MILLE LACS SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2025

MILLE LACS SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
MILACA, MINNESOTA
TABLE OF CONTENTS
DECEMBER 31, 2025

INTRODUCTORY SECTION	**Page**
Organization	1
FINANCIAL SECTION	
Independent Auditor's Report	2
BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS	
General Fund Balance Sheet and Governmental Activities - Statement of Net Position	5
General Fund Statement of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balance and Governmental Activities - Statement of Activities	6
Notes to the Financial Statements	7
REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION	
Budgetary Comparison Schedule - General Fund	17
Schedule of Contributions	18
Schedule of Proportionate Share of Net Pension Liability	18
Notes to the Required Supplementary Information	19
REPORTS RELATED TO *GOVERNMENT AUDITING STANDARDS*	
Independent Auditor's Report on Minnesota Legal Compliance	22
Independent Auditor's Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting and on Compliance and Other Matters Based on an Audit of Financial Statements Performed in Accordance With *Government Auditing Standards*	23
Schedule of Findings and Responses	25

MILLE LACS SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
MILACA, MINNESOTA
ORGANIZATION
DECEMBER 31, 2025

TITLE	NAME	TERM EXPIRES
Chair	Jake Janski	12/31/2026
Vice-Chair	Dan Campbell	12/31/2028
Treasurer	Andre LaSalle	12/31/2028
Secretary	Tim Braun	12/31/2028
Board Member	Robert Hoefert	12/31/2026

PETERSON COMPANY LTD
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

570 Cherry Drive | Waconia, Minnesota 55387
952.442.4408 | Fax: 952.442.2211 | www.pclcpas.com

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

Board of Supervisors
Mille Lacs Soil and Water Conservation District
Milaca, Minnesota

Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of the governmental activities and the General Fund of Mille Lacs Soil and Water Conservation District, as of and for the year ended December 31, 2025, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise Mille Lacs Soil and Water Conservation District's basic financial statements as listed in the table of contents.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the respective financial position of the governmental activities and the General Fund of Mille Lacs Soil and Water Conservation District, as of December 31, 2025, and the respective changes in financial position thereof for the year then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAS) and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards* (GAS), issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of our report. We are required to be independent of Mille Lacs Soil and Water Conservation 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 opinion.

Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the 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 Mille Lacs Soil and Water Conservation 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.

Auditor's 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 auditor's report that includes our opinion. 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 GAAS and GAS 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 judgment made by a reasonable user based on the financial statements.

In performing an audit in accordance with GAAS and GAS, we:

- Exercise professional judgment 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 Mille Lacs Soil and Water Conservation 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 our judgment, there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about Mille Lacs Soil and Water Conservation 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

Management has omitted the management's discussion and analysis that accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require to be presented to supplement the basic financial statements. Such missing information, although not a part of the basic financial statements, is required by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board who considers it to be an essential part of financial reporting for placing the basic financial statements in an appropriate operational, economic, or historical context. Our opinion on the basic financial statements is not affected by this missing information.

Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require that the budgetary comparison schedule on page 17, the defined benefit pension plan schedules on page 18, and the notes to the required supplementary information on pages 19-21 be presented to supplement the basic financial statements. Such information is the responsibility of management and, although not a part of the basic financial statements, is required by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board who considers it to be an essential part of financial reporting for placing the basic financial statements in an appropriate operational, economic, or historical context. We have applied certain limited procedures to the required supplementary information in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, which consisted of inquiries of management about the methods of preparing the information and comparing the information for consistency with management's responses to our inquiries, the basic financial statements, and other knowledge we obtained during our audit of the basic financial statements. We do not express an opinion or provide any assurance on the information because the limited procedures do not provide us with sufficient evidence to express an opinion or provide any assurance.

Other Information

Management is responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the district's organizational information under the introductory section but does not include the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. Our opinion on the basic financial statements do not cover the other information, and we do not express an opinion or any form of assurance thereon. In connection with our audit of the basic financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and consider whether a material inconsistency exists between the other information and the basic financial statements, or the other information otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If, based on the work performed, we conclude that an uncorrected material misstatement of the other information exists, we are required to describe it in our report.

Other Reporting Required by *Government Auditing Standards*

In accordance with Government Auditing Standards, we have also issued our report dated September 11, 2026, on our consideration of Mille Lacs Soil and Water Conservation District's internal control over financial reporting and on our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements and other matters. The purpose of that report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of 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 Mille Lacs Soil and Water Conservation District's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.

Peterson Company Ltd

Peterson Company Ltd
Waconia, Minnesota

September 11, 2026

MILLE LACS SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
MILACA, MINNESOTA
GENERAL FUND BALANCE SHEET AND GOVERNMENTAL ACTIVITIES - STATEMENT OF NET POSITION
DECEMBER 31, 2025

	General Fund	Adjustments	Governmental Activities
ASSETS			
Cash	$ 697,377	$ -	$ 697,377
Due from Other Governments	87,393	-	87,393
Prepaid Expenses	156	-	156
Capital Assets:			
Property and Equipment, net	-	28,371	28,371
Total Assets	784,926	28,371	813,297
DEFERRED OUTFLOWS OF RESOURCES			
Defined Benefit Pension Plan	-	73,194	73,194
COMBINED ASSETS AND DEFERRED OUTFLOWS OF RESOURCES	$ 784,926	$ 101,565	$ 886,491
LIABILITIES			
Current Liabilities:			
Accounts Payable	$ 338	$ -	$ 338
Accrued Wages	11,406	-	11,406
Unearned Revenue	179,085	-	179,085
Total Current Liabilities	190,829	-	190,829
Long-term Liabilities:			
Net Pension Liability	-	123,963	123,963
Compensated Absences	-	75,230	75,230
Total Long-Term Liabilities	-	199,193	199,193
DEFERRED INFLOWS OF RESOURCES			
Defined Benefit Pension Plan	-	131,810	131,810
COMBINED LIABILITIES AND DEFERRED INFLOWS OF RESOURCES	$ 190,829	$ 331,003	$ 521,832
FUND BALANCE/NET POSITION			
Fund Balance:			
Non-spendable - Prepaid Expenses	$ 156	$ (156)	$ -
Assigned - Compensated Absences	75,230	(75,230)	-
Unassigned	518,711	(518,711)	-
Total Fund Balance	$ 594,097	$ (594,097)	$ -
Net Position:			
Investments in Capital Assets		$ 28,371	$ 28,371
Unrestricted		336,288	336,288
Total Net Position		$ 364,659	$ 364,659

See accompanying Notes to the Financial Statements.

MILLE LACS SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
MILACA, MINNESOTA
GENERAL FUND STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES, AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCE AND GOVERNMENTAL ACTIVITIES - STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES
YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2025

	General Fund	Adjustments	Governmental Activities
REVENUES			
Intergovernmental	$ 697,385	$ -	$ 697,385
Charges for Services	32,853	-	32,853
Interest Earnings	6,027	-	6,027
Miscellaneous	5,816	-	5,816
Total Revenues	742,081	-	742,081
EXPENDITURES/EXPENSES			
Conservation:			
Current	637,805	19,514	657,319
Capital Outlay	24,400	(24,400)	-
Total Expenditures/Expenses	662,205	(4,886)	657,319
EXCESS OF REVENUES OVER/UNDER EXPENDITURES	79,876	4,886	84,762
Fund Balance/Net Position - Beginning of Year	514,221	(234,324)	279,897
FUND BALANCE/NET POSITION - END OF YEAR	$ 594,097	$ (229,438)	$ 364,659

See accompanying Notes to the Financial Statements.

NOTE 1 – SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The financial statements of Mille Lacs Soil and Water Conservation District (the District) have been prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP) for the year ended December 31, 2025. The Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) is responsible for establishing GAAP for state and local governments through its pronouncements (statements and interpretations). The significant accounting policies used by the District are discussed below.

Financial Reporting Entity

The Mille Lacs Soil and Water Conservation District is organized under the provisions of Minnesota Statutes Chapter 103C. The District is governed by a Board of Supervisors, nominated by, and elected to four-year terms by the voters of Mille Lacs County.

The purpose of the District is to assist land occupiers in applying practices for the conservation of soil and water resources. These practices are intended to control wind and water erosion, pollution of lakes and streams, and damage to wetlands and wildlife habitats.

As required by generally accepted accounting principles, consideration has been given to other organizations that should be included in the District's financial statements for which the nature and significance of their relationship with the District are such that exclusion would cause the District's financial statements to be misleading or incomplete. There are no organizations that should be presented with the District.

Basic Financial Statements

Basic financial statements include information on the District's activities as a whole and information on the individual fund of the District. These separate presentations are reported in different columns. Each of the statements starts with a column of information based on activities of the General Fund and reconciles it to a column that reports the "governmental activities" of the District as a whole.

Measurement Focus and Basis of Accounting

The governmental activities are reported using the economic resources measurement focus and the accrual basis of accounting, which recognizes all long-term assets and receivables as well as long-term debt and obligations. Revenues are recorded when earned, and expenses are recorded when a liability is incurred, regardless of the timing of the related cash flows. Grants and similar items are recognized as revenue as soon as all eligibility requirements imposed by the provider have been met. The District's net position is reported as restricted and unrestricted. The statement of activities demonstrates the degree to which the expenses of the District are offset by revenues.

Governmental fund financial statements are reported using the current financial resources measurement focus and the modified accrual basis of accounting. Revenues are recognized when they become both measurable and available. The District considers all revenues to be available if they are collected within 60 days after the end of the current period. Charges for services and interest are considered to be susceptible to accrual. Expenditures are recorded when the related fund liability is incurred, except for principal and interest on general long-term debt, compensated absences, and claims and judgments, which are recognized as expenditures to the extent that they have matured. Proceeds of long-term debt and acquisitions under leases are reported as other financing sources, when applicable.

When both restricted and unrestricted resources are available for use, it is the District's policy to use restricted resources first, then unrestricted resources as they are needed.

NOTE 1 – SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

Assets, Deferred Outflows of Resources, Liabilities, Deferred Inflows of Resources, and Net Position or Fund Balance

Cash

Cash consists of a checking account and a savings account.

Due from Other Governments

Due from other governments are recorded for state grant amounts that were received after year-end and all eligibility requirements were met.

Prepaid Expenses

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

Capital Assets

The cost of property and equipment is depreciated over the estimated useful life of the related assets. Leasehold improvements are depreciated over the lesser of the term of the related lease or the estimated useful lives of the assets. Depreciation is computed on the straight-line method. For the purpose of computing depreciation, the useful life for Machinery and Equipment is 5 to 7 years, Vehicles are 5 years, and Office Equipment and Furniture are 5 years. The District uses the threshold of $5,000 for capitalizing assets purchased.

Unearned Revenue

Unearned revenue is recorded for amounts of state grants received prior to satisfying all eligibility requirements imposed by the providers.

Compensated Absences

Under the District's personnel policies, employees are granted vacation and sick leave pay in varying amounts based on their length of service. Only benefits considered to be vested are disclosed in these statements.

All vested vacation and sick leave pay is accrued when incurred in the government-wide financial statements. A liability for these amounts is reported in governmental funds only if they have matured, for example, as a result of employee resignations or retirements, and are payable with expendable available resources.

Payments for vacation and sick leave pay will be made at rates in effect when the benefits are used. Accumulated vacation and sick leave pay liabilities at December 31, 2025 are determined on the basis of current salary rates and include salary related payments.

Pensions

For purposes of measuring the net pension liability, deferred outflows/inflows of resources, and pension expense, information about the fiduciary net position of the Public Employees Retirement Association (PERA) and additions to/deductions from PERA's fiduciary net position have been determined on the same basis as they are reported by PERA. For this purpose, plan contributions are recognized as of employer payroll paid dates and benefit payments, and refunds are recognized when due and payable in accordance with the benefit terms. Investments are reported at fair value.

NOTE 1 – SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

Assets, Deferred Outflows of Resources, Liabilities, Deferred Inflows of Resources, and Net Position or Fund Balance (Continued)

Deferred Outflows of Resources

The financial statements for the District contain deferred outflows of resources. A deferred outflow 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) until that time. The District has one type of deferred outflow which is pension related.

Deferred Inflows of Resources

The financial statements for the District contain deferred inflows of resources. A deferred inflow of resources represents an acquisition of net position that applies to a future period(s) and so will not be recognized as an inflow of resources (revenue) until that time. The District has one type of deferred inflow which is pension related.

Fund Balance

In the fund financial statements, governmental funds report components of fund balance to provide information about fund balance availability for appropriation. Non-spendable fund balance represents amounts that are inherently non-spendable or assets that are legally or contractually required to be maintained intact. Restricted fund balance represents amounts available for appropriation but intended for a specific use and is legally restricted by outside parties (statute, grantors, bond agreements, etc.). Committed fund balance represents constraints on spending that the government imposes upon itself by a high-level formal action prior to the close of the fiscal period. Assigned fund balance represents resources intended for spending for a purpose set by the government body itself or by some person or government body delegated to exercise such authority in accordance with the policy established by the Board. Unassigned fund balance is the residual classification for the District's General Fund and includes all spendable amounts not contained in the other classifications.

When an expenditure is incurred for purposes for which both restricted and unrestricted fund balance is available, it is the District's policy to use restricted first, then the unrestricted fund balance. When an expenditure is incurred for purposes for which committed, assigned, and unassigned fund balance amounts are available, it is the District's policy to use committed first, then assigned, and finally unassigned fund balance amounts.

Net Position

Net position represents the difference between assets, deferred outflows, liabilities, and deferred inflows in the government-wide statement of net position. Net investments in capital assets, consists of capital assets, net of accumulated depreciation, reduced by the outstanding balance of any long-term debt used to build or acquire the capital assets. Net position is reported as restricted in the government-wide financial statements when there are limitations imposed on its use through external restrictions imposed by creditors, grantors, laws, or regulations of other governments. Unrestricted net position is the residual classification for the Governmental Activities Fund and includes all spendable amounts not contained in the other classifications.

Use of Estimates

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America requires 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 amounts of revenues and expenses during the reporting period. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

NOTE 1 – SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

Assets, Deferred Outflows of Resources, Liabilities, Deferred Inflows of Resources, and Net Position or Fund Balance (Continued)

Explanation of Adjustments Column in Statements

Capital Assets: In the Statement of Net Position and Governmental Fund Balance Sheet, an adjustment is made if the District has capital assets. This adjustment equals the net book balance of capitalized assets as of the report date and reconciles to the amount reported in Note 3 on Capital Assets.

Long-Term Liabilities: In the Statement of Net Position and Governmental Fund Balance Sheet, an adjustment is made to reflect the total Compensated Absences and Net Pension Liability the District has as of the report date. See Note 5 on Long-Term Liabilities.

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

NOTE 2 – DEPOSITS

Minnesota Statutes §§118A.02 and 118A.04 authorize the District to designate a depository for public funds and to invest in Certificates of Deposit.

Custodial Credit Risk - Deposits

In the case of deposits, custodial credit risk is the risk that in the event of a financial institution failure, the District's deposits may not be returned to it. The District does not have a deposit policy for custodial credit risk and follows Minnesota Statutes for deposits.

Minnesota Statute §118A.03 requires that all District deposits be protected by insurance, surety bond, or collateral. The market value of collateral pledge must equal 110% of the deposits not covered by insurance or corporate surety bonds. Authorized collateral includes: U.S. government treasury bills, notes, or bonds; issues of U.S. government agency; general obligations of a state or local government rated "AA" or better; irrevocable standby letters of credit issued by the Federal Home Loan Bank; and time deposits insured by a federal agency. Minnesota Statutes require securities pledged as collateral be held in safekeeping in a restricted account at the Federal Reserve Bank or in an account at a trust department of a commercial bank or other financial institution that is not owned or controlled by the financial institution furnishing the collateral.

As of December 31, 2025, the District's deposits were not exposed to custodial credit risk.

NOTE 3 – CAPITAL ASSETS

Capital assets activity for the year ended December 31, 2025, was as follows:

	Beginning	Additions	Deletions	Ending
Equipment	$ 87,977	$ 24,400	$ 12,674	$ 99,703
Less: Accumulated Depreciation	81,377	2,629	12,674	71,332
Net Capital Assets	$ 6,600			$ 28,371

Current year depreciation is $2,629.

NOTE 4 – UNEARNED REVENUE

Unearned revenue represents unearned advances from the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) for administrative service grants and for the cost-share program. Revenues will be recognized when the related program expenditures are recorded. Unearned revenue for the year ended December 31, 2025, consisted of the following: Soil Health Cost Share $342; Conservation Contracts $20,000; Soil Health Delivery $19,290; Soil Health Staffing $101,717; Conservation Delivery $37,736; Total $179,085.

NOTE 5 – LONG-TERM LIABILITIES

The following is a summary of changes in the District's long-term liabilities for the year ended December 31, 2025:

	January 1, 2025	Increases	Decreases	December 31, 2025
Compensated Absences*	$ 63,074	$ 12,156	$ -	$ 75,230
Total	$ 63,074	$ 12,156	$ -	$ 75,230

*The change in the compensated absences liability is presented as a net change.

Vacation and Sick Leave Pay

Vacation leave accrual varies from 4 to 9 hours per 80 hour pay period. Sick leave accrual is 4 hours per 80 hour pay period. The limit on the accumulation of vacation leave is 240 hours and the limit on the accumulation of sick leave is 960 hours. Upon termination of employment from the District, employees are paid accrued vacation leave and up to 50 percent of accrued sick leave hours based on years of service.

Compensated Absences Payable

The amount of the estimated obligation at December 31, 2025 was $75,230.

NOTE 6 – RISK MANAGEMENT

The District is exposed to various risks of loss related to torts; theft of, damage to, and destruction of assets; errors or omissions; injuries to employees; workers' compensation claims; or natural disasters. The District has entered into an agreement with the Minnesota Counties Intergovernmental Trust (MCIT) to cover its liabilities for workers compensation and property and casualty. There were no significant reductions of insurance coverage from the prior year. There have been no settlements in excess of the District's insurance coverage for any of the past three years.

NOTE 7 – DEFINED BENEFIT PENSION PLAN

Plan Description

The District participates in the following cost-sharing multiple-employer defined benefit pension plan administered by the Public Employees Retirement Association of Minnesota (PERA). These plan provisions are established and administered in accordance with Minnesota Statutes, Chapters 353, 353D, 353E, 353G, and 356. Minnesota Statutes chapter 356 defines each plan's financial reporting requirements. PERA's defined benefit pension plans are tax qualified plans under Section 401(a) of the Internal Revenue Code.

Membership in the General Plan includes employees of counties, cities, townships, schools in non-certified positions, and other governmental entities whose revenues are derived from taxation, fees, or assessments. Plan membership is required for any employee who is expected to earn more than $425 in a month, unless the employee meets exclusion criteria.

NOTE 7 – DEFINED BENEFIT PENSION PLAN (CONTINUED)

Benefits Provided

PERA provides retirement, disability, and death benefits. Benefit provisions are established by state statute and can only be modified by the State Legislature. Vested, terminated employees who are entitled to benefits, but are not receiving them yet, are bound by the provisions in effect at the time they last terminated their public service. When a member is "vested," they have earned enough service credit to receive a lifetime monthly benefit after leaving public service and reaching an eligible retirement age. Members who retire at or over their Social Security full retirement age with at least one year of service qualify for a retirement benefit.

General Employees Plan requires three years of service to vest. Benefits are based on a member's highest average salary for any five successive years of allowable service, age, and years of credit at termination of service. Two methods are used to compute benefits for General Plan members. Members hired prior to July 1, 1989, receive the higher of the Step or Level formulas. Only the Level formula is used for members hired after June 30, 1989. Under the Step formula, General Plan members receive 1.20 percent of the highest average salary for each of the first 10 years of service and 1.70 percent for each additional year. Under the Level formula, General Plan members receive 1.70 percent of highest average salary for all years of service. For members hired prior to July 1, 1989, a full retirement benefit is available when age plus years of service equal 90 and normal retirement age is 65. Members can receive a reduced requirement benefit as early as age 55 if they have three or more years of service. Early retirement benefits are reduced by 0.25 percent for each month under age 65. Members with 30 or more years of service can retire at any age with a reduction of 0.25 percent for each month the member is younger than age 62. The Level formula allows General Plan members to receive a full retirement benefit at age 65 if they were first hired before July 1, 1989 or at age 66 if they were hired on or after July 1, 1989. Early retirement begins at age 55 with an actuarial reduction applied to the benefit.

Benefit increases are provided to benefit recipients each January. The postretirement increase is equal to 50 percent of the cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) announced by the SSA, with a minimum increase of at least 1.00 percent and a maximum of 1.50 percent. The 2025 annual increase was 1.50 percent. Recipients that have been receiving the annuity or benefit for at least a full year as of the June 30 before the effective date of the increase will receive the full increase. Recipients receiving the annuity or benefit for at least one month but less than a full year as of the June 30 before the effective date of the increase will receive a prorated increase.

Contributions

Minnesota Statutes Chapter 353, 353E, 353G, and 356 sets the rates for employer and employee contributions. Contribution rates can only be modified by the State Legislature.

General Plan members were required to contribute 6.50 percent of their annual covered salary in fiscal year 2025 and the District was required to contribute 7.50 percent for General Plan members. The District's contributions to the General Employees Fund for the year ended December 31, 2025, were $27,211. The District's contributions were equal to the required contributions as set by state statute.

NOTE 7 – DEFINED BENEFIT PENSION PLAN (CONTINUED)

Pension Costs

At December 31, 2025, the District reported a liability of $123,963 for its proportionate share of the General Employees Fund's net pension liability. The District's net pension liability reflected a reduction due to the State of Minnesota's contribution of $16 million. The State of Minnesota is considered a non-employer contributing entity and the state's contribution meets the definition of a special funding situation. The State of Minnesota's proportionate share of the net pension liability associated with the District totaled $2,990.

District's proportionate share of the net pension liability	$	123,963
State of Minnesota's proportionate share of the net pension liability associated with the District		2,990
Total	$	126,953

The net pension liability was measured as of June 30, 2025, and the total pension liability used to calculate the net pension liability was determined by an actuarial valuation as of that date. The District's proportionate share of the net pension liability was based on the District's contributions received by PERA during the measurement period for employer payroll paid dates from July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025, relative to the total employer contributions received from all of PERA's participating employers. The District's proportionate share was .0037 percent at the end of the measurement period and .0036 percent for the beginning of the period.

For the year ended December 31, 2025, the District recognized pension expense of $4,729 for its proportionate share of the General Employees Plan's pension expense. In addition, the District recognized an additional $599 as pension expense (and grant revenue) for its proportionate share of the State of Minnesota's contribution of $16 million to the General Employees Fund.

At December 31, 2025, the District reported deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to pensions from the following sources:

		Deferred Outflows of Resources		Deferred Inflows of Resources
Differences between expected and actual economic experience	$	20,605	$	-
Changes in actuarial assumptions		-		45,739
Net difference between projected and actual earnings on pension plan investments		-		76,441
Changes in proportion		38,938		9,630
Employer contributions subsequent to the measurement date		13,651		-
Total	$	73,194	$	131,810

NOTE 7 – DEFINED BENEFIT PENSION PLAN (CONTINUED)

Pension Costs (Continued)

The $13,651 reported as deferred outflows of resources related to pensions resulting from District contributions subsequent to the measurement date will be recognized as a reduction of the net pension liability in the year ended December 31, 2026. Other amounts reported as deferred outflows and deferred inflows of resources related to pensions will be recognized in pension expense as follows:

Year ended December 31:	Pension Expense Amount
2026	$ (14,690)
2027	(14,281)
2028	(30,517)
2029	(12,779)

Long-Term Expected Return on Investment

The State Board of Investment, which manages the investments of PERA, prepares an analysis of the reasonableness on a regular basis of the long-term expected rate of return using a building-block method in which best-estimate ranges of expected future rates of return are developed for each major asset class. These ranges are combined to produce an expected long-term rate of return by weighting the expected future rates of return by the target asset allocation percentages. The target allocation and best estimates of geometric real rates of return for each major asset class are summarized in the following table:

Asset Class	Target Allocation (%)	Long-Term Expected Real Rate of Return (%)
Domestic Equity	33.5	5.10
International Equity	16.5	5.30
Fixed Income	25.0	0.75
Private Markets	25.0	5.90
Total	100.00	

Actuarial Methods and Assumptions

The total pension liability for each of the cost-sharing defined benefit plans was determined by an actuarial valuation as of June 30, 2025, using the entry-age normal actuarial cost method. The long-term rate of return on pension plan investments used in the determination of the total liability is 7.00 percent. The 7.00 percent assumption is based on a review of inflation and investment return assumptions from a number of national investment consulting firms. The review provided a range of return investment return rates considered reasonable by the actuary. An investment return of 7.00 percent is within that range.

- Inflation is assumed to be 2.25 percent for the General Employees Plan.
- Benefit increases after retirement are assumed to be 1.50 percent for the General Employees Plan.

Salary growth assumptions in the General Employees Plan range in annual increments from 11.50 percent after one year of service to 3.00 percent after 27 years of service.

Mortality rates for the General Employees Plan are based on the Pub-2010 General Employee Mortality Table. The tables are adjusted slightly to fit PERA's experience.

NOTE 7 – DEFINED BENEFIT PENSION PLAN (CONTINUED)

Actuarial Methods and Assumptions (Continued)

Actuarial assumptions for the General Employees Plan are reviewed every four years. The General Employees Plan was last reviewed in 2022. The assumption changes were adopted by the board and became effective with the July 1, 2023 actuarial valuation. The assumption changes were adopted by the board and become effective with the July 1, 2025 actuarial valuation.

The following changes in actuarial assumptions and plan provisions occurred in 2025:

Changes in Actuarial Assumptions:

- The combined service annuity loading factors increased from 15 percent to 19 percent for vested terminated members and from 3 percent to 44 percent for non-vested, terminated members.
- The assumed post-retirement benefit increase changed from 1.25 percent to 1.50 percent.

Changes in Plan Provisions:

- The post-retirement benefit increase formula change to 100 percent of the Social Security annual increase, between 1.00 percent and 1.75 percent, beginning January 1, 2026. If the funded ratio (on a market value of assets basis) is less than 85 percent for the last two consecutive annual valuations or is less than 80 percent in the most recent actuarial valuation, the maximum is reduced to 1.50 percent. Previously, the benefit increase was 50 percent of the Social Security annual increase, between 1.00 percent and 1.50 percent.
- The 1.00 percent additional employer contribution is eliminated when the plan reached 98 percent funded status (on an actuarial value of assets basis); this contribution was previously scheduled to stop when the plan reached 100 percent funded status.

Discount Rate

The discount rate used to measure the total pension liability in 2025 was 7.00 percent. The projection of cash flows used to determine the discount rate assumed that contributions from plan members and employers will be made at rates set in Minnesota Statutes. Based on these assumptions, the fiduciary net position of the General Employees Fund was projected to be available to make all projected future benefit payments of current plan members. 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.

Pension Liability Sensitivity

The following presents the District's proportionate share of the net pension liability, for all plans it participates in, calculated using the discount rate disclosed in the preceding paragraph, as well as what the District's proportionate share of the net pension liability would be if it were calculated using a discount rate one percentage point lower or one percentage point higher than the current discount rate:

	1% Decrease in Discount Rate (6.00%)	Current Discount Rate (7.00%)	1% Increase in Discount Rate (8.00%)
District's proportionate share of the GERF net pension liability:	$ 301,086	$ 123,963	$ (19,724)

NOTE 7 – DEFINED BENEFIT PENSION PLAN (CONTINUED)

Pension Plan Fiduciary Net Position

Detailed information about each pension plan's fiduciary net position is available in a separately issued PERA financial report that includes financial statements and required supplementary information. That report may be obtained on the Internet at www.mnpera.org.

NOTE 8 – COMMITMENTS AND CONTINGENT LIABILITIES

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

NOTE 9 – RECONCILIATION OF FUND BALANCE TO NET POSITION

Governmental Fund Balance, January 1	$	514,221
Plus: Excess of Revenues Over Expenditures		79,876
Governmental Fund Balance, December 31	$	594,097
Adjustments from Fund Balance to Net Position:		
Plus: Capital Assets	$	28,371
Plus: Deferred Outflows of Resources		73,194
Less: Long-Term Liabilities		(199,193)
Less: Deferred Inflows of Resources		(131,810)
Net Position	$	364,659

NOTE 10 – RECONCILIATION OF CHANGE IN FUND BALANCE TO CHANGE IN NET POSITION

Change in Fund Balance	$	79,876
Capital Outlay		24,400
Pension Expense, net		(4,729)
The cost of capital assets are allocated over the capital assets' useful life at the government-wide level.		(2,629)
In the statement of activities certain operating expenses including compensated absences are measured by the amounts earned.		(12,156)
Change in Net Position	$	84,762

NOTE 11 – SUBSEQUENT EVENTS

The District has evaluated events and transactions for potential recognition or disclosure through September 11, 2026, the date the financial statements were available to be issued.

MILLE LACS SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
MILACA, MINNESOTA
BUDGETARY COMPARISON SCHEDULE
GENERAL FUND
YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2025

	Original/ Final Budget	Actual	Variance With Final Budget
REVENUES			
Intergovernmental:			
County	$ 128,050	$ 128,050	$ -
Local	2,500	2,503	3
State Grants	1,205,021	566,832	(638,189)
Total Intergovernmental	1,335,571	697,385	(638,186)
Charges for Services	27,737	32,853	5,116
Interest Earnings	-	6,027	6,027
Miscellaneous	5,000	5,816	816
Total Revenues	1,368,308	742,081	(626,227)
EXPENDITURES			
District Operations:			
Personnel Services	528,934	520,900	8,034
Other Services and Charges	50,087	39,760	10,327
Supplies	600	407	193
Capital Outlay	20,500	24,400	(3,900)
Total District Operations	600,121	585,467	14,654
Project Expenditures:			
District	12,971	10,997	1,974
Local	2,200	1,893	307
State	340,207	63,848	276,359
Total Project Expenditures	355,378	76,738	278,640
Total Expenditures	955,499	662,205	293,294
EXCESS OF REVENUES OVER/UNDER EXPENDITURES	412,809	79,876	(332,933)
Fund Balance - Beginning of Year	514,221	514,221	-
FUND BALANCE - END OF YEAR	$ 927,030	$ 594,097	$ (332,933)

See accompanying Notes to the Required Supplementary Information.

MILLE LACS SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
MILACA, MINNESOTA

SCHEDULE OF CONTRIBUTIONS
GENERAL EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT FUND
DECEMBER 31, 2025

Fiscal Year Ending	Statutorily Required Contributions (a)	Contributions in Relation to the Statutorily Required Contributions (b)	Contribution Deficiency (Excess) (a-b)	Covered Payroll (c)	Contributions as a Percentage of Covered Payroll (b/c)
2016	$ 9,012	$ 9,012	$ -	$ 120,040	7.51%
2017	$ 15,898	$ 15,898	$ -	$ 211,973	7.50%
2018	$ 19,067	$ 19,067	$ -	$ 254,222	7.50%
2019	$ 20,019	$ 20,019	$ -	$ 266,927	7.50%
2020	$ 19,977	$ 19,977	$ -	$ 266,364	7.50%
2021	$ 17,215	$ 17,215	$ -	$ 229,550	7.50%
2022	$ 13,912	$ 13,912	$ -	$ 185,497	7.50%
2023	$ 16,948	$ 16,948	$ -	$ 225,969	7.50%
2024	$ 24,400	$ 24,400	$ -	$ 325,328	7.50%
2025	$ 27,211	$ 27,211	$ -	$ 362,809	7.50%

*The amounts presented for each year-end were determined December 31.

SCHEDULE OF PROPORTIONATE SHARE OF NET PENSION LIABILITY
GENERAL EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT FUND
DECEMBER 31, 2025

Fiscal Year Ending	Employer's Proportion of Net Pension Liability (Asset)	Employer's Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability (Asset) (a)	State's Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability Associated with the District (b)	Total (a+b)	Covered Payroll (c)	Employer's Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability (Asset) as a Percentage of Covered Payroll ((a+b)/c)	Plan Fiduciary Net Position as a Percentage of the Total Pension Liability
2016	0.0024%	$ 194,868	$ 2,512	$ 197,380	$ 148,613	132.81%	68.90%
2017	0.0028%	$ 178,750	$ 2,223	$ 180,973	$ 178,394	101.45%	75.90%
2018	0.0036%	$ 199,713	$ 6,519	$ 206,232	$ 238,885	86.33%	79.50%
2019	0.0037%	$ 204,565	$ 6,333	$ 210,898	$ 260,091	81.09%	80.20%
2020	0.0040%	$ 239,818	$ 7,353	$ 247,171	$ 283,396	87.22%	79.10%
2021	0.0035%	$ 149,466	$ 4,556	$ 154,022	$ 249,969	61.62%	87.00%
2022	0.0027%	$ 213,841	$ 6,316	$ 220,157	$ 204,771	107.51%	76.70%
2023	0.0022%	$ 123,022	$ 3,450	$ 126,472	$ 178,842	70.72%	83.10%
2024	0.0036%	$ 131,684	$ 3,405	$ 135,089	$ 301,472	44.81%	89.10%
2025	0.0037%	$ 123,963	$ 2,990	$ 126,953	$ 338,809	37.47%	90.80%

*The amounts presented for each fiscal year were determined June 30.

See accompanying Notes to the Required Supplementary Information.

NOTE 1 – DEFINED BENEFIT PENSION PLAN – CHANGES IN ACTUARIAL METHODS AND ACTUARIAL ASSUMPTIONS

The following changes were reflected in the valuation of the General Employees Retirement Plan performed on behalf of the Public Employees Retirement Association for the fiscal year June 30:

2025 -

- The combined service annuity loading factors increased from 15 percent to 19 percent for vested terminated members and from 3 percent to 44 percent for non-vested, terminated members.
- The assumed post-retirement benefit increase changed from 1.25 percent to 1.50 percent.

2024 -

- Rates of merit and seniority were adjusted, resulting in slightly higher rates.
- Assumed rates of retirement were adjusted as follows: increase the rate of assumed unreduced retirements, slight adjustments to Rule of 90 retirement rates, and slight adjustments to early retirement rates for Tier 1 and Tier 2 members.
- Minor increase in assumed withdrawals for males and females.
- Lower rates of disability.
- Continued use of Pub-2010 general mortality table with slight rate adjustments as recommended in the most recent experience study.
- Minor changes to form of payment assumptions for male and female retirees.
- Minor changes to assumptions made with respect to missing participant data.

2023 -

- The investment return assumption and single discount rate were changed from 6.50 percent to 7.00 percent.

2022 -

- The mortality improvement scale was changed from Scale MP-2020 to Scale MP-2021.

2021 -

- The investment return and single discount rates were changed from 7.50 percent to 6.50 percent, for financial reporting purposes.
- The mortality improvement scale was changed from Scale MP-2019 to Scale MP-2020.

2020 -

- The price inflation assumption was decreased from 2.50 percent to 2.25 percent.
- The payroll growth assumption was decreased from 3.25 percent to 3.00 percent.
- Assumed salary increase rates were changed as recommended in the June 30, 2019 experience study. The net effect is assumed rates that average 0.25 percent less than previous rates.
- Assumed rates of retirement were changed as recommended in the June 30, 2019 experience study. The changes result in more unreduced (normal) retirements and slightly fewer Rule of 90 and early retirements.
- Assumed rates of termination were changed as recommended in the June 30, 2019 experience study. The new rates are based on service and are generally lower than the previous rates for year 2-5 and slightly higher thereafter.
- Assumed rates of disability were changed as recommended in the June 30, 2019 experience study. The change results in fewer predicted disability retirements for males and females.
- The base mortality table for healthy annuitants and employees was changed from the RP-2014 table to the Pub-2010 General Mortality table, with adjustments. The base mortality table for disabled annuitants was changed from the RP-2014 disabled annuitant mortality table to the PUB-2010 General/Teacher disabled annuitant mortality table, with adjustments.
- The mortality improvement scale was changed from Scale MP-2018 to Scale MP-2019.
- The assumed spouse age difference was changed from two years older for females to one year older.

NOTE 1 – DEFINED BENEFIT PENSION PLAN – CHANGES IN ACTUARIAL METHODS AND ACTUARIAL ASSUMPTIONS (CONTINUED)

2020 (Continued) -

- The assumed number of married male new retirees electing the 100.00 percent Joint & Survivor option changed from 35.00 percent to 45.00 percent. The assumed number of married female new retirees electing the 100.00 percent Joint & Survivor option changed from 15.00 percent to 30.00 percent. The corresponding number of married new retirees electing the Life annuity option was adjusted accordingly.

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

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

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

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

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

NOTE 2 – DEFINED BENEFIT PENSION PLAN – CHANGES IN SIGNIFICANT PLAN PROVISIONS

The following changes were reflected in the valuation of the General Employees Retirement Plan performed on behalf of the Public Employees Retirement Association for the fiscal year June 30:

2025 –

- The post-retirement benefit increase formula changed to 100 percent of the Social Security annual increase, between 1.00 percent and 1.75 percent, beginning January 1, 2026. If the funded ratio (on a market value of assets basis) is less than 85 percent for the last two consecutive annual valuations or is less than 80 percent in the most recent actuarial valuation, the maximum is reduced to 1.50 percent. Previously, the benefit increase was 50 percent of the Social Security annual increase, between 1.00 percent and 1.50 percent.
- The 1.00 percent additional employer contribution is eliminated when the plan reaches 98 percent funded status (on an actuarial value of assets basis); this contribution was previously scheduled to stop when the plan reached 100 percent funded status.

2024 –The workers' compensation offset for disability benefits was eliminated. The actuarial equivalent factors updated to reflect the changes in assumptions.

NOTE 2 – DEFINED BENEFIT PENSION PLAN – CHANGES IN SIGNIFICANT PLAN PROVISIONS (CONTINUED)

2023 –

- An additional one-time direct state aid contribution of $170.10 million will be contributed to the Plan on October 1, 2023.
- The vesting period of those hired after June 30, 2010, was changed from five years of allowable service to three years of allowable service.
- The benefit increase delay for early retirements on or after January 1, 2024, was eliminated.
- A one-time, non-compounding benefit increase of 2.50 percent minus the actual 2024 adjustment will be payable in a lump sum for calendar year 2024 by March 31, 2024.

2022 - There were no changes in plan provisions since the previous valuation.

2021 - There were no changes in plan provisions since the previous valuation.

2020 - Augmentation for current privatized members was reduced to 2.00 percent for the period July 1, 2020 through December 31, 2023 and 0.00 percent after. Augmentation was eliminated for privatizations occurring after June 30, 2020.

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

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

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

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

NOTE 3 – STEWARDSHIP, COMPLIANCE, AND ACCOUNTABILITY

Annual budgets are adopted on a basis consistent with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. Each fall, the Board of Supervisors adopts an annual budget for the following year for the General Fund. Any modifications in the adopted budget can be made upon request of and approval by the Board of Supervisors. All annual appropriations lapse at fiscal year-end. Legal budgetary control is at the fund level.

PETERSON COMPANY LTD
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

570 Cherry Drive | Waconia, Minnesota 55387
952.442.4408 | Fax: 952.442.2211 | www.pclcpas.com

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT ON MINNESOTA LEGAL COMPLIANCE

To the Board of Supervisors
Mille Lacs Soil and Water Conservation District
Milaca, Minnesota

We have audited, in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards,* issued by the Comptroller General of the United States, the financial statements of the governmental activities and the General Fund of Mille Lacs Soil and Water Conservation District as of and for the year ended December 31, 2025, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the Mille Lacs Soil and Water Conservation District's basic financial statements, and have issued our report thereon dated September 11, 2026.

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

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

Peterson Company Ltd

Peterson Company Ltd
Waconia, Minnesota

September 11, 2026

PETERSON COMPANY LTD
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

570 Cherry Drive | Waconia, Minnesota 55387
952.442.4408 | Fax: 952.442.2211 | www.pclcpas.com

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT ON INTERNAL CONTROL OVER FINANCIAL REPORTING AND ON COMPLIANCE AND OTHER MATTERS BASED ON AN AUDIT OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS PERFORMED IN ACCORDANCE WITH *GOVERNMENT AUDITING STANDARDS*

To the Board of Supervisors
Mille Lacs Soil and Water Conservation District
Milaca, Minnesota

We have audited, in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards,* issued by the Comptroller General of the United States, the financial statements of the governmental activities and the General Fund of Mille Lacs Soil and Water Conservation District as of and for the year ended December 31, 2025, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the Mille Lacs Soil and Water Conservation District's basic financial statements, and have issued our report thereon dated September 11, 2026.

Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

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

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

Our consideration of internal control over financial reporting was for the limited purpose described in the first paragraph of this section and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control over financial reporting that might be material weaknesses or significant deficiencies and, therefore, material weaknesses or significant deficiencies may exist that were not identified. Given these limitations, during our audit, we did not identify any deficiencies in internal control over financial reporting that we consider to be material weaknesses. We identified certain deficiencies in internal control over financial reporting, described in the accompanying Schedule of Findings and Responses as items 2025-001, 2025-002, and 2025-003, that we consider to be significant deficiencies.

Report on Compliance and Other Matters

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether Mille Lacs Soil and Water Conservation District's financial statements are free from material misstatement, we performed tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements, noncompliance with which could have a direct and material effect on the financial statements. 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*.

Mille Lacs Soil and Water Conservation District's Responses to Findings

Government Auditing Standards requires the auditor to perform limited procedures on the District's responses to the internal control findings identified in our audit and described in the accompanying Schedule of Findings and Responses. The Mille Lacs Soil and Water Conservation District's responses were not subjected to the other auditing procedures applied in the audit of the financial statements, and, accordingly, we express no opinion on the responses.

Purpose of This Report

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

Peterson Company Ltd

Peterson Company Ltd
Waconia, Minnesota

September 11, 2026

2025-001: Segregation of Duties

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

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

Cause: The District's limited size and staffing resources have made it difficult for management to provide sufficient staffing to fully segregate incompatible duties in a cost-effective matter.

Effect: Without sufficient segregation of duties, the risk significantly increases that errors and fraud, including misappropriation of assets, could occur and not be detected within a timely basis.

Prior Year Finding: Yes, 2024-001.

Recommendation: Management and the board should consider a formal evaluation of their risks associated with this lack of duties segregation. In response to the identified risks, consideration should be given to identifying and implementing controls that could help mitigate the risks associated with lack of segregation of duties, such as providing increased management oversight and an independent reconciliation of accounts. Any modification of internal controls in this area must be viewed from a cost/benefit perspective.

Management Response: The Mille Lacs Soil and Water Conservation District has the following established practices:

- A separate staff person or board member, other than the person doing receivables/payables, reconciled the monthly bank statements.
- A member of the finance committee reviews the bank statements monthly.
- The board treasurer reviews the disbursement details and balance sheet monthly.

2025-002: Financial Statement Presentation

Criteria: The District's management is responsible for establishing and maintaining internal controls, including monitoring, and for the fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles.

Condition and Context: As part of the audit, management requested us to prepare a draft of the financial statements, including the related notes to the financial statements. Management has accepted responsibility for the financial statements and reviewed them.

Cause: The District has a limited number of personnel with financial reporting experience.

Effect: The design of the controls over the financial reporting process would affect the ability of the District to report its financial data consistently with the assertions of the management in the financial statements.

Prior Year Finding: Yes, 2024-002.

Recommendation: We recommend that the District be aware of the requirements for fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with the generally accepted accounting principles. Should the District elect, based upon an analysis of costs and benefits, to establish the full oversight of the financial statement preparation of an appropriate level, we suggest management establish effective review policies and procedures including but not limited to the following: reconciling general ledger amounts to the draft financial statements; review of all supporting documentation and explanations for journal entries proposed by us; complete the disclosure checklist; review and approval of schedules and calculations supporting the amounts included in the notes to the financial statements; apply analytic procedures to the draft financial statements; and perform other procedures considered necessary by management.

Management Response: The District understands that this is required communications for the preparation of the financial statements.

2025-003: Audit Adjustments

Criteria: The District's management is responsible for establishing and maintaining internal controls for the proper recording of all the District's accounting transactions, including account coding, reporting of accruals, and net position.

Condition and Context: As part of the audit, we proposed adjustments and reclassified transactions to the proper accounts for preparing note disclosures. Management has reviewed and approved the audit adjustments.

Cause: The District has a limited number of personnel with financial reporting experience.

Effect: The design of the internal controls over recording transactions and year-end accruals limits the ability of the District to provide accurate accrual basis financial information.

Prior Year Finding: Yes, 2024-003.

Recommendation: We recommend that District management be constantly aware of all procedures and processes involved in recording transactions, accruals, and reclassifications and develop internal control policies to ensure proper recording of these items.

Management Response: The District will continue to work at eliminating the need for audit adjustments.