<u>\$ 749,972</u>	<u>\$ 1,329,880</u>	<u>\$ 579,908</u>
<b>Expenditures</b>			
District Operations			
Personnel Services	\$ 249,485	\$ 237,516	\$ 11,969
Other Services and Charges	152,900	80,226	72,674
Supplies	4,000	-	4,000
Capital Outlay	50,000	69,881	(19,881)
Total District Operations	<u>\$ 456,385</u>	<u>\$ 387,623</u>	<u>\$ 68,762</u>
Project Expenditures			
District	\$ 46,000	\$ 39,470	\$ 6,530
State	246,850	843,606	(596,756)
Total Project Expenditures	<u>\$ 292,850</u>	<u>\$ 883,076</u>	<u>\$ (590,226)</u>
Total Expenditures	<u>\$ 749,235</u>	<u>\$ 1,270,699</u>	<u>\$ (521,464)</u>
Excess of Revenues Over (Under)			
Expenditures	\$ 737	\$ 59,181	\$ 58,444
Fund Balance - January 1	<u>\$ 251,615</u>	<u>\$ 251,615</u>	<u>\$ -</u>
Fund Balance - December 31	<u><u>\$ 252,352</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 310,796</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 58,444</u></u>

Notes are an integral part of the basic financial statements.

**BLUE EARTH COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT  
MANKATO, MINNESOTA**

**SCHEDULE OF CONTRIBUTIONS  
GENERAL EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT FUND  
DECEMBER 31, 2019**

Fiscal Year Ending	Statutorily Required Contributions (a)	Contributions in Relation to the Statutorily Required Contributions (b)	Contribution Deficiency (Excess) (a-b)	Covered Payroll (c)	Contributions as a Percentage of Covered Payroll (b/c)
2015	\$ 9,731	\$ 10,076	\$ (345)	\$ 134,347	7.50%
2016	\$ 12,419	\$ 11,530	\$ 889	\$ 165,590	6.96%
2017	\$ 14,090	\$ 13,523	\$ 567	\$ 187,870	7.20%
2018	\$ 14,713	\$ 14,349	\$ 364	\$ 196,175	7.31%
2019	\$ 13,581	\$ 13,665	\$ (84)	\$ 181,076	7.55%

\* This schedule is intended to show information for ten years. Additional years will be displayed as they become available. The amounts presented for each year-end were determined December 31.

**SCHEDULE OF PROPORTIONATE SHARE OF NET PENSION LIABILITY  
GENERAL EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT FUND  
DECEMBER 31, 2019**

Fiscal Year Ending	Employer's Proportion of Net Pension Liability (Asset)	Employer's Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability (Asset) (a)	State's Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability Associated with the District (b)	Total (a+b)	Covered Payroll (c)	Employers Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability (Asset) as a Percentage of Covered Payroll ((a+b)/c)	Plan Fiduciary Net Position as a Percentage of the Total Pension Liability
2015	0.0022%	\$ 114,015	\$ -	\$ 114,015	\$ 129,339	88.15%	78.19%
2016	0.0022%	\$ 178,629	\$ 2,408	\$ 181,037	\$ 145,350	124.55%	68.90%
2017	0.0026%	\$ 165,982	\$ 2,071	\$ 168,053	\$ 172,013	97.70%	75.90%
2018	0.0029%	\$ 160,880	\$ 5,286	\$ 166,166	\$ 211,117	78.71%	79.50%
2019	0.0031%	\$ 171,392	\$ 5,333	\$ 176,725	\$ 181,030	97.62%	80.20%

\* This schedule is intended to show information for ten years. Additional years will be displayed as they become available. The amounts presented for each fiscal year were determined June 30.

**BLUE EARTH COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT  
REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION (CONTINUED)  
DECEMBER 31, 2019**

**Notes to the Required Supplementary Information - General Employee Retirement Fund**

Changes in Actuarial Assumptions

2019 - The mortality project scale was changed from MP-2017 to MP-2018.

2018 - The mortality projection scale was changed from MP-2015 to MP-2017. The assumed benefit increase was changed from 1.00 percent per year through 2044 and 2.50 percent per year thereafter to 1.25 percent per year.

2017 - The Combined Service Annuity (CSA) loads were changed from 0.80 percent for active members and 60.00 percent for vested and non-vested deferred members. The revised CSA loads are now 0.00 percent for active member liability, 15.00 percent for vested deferred member liability and 3.00 percent for non-vested deferred member liability. The assumed post-retirement benefit increase rate was changed from 1.00 percent per year for all years to 1.00 percent per year through 2044 and 2.50 percent per year thereafter.

2016 - The assumed post-retirement benefit increase rate was changed from 1.00 percent per year through 2035 and 2.50 percent per year thereafter to 1.00 percent for year for all future years. The assumed investment return was changed from 7.90 percent to 7.50 percent. The single discount rate was changed from 7.90 percent to 7.50 percent. Other assumptions were changed pursuant to the experience study dated June 30, 2015. The assumed future salary increases, payroll growth and inflation were decreased by 0.25 percent to 3.25 percent for payroll growth and 2.50 percent for inflation.

2015 - The assumed post-retirement benefit increase rate was changed from 1.00 percent per year through 2030 and 2.50 percent per year thereafter to 1.00 percent per year through 2035 and 2.50 percent per year thereafter.

Change in Plan Provisions

2019 - The employer supplemental contribution was changed prospectively, decreasing from \$31.0 million to \$21.0 million per year. The State's special funding contribution was changed prospectively, requiring \$16.0 million due per year through 2031.

2018 - The augmentation adjustment in early retirement factors is eliminated over a five-year period starting July 1, 2019, resulting in actuarial equivalence after June 30, 2024. Interest credited on member contributions decreased from 4.00 to 3.00 percent, beginning July 1, 2018. Deferred augmentation was changed to 0.00 percent, effective January 1, 2019. Augmentation that has already accrued for deferred members will still apply. Contribution stabilizer provisions were repealed. Postretirement benefit increases were changed from 1.00 percent per year with a provision to increase to 2.50 percent upon attainment of 90.00 percent funding ratio to 50.00 percent of the Social Security Cost of Living Adjustment, not less than 1.00 percent and not more than 1.50 percent, beginning January 1, 2019. For retirements on or after January 1, 2024, the first benefit increase is delayed until the retiree reaches normal retirement age; does not apply to Rule of 90, disability benefit recipients, or survivors. Actuarial equivalent factors were updated to reflect revised mortality and interest assumptions.

2017 - The State's contribution for the Minneapolis Employees Retirement Fund equals \$16.0 million in 2017 and 2018, and \$6.0 million thereafter. The Employer Supplemental Contribution for the Minneapolis Employees Retirement Fund changed from \$21.0 million to \$31.0 million in calendar years 2019 to 2031. The state's contribution changed from \$16.0 million to \$6.0 million in calendar years 2019 to 2031.

2015 - On January 1, 2015, the Minneapolis Employees Retirement Fund was merged into the General Employees Fund, which increased the total pension liability by \$1.1 billion and increased the fiduciary plan net position by \$892 million. Upon consolidation, state and employer contributions were revised.

## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT ON MINNESOTA LEGAL COMPLIANCE

To the Board of Supervisors  
Blue Earth County Soil and Water Conservation District  
Mankato, Minnesota

We have audited, 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 the financial statements of the governmental activities and the general fund of Blue Earth County Soil and Water Conservation District of Mankato, Minnesota, as of and for the year ended December 31, 2019, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the Blue Earth County Soil and Water Conservation District's basic financial statements, and have issued our report thereon dated September 21, 2020.

In connection with our audit, nothing came to our attention that caused us to believe that the Blue Earth County Soil and Water Conservation District failed to comply with the provisions of the contracting and bidding, deposits and investments, conflicts of interest, claims and disbursements, miscellaneous provisions, and tax increment financing sections of the *Minnesota Legal Compliance Audit Guide for Political Subdivisions, promulgated by the State Auditor pursuant to Minnesota Statutes 6.65*, insofar as they relate to accounting matters. However, our audit was not directed primarily toward obtaining the knowledge of such noncompliance. Accordingly, had we performed additional procedures; other matters may have come to our attention regarding the Blue Earth County Soil and Water Conservation District's noncompliance with the above referenced provisions.

The purpose of this report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on compliance. Accordingly, this communication is not suitable for any other purpose.

*Peterson Company Ltd*

PETERSON COMPANY LTD  
Certified Public Accountants  
Waconia, Minnesota

September 21, 2020

**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**

To the Board of Supervisors  
Blue Earth County Soil and Water Conservation District  
Mankato, Minnesota

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 of Blue Earth County Soil and Water Conservation District, Mankato, Minnesota, as of and for the year ended December 31, 2019, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise Blue Earth County Soil and Water Conservation District's basic financial statements, and have issued our report thereon dated September 21, 2020.

**Internal Control Over Financial Reporting**

In planning and performing our audit of the financial statements, we considered Blue Earth County Soil and Water Conservation District's internal control over financial reporting 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 Blue Earth County Soil and Water Conservation District's internal control over financial reporting. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of Blue Earth County Soil and Water Conservation District's internal control over financial reporting.

A deficiency in internal control over financial reporting 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 combination of deficiencies, in internal control over financial reporting 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 over financial reporting that is less severe than a material weakness, yet important enough to merit attention by those charged with governance. We consider the deficiency in internal control as described in the accompanying Schedule of Findings and Responses as item 2019-001 to be a significant deficiency.

Our consideration of internal control over financial reporting was for the limited purpose described in the first paragraph of this section and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control over financial reporting that might be material weaknesses or significant deficiencies. Given these limitations, during our audit we did not identify any deficiencies in internal control over financial reporting that we consider to be material weaknesses. However, material weaknesses may exist that have not been identified.

## **Compliance and Other Matters**

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether Blue Earth County Soil and Water Conservation 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 determination of financial statement amounts. 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*.

## **Blue Earth County Soil and Water Conservation District's Response to Findings**

Blue Earth County Soil and Water Conservation District's response to the findings identified in our audit is described in the accompanying Schedule of Findings and Responses. The Blue Earth County Soil and Water Conservation District's response was not subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the financial statements and, accordingly, we express no opinion on it.

## **Purpose of this Report**

The purpose of this 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 entity's internal control over financial reporting or on compliance. This report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the entity's internal control and compliance. Accordingly, this communication is not suitable for any other purpose.

*Peterson Company Ltd*

PETERSON COMPANY LTD  
Certified Public Accountants  
Waconia, Minnesota

September 21, 2020



**BLUE EARTH COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT  
SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS AND RESPONSES  
DECEMBER 31, 2019**

**2019-001 Segregation of Duties**

Criteria: Generally, a system of internal control contemplates separation of duties such that no individual has responsibility to execute a transaction, has physical access to the related assets, and has responsibility or authority to record the transaction.

Condition: Substantially all accounting procedures are performed by one person.

Cause: This condition is common to organizations of this size due to the limited number of staff.

Effect: The lack of an ideal segregation of duties subjects the District to higher risk that errors or fraud could occur and not be detected in a timely manner.

Recommendation: Any modification of internal controls in this area must be viewed from a cost/benefit perspective.

Management Response: The District has adequate policies and procedures in place to compensate for the lack of segregation of duties, including having all disbursements approved by the Board of Supervisors.