Management Letter

Prior Lake-Spring Lake Watershed District

Prior Lake, Minnesota

For the Year Ended
December 31, 2014

ABDO EICK & MEYERS LLP
Certified Public Accountants & Consultants

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Certified Public Accountants & Consultants

April 24, 2015

Board of Managers
Prior Lake-Spring Lake Watershed District
Prior Lake, Minnesota

We have audited the financial statements of the governmental activities and each major fund of the Prior Lake-Spring Lake Watershed District (the District), Prior Lake, Minnesota, for the year ended December 31, 2014. Professional standards require that we provide you with information about our responsibilities under generally accepted auditing standards, as well as certain information related to the planned scope and timing of our audit. We have communicated such information in our letter to you dated December 4, 2014. Professional standards also require that we communicate to you the following information related to our audit.

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

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

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

A deficiency in internal control over financial reporting exists when the design or operation of a control does not allow management or employees, in the normal course of performing their assigned functions, to prevent, or detect and correct misstatements on a timely basis. A material weakness is a deficiency or combination of deficiencies in internal control, such that there is a reasonable possibility that a material misstatement of the District’s financial statements will not be prevented, or detected and corrected on a timely basis.

Our consideration of internal control over financial reporting was for the limited purposes described in the second paragraph of this section and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control over financial reporting that might be significant deficiencies or material weaknesses and therefore, there can be no assurance that all such deficiencies have been identified. We did not identify any deficiencies in internal control that we consider to be material weaknesses.

Compliance

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement, we performed tests of compliance with certain provisions of Minnesota statutes. However, the objective of our tests was not to provide an opinion on compliance with such provisions. We noted no instances of noncompliance with Minnesota statutes.

Planned Scope and Timing of the Audit

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

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Qualitative Aspects of Accounting Practices

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

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

Management's estimate of these accounting estimates is based on estimated or actual historical cost and the estimated useful lives of capital assets. We evaluated the key factors and assumptions used to develop these accounting estimates in determining that it is reasonable in relation to the financial statements taken as a whole.

The disclosures in the financial statements are neutral, consistent, and clear. Certain financial statement disclosures are particularly sensitive because of their significance to financial statement users.

Difficulties Encountered in Performing the Audit

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

Corrected and Uncorrected Misstatements

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

Disagreements with Management

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

Management Representations

We have requested certain representations from management that are included in the management representation letter dated April 24, 2015.

Management Consultations with Other Independent Accountants

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

Other Audit Findings or Issues

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

Approval of Invoices

While auditing the District's financial statements, we noticed that a number of the invoices paid during the year did not have proper approval documented. We recommend that the District ensure all invoices are approved with proper documentation including initials and account(s) to which the invoice should be coded. This will serve as a control to reduce the risk of payment of false or duplicate invoices.

Financial Position and Results of Operations

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

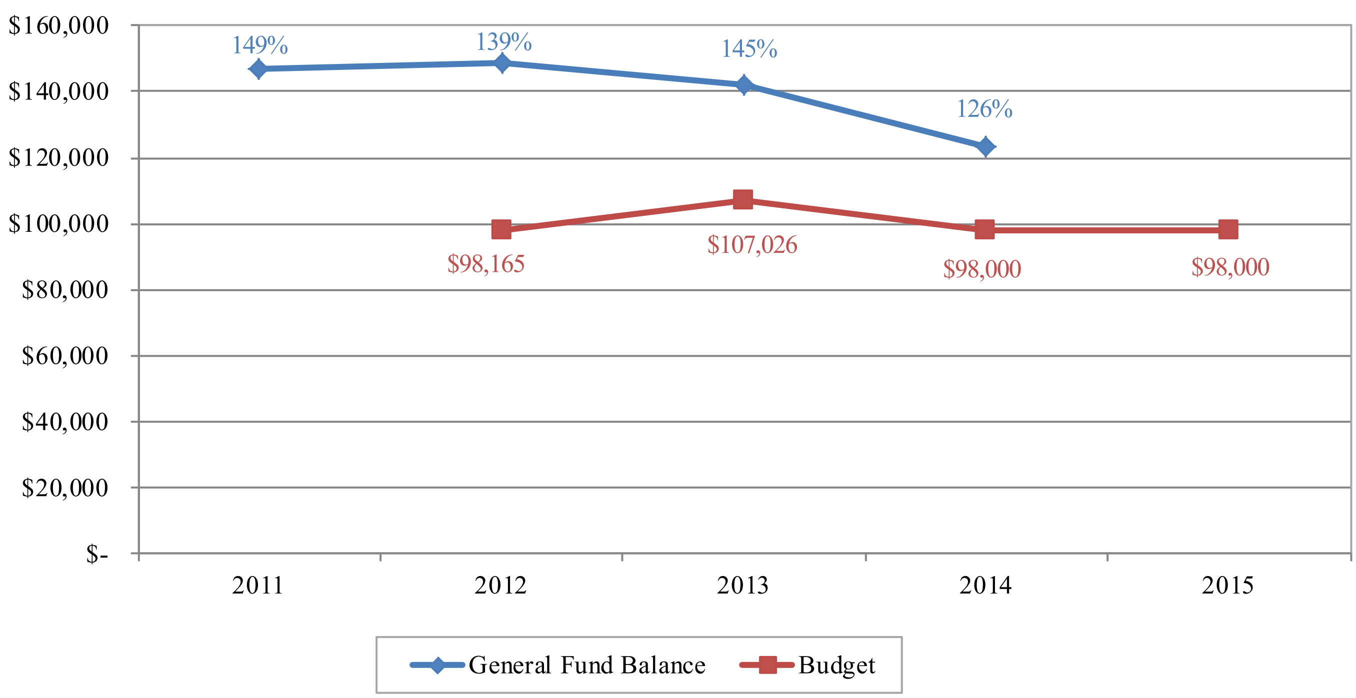
General Fund

The fund balance at December 31, 2014 was $123,256, a decrease of $18,852 in comparison with the prior year. The total fund balance represents 126 percent of the 2015 General fund budget.

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

Year	General Fund Balance December 31	Budget Year	General Fund Budget	Percent of Fund Balance to Budget
2011	$ 146,747	2012	$ 98,165	149 %
2012	148,910	2013	107,026	139
2013	142,108	2014	98,000	145
2014	123,256	2015	98,000	126

Fund Balance as a Percent of Next Year's Budget



People + Process. Going Beyond the Numbers

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

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

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

The 2014 General fund operations are summarized as follows:

	Final Budgeted Amounts	Actual Amounts	Variance with Final Budget
Revenues	$ 98,500	$ 100,506	$ 2,006
Expenditures	98,000	119,358	(21,358)
Net change in fund balances	500	(18,852)	(19,352)
Fund balances, January 1	142,108	142,108	-
Fund balances, December 31	$ 142,608	$ 123,256	$ (19,352)

Revenue exceeded budget due to interest on investments. Expenditures were over budget. Following are some of the larger expenditure variances:

- Miscellaneous expenditures were over budget by $14,444

- Salaries and per diems were over budget by $13,650

- Contracted services were over budget by $3,411

Special Revenue Funds

Special revenue funds include funds used to account for revenue derived from specific revenue sources that are restricted or committed to expenditures for specified purposes.

The 2014 Implementation fund operations are summarized as follows:

	Final Budgeted Amounts	Actual Amounts	Variance with Final Budget
Revenues	$ 426,500	$ 513,189	$ 86,689
Expenditures	825,725	663,008	162,717
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over (under) expenditures	(399,225)	(149,819)	249,406
Other financing uses			
Transfers out	-	(117,206)	(117,206)
Net change in fund balances	(399,225)	(267,025)	132,200
Fund balances, January 1	727,275	727,275	-
Fund balances, December 31	$ 328,050	$ 460,250	$ 132,200

Revenues exceeded budget by $86,689 primarily due to intergovernmental revenues.

Expenditures were under budget by $162,717. Following are the largest expenditure variances:

- Program costs were under budget by $153,095
- Legal was under budget by $19,843
- Payroll taxes and benefits were over budget by $7,754
- Accounting was over budget by $5,073

Debt Service Funds

Debt Service funds are a type of governmental fund to account for the accumulation of resources for the payment of interest and principal on debt.

Debt Service funds may have one or a combination of revenue sources pledged to retire debt. Currently the District debt service is being funded by property taxes.

In addition to the above pledged revenues, other funding sources may be received by Debt Service funds as follows:

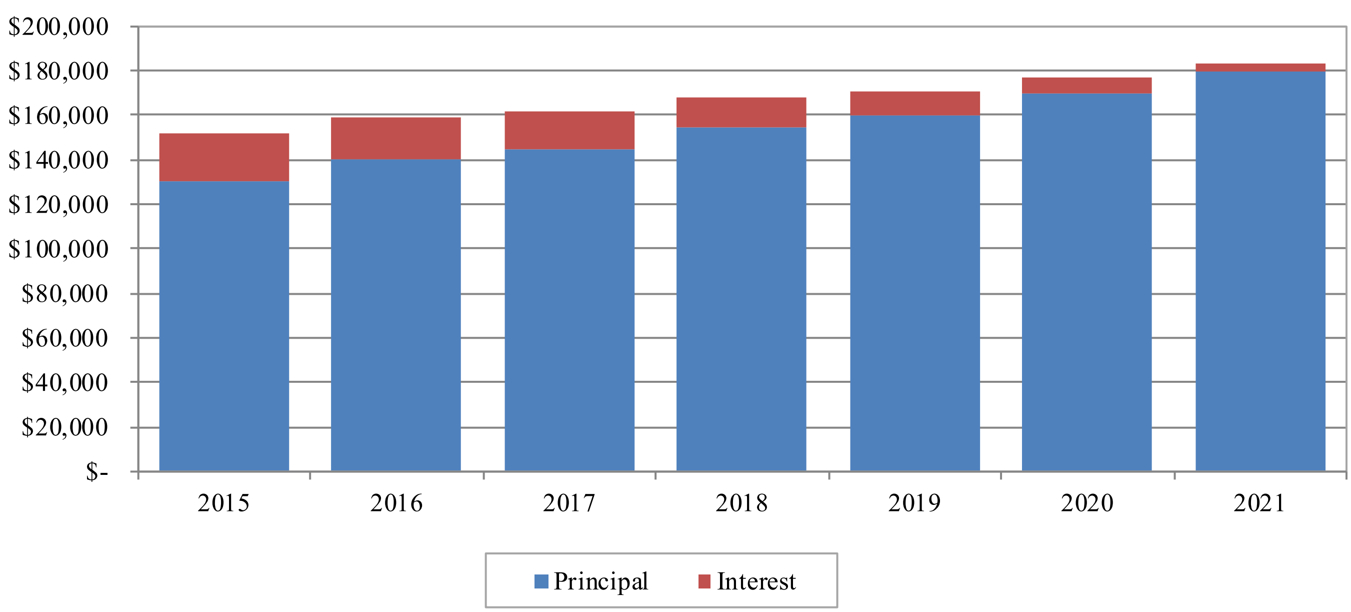
- Residual project proceeds from the related capital projects fund
- Investment earnings
- State or Federal grants
- Transfers from other funds

The following is a summary of the assets accumulated in the Debt Service fund and the related long-term debt at year end.

Fund	Cash and Temporary Investments	Total Assets	Bonds Outstanding	Maturity
Bond Debt Service	$ 22,697	$ 24,695	$ 1,080,000	2021
Total remaining interest payments			$ 92,040	

The District should continue to monitor sources of payment for their debt obligations and ensure that there are sufficient resources to meet the debt obligations.

Scheduled Governmental Debt Service for the Next Seven Years



Capital Projects Funds

This group of funds includes most of the development activities in the District. A summary of the status of each fund follows:

Fund	Fund Balances December 31, 2014	Fund Balances December 31, 2013	Increase (Decrease)
Major			
JPA/MOA Operations	$ 165,038	$ 129,533	$ 35,505
JPA/MOA Emergency	285,503	288,316	(2,813)
Total	$ 450,541	$ 417,849	$ 32,692

Following are some specifics on the above funds:

JPA/MOA Operations fund

- There was $73,826 of revenues during the year
- There was $161,277 of expenditures during the year
- There were transfers in of $122,956 during the year

JPA/MOA Emergency fund

- The only activity during the year was interest on investments and a transfer to the JPA/MOA Operations fund

Future Accounting Standard Changes

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

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

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

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

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

How the Changes in This Statement Will Improve Financial Reporting

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

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

Summary

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

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

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

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

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

How the Changes in This Statement Will Improve Financial Reporting

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

GASB Statement No. 72 - *Fair Value Measurement and Application*

Summary

This Statement addresses accounting and financial reporting issues related to fair value measurements. The definition of *fair value* is the price that would be received to sell an asset or paid to transfer a liability in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date. This Statement provides guidance for determining a fair value measurement for financial reporting purposes. This Statement also provides guidance for applying fair value to certain investments and disclosures related to all fair value measurements.

<u>Fair Value Measurement</u>

Fair value is described as an exit price. Fair value measurements assume a transaction takes place in a government's principal market, or a government's most advantageous market in the absence of a principal market. The fair value also should be measured assuming that general market participants would act in their economic best interest. Fair value should not be adjusted for transaction costs.

To determine a fair value measurement, a government should consider the unit of account of the asset or liability. The unit of account refers to the level at which an asset or a liability is aggregated or disaggregated for measurement, recognition, or disclosure purposes as provided by the accounting standards. For example, the unit of account for investments held in a brokerage account is each individual security, whereas the unit of account for an investment in a mutual fund is each share in the mutual fund held by a government.

This Statement requires a government to use valuation techniques that are appropriate under the circumstances and for which sufficient data are available to measure fair value. The techniques should be consistent with one or more of the following approaches: the market approach, the cost approach, or the income approach. The market approach uses prices and other relevant information generated by market transactions involving identical or comparable assets, liabilities, or a group of assets and liabilities. The cost approach reflects the amount that would be required to replace the present service capacity of an asset. The income approach converts future amounts (such as cash flows or income and expenses) to a single current (discounted) amount. Valuation techniques should be applied consistently, though a change may be appropriate in certain circumstances. Valuation techniques maximize the use of relevant observable inputs and minimize the use of unobservable inputs.

This Statement establishes a hierarchy of inputs to valuation techniques used to measure fair value. That hierarchy has three levels. Level 1 inputs are quoted prices (unadjusted) in active markets for identical assets or liabilities. Level 2 inputs are inputs—other than quoted prices—included within Level 1 that are observable for the asset or liability, either directly or indirectly. Finally, Level 3 inputs are unobservable inputs, such as management's assumption of the default rate among underlying mortgages of a mortgage-backed security.

A fair value measurement takes into account the highest and best use for a nonfinancial asset. A fair value measurement of a liability assumes that the liability would be transferred to a market participant and not settled with the counterparty. In the absence of a quoted price for the transfer of an identical or similar liability and if another party holds an identical item as an asset, a government should be able to use the fair value of that asset to measure the fair value of the liability.

This Statement requires additional analysis of fair value if the volume or level of activity for an asset or liability has significantly decreased. It also requires identification of transactions that are not orderly. Quoted prices provided by third parties are permitted, as long as a government determines that those quoted prices are developed in accordance with the provisions of this Statement.

Future Accounting Standard Changes - Continued

Fair Value Application

This Statement generally requires investments to be measured at fair value. An *investment* is defined as a security or other asset that (a) a government holds primarily for the purpose of income or profit and (b) has a present service capacity based solely on its ability to generate cash or to be sold to generate cash. Investments not measured at fair value continue to include, for example, money market investments, 2a7-like external investment pools, investments in life insurance contracts, common stock meeting the criteria for applying the equity method, unallocated insurance contracts, and synthetic guaranteed investment contracts. A government is permitted in certain circumstances to establish the fair value of an investment that does not have a readily determinable fair value by using the net asset value per share (or its equivalent) of the investment.

This Statement requires measurement at acquisition value (an entry price) for donated capital assets, donated works of art, historical treasures, and similar assets and capital assets received in a service concession arrangement. These assets were previously required to be measured at fair value.

Fair Value Disclosures

This Statement requires disclosures to be made about fair value measurements, the level of fair value hierarchy, and valuation techniques. Governments should organize these disclosures by type of asset or liability reported at fair value. It also requires additional disclosures regarding investments in certain entities that calculate net asset value per share (or its equivalent).

The requirements of this Statement are effective for financial statements for periods beginning after June 15, 2015. Earlier application is encouraged.

How the Changes in This Statement Will Improve Financial Reporting

The requirements of this Statement will enhance comparability of financial statements among governments by requiring measurement of certain assets and liabilities at fair value using a consistent and more detailed definition of fair value and accepted valuation techniques. This Statement also will enhance fair value application guidance and related disclosures in order to provide information to financial statement users about the impact of fair value measurements on a government's financial position.

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

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

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

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

ABDO, EICK & MEYERS, LLP
Minneapolis, Minnesota
April 24, 2015