



# Executive Governance Summary

## Prior Lake-Spring Lake Watershed District

Prior Lake, Minnesota

For the year ended December 31, 2023



### *Edina Office*

5201 Eden Avenue, Ste 250  
Edina, MN 55436  
P 952.835.9090

### *Mankato Office*

100 Warren Street, Ste 600  
Mankato, MN 56001  
P 507.625.2727

### *Scottsdale Office*

14500 N Northsight Blvd, Ste 233  
Scottsdale, AZ 85260  
P 480.864.5579

April 19, 2024

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, 2023. 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 13, 2023. Professional standards also require that we communicate to you the following information related to our audit.

### **Significant Audit Findings**

In planning and performing our audit of the financial statements, we considered the District's internal control over financial reporting (internal control) as a basis for designing 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 District's internal control. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the 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.

## Compliance and Other Matters

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the District's financial statements are free of material misstatement, we performed tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, grant agreements, and other matters noncompliance with which could have a direct and material effect on the financial statements. However, providing an opinion on compliance with those provisions was not an objective of our audit. The results of our tests disclosed one instance of noncompliance described below as finding 2023-001.

<u>Finding</u>	<u>Description</u>
<b>2023-001</b>	<b>Time Period for Payment</b>
<i>Condition:</i>	Auditing for legal compliance requires a review of the District's payment of claims. Our audit indicated an instance of non-compliance. We noted four instances out of a sample of 25 invoices that were paid after the 35-day period.
<i>Criteria:</i>	Minnesota statute section 471.425 requires that the District pay bills within 35 days from receipt. If the invoice is not paid within 35 days, interest at 1.5 percent per month is to be added to amount due.
<i>Cause:</i>	Unknown.
<i>Effect:</i>	The District is out of compliance with this statute.
<i>Recommendation:</i>	We recommend that the District develop policies and procedures related to the accounts payable cycle to avoid late payments. These policies and procedures should include payment terms that are outlined within State statutes.
<i>Management Response:</i>	The District will work with vendors and staff to ensure invoices are received with sufficient time to review and pay within the Statute's requirements.

## 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 were not changed during the year ended December 31, 2023. 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 on capital assets and the liability for the District's pensions.

- Management's estimate of depreciation is based on estimated useful lives of the capital assets. Depreciation is calculated using the straight-line method.
- Management's estimate of its pension liability is based on several factors including, but not limited to, anticipated investment return rate, retirement age for active employees, life expectancy, salary increases and form of annuity payment upon retirement.

We evaluated the key factors and assumptions used to develop these estimates in determining that they are 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 misstatements detected as a result of audit procedures and corrected by management were material, either individually or in the aggregate, to each opinion unit or 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 19, 2024.

## **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.

## **Other Matters**

We applied certain limited procedures to the required supplementary information (RSI) (Management's Discussion and Analysis, the Schedule of Employer's Share of the Net Pension Liability and the Schedule of Employer's Contributions), which is information that supplements the basic financial statements. Our procedures consisted of inquiries of management regarding the methods of preparing the information and comparing the information for consistency with management's responses to our inquiries, the basic financial statements, and other knowledge we obtained during our audit of the basic financial statements. We did not audit the RSI and do not express an opinion or provide any assurance on the RSI.

We were not engaged to report on the introductory section, which accompanies the financial statements but is not RSI. We did not audit or perform other procedures on this other information and we do not express an opinion or provide any assurance on it.



## 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: <sup>(1)</sup>

**GASB Statement No. 100** - *Accounting Changes and Error Corrections* *Effective: 12/31/2024*

**GASB Statement No. 101** - *Compensated Absences* *Effective: 12/31/2024*

**GASB Statement No. 102** - *Certain Risk Disclosures* *Effective: 12/31/2025*

Further information on upcoming [GASB pronouncements](#).

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## Restriction on Use

This communication is intended solely for the information and use of the Board, management and the Minnesota Office of the State Auditor and is not intended and should not be used by anyone other than those 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 continued opportunity to be of service and for the courtesy and cooperation extended to us by your staff.



**Abdo**  
Minneapolis, Minnesota  
April 19, 2024

