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**AMITE RIVER BASIN DRAINAGE AND**  
**WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**JUNE 30, 2023**

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## **INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT**

Board of Commissioners  
Amite River Basin Drainage and Water Conservation District  
Baton Rouge, Louisiana

### **Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements**

#### ***Opinions***

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the governmental activities, and each major fund of the Amite River Basin Drainage and Water Conservation District (the district), as of and for the year ended June 30, 2023, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the district's basic financial statements as listed in the table of contents.

In our opinion, the accompanying 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 June 30, 2023, and the respective changes in financial position for the year then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

#### ***Basis for Opinions***

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards* issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditors' Responsibilities for the Audit section of our report. We are required to be independent of the district and to meet our other ethical responsibilities, in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements relating to our audit. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinions.

#### ***Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statements***

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

In preparing the financial statements, management is required to evaluate whether there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the district's ability to continue as a going concern for twelve months beyond the financial statement date, including any currently known information that may raise substantial doubt shortly thereafter.

### ***Auditors' Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements***

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditors' report that includes our opinions. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not absolute assurance and therefore is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards and *Government Auditing Standards* will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control. Misstatements are considered material if there is a substantial likelihood that, individually or in the aggregate, they would influence the judgement of a reasonable user based on the financial statements.

In performing an audit in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards and *Government Auditing Standards*, we:

- Exercise professional judgement and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.
- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, and design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks. Such procedures include examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the district's internal control. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluate the overall presentation of the financial statements.
- Conclude whether, in my judgement, there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the district's ability to continue as a going concern for a reasonable period of time.

We are required to communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit, significant audit findings, and certain internal control-related matters that we identified during the audit.

### ***Required Supplementary Information***

Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require that management's discussion and analysis, budgetary comparison schedule, schedule of changes in the total OPEB liability and related ratios, schedule of employer's proportionate share of the net pension liability, and schedule of employer pension contributions on pages 4 through 17 and 45 through 48 are presented to supplement the basic financial statements. Such information is the responsibility of management and, although not part of the basic financial statements, is required by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board, who consider 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 my 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 me with sufficient evidence to express an opinion or provide any assurance.

### ***Supplementary 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 schedule of compensation, benefits and other payments to the agency head or chief executive officer and schedule of per diem paid to board members are presented for purposes of additional analysis and is not part of the basic financial statements. Such information is the responsibility of management and was derived from and relates directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the basic financial statements. The information has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the basic financial statements and certain additional procedures, including comparing and reconciling such information directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the basic financial statements or to the basic financial statements themselves, and other additional procedures in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. In our opinion, the schedule of compensation, benefits and other payments to the agency head or chief executive officer and schedule of per diem paid to board members are fairly stated, in all material respects, in relation to the financial statements as a whole.

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

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued my report dated November 3, 2023, on my consideration of the district's internal control over financial reporting and on our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements and other matters. The purpose of that report is 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 internal control over financial reporting or on compliance. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the district's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.



Gonzales, Louisiana  
November 3, 2023

**AMITE RIVER BASIN DRAINAGE  
AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT  
BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA  
MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS  
JUNE 30, 2023**

The purpose of this section is to offer management's discussion and analysis of the Amite River Basin Drainage and Water Conservation District of the State of Louisiana's (hereafter referred to as ARBC) financial performance through June 30, 2023. It should be read in conjunction with the financial report taken as a whole. The district was created by Act of Legislature in 1981 for the purpose of addressing regional flooding problems in the Amite River Basin.

**Highlights of the District as a Whole**

- **History**

The Amite River and its tributary the Comite River are the major causes of catastrophic flooding in the Baton Rouge Metropolitan Area. The original flood of record occurred in 1983 when a substantial portion of East Baton Rouge, Livingston and Ascension Parishes were inundated. This precipitated an interest and action on the part of federal, state and local authorities to find solutions to this problem. It was recognized that major floods caused by the Amite and Comite Rivers could not be solved locally and that it required a basin wide/regional solution. This resulted in a series of studies by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) under the congressionally approved Amite River & Tributaries Study Authority, and the Comite River Diversion Canal Project evolved through this process.

- **Scope**

One project evolved through this planning process and was authorized for construction by Congress. The authorized Project provided for the construction of a 12-mile-long diversion channel from the Comite River to the Mississippi River located between the Cities of Baker and Zachary.

- **Purpose**

The purpose of the Comite River Diversion Canal Project is to divert flood waters from the Upper Comite River to the Mississippi River. At its maximum capacity the project will divert 20,000 cubic feet per second by gravity flow. This represents approximately 40% of the flood waters from the upper Comite River, substantially reducing flood stages along the lower Comite and Amite River.

- **Sponsors**

Federal: US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)  
Non-Federal: State: Louisiana Department of Transportation & Development (DOTD)  
Local: Amite River Basin Drainage and Water Conservation District  
(THE DISTRICT) and City/Parish of East Baton Rouge

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The sponsors entered into a Project Cooperation Agreement ("PCA") in October of 2001. Initially, DOTD was responsible for the acquisition of all Lands, Easements, Right of way, Relocations and Disposal Areas ("LERRDs"). In addition, the non-federal sponsor is responsible to fund 5% of the total construction costs of the Project. East Baton Rouge Parish is responsible for the maintenance of the Canal once it is completed. The district, as a member of the Project Coordinating Team, participates in the Project management and is also responsible for development of floodplain management and reporting to the citizens concerning this issue.

On September 18, 2012, DOTD and the District entered into a Second Amended Cooperative Endeavor Agreement. The Second Amended CEA establishes the terms and responsibilities through which LA DOTD and the District shall acquire all Lands, Easements, Rights of Way, Relocations and Disposal Areas "LERRDs", as may be determined by Government to be necessary for construction, operation and maintenance of the Project, as directed by the PCA. The district shall contract and retain a professional services contract through a Request for Qualifications to perform certain services including Right of Entry, GIS Mapping, Surveys, Title Take Off, Title Reports, Title Updates, Title Opinions and/or Title Policies, Appraisals, Appraisal Reviews, and Right of Way Acquisitions and Relocations. It will be a joint responsibility of DOTD and the District to fulfill the LERRDs requirements of the Project in accordance with USACE standards and procedures. Based upon present funds available, DOTD and the District shall each be liable for its obligation under this Agreement for 50% of LERRDs. Said percentage will be re-evaluated each fiscal year based upon available funds. Each party shall be responsible for their own administrative costs.

On November 3, 2014, DOTD and the District entered into a Third Amended Cooperative Endeavor Agreement. The Third Amended CEA limits the district's responsibilities for the Project. It also mandates that the district reimburse DOTD for 50% of the cost of all activities to acquire LERRDs. The amended CEA transfers responsibility from the District to DOTD for certain services including Right-of-Entry, Mapping, Surveys, Title Take-Off, Title Reports, Title Updates, obtainment of Appraisal Reports and Appraisal Reviews, Negotiations with all property owners, and Relocations.

A large portion of the district suffered another devastating flood in 2016. As part of its flood plain management efforts ARBC secured engineering services to take high-water elevations throughout the flooding area. These high-water marks are currently being used by ARBC consultants to prepare a model of the 2016 flooding. This work will help local government to evaluate potential changes in the development codes for its jurisdiction. This work is ongoing.

On February 15, 2019, the partners entered into Amendment Number 2 to the PCA. The enactment of the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018 Public Law 115-123, enacted February 9, 2018 (hereinafter "BBA 2018") necessitated an amendment to the Agreement previously entered into between the partners. Notwithstanding Section 103 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1986, as amended (33 U.S.C. 2213) and Section 371 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1999, which specify the cost-sharing requirements applicable to the Project, BBA 2018 authorizes the Government to complete construction of the Project at full Federal expense to the extent that appropriations provided under the Construction heading of the BBA 2018 are available and used for such purpose. Thus, Amendment Number 2 to the PCA allows for completion of the Project at full federal expense to the extent Fiscal Year 2018 Supplemental funds are used. Amendment Number 2 to the PCA also requires a \$10 million contribution by ARBC by the non-federal sponsors for the Project.

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During 2019, DOTD proposed a 4<sup>th</sup> Amended CEA which effectively reduced the role of ARBC. After several months of attempted negotiations regarding the Agreement, the parties were unsuccessful in coming to acceptable terms. On October 11, 2019, ARBC sent a letter to DOTD providing that: DOTD's proposed 4<sup>th</sup> Amended CEA effectively reduces ARBC's role in the project. ARBC's only obligation under the proposed CEA is to reimburse DOTD for 50% of "Cost Shared" Land, Easements, Right of Ways, Relocations, & Disposal Areas (LERRD's). As DOTD had previously stated, "As to funding, Corps reimbursement of acquisition costs eliminates the need for cost-sharing these costs between DOTD and ARBC, which was the primary purpose for the CEA."<sup>1</sup> That being said, it seems unnecessary for ARBC and DOTD to enter into a CEA if ARBC's role in the Project is entirely removed. ARBC cannot sign onto an undetermined and unlimited liability of "Cost Shared" LERRD's. If and/or when there is a determination of "Cost Shared" LERRD's, ARBC will consider making an appropriate contribution as determined by the Board.

Since ARBC has a reduced role in the Project, we cannot determine ARBC's potential financial obligation. Even though the Project has been "fully federal funded" there is concern that there may be some shortfall. ARBC has continued to seek financial information to determine if the Project can be completed within the current funding.

Because of our reduced role and our undetermined financial exposure, we do not believe the execution of DOTD's proposed 4<sup>th</sup> Amended CEA would be in the best interest of ARBC or its taxpayers. We continue to participate in the monthly meetings and manage the extensive property currently owned by ARBC.

On November 19, 2019, a Motion to cancel the CEA between ARBC and DOTD passed at ARBC's Board meeting.

On November 21, 2019, ARBC sent a letter to DOTD notifying them of the cancellation of the CEA. Such cancellation became effective on or about January 21, 2020.



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In 2021, the district was again facing flooding of an amount unseen in many years. ARBC used this opportunity to secure additional high-water marks in the flooding area. The consultants working on the interactive model will use this additional information to refine its calculations for future anticipated flooding. The final model was completed in 2023.

Under the current PCA, ARBC will continue its role of flood plain management. ARBC is fully committed to this Project, which is anticipated to be completed in November 2025. ARBC is currently preparing the revised flood plain management document as part of its responsibilities.

In 2018, Gov. John Bel Edwards launched the Louisiana Watershed Initiative, governed by the Council on Watershed Management established via executive order, to reform the state's approach to flood mitigation. ARBC originally served as a member of the Louisiana Watershed Initiative. ("LWI"). ARBC was placed in Region 7 which covers nearly all of the Florida Parishes. The ARBC Executive Director served on the steering committee for Region 7. ARBC continued to urge the state Steering Committee to separate the Amite River Basin from Region 7 and create a standalone watershed for ARBC.

HR 181 of the 2022 Regular Session, by Rep. Mincey urged and requested the Office of Community Development to create an independent watershed region for the Amite River Basin. On October 24, 2022, the Council on Watershed Management designated the Amite River Basin as watershed Region 9 of the Louisiana Watershed Initiative. The Board of Commissioners of Amite River Basin Drainage and Water Conservation District has now been designated as the Steering Committee for Region 9 of the Louisiana Watershed Initiative.

**Comite River Diversion Canal Project Cost:**

In 2000, the total project cost estimate was \$152,000,000. The present total cost estimate according to the USACE is \$970,000,000. The non-federal sponsors must acquire all property and relocate all utilities necessary for the USACE to construct the Canal.

**Source of Funds:**

Federal: US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE).

The Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018, Public Law 115-123, enacted February 9, 2018 (hereinafter "BBA 2018"), authorizes the Government to complete construction of the Project at full Federal expense to the extent that appropriations provided under the Construction heading of the BBA 2018 are available and used for such purpose. Funding will be dependent upon available federal funds. The non-federal sponsors, DOTD and the District, will remain responsible for funding the costs to acquire all lands, easements, rights-of-way, relocations and disposal areas, and other pre-construction costs. (LERRD's) If specific federal guidelines are followed, the non-federal sponsors are to be reimbursed from federal funds for these costs.

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Non-Federal Funds:

The non-federal sponsors for construction of the project are the DOTD and ARBC. The City-Parish will be responsible for the operation and maintenance of the canal. In July of 2000 the citizens of the Taxing District approved a 10-year, 3 mill Ad-Valorem tax to provide for a portion of the non-federal match. In October of 2010 the citizens of the Taxing District voted to renew a 10-year, 2.65 mills drainage tax for the purpose of providing revenues to carry out the district's local share of the Comite Diversion Canal Project. The estimated revenue from the present millage is \$2.4 million a year. Over the history of the Project, there has been limited funding through Capital Outlay bill by legislative appropriations.

**Construction Progress to Date**

Construction of the Lilly Bayou Control Structure and the 1-mile pilot channel has been completed. This is the largest structure of the project. This structure was constructed by the Corps of Engineers. The total costs were in excess of \$30 million. No additional construction by the Corps of Engineers has taken place since Lilly Bayou was completed in 2011. In an effort to move the Project forward, the non-federal sponsors in 2011 terminated their agreement with the USACE to acquire all of the property for the Project. At the time of the termination of this agreement, the USACE had only acquired 75 acres for mitigation. Since 2012, the non-federal sponsors took on the responsibility of acquiring property for the Project. In the absence of the USACE providing taking lines for the Project, DOTD and ARBC agreed to attempt to purchase 17 tracts of land designated as "Advance Acquisitions." These tracts were without authorization to purchase from the USACE and were therefore considered "at risk" acquisitions. Unable to use expropriation, the non-federal sponsors were able to acquire only 13 of the 17 advanced acquisition properties.

In 2018, the USACE agreed to proceed with construction activities on Highway 61. This includes construction of a four-lane highway bridge and railroad bridge. Utility relocation is underway at this time. ARBC contributed \$10 million to the DOTD for the cost-shared utility relocations of US Highway 61. According to the USACE, construction should begin in early 2019. The construction of all other bridges of the Project will be constructed under DOID supervision, which includes highway bridges at La. 964, La. 19, La 67, and McHugh Road. The construction of all other features of the Canal, Baton Rouge Bayou Drop Structure, Cypress Bayou Drop Structure, White Bayou Drop Structure, Channel Sections and Diversion Structure, will be done by the USACE. USACE has projected a completion of the Project in 2022.

As of July 1, 2023, the construction of the Comite Diversion Canal is underway. Nearly all of the right-of-way has been acquired. Construction of the U.S. Highway 61 and KCS RR bridges are underway. This work is being done by the United States Corps of Engineers. The Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development completed design of the bridges on Highway 964, 19, McHugh Rd. and La. Hwy. 67. The construction of these bridges will be done under the supervision of the LA DOTD.

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**Mitigation**

On October 1, 2001, a Project Cooperative Agreement (PCA) was signed between the sponsors to begin the construction of the Project. Under the PCA, DOTD, as the non-federal participant, is obligated to fund the purchase of all lands necessary for the construction of the canal including all mitigation lands. In 2002, USACE, the District and DOTD entered into an agreement to have the district hold title to the property rather than DOTD. This was done due to statutory limitations of DOTD to acquire property in its name for the canal. This agreement was signed between DOTD and the District, whereby the district has taken on the responsibility of acquiring all canal and mitigation lands. The ability of ARBC to purchase mitigation land is restricted to only those lands as defined within the area designated in the Environmental Assessment. The original Environmental Assessment report determined that approximately 1770 acres must be purchased out of a defined possible mitigation area of 2400 acres set forth in the report.

During the 2010 Regular Louisiana Legislative Session, Act 734 was passed. Act 734 prohibits the district's use of expropriation of private property for the purpose of compensatory mitigation of wetlands or other natural habitat, and thereby restricts the ability of the district to acquire property for mitigation. The district has contacted all property owners in the designated mitigation area to determine the universe of possible willing sellers. As of March 12, 2012, only 66 property owners representing 586 acres had responded to the district's letters.

The district proposed a legislative amendment, which was passed, which now allows expropriation for mitigation where at least seventy-five percent of the owners have voluntarily offered the property, or property where the record or apparent owner has voluntarily offered the property but does not have clear title. La. R.S. 49: 214.6.3.

The district worked actively to acquire mitigation property along the Comite River and the McHugh Swamp area, and Profit Island. Letters of interest have been sent to all property owners in the McHugh Swamp area.

In 2015, DOTD and the District purchased and the USACE acquired 218.47 Annual Average Habitat Units (AAHUs) for mitigation purposes for approximately \$8,289,130.00. ARBC paid one-half of the costs for the mitigation credits. These AAHUs satisfy the requirements for the construction of Lilly Bayou and the US Hwy 61 and KCS Bridge features.

**Pending Matters**

Utility and railroad relocations along US HWY 61 and pipeline permitting are being completed to allow for construction of the bridges and railroad bridge. Construction contracts have been signed and the work is under way by USACE contractors.

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Amendment Number Two to the Project Cooperation Agreement (PCA) was executed between the partners on February 15, 2019. This new agreement outlines the responsibilities of the parties other than the construction that will be done at Highway 61, railroad bridge and utility relocations. The Highway 61 construction activities will be governed by the previously executed Project Coordination Agreement (PCA).

On November 20, 2018, the USACE provided the non-federal sponsors with "final taking lines." Upon receiving the final taking lines, the non-federal sponsors are proceeding to acquire all remaining property for the canal.

**Activities of the Commission**

1. In 2010 DOTD and the District canceled the agreement with USACE. (Originally, USACE contracted to perform all of the functions of acquisition of property on behalf of DOTD.)
2. The District agrees to take on the responsibility to acquire property for canal and mitigation. DOTD and the District amended the CEA to reflect this additional role modification.
3. The District entered into contract with BKI, Commerce Title and GCR to facilitate the acquisition of property for the canal.
4. The District met with the congressional delegation and USACE HQ staff to discuss a new environmental assessment and resumption of construction.
5. The District secured Senator Vitter's support for a new EA for the mitigation areas. Thus, USACE conducted the new EA.
6. The District and its contractors secured Right of Entry (ROE) from all property owners in the new EA mitigation sites.
7. The District and its contractors assisted USACE in obtaining information on property owners and possible mitigation sites.
8. The District staff and contractor participated in PDT meetings with the USACE to discuss progress of all issues.
9. DOTD contracted to assist in the acquisition of property. DOTD identified 17 properties that could be acquired in advance of final taking lines.
10. At the time of the termination of the DOTD agreement with the USACE, several properties were ready for purchase. The district acquired Tracts 479, 473 & 476 in the name of the district.
11. The District and its contractors continue identifying additional possible mitigation sites.
12. The District counsel sought modification of Act 734, 2010 regular session. The Legislature amended the law to allow the use of expropriation from willing sellers when the property is subject to title issues or missing heirs.
13. The District issued bids for a hunting lease and awarded the hunting lease for Lilly Bayou Drop Structure property.

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14. The District's counsel obtained legislative approval for the issuance of rules to allow for the formal expropriation and/or acquisition of property.

15. The District secured permanent access to the Lilly Bayou Drop Structure from Irene Road.

16. Because of the extensive amount of property now owned by the district, a ground maintenance program was developed, and a contract for grass cutting landscape maintenance was executed.

17. The District executed a contract for the purchase of borrow and fill material located at the Lilly Bayou Borrow Site.

18. The District obtained an extension of the crossing agreement with KCS Crossing in order to access the Lily Bayou site.

19. USACE has continued to provide engineering services for the Brooks Lake Closure for possible construction. USACE provides engineering service for the Highway 61 bridge and railroad bridge.

20. The District and DOTD have acquired Tracts 1, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10, 14, 15, 16, 17, 42, 44, and 46 through the advance acquisition program. These properties will be necessary for the construction of Phase 1 of the project.

21. The District and DOTD have also acquired tracts 100, 105, 121, 122, 201, 317, 467, 468, 468, 477, 478.

22. The District and DOTD purchased 218.47 Annual Average Habitat Units (AAHUs) for mitigation purposes.

23. The District purchased Tracts Number 44, Tract No. 46, Tract 42, M3-115, M3-80, Tract 39 and 41.

24. The District succeeded in placing the Project back into the Capital Outlay Program for FY 2016-17.

25. The District purchased Parcels 1 and 3 of Advanced Acquisition Tract 18.

26. The District submitted a request to the Congressional Delegation for funding to complete the Comite River Diversion Project, State Project No. H.007811

27. The District conducted a technical workshop at LSU to discuss developing a hydrological model for the Basin.

28. The District issued bids for hunting and/or grazing leases and awarded the leases for Tract M3-80, Tract 41, and Tract M3-115.

29. The district renewed hunting leases for Tracts 46, 100, 101, 105, 121, 121-2, 122.

30. The district issued bids for hunting and/or grazing leases and awarded the leases for Tract 39.

31. The district has executed instruments in furtherance of executing right-of-way and servitude agreements with various utilities.

32. The district has entered into a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement with the City of Baton Rouge and Parish of East Baton Rouge concerning the sale of borrow and fill material located on the district's property. The district has received over \$232,056 in payments from East Baton Rouge Parish for the transfer of cover material for the parish landfill.

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33. The district has coordinated and is working with a team of local experts to develop an Online High Fidelity Inundation Map for the August 2016 Flood.

34. The district has entered into a Local Service Agreement with the City of Baton Rouge and the Parish of East Baton Rouge and the City of Central to improve various infrastructure within the Parish of East Baton Rouge and within the City of Central for drainage and flood control.

35. The district had structures demolished and removed that were located along Carney Road, Old Baker-Zachary Road, and Lower Zachary Road in preparation for construction of the Comite River Diversion Canal.

36. The district renewed hunting leases for Tracts M3-115, 41, M3-80, 39.

37. The district is working with the Louisiana Watershed Initiative to assist with watershed management projects for the Region. The executive director of the district is serving on the steering committee for Region 7 of the Watershed Districts.

38. The district has cancelled all agricultural and hunting leases on the property right of way. This was required not to impede the construction on the Project.

39. The district continues to participate in the monthly meeting with the DOTD and USACE.

40. The 2022 Regular Session resulted in significant changes in the statutes related to ARBC.

HB 686 was passed relative to management of ARBC, changing the method and makeup of the Board. The bill also changed some of the provisions concerning the taxing authority of ARBC and provided for assistance to the Board from CPRA. Further, the Capital Outlay Bill appropriated \$8,000,000 to implementation of the Amite River Basin Flood Risk Reduction Study. HCR 17 was also passed extending the Amite River Basin Taskforce. SR 164 and HR 181 were passed urging and requesting that the Office of Community Development to work with the Louisiana Watershed Initiative to create an independent watershed region for the Amite River Basin. Also, during the session, HR 149 was passed directing the ARBC to study tidal surge flood protection and erosion on Lake Maurepas. These changes became effective June 16, 2022. In January 2023, a new Board of Commissioner was seated.

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## FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

- The district's total assets and deferred outflows of resources exceeded its total liabilities and deferred inflows of resources at the close of the fiscal year 2023 by \$45,929,128 (net position). Of this amount, \$1,672,155 represents unrestricted net position, which may be used to meet the district's ongoing obligations.
- The district's net position increased in the current fiscal year by \$172,012 or 0.38 percent. Total revenues exceeded total expenses primarily due to the investment earnings of \$395,730 and charges for services of \$279,145 in the current year.
- As of June 30, 2023, the district's governmental funds reported combined ending fund balances of \$11.8 million. Of this amount, \$9,524,332 is committed for capital projects and the remaining \$2,283,931 is available for spending at the district's discretion.
- The district's total long-term liabilities increased by approximately \$124,000 or 22.2 percent during the current fiscal year as a result of recording the lease liability and increase in net pension liability.

## OVERVIEW OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

These financial statements are comprised of three components – (1) government-wide financial statements, (2) fund financial statements and (3) notes to the financial statements. The report also includes supplementary information intended to furnish additional detail to support the basic financial statements themselves.

**Government-wide Financial Statements.** The government-wide financial statements present financial information for all activities of the district from an economic resource measurement focus using the accrual basis of accounting. These provide both short-term and long-term information about the district's overall financial status. They include a statement of net assets and statement of activities.

**Statement of Net Position.** This statement presents assets, deferred outflows of resources, liabilities, and deferred inflows of resources separately. The difference between assets plus deferred outflows and liabilities and deferred inflows is net position, which may provide a useful indicator of whether the financial position of the district is improving or deteriorating.

**Statement of Activities.** This statement presents information showing how the district's net position changed during the most recent fiscal year. All changes in net position are reported as soon as the underlying event giving rise to the change occurs, regardless of the timing of related cash flows. This statement is designed to show the district's financial reliance on general revenues.

The government-wide financial statements can be found on pages 18-19 of this report.

**Fund Financial Statements.** A *fund* is a grouping of related accounts that is used to maintain control over resources that have been segregated for specific activities or objectives. The district uses fund accounting to ensure and demonstrate compliance with finance-related legal requirements. The district has only one category of funds: governmental funds.

**Governmental Funds.** Governmental funds are used to account for essentially the same functions reported as governmental activities in the government-wide financial statements; however, unlike the government-wide financial statements, governmental fund financial statements focus on near-term inflows and outflows of spendable resources, and provide the balances of spendable resources available at the end of the fiscal year. Such information reflects financial resources available in the near future to finance the district's programs.

**AMITE RIVER BASIN DRAINAGE  
AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT  
BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA  
MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS  
JUNE 30, 2023**

**OVERVIEW OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)**

Because the view of governmental funds is short-term and the view of the government-wide financial statements is long-term, it is useful to compare these two perspectives. Both the governmental fund balance sheet and the governmental fund statement of revenues, expenditures and changes in fund balances provides reconciliation to the government-wide statements to assist in understanding the differences between the two viewpoints.

Governmental funds of the district include a general fund, and a capital projects fund. The fund financial statements begin on page 20.

**Notes to the Financial Statements.** The notes provide additional information that is essential to a full understanding of the data provided in the government-wide and fund financial statements.

**Other Information.** In addition to the basic financial statements and accompanying notes, this report also presents required supplementary information concerning the district's budgetary information, district's proportionate share of the cost-sharing multiple employer pension plan's net pension liability, the schedule of contributions to the pension plan, and changes in the district's total other post-employment benefits (OPEB) liability.

**GOVERNMENT-WIDE FINANCIAL ANALYSIS**

While this document contains information about the funds used by the district, the statement of net position and the statement of activities serve to provide an answer to the question of how the district, as a whole, did financially throughout the year. These statements include all assets/deferred outflows of resources and liabilities/ deferred inflows of resources using the accrual basis of accounting similar to the private sector. The basis for this accounting considers all of the current year's revenues and expenses regardless of when the cash is received or paid.

These two statements report the district's net position and changes in net position. The change in net position reflects whether the financial position of the district, as a whole, has improved or diminished; however, in evaluating the overall financial position of the district, non-financial information such as changes in the district's capital assets should be considered.



**AMITE RIVER BASIN DRAINAGE**  
**AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT**  
**BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA**  
**MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS**  
**JUNE 30, 2023**

**Analysis of Net Position**

Net position is an indicator of the district's financial position from year to year. A summary of net position is as follows:

**Table A-1**  
**STATEMENT OF NET POSITION**  
**Governmental Activities**

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022 *</u>
Cash and other assets	\$ 2,283,592	\$ 1,083,122
Restricted assets	9,540,014	10,563,101
Non-depreciable capital assets	34,729,806	34,729,806
Capital assets, net	<u>13,189</u>	<u>30,037</u>
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>46,566,601</b>	<b>46,406,066</b>
Deferred Outflows of Resources	<u>122,901</u>	<u>83,725</u>
<b>Total assets and deferred outflows of resources</b>	<b>46,689,502</b>	<b>46,489,791</b>
Current liabilities	35,144	34,510
Long-term liabilities	<u>684,071</u>	<u>559,635</u>
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>719,215</b>	<b>594,145</b>
Deferred Inflows of Resources	<u>41,159</u>	<u>138,530</u>
<b>Total liabilities and deferred inflows of resources</b>	<b>760,374</b>	<b>732,675</b>
Net investment in capital assets	34,732,641	34,730,982
Restricted	9,524,332	10,567,921
Unrestricted	<u>1,672,155</u>	<u>458,213</u>
<b>Total Net Position, restated</b>	<b>\$ 45,929,128</b>	<b>\$ 45,757,116</b>

\*Restated

Changes in net position. The district's total revenues increased by 250 percent compared to prior fiscal year. (See Table A-2). Approximately 41.2 percent of the district revenues come from charges for services. The remaining 58.8 percent is comprised of interest income and miscellaneous revenues.

The total cost of all programs and services increased by approximately \$137,000 or 37.1 percent. The district's expenses cover all services performed by its office.

The beginning net position was restated to reflect the implementation of GASB Statement No. 87 and to reflect a prior year restatement of deferred outflows related to pension.

**AMITE RIVER BASIN DRAINAGE**  
**AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT**  
**BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA**  
**MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS**  
**JUNE 30, 2023**

**Governmental Activities**

Revenues for the district's governmental activities increased by 250 percent to \$677,001 while total expenses increased by 37.1 percent to \$504,989. (See Table A-2)

**Table A-2**  
**SUMMARY OF CHANGES IN NET POSITION**

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022*</u>
<b>Revenues</b>		
Charges for services	\$ 279,145	\$ 169,535
General revenues:		
Interest earnings	395,730	23,677
Other	<u>2,126</u>	<u>-</u>
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b><u>677,001</u></b>	<b><u>193,212</u></b>
<b>Expenses</b>		
General government	502,568	368,374*
Interest	<u>2,421</u>	<u>-</u>
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b><u>504,989</u></b>	<b><u>368,374</u></b>
Change in net position	<u>172,012</u>	<u>(175,162)*</u>

\*Restated

**FINANCIAL ANALYSIS OF THE DISTRICT'S FUNDS**

As the district completed this year, its governmental funds reported a combined fund balance of \$11,808,263, an increase of prior year of \$179,522.

**General Fund Budgetary Highlights**

Over the course of the year, the budget was amended to reflect an increase in total expenditures of \$5,000. Revenues and transfers from other funds were \$273,749 more than budgeted. Expenditures were \$72,208 less than anticipated. The net result was a favorable change in General Fund balances of \$340,957.

**CAPITAL ASSETS**

*Capital Assets:* The district's investment in capital assets, net of accumulated depreciation and amortization at June 30, 2023 was \$34,742,995. (See Table A-3)

**Table A-3**  
**CAPITAL ASSETS**  
**Net of Accumulated Depreciation**  
**Governmental Activities**

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
<b>Depreciable assets</b>		
Furniture/equipment	\$ 3,569	\$ 1,176
Right to use asset	<u>9,620</u>	<u>28,861</u>
<b>Total depreciable</b>	<b><u>\$ 13,189</u></b>	<b><u>\$ 30,037</u></b>
<b>Non-depreciable assets</b>		
Canals and drainage- CIP	<u>\$ 34,729,806</u>	<u>\$ 34,729,806</u>

**AMITE RIVER BASIN DRAINAGE**  
**AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT**  
**BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA**  
**MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS**  
**JUNE 30, 2023**

**CAPITAL ASSETS (continued)**

This year's capital asset additions and disposals included:

- Computer equipment totaling \$2,850 was purchased.
- Computer and office equipment totaling \$33,540 was considered obsolete.

*Long-Term Liabilities:* Long-term liabilities of the district include compensated absences at amounts of \$9,361 and \$12,881 at June 30, 2023 and 2022, respectively. There is an unfunded liability for post-employment benefits based on actuarially determined amounts in accordance with GASB No. 75, in the amount of \$73,078 and \$89,711 at June 30, 2023 and 2022, respectively. The district has recognized a net pension liability of \$591,323 and \$426,888, at June 30, 2023 and 2022, respectively in accordance with GASB Statement No. 68. Additionally, the lease liability is \$30,155 for 2023 and was restated for 2022 at \$48,806.

**ECONOMIC FACTORS AND NEXT YEAR'S BUDGET**

We expect to receive adequate appropriations from the state and federal governments to continue construction. The 2024 general fund budget includes income from other funds at \$443,750 to cover operations.

**Request for Information**

This financial report is designed to provide a general overview of the district's finances, comply with finance-related laws and regulations and demonstrate the district's commitment to public accountability. Any questions or requests for additional information can be obtained by contacting Toni Guitrau, Executive Secretary, at 3535 South Sherwood Forest Boulevard, Suite 135, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70816-2255, 225-296-4900.

**AMITE RIVER BASIN DRAINAGE AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT**  
**BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA**  
**STATEMENT OF NET POSITION**  
**JUNE 30, 2023**

**ASSETS AND DEFERRED OUTFLOWS OF RESOURCES**

**ASSETS**

Cash and cash equivalents	\$	2,183,655
Accounts receivable		97,592
Prepaid expenses		2,345
Restricted Assets:		
Cash and cash equivalents		9,539,548
Taxes receivable, net		466
Non-depreciable assets		34,729,806
Capital assets, net of accumulated depreciation and amortization		13,189
Total Assets		46,566,601

**DEFERRED OUTFLOWS OF RESOURCES**

Deferred outflows related to pension		120,254
Deferred outflows related to other post-employment benefits		2,647
Total Deferred Outflows of Resources		122,901

TOTAL ASSETS AND DEFERRED OUTFLOWS OF RESOURCES	\$	46,689,502
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**LIABILITIES, DEFERRED INFLOWS OF RESOURCES, AND NET POSITION**

**CURRENT LIABILITIES**

Accounts payable	\$	8,599
Accrued salaries and payroll liabilities		6,744
Current portion of lease liability		19,801
Total Current Liabilities		35,144

**LONG-TERM LIABILITIES**

Compensated absences payable		9,316
Other post-employment benefits plan payable		73,078
Net pension liability		591,323
Lease liability		10,354
Total Long-Term Liabilities		684,071
Total Liabilities		719,215

**DEFERRED INFLOWS OF RESOURCES**

Deferred inflows related to pension		1,125
Deferred inflows related to other post-employment benefits		40,034
Total Deferred Outflows of Resources		41,159

**NET POSITION**

Net investment in capital assets		34,732,641
Restricted for capital projects		9,524,332
Unrestricted		1,672,155
Total Net Position		45,929,128

TOTAL LIABILITIES, DEFERRED INFLOWS OF RESOURCES, AND NET POSITION	\$	46,689,502
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The accompanying notes are an integral part of these statements.

**AMITE RIVER BASIN DRAINAGE AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT**  
**BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA**  
**STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES**  
**YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023**

<u>Functions/Programs</u>	<u>Expenses</u>	<u>Program Revenues</u>	<u>Net Revenues (Expenses)</u>
<u>Primary Government</u>		<u>Charges for Services</u>	<u>Governmental Activities</u>
<b>Governmental Activities</b>			
General government	\$ 502,568	\$ 279,145	\$ (223,423)
Interest	2,421	-	(2,421)
Total Governmental Activities	<u>\$ 504,989</u>	<u>\$ 279,145</u>	<u>(225,844)</u>
	<b>General Revenues</b>		
	Investment earnings		\$ 395,730
	Other		2,126
	Total General Revenues		<u>397,856</u>
	Change in Net Position		172,012
	Net Position, beginning restated		<u>45,757,116</u>
	Net Position, ending		<u>\$ 45,929,128</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these statements.

**AMITE RIVER BASIN DRAINAGE AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT**  
**BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA**  
**BALANCE SHEET**  
**GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS**  
**JUNE 30, 2023**

	General Fund	Capital Projects Fund	Total Governmental Funds
<b>ASSETS</b>			
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 2,183,655	\$ -	\$ 2,183,655
Accounts Receivable	97,592	-	97,592
Prepaid expenses	-	2,345	2,345
Due from other funds	12,149	-	12,149
Restricted assets:			
Cash and cash equivalents	-	9,539,548	9,539,548
Taxes receivable, net	-	466	466
Total Assets	\$ 2,293,396	\$ 9,542,359	\$ 11,835,755
<b>LIABILITIES</b>			
Liabilities:			
Accounts payable	\$ 2,721	\$ 5,878	\$ 8,599
Accrued salaries and payroll liabilities	6,744	-	6,744
Due to other funds	-	12,149	12,149
Total Liabilities	9,465	18,027	27,492
<b>FUND BALANCES</b>			
Nonspendable	-	2,345	2,345
Committed	-	9,521,987	9,521,987
Unassigned	2,283,931	-	2,283,931
Total Fund Balances	2,283,931	9,524,332	11,808,263
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCES</b>	<b>\$ 2,293,396</b>	<b>\$ 9,542,359</b>	<b>\$ 11,835,755</b>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these statements.

**AMITE RIVER BASIN DRAINAGE AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT**  
**BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA**  
**RECONCILIATION OF THE GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS BALANCE SHEET**  
**TO THE STATEMENT OF NET POSITION**  
**JUNE 30, 2023**

Total Fund Balances - Total Governmental Funds	\$	11,808,263
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Amounts reported for governmental activities in the statement of net position are different because:

Deferred outflows, related to pension		120,254
Deferred outflows, related to other post-employment benefits		2,647

Capital assets used in governmental activities are not current financial resources and, therefore, are not reported in governmental funds:

Cost of capital assets at June 30, 2023	34,770,537	
Less: accumulated depreciation as of June 30, 2023	(37,162)	
Cost of right to use assets at June 30, 2023	57,722	
Less: accumulated amortization as of June 30, 2023	(48,102)	34,742,995

Long-term liabilities are not due and payable in the current period, and therefore, are not reported in governmental funds:

Compensated absences		(9,316)
Other post-employment benefits plan		(73,078)
Net pension liability		(591,323)
Lease liability		(30,155)
Deferred inflows related to pension		(1,125)
Deferred inflows related to other post-employment benefits		(40,034)

Total Net Position - Governmental Activities	\$	45,929,128
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The accompanying notes are an integral part of these statements.

**AMITE RIVER BASIN DRAINAGE AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT**  
**BATON ROUGE LOUISIANA**  
**STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES, AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES**  
**GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS**  
**YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023**

	General Fund	Capital Projects Fund	Total Governmental Funds
<b>REVENUES</b>			
Property taxes	\$ -	\$ 1,623	\$ 1,623
Charges for services	279,145	-	279,145
Investment earnings	35,033	360,697	395,730
Other	2,094	32	2,126
Total Revenues	<u>316,272</u>	<u>362,352</u>	<u>678,624</u>
<b>EXPENDITURES</b>			
General government	316,092	180,160	496,252
Capital outlay	2,850	-	2,850
Total Expenditures	<u>318,942</u>	<u>180,160</u>	<u>499,102</u>
Excess of Revenues (Under) Over Expenditures	(2,670)	182,192	179,522
<b>OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES)</b>			
Transfers from other funds	343,627	-	343,627
Transfers to other funds	-	(343,627)	(343,627)
Total Other Financing Sources (Uses)	<u>343,627</u>	<u>(343,627)</u>	<u>-</u>
<b>Net Change in Fund Balances</b>	340,957	(161,435)	179,522
<b>Fund Balances, beginning as restated</b>	<u>1,942,974</u>	<u>9,685,767</u>	<u>11,628,741</u>
<b>Fund Balances, ending</b>	<u>\$ 2,283,931</u>	<u>\$ 9,524,332</u>	<u>\$ 11,808,263</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these statements.



**AMITE RIVER BASIN DRAINAGE AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT**  
**BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA**  
**RECONCILIATION OF THE GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS STATEMENT**  
**OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES, AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES**  
**TO THE STATEMENTS OF ACTIVITIES**  
**YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2022**

Net Change in Fund Balances - Total Governmental Funds \$ 179,522

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

Governmental funds report capital outlays as expenditures. However, in the statement of activities, the cost of those assets are allocated over their estimated useful lives and reported as depreciation expense.

Capital assets:			
Capital outlay capitalized		2,850	
Depreciation expense		(457)	
Amortization for right of use asset		<u>(19,241)</u>	
			(16,848)

Some revenues were collected sixty days after year end and, therefore, were not available to pay for current period expenditures in the governmental funds. This eliminates prior year unearned revenue. (1,623)

Governmental funds report debt proceeds as other financing sources. However, in the Statement of Activities, the debt is recorded as a liability. Likewise, in the governmental funds, principle payments are reported as an expenditure, but in the Statement of Activities, its reported as a reduction in liabilities,

Payments on lease obligations	18,651
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Some expenses reported in the Statement of Activities do not require the use of current financial resources and are not reported as expenditures in governmental funds. These include the net change in:

Changes in Compensated absences	3,565
Net effects of change in Other post-employment benefit expense	14,121
Net change in Pension expense	<u>(25,376)</u>

Change in Net Position - Governmental Activities \$ 172,012

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these statements.

**AMITE RIVER BASIN DRAINAGE  
AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT  
BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA  
NOTES TO THE FINICAL STATEMENTS  
JUNE 30, 2023**

**INTRODUCTION**

The Amite River Basin Drainage and Water Conservation District is a related organization of the State of Louisiana as provided by Louisiana Revised Statute 38:3301-3309. The district serves as a multi-parish authority to accomplish flood control measures, facilitate cooperation between federal, state and local governing bodies to foster floodplain management, maintain and operate structures built under the auspices of the Amite River Basin Commission and coordinate river management within the basin. It is charged with the responsibility to establish adequate drainage, flood control and water development including, but not limited to, construction of reservoirs, diversion canals, gravity and pumped drainage systems and other flood control works. The basin includes all territory within the watershed limits of the Amite River and tributaries covering areas within the parishes of East Baton Rouge, St. Helena, East Feliciana, Livingston, Iberville, and those portions east of U.S. Highway 61 in Ascension and St. James Parishes.

The district is managed by a Board of Commissioners composed of 13 voting members made up of 6 appointed by the Governor of the State of Louisiana and 7 parish presidents or their designee. Domiciled in Baton Rouge, the District is advised by the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development. Commissioners, as authorized by Louisiana Revised Statute 38:3304, receive a per diem to attend meetings or conduct board-approved business not to exceed the amount specified in 26 U.S.C. 162(h)(1)(B)(ii), currently \$100 per day.

In 2020, the district chose not to renew its ad valorem tax, having determined that it had enough funds on hand to complete its portion of the Comite River Diversion Canal project. Since that time, the district's only sources of revenue have been from sale of dirt to the City of Baton Rouge/Parish of East Baton Rouge to be used as cover material for the parish landfill, and from interest on its short-term investments (cash equivalents). It also continues to collect delinquent taxes from prior years.

**1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

**A. REPORTING ENTITY**

As required by GASB Statement No. 61, *The Financial Reporting Entity – an amendment of GASB Statements No. 14 and No. 34*, the District is considered a related organization of the State of Louisiana. The accompanying financial statements present only the transactions of the Amite River Basin Drainage and Water Conservation District.

**B. BASIS OF PRESENTATION**

The accompanying financial statements of the Amite River Basin Drainage & Water Conservation District consist of all of the non-fiduciary and the fund financial statements. The statements have been prepared in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America as applied to governmental units and promulgated by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) Codification of Governmental Accounting and Financial Reporting Standards.

The criteria for including organizations as component units within the district's reporting entity, as set forth in Section 2100 of GASB's Codification of Governmental Accounting and Financial Reporting Standards, include items such as whether the organization is legally separate, whether the district appoints a voting majority of the organization's board, whether the district is has the ability to impose its will on the organization. The district does not have any component units.

**AMITE RIVER BASIN DRAINAGE**  
**AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT**  
**BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA**  
**NOTES TO THE FINICAL STATEMENTS**  
**JUNE 30, 2023**

**1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)**

**B. BASIS OF PRESENTATION (continued)**

**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 primary government and component units. The effect of interfund activity has been removed from these statements.

Governmental activities, which normally are supported by taxes and intergovernmental revenues, are reported separately from business-type activities, which rely to a significant extent on fees and charges for support.

The statement of activities demonstrates to the degree to which the direct expenses for a given function or segment are offset by program revenues. Direct expenses are those specifically associated with a program or function and, therefore, are clearly identifiable to a particular function. Program revenues include (a) fees, fines, and charges paid by the recipients of goods or services offered by the programs and (b) grants and contributions that are restricted to meeting the operational or capital requirements of a particular program. Revenues that are not classified as program revenues are presented as general revenues.

Certain activity occurs during the year involving transfers of resources between funds. In fund financial statements these amounts are reported at gross amounts as transfers in/out. While reported in fund financial statements, certain eliminations are made in the preparation of the government-wide financial statements. Transfers between the funds included in governmental activities are eliminated so that only the net amount is included as transfers in the governmental activity's column.

**Fund Financial Statements**

The daily accounts and operations of the district continue to be organized on the basis of funds and account groups, each of which is considered a separate accounting entity. The operations of each fund are accounted for with a separate set of self-balancing accounts that comprise its assets, liabilities, equity, revenues, and expenditures or expenses, as appropriate. Government resources are allocated to and accounted for in individual funds based upon the purpose for which they are to be spent and the means by which spending activities are controlled.

**Governmental Fund Types**

Governmental funds are those through which most governmental functions of the district are financed. The acquisition, use, and balances of the district's expendable financial resources and the related liabilities are accounted for through governmental funds. The measurement focus is upon determination of changes in financial position, rather than upon net income determination. The following are the district's governmental fund types:

1. General – accounts for all activities not required to be reported in another fund;
2. Capital projects – accounts for the flow of resources related to the construction, acquisition, or renovation of capital assets.

**AMITE RIVER BASIN DRAINAGE**  
**AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT**  
**BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA**  
**NOTES TO THE FINICAL STATEMENTS**  
**JUNE 30, 2023**

**1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)**

**C. BASIS OF ACCOUNTING/MEASUREMENT FOCUS**

In April of 1984, the Financial Accounting Foundation established the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) to promulgate generally accepted accounting principles and reporting standards with respect to activities and transactions of state and local governmental entities. The GASB has issued a Codification of Governmental Accounting and Financial Reporting Standards (GASB Codification). This codification and subsequent GASB pronouncements are recognized as generally accepted accounting principles for state and local governments. The accompanying financial statements have been prepared in accordance with such principles and are maintained in accordance with applicable statutory provisions and the regulations of the Division of Administration – Office of Statewide Reporting and Accounting Policy.

The type of financial statement presentation determines the accounting and financial reporting treatment applied to a fund. The government-wide statements are reported using an economic resources measurement focus and the accrual basis of accounting. With this measurement focus, all assets and liabilities associated with the operation of governmental and business-type activities are included in the statement of net position. Revenues are recognized when earned, and expenses are recognized at the time the liabilities are incurred in the statement of activities. In these statements, capital assets and right to use assets are reported and depreciated or amortized in each fund, and long-term debt is reported.

Governmental fund financial statements are reported using a current financial resources measurement focus and the modified accrual basis of accounting. Revenues are recognized as soon as they are earned 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. Revenues are considered available if they are collected within 60 days of the end of the current fiscal period. Expenditures generally are recorded when a liability is incurred, as under accrual accounting, however, debt service expenditures, as well as expenditures related to vacation, sick leave, claims, and judgments, are recorded only when payment is due. Capital assets acquisitions are reported as expenditures in the governmental funds. Principal and interest paid on long-term debt is reported as current expenses.

Because different measurement focuses and bases of accounting are used in the government-wide statement of net position and in governmental fund balance sheets, amounts reported as restricted fund balances in governmental funds may be different from amounts reported as restricted in net position in the statement of net position.

**Program Revenues**

The Statement of Activities presents three categories of program revenues – (1) charges for services; (2) operating grants and contributions; and (3) capital grants and contributions. Charges for services are those revenues arising from charges to customers who purchase, use or directly benefit from goods and services provided by the district. Grants and contributions, whether operating or capital in nature, are revenues arising from receipts that are reserved for a specific use.

**Allocation of Indirect Expenses**

The district reports all direct expenses by function in the Statement of Activities. Direct expenses are those that are clearly identifiable by function. Indirect expense of other functions is not allocated to those functions but are reported separately in the Statement of Activities. Depreciation expense which can be specifically identified by function is included in the direct expenses of each function. Interest on long term debt is considered an indirect expense and is reported separately on the Statement of Activities.

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**1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)**

**D. CAPITAL ASSETS**

Capital assets- Capital assets are recorded at their historical cost, or estimated historical cost for assets where actual cost is not available and depreciated over their estimated useful lives. Infrastructure assets such as canals and bridges are also capitalized along with interest on debt incurred during construction. Donated assets are recorded as capital assets at their estimated fair market value at the date of donation. Additions, improvements, and other capital outlays that significantly extend the useful life of an asset are capitalized. Other costs incurred for repairs and maintenance are not capitalized. Straight-line depreciation is used based on the following estimated useful lives:

Furniture and equipment	5-10 years
Buildings and improvements	40 years

**E. LEASES**

Leases – The district is a lessee under noncancellable lease agreements for office space. In accordance with GASB Statement No. 87, *Leases*, the district recognizes a lease liability and an intangible right-to-use lease asset (lease asset) in the financial statements. Lease liabilities are recorded for lease contracts with an initial individual value that is material to the financial statements and with lease periods greater than one year.

At the commencement of a lease, the district initially measures the lease liability at the present value of payments expected to be made during the lease term. Subsequently, the lease liability is reduced by the principal portion of lease payments made. The lease asset is initially measured as the initial amount of the lease liability, adjusted for lease payments made at or before the lease commencement date, plus certain initial direct costs. Subsequently, the lease asset is amortized on a straight-line basis over its useful life. Key estimates and judgments related to leases include (1) the discount rate used to calculate the present value of expected lease payments, (2) lease term, and (3) lease payments.

- The district uses its estimated incremental borrowing rate as the discount rate for the lease, since it was not provided.
- The lease terms include the noncancellable period of the lease and optional renewal periods. Lease payments included in the measurement of the lease liability are composed of fixed payments through the noncancellable term of the lease and renewal periods that management considers reasonably certain to be exercised.

The district monitors changes in circumstances that would require a remeasurement of its lease and will remeasure the lease asset and liability if certain changes occur that are expected to significantly affect the amount of the lease liability. Lease assets are reported with capital assets and lease liabilities are reported with long-term liabilities on the statement of net position.

**F. BUDGETS AND BUDGETARY ACCOUNTING**

The district adopts an annual budget for all of its funds, prepared in accordance with the basis of accounting utilized by that fund. The Board must approve any revisions that alter the total expenditures. Budgeted amounts shown are as originally adopted and as amended by the Board. Budget amendments are passed on an as-needed basis. A balanced budget is required. The budget is submitted to the State of Louisiana as prescribed by Louisiana Revised Statute 36:803 and submitted to the Legislature in accordance with 39:1331-1342.

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**1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)**

**F. BUDGETS AND BUDGETARY ACCOUNTING (continued)**

Although budget amounts lapse at year-end, the district retains its unexpended fund balances to fund expenditures of the succeeding year

**G. CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS**

Cash equivalents are short-term, highly liquid investments that are both readily convertible to known amounts of cash near their maturity that they present insignificant risk of changes in value because of changes in interest rates. Investments with original maturities of three months or less are cash equivalents.

The district invests in the Louisiana Asset Management Pool (LAMP). LAMP is a local government 2a7-like pool administered by a non-profit corporation under a State of Louisiana law which permits the LAMP investments to be carried at amortized cost instead of fair value. A 2a7-Like pool is an external investment pool that is not registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) as an investment company, but nevertheless has a policy that it will, and does, operate in a manner consistent with the SEC's rule 2a7 of the Investment Company Act of 1940.

**H. RESTRICTED ASSETS**

Certain proceeds of the district, primarily property taxes, are classified as restricted assets on the balance sheet because their use is limited.

**I. USE OF ESTMATES**

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require 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 amount of revenue, expenditures, and expenses during the reporting period. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

**J. RECLASSIFICATIONS**

Certain prior year amounts have been reclassified for consistency with the current period presentation. These reclassifications had no effect on the reported results of operations.

**K. RESTRICTED NET POSITION**

For the government-wide statement of net position, net position amount is classified and displayed in three components:

**Net investment in capital assets**- consists of net capital assets reduced by outstanding balances of any related debt obligations and deferred inflow of resources attributable to the acquisition, construction, or improvement of those assets and increased by balances of deferred outflows of resources related to those assets.

**Restricted net position**- this category represents net position that has external restrictions imposed by creditors, grantors, contributors, laws or regulations of other governments, and restrictions imposed by law through constitutional provisions or enabling legislation.

**Unrestricted net position**- This category represents net position not restricted for a specific purpose.

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**1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)**

**L. FUND EQUITY OF FUND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

Accounting standards require governmental fund balances to be reported in as many as five classifications as listed below:

**Nonspendable**-These resources are either inherently nonspendable because they are not cash, or legal or contractual provisions require that they be maintained intact. The district reports prepaid expenses as nonspendable.

**Restricted**-This category represents that portion of equity subject to externally enforceable legal restrictions.

**Committed**-These resources are constrained by limitations that the government imposes upon itself at the highest level of decision making and that remain binding unless removed in the same manner.

**Assigned**- Represents balances that are constrained by the government's intent to be used for specific purposes, but are neither restricted or committed.

**Unassigned**-Represents balances that have not been assigned to other funds and that have not been restricted, committed, or assigned to be specific purposes within the general fund.

**M. PENSION PLAN**

The district is a participating employer in the Louisiana State Employees' Retirement System (LASERS) as described in Note 7. For purposes of measuring the net pension liability, deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to pensions, and pension expense, information about the fiduciary net position of the plan, and additions to/deductions for the plan's fiduciary net position have been determined on the same basis as they are reported by the plan. For this purpose, benefit payments (including refunds of employee contributions) are recognized when due and payable in accordance with the benefit terms. Investments have been reported at fair value within the plan.

**N. OTHER POSTEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS**

The district provides certain continuing health care and life insurance benefits for its retired employees. The district's other postemployment benefit (OPEB) plan is a single-employer defined benefit OPEB plan administered by the district. See Note 8. For purposes of measuring the net OPEB liability, deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to OPEB and OPEB expense, the information about the fiduciary net position of the plan, and additions/deductions from the plan's fiduciary net position have been determined ton the same basis as they are reported by the plan. For this purpose, the benefit payments are recognized when due and payable in accordance with benefit terms.

**O. DEFERRED OUTFLOWS/INFLOWS OF RESOURCES**

The statement of financial position will often report a separate section for deferred outflows and inflows of financial resources. 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/expenditures) until then. The district has two items that qualifies for this category; pension related deferrals and other postemployment retirement benefits, which are reported in the government-wide statements.

Deferred inflows of resources represent an acquisition of a net positions that applies to a future period(s) and so will not be recognized as an inflow of resources until that time. The district has two items that qualifies for this category; pension related deferrals and other postemployment retirement benefits. This amount is recognized as an inflow of resources in the period that the amount becomes available, and is reported in the government-wide statements.

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**1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)**

**P. COMPENSATED ABSENCES**

The liability for compensated absences reported in the government-wide statements consists of unpaid, accumulated leave balances. The liability has been calculated using the vested method, in which leave amounts 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 are included.

**Q. TRANSFERS IN AND OUT**

Advances between funds which are not expected to be repaid are accounted for as transfers. In those cases where repayment is expected, the transfers are accounted for through the various due from and due to accounts.

**R. NEWLY ADOPTED ACCOUNTING STANDARD**

The district has implemented GASB Statement No. 87, *Leases*. Under this Statement, lease contracts, as defined, are financings of the right to use an underlying asset. A lessor is required to recognize a lease receivable and a deferred inflow of resources, and a lessee recognizes a lease liability and intangible right to use asset, thereby enhancing the relevance and consistency of information about governments' leasing activities. Lease receivables as well as lease liabilities are measured at the present value of lease payments over the term of each respective contract. Options to renew the lease are included in the lease term if reasonably certain to be exercised.

While GASB 87 resulted in the recording of assets and liabilities that were not previously recognized, and changes to the accounting for lease payments and collections, there were effects to beginning net position as a result of this statement's implementation. Beginning with the implementation in the current fiscal year, lease payments are accounted for as repayment of debt principal and interest, and lease collections are accounted for as collection of receivables.

**2. CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS**

At June 30, 2023, the district had cash and cash equivalents totaling \$11,723,203 as follows:

	<b><u>General Fund</u></b>	<b><u>Capital Projects- Restricted</u></b>
Demand Deposit	\$ 555,803	\$ 95,671
LAMP	1,627,852	9,443,877
Total	<u>\$ 2,183,655</u>	<u>\$ 9,539,548</u>

These deposits are stated at cost, which approximates market. Under state law, they must be secured by federal deposit insurance or the pledge of securities owned by the fiscal agent bank. The market value of the pledged securities plus the federal deposit insurance must at all times equal the amount on deposit with the fiscal agent. These securities are held in the name of the pledging fiscal agent bank in a holding, or custodial bank that is mutually acceptable to both parties.



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

Custodial credit risk-Deposits

Custodial credit risk is the risk that in the event of a bank failure, the government's deposits may not be returned to it. The government does not have a deposit policy for custodial credit risk. As of June 30, 2023, the district's bank balance of \$652,002 was not exposed to custodial credit risk.

The district invested \$11,071,729 in the Louisiana Asset Management Pool (LAMP), a local government investment pool. LAMP is administered by LAMP, Inc., a nonprofit corporation organized under the laws of the State of Louisiana. Only local governments having contracted to participate in LAMP have an investment interest in its pool of assets. The primary objective of LAMP is to provide a safe environment for the placement of public funds in short-term, high-quality investments. The LAMP portfolio includes only securities and other obligations in which local governments in Louisiana are authorized to invest in accordance with LA – R.S. 33:2955.

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

LAMP is an investment pool that, to the extent practical, invest in a manner consistent with GASB Statement No. 79. The following facts are relevant for investment pools:

- Credit risk: LAMP is rated AAAM by Standard & Poor's
- Custodial credit risk: LAMP participants' investments in the pool are evidenced by shares of the pool. Investments in pools should be disclosed, but not categorized because they are not evidenced by securities that exist in physical or book-entry form. The public entity's investment is with the pool, not the securities that make up the pool; therefore, no disclosure is required.
- Concentration of credit risk: Pooled investments are excluded from the 5 percent disclosure requirement.
- Interest rate risk: LAMP is designed to be highly liquid to give its participants immediate access to their account balances. LAMP prepares its own interest rate risk disclosure using the weighted average maturity (WAM) method. The WAM of LAMP assets is restricted to not more than 90 days, and consists of no securities with a maturity in excess of 397 days or 762 days for U.S. Government floating/variable rate investments. The WAM for LAMP's total investment is 56 (from LAMP's monthly portfolio holdings) as of 6/30/2023.
- Foreign currency risk: Not applicable.

The investments in LAMP are stated at fair value based on quoted market rates. The fair value is determined on a weekly basis by LAMP and the value of the position in the external investment pool is the same as the net asset value of the pool shares.

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

**3. RESTRICTED ASSETS**

Restricted assets include cash, cash equivalents and taxes receivable totaling \$9,540,014 at June 30, 2023. These assets were accumulated for the construction of a diversion canal for the Comite River, thus restricting their use to that purpose.

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**4. ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE**

The following is a summary of accounts receivable:

Class of receivable	
Ad valorem taxes	\$ 5,466
Allowance for doubtful accounts	<u>(5,000)</u>
Total	<u>\$ 466</u>
Other receivables	<u>\$ 97,592</u>

**5. CAPITAL ASSETS**

Capital asset activity for the year ended June 30, 2023, was as follows:

**Governmental Activities:**

	<b><u>Beginning Balance</u></b>	<b><u>Increases</u></b>	<b><u>Decreases</u></b>	<b><u>Ending Balance</u></b>
Cost of Capital				
Furniture and Equipment	\$71,421	\$ 2,850	\$ (33,540)	\$ 40,731
Right to use assets	57,722	-	-	57,722
Construction in progress	<u>34,729,806</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>34,729,806</u>
Total	<u>34,858,949</u>	<u>2,850</u>	<u>(33,540)</u>	<u>34,828,259</u>
Accumulated Depreciation	70,245	457	(33,540)	37,162
Accumulated Amortization	<u>28,861</u>	<u>19,241</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>48,102</u>
Total	<u>99,106</u>	<u>19,698</u>	<u>(33,540)</u>	<u>85,264</u>
Total Capital Assets, net	<u>\$34,730,982</u>	<u>\$ (16,848)</u>	<u>\$(33,540)</u>	<u>\$34,742,995</u>

For the year ended June 30, 2023, depreciation and amortization expenses were \$457 and \$19,241, respectively.

**6. LEAVE**

*Annual and Sick Leave.* The district's employees earn and accumulate annual and sick leave at varying rates depending on their years of full-time service. Accumulated leave is carried forward to succeeding years without limitation. Upon termination, employees are compensated for up to 300 hours of unused annual leave at the employee's hourly rate of pay at the time of termination. Upon retirement, unused annual leave in excess of 300 hours plus unused sick leave is used to compute retirement benefits. The cost of leave privileges, computed in accordance with GASB Codification Section C60, is recognized as a current-year expenditure when leave is actually taken in the fund financial statements. The cost of leave privileges not requiring current resources is recorded by governmental funds in long-term liabilities.

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**6. LEAVE (continued)**

Only annual leave is accrued in the accompanying statements of net position at \$9,316 for June 30, 2023.

*Compensatory Leave.* Non-exempt employees, according to the guidelines contained in the Fair Labors Standards Act, may be paid for compensatory leave earned. Upon termination or transfer, an employee is paid for any time and one-half compensatory leave earned and may or may not be paid for any straight hour-for-hour compensatory leave earned. This pay is based on the employee's hourly rate of pay at the time of termination or transfer. There was no compensatory leave time accrued at June 30, 2023.

**7. PENSION**

**Summary of Significant Accounting Policies**

*Pensions*

For purposes of measuring the Net Pension Liability, deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to pensions, and pension expense, information about the fiduciary net position of the Louisiana State Employees' Retirement System (LASERS) and additions to/deductions from LASERS' fiduciary net position have been determined on the same basis as they are reported by LASERS. For this purpose, benefit payments (including refunds of employee contributions) are recognized when due and payable in accordance with the benefit terms. Investments are reported at fair value.

**General Information about the Pension Plan**

*Plan Description*

Employees of the Amite River Basin Drainage and Water Conservation District are provided with pensions through a cost-sharing multiple-employer defined benefit plan administered by the Louisiana State Employees' Retirement System (LASERS). Section 401 of Title 11 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes (La. R.S. 11:401) grants to LASERS Board of Trustees and the Louisiana Legislature the authority to review administration, benefit terms, investments, and funding of the plan. LASERS issues a publicly available financial report that can be obtained at [www.lasersonline.org](http://www.lasersonline.org).

*Benefits Provided*

The following is a description of the plan and its benefits and is provided for general information purposes only. Participants should refer to the appropriate statutes for more complete information.

**Retirement Benefits**

The age and years of creditable service required in order for a member to retire with full benefits are established by statute, and vary depending on the member's hire date, employer, and job classification. Our rank-and-file members hired prior to July 1, 2006, may either retire with full benefits at any age upon completing 30 years of creditable service or at age 60 upon completing ten years of creditable service depending on their plan. Those members hired between July 1, 2006 and June 30, 2015, may retire at age 60 upon completing five years of creditable service and those hired on or after July 1, 2015 may retire at age 62 upon completing five years of creditable service. The basic annual retirement benefit for members is equal to 2.5% to 3.5% of average compensation multiplied by the number of years of creditable service. Additionally, members may choose to retire with 20 years of service at any age, with an actuarially reduced benefit.

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**7. PENSION (continued)**

Average compensation is defined as the member's average annual earned compensation for the highest 36 consecutive months of employment for members employed prior to July 1, 2006. For members hired July 1, 2006 or later, average compensation is based on the member's average annual earned compensation for the highest 60 consecutive months of employment. The maximum annual retirement benefit cannot exceed the lesser of 100% of average compensation or a certain specified dollar amount of actuarially determined monetary limits, which vary depending upon the member's age at retirement. Judges, court officers, and certain elected officials receive an additional annual retirement benefit equal to 1.0% of average compensation multiplied by the number of years of creditable service in their respective capacity. As an alternative to the basic retirement benefits, a member may elect to receive their retirement throughout their life, with certain benefits being paid to their designated beneficiary after their death.

Act 992 of the 2010 Louisiana Regular Legislative Session, changed the benefit structure for LASERS members hired on or after January 1, 2011. This resulted in three new plans: regular, hazardous duty, and judges. The new regular plan includes regular members and those members who were formerly eligible to participate in specialty plans, excluding hazardous duty and judges. Regular members and judges are eligible to retire at age 60 after five years of creditable service and, may also retire at any age, with a reduced benefit, after 20 years of creditable service. Hazardous duty members are eligible to retire with twelve years of creditable service at age 55, 25 years of creditable service at any age or with a reduced benefit after 20 years of creditable service. Average compensation will be based on the member's average annual earned compensation for the highest 60 consecutive months of employment for all three new plans. Members in the regular plan will receive a 2.5% accrual rate, hazardous duty plan a 3.33% accrual rate, and judges a 3.5% accrual rate. The extra 1.0% accrual rate for each year of service for court officers, the governor, lieutenant governor, legislators, House clerk, sergeants at arms, or Senate secretary, employed after January 1, 2011, was eliminated by Act 992. Specialty plan and regular members, hired prior to January 1, 2011, who are hazardous duty employees have the option to transition to the new hazardous duty plan.

Act 226 of the 2014 Louisiana Regular Legislative Session established new retirement eligibility for members of LASERS hired on or after July 1, 2015, excluding hazardous duty plan members. Regular members and judges under the new plan are eligible to retire at age 62 after five years of creditable service and, may also retire at any age, with a reduced benefit, after 20 years of creditable service. Average compensation will be based on the member's average annual earned compensation for the highest 60 consecutive months of employment. Members in the regular plan will receive a 2.5% accrual rate, and judges a 3.5% accrual rate, with the extra 1.0% accrual rate based on all years of service as a judge.

Members of the Harbor Police Retirement System who were members prior to July 1, 2014, may retire after 25 years of creditable service at any age, 12 years of creditable service at age 55, 20 years of creditable service at age 45, and 10 years of creditable service at age 60. Average compensation for the plan is the member's average annual earned compensation for the highest 36 consecutive months of employment, with a 3.33% accrual rate.

A member leaving employment before attaining minimum retirement age, but after completing certain minimum service requirements, becomes eligible for a benefit provided the member lives to the minimum service retirement age, and does not withdraw their accumulated contributions. The minimum service requirement for benefits varies depending upon the member's employer and service classification.

**Deferred Retirement Benefits**

The State Legislature authorized LASERS to establish a Deferred Retirement Option Plan (DROP). When a member enters DROP, their status changes from active member to retiree even though they continue to work and draw their salary for a period of up to three years. The election is irrevocable once participation begins. During DROP participation, accumulated retirement benefits that would have been paid to each retiree are

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**7. PENSION (continued)**

separately tracked. For members who entered DROP prior to January 1, 2004, interest at a rate of one-half percent less than the System's realized return on its portfolio (not to be less than zero) will be credited to the retiree after participation ends. At that time, the member must choose among available alternatives for the distribution of benefits that have accumulated in the DROP account. Members who enter DROP on or after January 1, 2004, are required to participate in LASERS Self-Directed Plan (SDP) which is administered by a third-party provider. The SDP allows DROP participants to choose from a menu of investment options for the allocation of their DROP balances. Participants may diversify their investments by choosing from an approved list of mutual funds with different holdings, management styles, and risk factors.

Members eligible to retire and who do not choose to participate in DROP may elect to receive at the time of retirement an initial benefit option (IBO) in an amount up to 36 months of benefits, with an actuarial reduction of their future benefits. For members who selected the IBO option prior to January 1, 2004, such amount may be withdrawn or remain in the IBO account earning interest at a rate of one-half percent less than the System's realized return on its portfolio (not to be less than zero). Those members who select the IBO on or after January 1, 2004, are required to enter the SDP as described above.

For members who are in the Harbor Police Plan, the annual DROP Interest Rate is the three-year average (calculated as the compound average of 36 months) investment return of the plan assets for the period ending the June 30th immediately preceding that given date. The average rate so determined is to be reduced by a "contingency" adjustment of 0.5%, but not to below zero. DROP interest is forfeited if member does not cease employment after DROP participation.

**Disability Benefits**

Generally, active members with ten or more years of credited service who become disabled may receive a maximum disability retirement benefit equivalent to the regular retirement formula without reduction by reason of age.

Upon reaching retirement age, the disability retiree may receive a regular retirement benefit by making application to the Board of Trustees.

For injuries sustained in the line of duty, hazardous duty personnel in the Hazardous Duty Services Plan will receive a disability benefit equal to 75% of final average compensation or 100% of final average compensation if the injury was the result of an intentional act of violence.

Members of the Harbor Police Retirement System who become disabled may receive a non-line of duty disability benefit after five years or more of credited service. Members age 55 or older may receive a disability benefit equivalent to the regular retirement benefit. Under age 55, the disability benefit is equal to 40% of final average compensation. Line of duty disability benefits are equal to 60% of final average compensation, regardless of years of credited service. If the disability benefit retiree is permanently confined to a wheelchair, or, is an amputee incapable of serving as a law enforcement officer, or the benefit is permanently legally binding, there is no reduction to the benefit if the retiree becomes gainfully employed.

**Survivor's Benefits**

Certain eligible surviving dependents receive benefits based on the deceased member's compensation and their relationship to the deceased. The deceased regular member hired before January 1, 2011 who was in state service at the time of death must have a minimum of five years of service credit, at least two of which were earned immediately prior to death, or who had a minimum of twenty years of service credit regardless of when earned in order for a benefit to be paid to a minor or handicapped child. Benefits are payable to an unmarried child until age 18, or age 23 if the child remains a full-time student. The aforementioned minimum service credit requirement is ten years for a surviving spouse with no minor children, and benefits are to be paid for life to the spouse or qualified handicapped child.

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**7. PENSION (continued)**

The deceased regular member hired on or after January 1, 2011, must have a minimum of five years of service credit regardless of when earned in order for a benefit to be paid to a minor child. The aforementioned minimum service credit requirements for a surviving spouse are 10 years, 2 years being earned immediately prior to death, and active state service at the time of death, or a minimum of 20 years of service credit regardless of when earned. A deceased member's spouse must have been married for at least one year before death.

A Hazardous Duty Services Plan member's surviving spouse and minor or handicapped or mentally incapacitated child or children are entitled to survivor benefits of 80% of the member's final average compensation if the member was killed in the line of duty. If the member dies in the line of duty as a result of an intentional act of violence, survivor benefits may be increased to 100% of the member's final average compensation.

Non-line of duty survivor benefits of the Harbor Police Retirement System may be received after a minimum of five years of credited service. Survivor benefits paid to a surviving spouse without children are equal to 40% of final average compensation, and cease upon remarriage. Surviving spouse with children under 18 benefits are equal to 60% of final average compensation, and cease upon remarriage, and children turning 18. No minimum service credit is required for line of duty survivor benefits which are equal to 60% of final average compensation to surviving spouse, or 100% of final average compensation if the injury was the result of an intentional act of violence, regardless of children. Line of duty survivor benefits cease upon remarriage and then benefit is paid to children under 18.

**Permanent Benefit Increases/Cost-of-Living Adjustments**

As fully described in Title 11 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes, the System allows for the payment of permanent benefit increases, also known as cost-of-living adjustments (COLAs), that are funded through investment earnings when recommended by the Board of Trustees and approved by the State Legislature.

**Employer Contributions**

The employer contribution rate is established annually under the LA R.S. 11:11:101-11:104 by the Public Retirement Systems' Actuarial Committee (PRSAC), taking into consideration the recommendation of the System's Actuary. Each plan pays a separate actuarially-determined employer contribution rate. However, all assets of LASERS are used for the payment of benefits for all classes of members, regardless of their plan membership.

The district's contractually required composite contribution rate for the year ended June 30, 2022 was 40.4% of annual payroll, actuarially determined as an amount that, when combined with employee contributions, is expected to finance the costs of benefits earned by employees during the year, with an additional amount to finance any Unfunded Actuarial Accrued Liability. Contributions to the pension plan from the Agency were \$60,261 for the year ended June 30, 2023.

**Pension Liabilities, Pension Expense, and Deferred Outflows of Resources and Deferred Inflows of Resources Related to Pensions**

At June 30, 2023, the Employer reported a liability of \$591,323 for its proportionate share of the Net Pension Liability. The Net Pension Liability was measured as of June 30, 2022 and the total pension liability used to calculate the Net Pension Liability was determined by an actuarial valuation as of that date. The Agency's proportion of the Net Pension Liability was based on a projection of the district's long-term share of contributions to the pension plan relative to the projected contributions of all participating employers, actuarially determined. At June 30, 2022, the Agency's proportion was 0.00782%, which was an increase of 0.00006% from its proportion measured as of June 30, 2021.

**AMITE RIVER BASIN DRAINAGE  
AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT  
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**7. PENSION (continued)**

For the year ended June 30, 2023, the district recognized pension expense of \$90,712 plus employer's amortization of change in proportionate share and differences between employer contributions and proportionate share of contributions, \$25,376.

At June 30, 2023, the district reported deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to pensions from the following sources:

	<u>Deferred Outflows of Resources</u>	<u>Deferred Inflows of Resources</u>
Differences between expected and actual experience	\$ 1,613	\$ -
Changes of assumptions	10,751	-
Net difference between projected and actual earnings on pension plan investments	47,629	-
Changes in proportion and differences between Employer contributions and proportionate share of contributions	-	(1,125)
Employer contributions subsequent to the measurement date	60,261	-
Total	<u>\$ 120,254</u>	<u>\$ (1,125)</u>

The district reported a total of \$60,261 as a deferred outflow of resources related to pension contributions made subsequent to the measurement period of June 30, 2022 which will be recognized as a reduction in net pension liability in the year June 30, 2023.

Other amounts reported as deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to pension will be recognized as an increase (decrease) in pension expense as follows:

Year	
2023	\$ 28,990
2024	9,656
2025	(11,818)
2026	<u>32,040</u>
	<u>\$ 58,868</u>

**Actuarial Assumptions**

A summary of the actuarial methods and assumptions used in determining the total pension liability as of June 30, 2022 are as follows:

Valuation Date	June 30, 2022	
Actuarial Cost Method	Entry Age Normal	
Investment Rate of Return	7.25% per annum, net of investment expenses	
Projected Salary Increases	Salary increases were projected based on a 2014-2018 experience study of the System's members. The salary increase ranges for specific types of members are:	
	Member Type	Upper Range
	Lower Range	Upper Range
	Regular	12.8%
	Judges	5.1%
	Corrections, Hazardous Duty & Wildlife	13.8%
	3.6%	

**AMITE RIVER BASIN DRAINAGE  
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**7. PENSION (continued)**

**Actuarial Assumptions (continued)**

Inflation Rate	2.30%
Mortality Rates	Non-disabled members- The RP-2014 Blue Collar (males/females) and White Collar (females) Healthy Annuitant Tables projected on a fully generational basis by Mortality Improvement Scale MP-2018. Disabled members- Mortality rates based on the RP-2000 Disabled Retiree Mortality Table, with no projection for mortality improvement.
Termination, Disability, and Retirement	Termination, disability, and retirement assumptions were projected based on a five-year (2014-2018) experience study of the System's members.
Expected Remaining Service Lives	2 years
Cost of Living Adjustments	The present value of future retirement benefits is based on benefits currently being paid by the Fund and includes previously granted cost-of-living increases. The present values do not include provisions for potential future increases not yet authorized by the Board of Trustees as they were deemed not to be substantively automatic.

The investment rate of return used in the actuarial assumptions used for funding purposes was 7.60%, recognizing an additional 35 basis points for gain-sharing. The net return available to fund regular plan benefits is 7.25%, which is the same as the discount rate. Therefore, the System's management concludes that the 7.25% discount is reasonable.

The long-term expected real rate of return on pension plan investments was determined using a building-block method in which best-estimates ranges of expected future real rates of return (expected returns, net of pension plan investment expense and inflation) are developed for each major asset class. These ranges were combined to produce the long-term expected rate of return by weighting the expected future real rates of return by the target asset allocation percentage and by adding expected inflation. The long-term expected rate of return was 8.34%, for the year ended June 30, 2022. Best estimates of geometric real rates of return for each major asset class included in the Fund's target asset allocation as of June 30, 2022, is summarized in the following table:

<u>Expected Long Term Rates of Return</u>	
<u>Asset Class</u>	<u>2022</u>
Cash	0.39%
Domestic Equity	4.57%
International Equity	5.76%
Domestic Fixed Income	1.48%
International Fixed Income	5.04%
Alternative Investments	8.30%
Total Fund	<u>5.91%</u>



**AMITE RIVER BASIN DRAINAGE  
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**7. PENSION (continued)**

***Discount Rate***

The discount rate used to measure the total pension liability was 7.25%. The projection of cash flows used to determine the discount rate assumed that employee contributions will be made at the current contribution rates and that contributions from participating employers will be made at the actuarially determined rates approved by PRSAC taking into consideration the recommendation of the pension plan’s actuary. Based on those assumptions, the pension plan’s fiduciary net position 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.

***Sensitivity of the Employer’s Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability to Changes in the Discount Rate***

The following presents the Employer’s proportionate share of the Net Pension Liability using the discount rate of 7.25%, as well as what the Employer’s proportionate share of the Net Pension Liability would be if it were calculated using a discount rate that is one percentage point lower or one percentage point higher than the current rate:

	1.0% Decrease	Current Discount Rate	1.0% Increase
Rates	6.25%	7.25%	8.25%
District’s Share NPL	\$ 744,057	\$ 591,323	\$ 452,052

***Pension Plan Fiduciary Net Position***

Detailed information about the pension plan’s fiduciary net position is available in the separately issued current LASERS Comprehensive Annual Financial Report at [www.lasersonline.org](http://www.lasersonline.org).

**8. POST RETIREMENT HEALTH CARE AND LIFE INSURANCE BENEFITS**

Employees of the Amite River Basin Drainage and Water Conservation Commission participate in the State of Louisiana’s Other Post-Retirement Benefit Plan (OPEB Plan) that provides medical and life insurance to eligible active employees, retirees, and their beneficiaries. The Office of Group Benefits (OGB) administers the plan, which is a multiple-employer defined benefit other post- employment benefit plan. There are no assets accumulated in a trust that meets the criteria of paragraph 4 of GASB Statement No. 75.

La. R.S. 42:801-883 assigns the authority to establish and amend benefit provisions of the plan to the state legislature. The Office of Group Benefits does not issue a publicly available financial report of the OPEB Plan; however, it is included in the Louisiana Annual Comprehensive Financial Report, which may be obtained from the Office of Statewide Reporting and Accounting Policy’s website at [www.doa.la.gov/osrap](http://www.doa.la.gov/osrap), writing to P.O. Box 94095, Baton Rouge, La 70804-9095 or by calling (225) 342-0708.

**AMITE RIVER BASIN DRAINAGE**  
**AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT**  
**BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA**  
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**8. POST RETIREMENT HEALTH CARE AND LIFE INSURANCE BENEFITS (continued)**

**Funding Plan**

The Plan is currently financed on a pay-as-you-go basis. The contribution requirements of the district and plan members were established and may be amended by La R.S. 42:801-883. Employees do not contribute to their postemployment benefits cost until they become retirees and begin receiving benefits. The retirees contribute to the cost of retiree healthcare based on a service schedule. Contribution amounts vary depending on what healthcare provider is selected from the plan and if the member had Medicare coverage.

**Actuarial Methods and Assumptions**

Actuarial valuation of an ongoing plan involves estimates of the value of reported amounts and assumptions about the probability of occurrence of events far into the future. Examples include assumptions about future employment, mortality, and the healthcare cost trend. Amount determined regarding the funded status of the plan and the annual required contributions of the employer are subject to continual revision as actual results are compared to past expectations and new estimates are made for the future.

Projections of benefits for financial reporting purposes are based on the substantive plan (the plan as understood by the employer and plan members) and include the types of benefits provided at the time of each valuation and the historical pattern of sharing of benefit costs between the employer and plan members to that point.

The actuarial methods and assumptions used include techniques that are designed to reduce short-term volatility in actuarial accrued liabilities consistent with the long-term perspective of the calculations.

**Total Collective OPEB Liability and Changes in Total Collective OPEB Liability**

At June 30, 2023, The District reported a liability of \$73,078 for its proportionate share of the total collective OPEB liability. The total collective OPEB liability was measured as of July 1, 2022, and was determined by an actuarial valuation as of that date.

The district's proportionate share percentage is based on the employer's individual OPEB actuarial accrued liability in relation to the total OPEB actuarial accrued liability for all participating entities included in the State of Louisiana reporting entity.

The total collective OPEB liability in the July 1, 2022 actuarial valuation was determined using the following actuarial methods, assumptions and other inputs, applied to all periods included in the measurement, unless otherwise specified:

- Actuarial Cost Method – Entry Age Normal, level percentage of pay
- Estimated Remaining Service Lives – 4.5
- Inflation Rate – Consumer Price Index (CPI) 2.40%
- Salary Increase Rate – consistent with pension plan valuation assumptions
- Discount rate – 4.09% based on June 30, 2022 Standard & Poor's 20-year municipal bond index rate
- Healthcare cost trends – 7% for pre-Medicare eligible employees decreasing by .25% each year, beginning in 2021-2023, to an ultimate rate of 4.5% in 2032; 5.5% for post-Medicare eligible employees decreasing by .10% each year, beginning in 2021-2023, to an ultimate rate of 4.5% in 2032 and thereafter. Claims experience was trended to the valuation date.

**AMITE RIVER BASIN DRAINAGE  
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**8. POST RETIREMENT HEALTH CARE AND LIFE INSURANCE BENEFITS (continued)**

Changes in the Total OPEB Liability:

	<b>Total OPEB Liability</b>
Balance at 6/30/2022	\$ 89,711
Changes for the year:	
Service Cost	6,468
Interest	2,097
Differences between expected and actual experience	(6,115)
Changes of assumptions/other inputs	(19,083)
Benefit payments	-
Net Changes	16,633
Balance at 6/30/2023	\$ 73,078

Changes of assumptions and other inputs from the prior valuation include the following:

- Change in the discount rate from 2.18% as of the beginning of year to 4.09% as of the end of year.
- Baseline per capita costs were updated to reflect 2022 claims and enrollment
- Medical plan election percentages were updated based on the coverage elections of recent retirees
- The withdrawal assumption for LASERS Wildlife participants and the mortality rate assumptions for LASERS Public Safety participants have been updated.

The employer contribution percentage is based on the date of participation in an OGB plan and employee years of service at retirement. Employees who begin participation or rejoin the plan before January 1, 2002 pay approximately 25% of the cost of coverage (except single retirees under age 65, who pay approximately 25% of the active employee cost.) For those beginning participation or rejoining on or after January 1, 2002, the percentage of premiums contributed by the employer and retiree is based on the following schedule:

<u>OGB Participation</u>	<u>Employer Share</u>	<u>Retiree Share</u>
Under 10 years	19%	81%
10-14 years	38%	62%
15-19 years	56%	44%
20+ years	75%	25%

In addition to healthcare benefits, retirees may elect to receive life insurance benefits. Basic and supplemental life insurance is available for individual retirees and spouses of retirees subject to maximum values. Employers pay approximately 50% of monthly premiums for individual retirees. The retiree is responsible for 100% of the premium for dependents. Effective January 1, 2022, the total monthly premium for retirees varies according to age group.

**AMITE RIVER BASIN DRAINAGE  
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**8. POST RETIREMENT HEALTH CARE AND LIFE INSURANCE BENEFITS (continued)**

**Sensitivity of the Total OPEB Liability to Changes in the Discount Rate**

The following represents that total OPEB liability of the district, as well as what the district's total OPEB liability would be if it were calculated using a discount rate that is 1-percentage-point lower or 1-percentage point higher than the current discount rate.

	<b>1.0% Decrease (3.09%)</b>	<b>Discount Rate (4.09%)</b>	<b>1.0% Increase (5.09%)</b>
Total OPEB Liability	\$81,751	\$73,078	\$65,643

**Sensitivity of the Total OPEB Liability to Changes in the Healthcare Cost Trend Rates**

The following presents the total OPEB liability of the district, as well as what the district's total OPEB liability would be if it were calculated using healthcare cost trend rates that are 1-percentage point lower or 1-percentage point higher than the current healthcare cost trend rates:

	<b>1.0% Decrease (6% decreasing to 3.5%)</b>	<b>Current Discount (Rate 7% decreasing to 4.5%)</b>	<b>1.0% Increase (8% decreasing to 5.5%)</b>
Total OPEB Liability	\$62,918	\$73,078	\$84,823

**OPEB Expense and Deferred Outflows of Resources and Deferred Inflows of Resources Related to OPEB**

For the year ended June 30, 2023, the District recognized OPEB benefit of \$14,121. At June 30, 2023, the District reported deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to OPEB from the following sources:

	<b>Deferred Outflows of Resources</b>	<b>Deferred Inflows of Resources</b>
Changes of assumptions	\$ 2,647	\$ (26,050)
Difference between expected and actual experience	-	(13,984)
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 2,647</b>	<b>\$ (40,034)</b>

Deferred outflows of resources related to OPEB resulting from the district's benefit payments subsequent to the measurement date will be recognized as a reduction to the total collective liability in the year ended June 30, 2024. Other amounts reported as deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to OPEB will be recognized as OPEB expense as follows:

<u>Year ended June 30:</u>	
2024	\$(19,242)
2025	(8,124)
2026	(5,821)
2027	(4,200)
<b>Total</b>	<b><u>\$(37,387)</u></b>

The district had an accrued liability to the retirement system for \$2,541 for the year ended June 30, 2023.

**AMITE RIVER BASIN DRAINAGE  
AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT  
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NOTES TO THE FINICAL STATEMENTS  
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**9. LONG-TERM LIABILITIES**

Lease Obligations

The district leases office space. This lease has a term of 3 years and the payment term is \$1,756 per month. In accordance with GASB Statement No. 87, *Leases*, a liability has been recorded for the present value of lease payments over the lease term for each agreement. As of June 30, 2023, the value of the lease liability was \$9,620. In determining the present value, a discount rate of 6% was applied. The recorded value of the right to use assets as of the end of the current fiscal year was \$57,722 and the accumulated amortization was \$48,102.

Changes in long-term liability activity for the year ended June 30, 2023, was as follows:

<b>Governmental Activities:</b>	<u>Balance at July 1, 2022</u>	<u>Additions</u>	<u>Reductions</u>	<u>Balance at June 30, 2023</u>	<u>Due Within One Year</u>
Compensated absences	\$ 12,881	\$ -	\$ (3,565)	\$ 9,316	\$ -
Lease liability	48,806	-	(18,651)	30,155	19,801
Total	<u>\$ 61,687</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ (22,216)</u>	<u>\$ 39,471</u>	<u>\$ 19,801</u>

**10. ACCOUNTING CHANGES/PRIOR YEAR RESTATEMENT**

The Government implemented Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) Statement No. 87, *Leases*. GASB Statement No. 87 enhances the relevance and consistency of information of the government's leasing activities. It establishes requirement for lease accounting based on the principle that leases are financings of the right to use an underlying asset. A lessee is required to recognize a lease liability and an intangible right to use lease asset, and a lessor is required to recognize a lease receivable and a deferred inflow of resources. The implementation of GASB Statement No. 87 resulted in a restatement of previously reported net position. A prior period adjustment was also made to restate deferred outflows of resources related to pension. The changes in net position are as follows:

	<u>Governmental Activities</u>
June 30, 2022 net position, as previously reported	\$ 45,712,525
Net effect of recording right to use assets and lease liabilities	(19,945)
Net effect of deferred outflow of resources	64,536
June 30, 2022 net position, as restated	<u>\$ 45,757,116</u>

**AMITE RIVER BASIN DRAINAGE**  
**AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT**  
**BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA**  
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**JUNE 30, 2023**

**10. ACCOUNTING CHANGES/PRIOR YEAR RESTATEMENT (continued)**

During fiscal year 2023, the district also determined that the proceeds from borrow and fill dirt previously reported in the capital projects fund should be reclassified to the general fund as unrestricted. Changes to or within the financial reporting entity and an error correction resulted in adjustments to and restatements of beginning fund balance, as follows:

	<b>General Fund</b>	<b>Capital Projects</b>
June 30, 2022 fund balance as previously reported	<u>\$1,065,475</u>	<u>\$10,563,266</u>
Adjustment	877,499	(877,499)
June 30, 2022 fund balance, as restated	<u>\$1,942,974</u>	<u>\$ 9,685,767</u>

**11. CONTINGENT LIABILITIES**

At June 30, 2023, the district was not involved in any outstanding litigation or claims.

**12. SUBSEQUENT EVENTS**

Management of the district has evaluated subsequent events through November 3, 2023, the date that the financial statements were to be issued and has determined that there are no additional subsequent events that require recognition or disclosure through that date.

**AMITE RIVER BASIN DRAINAGE AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT**  
**BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA**  
**BUDGETARY COMPARISON SCHEDULE**  
**GENERAL FUND**  
**YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023**

	Budgeted		Actual
	Original	Final	
<b>REVENUES</b>			
Charges for services	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 279,145
State appropriation	-	-	-
Investment earnings	-	-	35,033
Other	-	-	2,094
Total Revenues	-	-	316,272
<b>EXPENDITURES</b>			
Salaries and benefits	263,385	263,385	243,185
Travel	7,600	8,600	4,730
Advertising, dues and subscriptions	3,500	5,000	3,583
Printing/duplication/typing/binding	1,000	1,500	658
Communications	3,700	4,200	3,058
Rentals	29,000	32,000	37,087
Maintenance/property and equipment	500	1,500	1,024
Professional services	71,715	65,515	18,200
Materials and supplies	4,300	5,300	4,567
Capital outlay	1,450	4,150	2,850
Total Expenditures	386,150	391,150	318,942
Excess of Revenues Under Expenditures	(386,150)	(391,150)	(2,670)
<b>OTHER FINANCING SOURCES</b>			
Transfers from other funds	386,150	386,150	343,627
Total Other Financing Sources	386,150	386,150	343,627
Net Change in Fund Balance	-	(5,000)	340,957
Fund Balance, beginning as restated	-	-	1,942,974
Fund Balance, ending	\$ -	\$ (5,000)	\$ 2,283,931

**AMITE RIVER BASIN DRAINAGE & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT**  
**BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA**  
**SCHEDULE OF CHANGES IN THE TOTAL OPEB LIABILITY AND RELATED RATIOS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023**

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2017</u>
<b>Total OPEB Liability</b>							
Service cost	\$ 6,468	\$ 5,829	\$ 6,075	\$ 3,609	\$ 3,548	\$ 3,758	*
Interest	2,097	2,413	2,656	4,416	4,477	3,992.00	*
Differences between expected and actual experience	(6,115)	(7,965)	(10,197)	(4,040)	3,061	-	*
Changes of assumptions/other inputs	(19,083)	4,538	(2,767)	(59,427)	(4,026)	(7,893.00)	*
Benefit payments	-	-	-	-	(3,922)	(3,922.00)	*
<b>Net change in total OPEB liability</b>	16,633	4,815	(4,233)	(55,442)	3,138	(4,065.00)	*
<b>Total OPEB liability- beginning</b>	89,711	84,896	89,129	144,571	141,433	145,498	-
<b>Total OPEB liability- ending</b>	<u>\$ 73,078</u>	<u>\$ 89,711</u>	<u>\$ 84,896</u>	<u>\$ 89,129</u>	<u>\$ 144,571</u>	<u>\$ 141,433</u>	<u>\$ 145,498</u>
Covered-employee payroll	149,162	163,935	160,927	158,778	153,565	150,961	146,564
Total OPEB liability as a percentage of covered-employee payroll	49.0%	54.7%	52.8%	56.1%	94.1%	93.7%	99.3%

\*-The district implemented GASB Statement No. 75, *Accounting and Financial Reporting for Postemployment Benefits Other Than Pensions* for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2017; however, information is not readily available for year 2017.

Changes of Benefit Terms: None

Discount Rates:

2017- 2.71%

2018- 3.13%

2019- 2.98%

2020- 2.79%

2021- 2.66%

2022- 2.18%

2023- 4.09%

Notes to Required Supplementary Information

*There are no assets accumulated in a trust that meets the requirements in paragraph 4 of GASB Statement 75 to pay the related benefits.*



**AMITE RIVER BASIN DRAINAGE AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT**  
**BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA**  
**SCHEDULE OF EMPLOYER'S PROPORTIONATE SHARE**  
**OF THE NET PENSION LIABILITY**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023(\*)**

<b>LASERS</b>	<b><u>2023</u></b>	<b><u>2022</u></b>	<b><u>2021</u></b>	<b><u>2020</u></b>	<b><u>2019</u></b>
Employer's Proportion of the Net Pension Liability (Assets)	0.00782%	0.00776%	0.00768%	0.00798%	0.00794%
Employer's Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability (Asset)	\$ 591,323	\$ 426,888	\$ 634,939	\$ 578,289	\$ 541,161
Covered Payroll	\$ 163,935	\$ 160,927	\$ 158,778	\$ 153,565	\$ 151,144
Employer's Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability (Asset) as a Percentage of its Covered Payroll	360.7058%	265.2681%	399.8910%	376.5760%	358.0433%
Plan Fiduciary Net Position as a Percentage of the Total Pension Liability	63.65%	72.8000%	58.0000%	62.9000%	64.3000%
Employer's Proportion of the Net Pension Liability (Assets)	<b><u>2018</u></b>	<b><u>2017</u></b>	<b><u>2016</u></b>	<b><u>2015</u></b>	
Employer's Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability (Asset)	0.00811%	0.00781%	0.00762%	0.00714%	
Covered Payroll					
Employer's Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability (Asset) as a Percentage of its Covered Payroll	\$ 570,638	\$ 612,892	\$ 518,343	\$ 446,331	
	\$ 146,742	\$ 144,646	\$ 131,497	\$ 131,497	
Plan Fiduciary Net Position as a Percentage of the Total Pension Liability	388.8716%	423.7186%	394.1862%	339.4230%	
	62.5000%	57.7000%	62.7000%	65.0000%	

*Schedule is intended to show information for 10 years. Additional years will be displayed as they become available.*

(\*) The amounts represented have a measurement date of the previous fiscal year.

**AMITE RIVER BASIN DRAINAGE AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT**  
**BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA**  
**SCHEDULE OF EMPLOYER PENSION CONTRIBUTIONS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023**

<b>LASERS</b>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>
Contractually required contribution	\$ 60,261	\$ 64,754	\$ 64,536	\$ 64,123	\$ 58,201
Contributions in relation to contractually required contributions	<u>60,261</u>	<u>64,691</u>	<u>64,569</u>	<u>61,432</u>	<u>59,004</u>
Contribution deficiency (excess)	-	63	(33)	2,691	(803)
Covered Payroll	\$ 149,162	\$ 163,935	\$ 160,927	\$ 158,778	\$ 153,565
Contributions as a % of Covered Payroll	40.40%	39.46%	40.12%	38.69%	38.42%
	<u>2018</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2015</u>	
Contractually required contribution	\$ 57,284	\$ 55,615	\$ 54,821	\$ 49,837	
Contributions in relation to contractually required contributions	<u>57,822</u>	<u>49,535</u>	<u>60,296</u>	<u>51,678</u>	
Contribution deficiency (excess)	(538)	6,080	(5,475)	(1,841)	
Covered Payroll	\$ 151,144	\$ 146,742	\$ 144,646	\$ 131,497	
Contributions as a % of Covered Payroll	38.26%	33.76%	41.69%	39.30%	

*Schedule is intended to show information for 10 years. Additional years will be displayed as they become available.*

Notes to the Net Pension Liability Required Supplementary Information:

Changes in Benefit Terms:

There were no changes in benefit terms for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2023.

Changes in Assumptions:

There were no changes in assumptions for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2023.

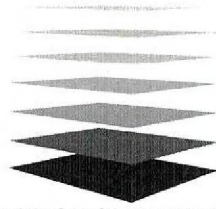
**AMITE RIVER BASIN DRAINAGE AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT**  
**BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA**  
**SCHEDULE OF COMPENSATION, BENEFITS AND OTHER PAYMENTS**  
**TO AGENCY HEAD OR CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**  
**YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023**

**AGENCY HEAD NAME: Dietmar Rietschier, Executive Director**

<b>PURPOSE</b>	<b>AMOUNT</b>
Salary	\$ 93,237
Retirement	37,668
Health Insurance	<u>7,392</u>
Total	<u>\$ 138,297</u>

**AMITE RIVER BASIN DRAINAGE AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT**  
**BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA**  
**SCHEDULE OF PER DIEM PAID TO BOARD MEMBERS**  
**YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023**

<b>NAME</b>	<b>AMOUNT</b>
Angela Machen	\$ 500
David Hoover	900
Don Thompson	700
Douglas Hillensbeck	600
Edwin Parker	1,400
Felicia Lee	100
Jack Harris	1,000
James Little	600
Joseph C. Shelton	400
Kenneth W. Welborn	100
Lionel Bailey Sr.	1,100
Richard St. Pierre	700
	<hr/> <b>\$ 8,100</b> <hr/>



# DDR

DIEZ, DUPUY & RUIZ, LLC

**INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' 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**

Board of Commissioners of the  
Amite River Basin Drainage  
and Water Conservation District

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 each major fund of the Amite River Basin Drainage and Water Conservation District as of and for the year ended June 30, 2023, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the Amite River Basin Drainage and Water Conservation District's basic financial statements, and have issued my report thereon dated November 3, 2023.

### **Report on Internal Control over Financial Reporting**

In planning and performing our audit of the financial statements, we considered Amite River Basin Drainage & Water Conservation District's internal control over financial reporting (internal control) to determine the audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances for the purpose of expressing our opinions on the financial statements, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Amite River Basin Drainage & Water Conservation District's internal control. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the Amite River Basin Drainage & Water Conservation District's internal control.

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

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

### **Report on Compliance and Other Matters**

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the Amite River Basin Drainage & 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*.

**Purpose of this Report**

The purpose of this report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control or on compliance. This report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the entity's internal control and compliance. Accordingly, this communication is not suitable for any other purpose.



Gonzales, Louisiana  
November 3, 2023

**AMITE RIVER BASIN DRAINAGE**  
**AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT**  
**BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA**  
**SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS AND RESPONSES**  
**JUNE 30, 2023**

**SUMMARY OF AUDIT RESULTS**

1. The independent auditors' report expresses an unmodified opinion on whether the financial statements of Amite River Basin Drainage and Water Conservation District were prepared in accordance with GAAP.
2. No significant deficiencies relating to the audit of the financial statements are reported in the Independent Auditors' Report on Internal Control over Financial Reporting on Compliance and Other Matters Based on an Audit of Financial Statements Performed in Accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*. No material weaknesses noted.
3. No instances of noncompliance material to the financial statement of Amite River Basin Drainage and Water Conservation District which would be required to be reported in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, were disclosed during the audit.

**FINDINGS-FINANCIAL STATEMENT AUDIT**

None noted.

**COMPLIANCE**

None noted.

**AMITE RIVER BASIN DRAINAGE**  
**AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT**  
**BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA**  
**SUMMARY SCHEDULE OF PRIOR AUDIT FINDINGS**  
**JUNE 30, 2023**

**FINDINGS-FINANCIAL STATEMENT AUDIT**

None noted.

**COMPLIANCE**

None noted.



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**AMITE RIVER BASIN DRAINAGE AND**  
**WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT**  
**STATEWIDE AGREED-UPON PROCEDURES REPORT**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023**

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

To the Board of Commissioners of the Amite River Basin Drainage and Water Conservation District and the Louisiana Legislative Auditor:

We have performed the procedures enumerated below on the control and compliance (C/C) areas identified in the Louisiana Legislative Auditor's (LLA's) Statewide Agreed-Upon Procedures (SAUPs) for the fiscal period July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023. The Amite River Basin Drainage and Water Conservation District's management is responsible for those C/C areas identified in the SAUPs.

The Amite River Basin Drainage and Water Conservation District has agreed to and acknowledged that the procedures performed are appropriate to meet the intended purpose of the engagement, which is to perform specified procedures on the C/C areas identified in LLA's SAUPs for the fiscal period July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023. Additionally, LLA has agreed to and acknowledged that the procedures performed are appropriate for its purposes. This report may not be suitable for any other purpose. The procedures performed may not address all the items of interest to a user of this report and may not meet the needs of all users of this report and, as such, users are responsible for determining whether the procedures performed are appropriate for their purposes.

The procedures and associated findings are as follows:

### *1) Written Policies and Procedures*

---

- A. Obtain and inspect the entity's written policies and procedures and observe whether they address each of the following categories and subcategories if applicable to public funds and entity's operations:
- i. ***Budgeting***, including preparing, adopting, monitoring, and amending the budget.  
*Written policies and procedures were obtained and address the functions noted above.*
  - ii. ***Purchasing***, including (1) how purchases are initiated; (2) how vendors are added to the vendor list; (3) the preparation and approval process of purchase requisitions and purchase orders; (4) controls to ensure compliance with the Public Bid Law; and (5) documentation required to be maintained for all bids and price quotes.  
*Written policies and procedures were obtained and address the functions noted above.*
  - iii. ***Disbursements***, including processing, reviewing, and approving.  
*Written policies and procedures were obtained and address the functions noted above.*
  - iv. ***Receipts/Collections***, including receiving, recording, and preparing deposits. Also, policies and procedures should include management's actions to determine the completeness of all collections for each type of revenue or agency fund additions (e.g. periodic confirmation with outside parties, reconciliation to utility billing after cutoff procedures, reconciliation of traffic ticket number sequences, agency fund forfeiture monies confirmation).  
*Written policies and procedures were obtained and address the functions noted above.*

- v. **Payroll/Personnel**, including (1) payroll processing, and (2) reviewing and approving time and attendance records, including leave and overtime worked, and (3) approval process for employee(s) rate of pay or approval and maintenance of pay rate schedules.  
*Written policies and procedures were obtained and address the functions noted above.*
- vi. **Contracting**, including (1) types of services requiring written contracts, (2) standard terms and conditions, (3) legal review, (4) approval process, and (5) monitoring process.  
*Written policies and procedures were obtained and address the functions noted above.*
- vii. **Travel and expense reimbursement**, including (1) allowable expenses, (2) dollar thresholds by category of expense, (3) documentation requirements, and (4) required approvers.  
*Written policies and procedures were obtained and address the functions noted above.*
- viii. **Credit Cards (and debit cards, fuel cards, P-Cards, if applicable)**, including (1) how cards are to be controlled, (2) allowable business uses, (3) documentation requirements, (4) required approvers of the statements, and (5) monitoring card usage (e.g., determining the reasonableness of fuel card purchases).  
*Written policies and procedures were obtained and address the functions noted above.*
- ix. **Ethics**, including (1) the prohibitions as defined in Louisiana Revised Statute 42:1111-1121, (2) actions to be taken if an ethics violation takes place, (3) system to monitor possible ethics violations, and (4) requirement that documentation is maintained to demonstrate that all employees and officials were notified of any changes to the entity's ethics policy.  
*Written policies and procedures were obtained and address the functions noted above.*
- x. **Debt Service**, including (1) debt issuance approval, (2) continuing disclosure/EMMA reporting requirements, (3) debt reserve requirements, and (4) debt service requirements.  
*Not applicable.*
- xi. **Information Technology Disaster Recovery/Business Continuity**, including (1) identification of critical data and frequency of data backups, (2) storage of backups in a separate physical location isolated from the network, (3) periodic testing/verification that backups can be restored, (4) use of antivirus software on all systems, (5) timely application of all available system and software patches/updates, and (6) identification of personnel, processes, and tools needed to recover operations after a critical event.  
*Written policies and procedures were obtained and address the functions noted above.*
- xii. **Prevention of Sexual Harassment**, including R.S. 42:342-344 requirements for (1) agency responsibilities and prohibitions, (2) annual employee training, and (3) annual reporting.  
*Written policies and procedures were obtained and address the functions noted above.*

## **2) Board (or Finance Committee, if applicable)**

---

- A. Obtain and inspect the board/finance committee minutes for the fiscal period, as well as the board's enabling legislation, charter, bylaws, or equivalent document in effect during the fiscal period, and:
  - i. Observe that the board/finance committee met with a quorum at least monthly, or on a frequency in accordance with the board's enabling legislation, charter, bylaws or other equivalent document.

*No exceptions noted.*

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

*No exceptions noted.*

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

*Not applicable, there was no negative ending unrestricted fund balance in the prior year audit report.*

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

*Not applicable, there were no audit findings in the prior year audit report.*

### **3) Bank Reconciliations**

---

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

*Obtained listing of bank accounts for the fiscal period from management and management's representation that listing is complete.*

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

*No exceptions noted.*

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

*No exceptions noted.*

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

*No exceptions noted.*

#### 4) Collections (excluding electronic funds transfers)

---

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

*Obtained a listing of deposit sites and management's representation that listing is complete.*

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

*Obtained a listing of collection locations and management's representation that listing is complete.*

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

*No exceptions noted.*

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

*The employee responsible for collecting cash is also responsible for preparing/making bank deposits.*

*Management's Response: Executive Director will reconcile collection documentation to the deposit.*

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

*No exceptions noted.*

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

*No exceptions noted.*

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

*No exceptions noted.*

D. Randomly select two deposit dates for each of the 5 bank accounts selected for Bank Reconciliations procedure #3A (select the next deposit date chronologically if no deposits were made on the dates randomly selected and randomly select a deposit if multiple deposits are made on the same day). *Alternately, the practitioner may use a source document other than bank statements when selecting the deposit dates for testing, such as a cash collection log, daily revenue report, receipt book, etc.* Obtain supporting documentation for each of the 10 deposits and:

i. Observe that receipts are sequentially pre-numbered.

*No exceptions noted.*

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

*No exceptions noted.*

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

*No exceptions noted.*

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

*No exceptions noted.*

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

*No exceptions noted.*

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

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

*Obtained listing of locations that process payments and management's representation that listing is complete.*

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

i. At least two employees are involved in initiating a purchase request, approving a purchase, and placing an order/making the purchase;

*No exceptions noted.*

ii. At least two employees are involved in processing and approving payments to vendors;

*No exceptions noted.*

- iii. The employee responsible for processing payments is prohibited from adding/modifying vendor files, unless another employee is responsible for periodically reviewing changes to vendor files;

*No exceptions noted.*

- iv. Either the employee/official responsible for signing checks mails the payment or gives the signed checks to an employee to mail who is not responsible for processing payments; and

*The employee who processes payments also mails the checks after signatures are obtained.*

*Management's response: During the majority of the year, the Executive Director mailed the payments after signing the checks. After his retirement, given the minimal staff the employee who processed the payments also mailed the checks. Subsequent to year end, the new Executive Director mails the payments after signing the checks.*

- v. Only employees/officials authorized to sign checks approve the electronic disbursement (release) of funds, whether through automated clearinghouse (ACH), electronic funds transfer (EFT), wire transfer, or some other electronic means.

*No exceptions noted.*

- C. For each location selected under procedure #5A above, obtain the entity's non-payroll disbursement transaction population (excluding cards and travel reimbursements) and obtain management's representation that the population is complete. Randomly select 5 disbursements for each location, obtain supporting documentation for each transaction, and

- i. Observe whether the disbursement, whether by paper or electronic means, matched the related original itemized invoice and supporting documentation indicates that deliverables included on the invoice were received by the entity, and

*No exceptions noted.*

- ii. Observe that the disbursement documentation included evidence (e.g., initial/date, electronic logging) of segregation of duties tested under procedure #5B above, as applicable.

*The disbursement documentation included evidence of segregation of duties with the exception of 5Biv as noted above.*

- D. Using the entity's main operating account and the month selected in Bank Reconciliations procedure #3A, randomly select 5 non-payroll-related electronic disbursements (or all electronic disbursements if less than 5) and observe that each electronic disbursement was (a) approved by only those persons authorized to disburse funds (e.g., sign checks) per the entity's policy, and (b) approved by the required number of authorized signers per the entity's policy. Note: If no electronic payments were made from the main operating account during the month selected the practitioner should select an alternative month and/or account for testing that does include electronic disbursements.

*No exception noted.*

## **6) Credit Cards/Debit Cards/Fuel Cards/Purchase Cards (Cards)**

---

- A. Obtain from management a listing of all active credit cards, bank debit cards, fuel cards, and purchase cards (cards), for the fiscal period, including the card numbers and the names of the persons who maintained possession of the cards. Obtain management's representation that the listing is complete.

*Obtained listing of credit cards and management's representation that listing is complete.*

- B. Using the listing prepared by management, randomly select 5 cards (or all if less than 5) that were used during the fiscal period. Randomly select one monthly statement or combined statement for each card (for a debit card, randomly select one monthly bank statement), obtain supporting documentation, and:

- i. Observe whether there is evidence that the monthly statement or combined statement and supporting documentation (e.g., original receipts for credit/debit card purchases, exception reports for excessive fuel card usage) were reviewed and approved, in writing (or electronically approved), by someone other than the authorized card holder (those instances requiring such approval that may constrain the legal authority of certain public officials, such as the mayor of a Lawrason Act municipality, should not be reported); and

*No exceptions noted.*

- ii. Observe that finance charges and late fees were not assessed on the selected statements.

*No exceptions noted.*

- C. Using the monthly statements or combined statements selected under procedure #7B above, excluding fuel cards, randomly select 10 transactions (or all transactions if less than 10) from each statement, and obtain supporting documentation for the transactions (e.g., each card should have 10 transactions subject to inspection). For each transaction, observe that it is supported by (1) an original itemized receipt that identifies precisely what was purchased, (2) written documentation of the business/public purpose, and (3) documentation of the individuals participating in meals (for meal charges only). For missing receipts, the practitioner should describe the nature of the transaction and note whether management had a compensating control to address missing receipts, such as a "missing receipt statement" that is subject to increased scrutiny.

*No exceptions noted.*

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

---

- A. Obtain from management a listing of all travel and travel-related expense reimbursements during the fiscal period and management's representation that the listing or general ledger is complete. Randomly select 5 reimbursements and obtain the related expense reimbursement forms/prepaid expense documentation of each selected reimbursement, as well as the supporting documentation. For each of the 5 reimbursements selected:

*Obtained listing of travel and related expense reimbursements and management's representation that listing is complete.*

- i. If reimbursed using a per diem, observe that the approved reimbursement rate is no more than those rates established either by the State of Louisiana or the U.S. General Services Administration ([www.gsa.gov](http://www.gsa.gov));



*No exceptions noted.*

- ii. If reimbursed using actual costs, observe that the reimbursement is supported by an original itemized receipt that identifies precisely what was purchased;

*No exceptions noted.*

- iii. Observe that each reimbursement is supported by documentation of the business/public purpose (for meal charges, observe that the documentation includes the names of those individuals participating) and other documentation required by Written Policies and Procedures procedure #1A(vii); and

*No exceptions noted.*

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

*One out of the five reimbursements selected was not approved by someone other than the person receiving the reimbursement.*

*Management's response: It is standard practice to have the reimbursement reviewed and approved in writing by the Executive Director or someone other than the person receiving the reimbursement. The reimbursement selected must have been an inadvertent omission.*

## **8) Contracts**

---

- A. Obtain from management a listing of all agreements/contracts for professional services, materials and supplies, leases, and construction activities that were initiated or renewed during the fiscal period. *Alternately, the practitioner may use an equivalent selection source, such as an active vendor list. Obtain management's representation that the listing is complete. Randomly select 5 contracts (or all contracts if less than 5) from the listing, excluding the practitioner's contract, and*

*Obtained listing of contracts initiated or renewed during the fiscal period and management's representation that listing is complete.*

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

*Not applicable.*

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

*No exceptions noted.*

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

*No exceptions noted.*

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

*No exceptions noted.*

## **9) Payroll and Personnel**

---

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

*No exceptions noted.*

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

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

*No exceptions noted.*

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

*No exceptions noted.*

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

*No exceptions noted.*

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

*No exceptions noted.*

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

*No exceptions noted.*

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

*No exceptions noted.*

## **10) Ethics**

---

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

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

*No exceptions noted.*

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

*No exceptions noted.*

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

*No exceptions noted.*

## **11) Debt Service**

---

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

*Not applicable.*

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

*Not applicable.*

## **12) Fraud Notice**

---

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

*Management asserted that the entity did not have any misappropriations of public funds or assets.*

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

*No exceptions noted.*

### ***13) Information Technology Disaster Recovery/Business Continuity***

---

A. Perform the following procedures, **verbally discuss the results with management, and report “We performed the procedure and discussed the results with management.”**

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

*We performed the procedure and discussed the results with management.*

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

*We performed the procedure and discussed the results with management.*

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

*We performed the procedure and discussed the results with management.*

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

*No exceptions noted.*

### ***14) Prevention of Sexual Harassment***

---

A. Using the 5 randomly selected employees/officials from Payroll and Personnel procedure #9A above, obtain sexual harassment training documentation from management, and observe that the documentation demonstrates each employee/official completed at least one hour of sexual harassment training during the calendar year.

*No exceptions noted.*

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

*No exceptions noted.*

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

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

*No exceptions noted.*

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

*No exceptions noted.*

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

*No exceptions noted.*

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

*No exceptions noted.*

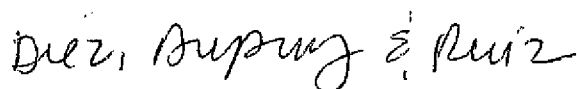
- v. Amount of time it took to resolve each complaint.

*No exceptions noted.*

We were engaged by the Amite River Basin Drainage and Water Conservation District to perform this agreed-upon procedures engagement and conducted our engagement in accordance with attestation standards established by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants and applicable standards of *Government Auditing Standards*. We were not engaged to and did not conduct an examination or review engagement, the objective of which would be the expression of an opinion or conclusion, respectively, on those C/C areas identified in the SAUPs. Accordingly, we do not express such an opinion or conclusion. Had we performed additional procedures, other matters might have come to our attention that would have been reported to you.

We are required to be independent of the Amite River Basin Drainage and Water Conservation District and to meet our other ethical responsibilities, in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements related to our agreed-upon procedures engagement.

This report is intended solely to describe the scope of testing performed on those C/C areas identified in the SAUPs, and the result of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on control or compliance. Accordingly, this report is not suitable for any other purpose. Under Louisiana Revised Statute 24:513, this report is distributed by the LLA as a public document.



Gonzales, Louisiana  
November 3, 2023