



**ASHLAND SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
ASHLAND COUNTY**

**AGREED-UPON PROCEDURES
FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2023 - 2022**

OHIO AUDITOR OF STATE KEITH FABER



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Board of Supervisors
Ashland Soil and Water Conservation District
110 Cottage Street
Ashland, Ohio 44805

We have reviewed the *Independent Accountant's Report on Applying Agreed-Upon Procedures* of the Ashland Soil and Water Conservation District, Ashland County, prepared by Perry & Associates, Certified Public Accountants, A.C., for the period January 1, 2022 through December 31, 2023. Based upon this review, we have accepted this report in lieu of the audit required by Section 117.11, Revised Code.

Our review was made in reference to the applicable sections of legislative criteria, as reflected by the Ohio Constitution, and the Revised Code, policies, procedures and guidelines of the Auditor of State, regulations and grant requirements. The Ashland Soil and Water Conservation District is responsible for compliance with these laws and regulations.

Keith Faber
Auditor of State
Columbus, Ohio

December 12, 2024

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ASHLAND SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
ASHLAND COUNTY

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INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANT'S REPORT ON APPLYING AGREED-UPON PROCEDURES

Ashland Soil and Water Conservation District
Ashland County
110 Cottage Street
Ashland, Ohio 44805

We have performed the procedures enumerated below on the Ashland Soil and Water Conservation District's (the District) receipts, disbursements and balances recorded in the cash-basis accounting records for the years ended December 31, 2023 and 2022, and certain compliance requirements related to those transactions and balances, included in the information provided to us by the management of the District. The District is responsible for the receipts, disbursements and balances recorded in the cash basis accounting records for the years ended December 31, 2023 and 2022 and certain compliance requirements related to these transactions and balances included in the information provided to us by the District.

The Board of Supervisors and the management of the District have agreed to and acknowledged that the procedures performed are appropriate to meet the intended purpose of providing assistance in the evaluation of the District's receipts, disbursements and balances recorded in their cash-basis accounting records for the years ended December 31, 2023 and 2022, and certain compliance requirements related to these transactions and balances. Additionally, the Auditor of State has agreed to and acknowledged that the procedures performed are appropriate to meet their purposes. No other party acknowledged the appropriateness of the procedures. 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 the report and may not meet the needs of all users of the report and, as such, users are responsible for determining whether the procedures performed are appropriate for their purposes. The sufficiency of the procedures is solely the responsibility of the parties specified in the report. Consequently, we make no representation regarding the sufficiency of the procedures described below either for the purpose for which this report has been requested or for any other purpose.

For the purposes of performing these procedures, this report only describes exceptions exceeding \$10.

The procedures and the associated findings are as follows:

Cash

1. We recalculated the December 31, 2023 and December 31, 2022 bank reconciliations. We found no exceptions.
2. We agreed the January 1, 2022 beginning fund balances for each fund recorded in the District's General Ledger and County's 2023 Budget Report to the December 31, 2021 balances in the prior year documentation in the prior year Agreed-Upon Procedures working papers. We found a \$54.97 variance from the prior year due to a unidentified client adjustment to the 2021 General Ledger. We also agreed the January 1, 2023 beginning fund balances for each fund recorded in the District's County 2023 Budget Report to the December 31, 2022 balances in the District's County 2023 Budget Report. We found no exceptions.

Cash (Continued)

3. We agreed the 2023 and 2022 bank reconciliation Adjusted Bank Balances as of December 31, 2023 and 2022 to the total fund cash balances reported in the General Ledger and the financial statements filed by the District in the Hinkle System. The amounts did not agree. In 2023 there is a \$1,184.60 variance where the Hinkle amount is less than the bank reconciliation. The variance is due to the change fund and bulk mail account not being included in the Hinkle filing amounts of \$100 and \$1,051.47 respectively, as well as an undetermined variance of \$33.13. In 2022 there is an undetermined variance of \$248.38 where the Hinkle filing amount exceeds the bank reconciliation amount.
4. We confirmed the December 31, 2023 bank account depository balance for the District with the District's financial institution. We found no exceptions. We also agreed the confirmed balances to the amounts appearing in the December 31, 2023 bank reconciliation without exception.
5. We compared the December 31, 2023 Special Fund depository balance from the *Cash Basis Annual Financial Report* to the amount reported in the County's 2023 Budget Report. We found no exceptions.
6. We selected 5 reconciling debits (such as outstanding checks) from the December 31, 2023 bank reconciliation:
 - a. We footed the supporting outstanding check list and compared it to the cash reconciliation. We found no exceptions.
 - b. We traced each check to the subsequent January bank statement. We found no exceptions.
 - c. We traced the amounts and dates to the check register and determined the debits were dated prior to December 31. We found no exceptions.
7. We selected all reconciling credits (such as deposits in transit) from the December 31, 2023 bank reconciliation:
 - a. We traced each credit to the subsequent January bank statement. We found no exceptions.
 - b. We agreed the credit amounts to the General Ledger and determined they were not dated prior to December 31.
8. We inspected investments held at December 31, 2023 and December 31, 2022 to determine that they:
 - a. Were of a type authorized by Ohio Rev. Code §§ 135.13, 135.14, 135.144, or 135.145. We found no exceptions.
 - b. Mature within the prescribed time limits noted in Ohio Rev. Code § 135.13 or 135.14. We found no exceptions.

Intergovernmental Cash Receipts

1. We selected a total of 5 receipts from the *Statement of Semiannual Apportionment of Taxes*, the State Distribution Transaction Lists (DTL) and the Ashland County Transaction History Listing Report from 2023 and a total of 5 from 2022:
 - a. We compared the amounts from the above named reports to the amount recorded in the General Ledger. The amounts agreed.
 - b. We inspected the General Ledger to determine these receipts were allocated to the proper fund. We found no exceptions.
 - c. We inspected the General Ledger to determine whether the receipt was recorded in the proper year. The receipt was recorded in the proper year. We found no exceptions.

Other Receipts

We selected 10 other receipts from the year ended December 31, 2023 and 10 other receipts from the year ended 2022 and:

- a. Agreed the receipt amount recorded in the General Ledger to supporting documentation. The amounts agreed.
- b. Confirmed the amount charged complied with rates in force during the period, if applicable. We found no exceptions.
- c. Inspected the General Ledger to determine the receipt was posted to the proper funds, and was recorded in the proper year. We found no exceptions.

Payroll Cash Disbursements

1. We selected 1 payroll check for 5 employees from 2023 and 1 payroll check for 5 employees from 2022 from the General Ledger and:
 - a. We compared the hours and pay rate, or salary recorded in the General Ledger to supporting documentation (timecard, legislatively approved rate). We found no exceptions.
 - b. We inspected the General Ledger to determine whether salaries and benefits were paid only from the *Special Fund*, as required by the SWCD Administrative Handbook Chapter 5. We found no exceptions.
 - c. We inspected the General Ledger to determine whether the check was classified as *salaries* and was posted to the proper year. We found no exceptions.
2. We selected 3 new employees from 2023 and all new employees from 2022 and:
 - a. We inspected the employees' personnel files for the Retirement system, Federal, State & Local income tax withholding authorization.
 - b. We agreed the items in a above to the Employee General Information Report.We found no exceptions.

Non-Payroll Cash Disbursements

1. We selected 5 disbursements from the *Special Fund* and 5 disbursements from the *District Fund* and other funds from the General Ledger for the year ended December 31, 2023 and 5 from the *Special Fund* and 5 from the *District Fund* and other funds for the year ended 2022 and determined whether:
 - a. The disbursements were for a proper public purpose. We found no exceptions.
 - b. For *District Fund* and other funds disbursements, we determined whether:
 - i. The check number, date, payee name and amount recorded on the returned, canceled check agreed to the similar data recorded in the General Ledger and to the names and amounts on the supporting invoices. We found no exceptions.
 - ii. The payment was posted to a fund consistent with the purpose for which the fund's cash can be used. We found no exceptions.
 - c. For *Special Fund* disbursements, we determined whether:
 - i. The payee name and amount recorded on the invoice submitted to the County Auditor agreed to the payee name and amount recorded in the General Ledger. We found no exceptions.
 - ii. The names and amounts on the voucher agreed to supporting invoices. We found no exceptions
 - iii. The invoice was signed by the fiscal officer and approved by a majority of the Board of Supervisors. We found no exceptions.

Special Fund Budgetary Compliance

1. We inspected the District's Special Fund Budget Request submitted to the County Commissioners for the years ended December 31, 2023 and 2022. The request included the Special Fund's *Needs, Income and Balances* anticipated for carryover from the current year, as required by the SWCD Administrative Handbook, Chapter 5. We also compared the budget amounts to the Special Fund Budgetary Activity footnote of the Cash Basis Annual Financial Report. Budgeted receipts and budgetary expenditures did not agree in 2023 and in 2022 budgetary expenditures did not agree to the Hinkle filing.
2. Ohio Rev. Code § 5705.41(B) prohibits expenditures (disbursements plus year-end certified commitments including outstanding encumbrances) from exceeding appropriations. We compared total expenditures to total approved appropriations (Ohio Rev. Code §§ 5705.38 and 5705.40) plus any carryover appropriations for the year ended December 31, 2023 and 2022 for the "Special" Fund. Expenditures did not exceed appropriations for the Special Fund.
3. We inspected the General Ledger for the years ended December 31, 2023 and 2022 for negative cash fund balances. Ohio Rev. Code § 5705.10 (l) provides that money paid into a fund must be used for the purposes for which such fund is established. As a result, a negative fund cash balance indicates that money from one fund was used to cover the expenses of another. There were no funds having negative cash fund balances.

Sunshine Law Compliance

1. We obtained and inspected the District's Public Records Policy to determine the policy was in accordance with Ohio Rev. Code §§ 149.43(E)(2) and 149.43(B)(7(c) and did not limit the number of responses that may be made to a particular person, limit the number of responses during a specified period of time, or establish a fixed period of time before it will respond unless that period is less than eight hours. We found no exceptions.
2. We selected all public records requests from the engagement period and inspected each request to determine the following:
 - a. The District was compliant and responded to the request in accordance with their adopted policy as required by Ohio Rev. Code § 149.43(B)(1). We found no exceptions.
 - b. The District did not have any denied public records requests during the engagement period.
 - c. The District was redacting records and making the redactions visible and provided an explanation which included the legal authority to the requester as required by Ohio Rev. Code § 149.43(B)(1). We found no exceptions.
3. We inquired whether the District had a records retention schedule and observed that it was readily available to the public as required by Ohio Rev. Code § 149.43(B)(2). We found no exceptions.
4. We inspected written evidence that the Public Records Policy was provided to the records custodian/manager as required by Ohio Rev. Code § 149.43(E)(2). We found no exceptions.
5. We inspected the District's policy manual and determined the public records policy was included as required by Ohio Rev. Code § 149.43(E)(2). We found no exceptions.
6. We observed that the District's poster describing their Public Records Policy was displayed conspicuously in all branches of the District as required by Ohio Rev. Code § 149.43(E)(2). We found no exceptions.

Sunshine Law Compliance (Continued)

7. We inquired with District management and determined that the District did not have any applications for record disposal submitted to the Records Commission during the engagement period.
8. We inspected individual proof of attendance and determined whether each elected official in accordance with Ohio Rev. Code § 149.43(E)(1) (or his/her designee) successfully attended a certified three-hour Public Records Training for each term of office as required by Ohio Rev. Code § 109.43(B). We found no exceptions.
9. We inspected the public notices for the public meetings held during the engagement period and determined the District notified the general public and news media of when and where meetings during the engagement period were to be held as required by Ohio Rev. Code § 121.22(F). We found no exceptions.
10. We inspected the minutes of public meetings during the engagement period in accordance with Ohio Rev. Code § 121.22(C) and determined whether they were:
 - a. Prepared – a file is created following the date of the meeting
 - b. Filed – placed with similar documents in an organized manner
 - c. Maintained - retained, at a minimum, for the engagement period
 - d. Open to public inspection – available for public viewing or request.We found no exceptions.
11. We inspected the minutes from the engagement period in accordance with Ohio Rev. Code § 121.22(G) and determined the following:
 - a. Executive sessions were only held at regular or special meetings.
 - b. The purpose for the meetings and going into an executive session (when applicable) correlated with one of the matters listed in Ohio Rev. Code § 121.22(G).
 - c. Formal governing board actions were adopted in open meetings.We found no exceptions.

Other Compliance

1. Ohio Rev. Code § 117.38 requires Districts to file their financial information in the HINKLE system within 60 days after the close of the fiscal year. This statute also permits the Auditor of State to extend the deadline for filing a financial report and establish terms and conditions for any such extension. Auditor of State established policies, regarding the filing of complete financial statements, as defined in AOS Bulletin 2015-007 in the Hinkle System. We confirmed the District filed their complete financial statements, as defined by AOS Bulletin 2015-007 and Auditor of State established policy, within the allotted timeframe for the years ended December 31, 2023 and 2022 in the Hinkle system. We found no exceptions.

We were engaged by the District to perform this agreed-upon procedures engagement and conducted our engagement in accordance with the attestation standards established by the AICPA and the Comptroller General of the United States' *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 the District's receipts, disbursements, balances and compliance with certain laws and regulations. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion or conclusion. Had we performed additional procedures, other matters might have come to our attention that would have been reported to you.

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Ashland County
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We are required to be independent of the District and to meet our ethical responsibilities, in accordance with the ethical requirements established by the Comptroller General of the United States' *Government Auditing Standards* related to our agreed upon procedures engagement.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Perry & Associates CPA A.C." The signature is fluid and cursive, with "Perry & Associates" on the top line and "CPA A.C." on the bottom line.

Perry and Associates
Certified Public Accountants, A.C.
Marietta, Ohio

October 18, 2024

OHIO AUDITOR OF STATE KEITH FABER



ASHLAND COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

ASHLAND COUNTY

AUDITOR OF STATE OF OHIO CERTIFICATION

This is a true and correct copy of the report, which is required to be filed pursuant to Section 117.26, Revised Code, and which is filed in the Office of the Ohio Auditor of State in Columbus, Ohio.



Certified for Release 12/24/2024

65 East State Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215
Phone: 614-466-4514 or 800-282-0370

This report is a matter of public record and is available online at
www.ohioauditor.gov