

**VERNON PARISH WATER AND
SEWER COMMISSION NO. 1**

New Llano, Louisiana

Financial Report

Year Ended May 31, 2024

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INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

* A Professional Accounting Corporation

The Board of Commissioners
Vernon Parish Water and Sewer Commission No. 1
New Llano, Louisiana

Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements

Opinions

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the business-type activities of the Vernon Parish Water and Sewer Commission No. 1 (Commission), a component unit of the Vernon Parish Police Jury, as of and for the year ended May 31, 2024, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the Commission's basic financial statements as listed in the table of contents.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the respective financial position of the business-type activities of the Commission as of May 31, 2024, and the respective changes in financial position and cash flows thereof for the year then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Basis for Opinions

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

Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of 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 the Commission'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 opinions. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not absolute assurance and therefore is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards and *Government Auditing Standards* will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control. Misstatements are considered material if there is a substantial likelihood that, individually or in the aggregate, they would influence the judgment made by a reasonable user based on the financial statements.

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

- Exercise professional 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 the Commission'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 the Commission'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

The Commission has omitted 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.

Other Reporting Required by *Government Auditing Standards*

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated August 19, 2024, on our consideration of the Commission’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 the Commission’s internal control over financial reporting or on compliance. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the Commission’s internal control over financial reporting and compliance.

Kolder, Slaven & Company, LLC
Certified Public Accountants

Ville Platte, Louisiana
August 19, 2024

BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

VERNON PARISH WATER AND SEWER COMMISSION NO. 1
New Llano, Louisiana

Statement of Net Position
May 31, 2024

ASSETS

Current assets:	
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 61,152
Investments	1,370,092
Accounts receivable	122,669
Inventory	39,988
Prepaid items	<u>10,300</u>
Total current assets	<u>1,604,201</u>
Noncurrent assets:	
Restricted assets -	
Cash and interest-bearing deposits	494,399
Capital assets, net	<u>3,501,562</u>
Total noncurrent assets	<u>3,995,961</u>
Total assets	<u>5,600,162</u>

LIABILITIES

Current liabilities (payable from current assets):	
Accounts payable	9,169
Accrued liabilities	2,239
Contracts and retainage payable	730
Other liabilities	<u>25,302</u>
Total	<u>37,440</u>
Current liabilities (payable from restricted assets):	
Customer deposits	142,680
Accrued interest	17,183
Revenue bonds payable	<u>118,000</u>
Total	<u>277,863</u>
Total current liabilities	<u>315,303</u>
Noncurrent liabilities:	
Compensated absences payable	69,860
Revenue bonds payable	<u>1,986,000</u>
Total noncurrent liabilities	<u>2,055,860</u>
Total liabilities	<u>2,371,163</u>

NET POSITION

Net investment in capital assets	1,411,431
Restricted	329,579
Unrestricted	<u>1,487,989</u>
Total net position	<u>\$ 3,228,999</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the basic financial statements.

VERNON PARISH WATER AND SEWER COMMISSION NO. 1
New Llano, Louisiana

Statement of Revenues, Expenses and Changes in Net Position
Year Ended May 31, 2024

Operating revenues:	
Charges for services -	
Water sales	\$ 1,123,378
Penalty, service and connection fees	34,480
Other fees	<u>15,151</u>
Total operating revenues	<u>1,173,009</u>
Operating expenses:	
Salaries and related benefits	443,685
Depreciation	240,373
Utilities and telephone	124,352
Repairs and maintenance	118,980
Insurance	129,730
Office expense	178,665
Professional fees	32,024
Commissioner fees	10,787
Truck expense	23,718
Miscellaneous	<u>3,781</u>
Total operating expenses	<u>1,306,095</u>
Operating loss	(133,086)
Nonoperating revenues (expense):	
Interest income	75,455
Interest expense	<u>(52,512)</u>
Total nonoperating revenues (expense)	<u>22,943</u>
Change in net position	(110,143)
Net position, beginning, as restated	<u>3,339,142</u>
Net position, ending	<u>\$ 3,228,999</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the basic financial statements.

VERNON PARISH WATER AND SEWER COMMISSION NO. 1
New Llano, Louisiana

Statement of Cash Flows
Year Ended May 31, 2024

Cash flows from operating activities:	
Receipts from customers	\$ 1,136,062
Payments to suppliers	(633,561)
Payments to employees and related costs	(432,384)
Other receipts	<u>15,151</u>
Net cash provided by operating activities	<u>85,268</u>
Cash flows from noncapital financing activities:	
Decrease in meter deposits, net	<u>(375)</u>
Cash flows from capital and related financing activities:	
Principal paid on bonds payable	(115,000)
Interest and fiscal charges paid on revenue bonds	(54,366)
Net acquisition of capital assets	<u>(138,983)</u>
Net cash used by capital and related financing activities	<u>(308,349)</u>
Cash flows from investing activities:	
Purchase of investments	104,868
Interest income	<u>75,455</u>
Net cash provided by investing activities	<u>180,323</u>
Net decrease in cash and cash equivalents	(43,133)
Cash and cash equivalents, beginning	<u>598,684</u>
Cash and cash equivalents, ending	<u>\$ 555,551</u>

(continued)

VERNON PARISH WATER AND SEWER COMMISSION NO. 1
New Llano, Louisiana

Statement of Cash Flows (Continued)
Year Ended May 31, 2024

Reconciliation of operating loss to net cash
provided by operating activities:

Operating loss	\$ (133,086)
Adjustments to reconcile operating loss to net cash provided by operating activities:	
Depreciation	240,373
(Increase) decrease in operating assets -	
Accounts receivable	(20,888)
Inventory	13,037
Increase (decrease) in operating liabilities -	
Accounts payable	(24,561)
Accrued liabilities	727
Compensated absences payable	10,574
Other liabilities	(908)
Net cash provided by operating activities	<u>\$ 85,268</u>

Cash and cash equivalents reported on statement of net position as:

Cash and cash equivalents, beginning of period -	
Cash and interest-bearing deposits - unrestricted	\$ 93,559
Cash and interest-bearing deposits - restricted	<u>505,125</u>
	<u>\$ 598,684</u>
Cash and cash equivalents, end of period -	
Cash and interest-bearing deposits - unrestricted	\$ 61,152
Cash and interest-bearing deposits - restricted	<u>494,399</u>
	<u>\$ 555,551</u>
Net decrease	<u>\$ (43,133)</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the basic financial statements.

VERNON PARISH WATER AND SEWER COMMISSION NO. 1
New Llano, Louisiana

Notes to Basic Financial Statements

(1) Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

The financial statements of Vernon Parish Water and Sewer Commission No. 1 (the Commission) have been prepared in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP). GAAP includes all relevant Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) pronouncements. The Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) is responsible for establishing GAAP for state and local governments through its pronouncements (Statements and Interpretations). The more significant of the Commission's accounting policies are described below.

A. Financial Reporting Entity

The Commission was created in 1984 under the provisions of Louisiana Revised Statutes 33:3811-3837 for the purpose of providing water service to the rural areas of Vernon Parish. The Commission is governed by a board comprised of five Commissioners. The initial Board was appointed by the Vernon Parish Police Jury upon creation of the Commission. All changes to the Board are made on the recommendation of the current Board members.

The financial reporting entity consists of (a) the primary government, (b) organizations for which the primary government is financially accountable, and (c) other organizations for which the nature and significance of their relationship with the primary government are such that exclusion would cause the reporting entity's financial statements to be misleading or incomplete.

Because the Vernon Parish Police Jury appoints the Commission's governing body, the Commission was determined to be a component unit of the Vernon Parish Police Jury, the governing body of the parish and the governmental entity with oversight responsibility. The accompanying financial statements present information only on the proprietary fund maintained by the District and do not present information on the Vernon Parish Police Jury, the general government services provided by that governmental entity, or the other governmental entities that comprise the financial reporting entity.

B. Basis of Presentation

The accompanying basic financial statements of the Commission have been prepared in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America as applied to governmental entities and as a governmental entity provides certain disclosures required by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board.

VERNON PARISH WATER AND SEWER COMMISSION NO. 1
New Llano, Louisiana

Notes to Basic Financial Statements (Continued)

C. Fund Accounting

The accounts of the Commission are organized and operated on the basis of funds. A fund is an independent fiscal and accounting entity with a separate set of self-balancing accounts. Fund accounting segregates funds according to their intended purpose and is used to aid management in demonstrating compliance with finance-related legal and contractual provisions. The minimum number of funds is maintained consistent with legal and managerial requirements.

The Commission maintains one fund as described below:

Proprietary Fund – Enterprise Fund

The Enterprise Fund is used to account for operations (a) that are financed and operated in a manner similar to private business enterprises - where the intent of the governing body is that the costs (expenses, including depreciation) of providing goods or services to the general public on a continuing basis be financed or recovered primarily through user charges; or (b) where the governing body has decided that periodic determination of revenues earned, expenses incurred, and/or net income is appropriate for capital maintenance, public policy, management control, accountability, or other purposes.

D. Measurement Focus/Basis of Accounting

The measurement focus determines the accounting and financial reporting treatment applied to a fund. Measurement focus is a term used to describe “which” transactions are recorded within the various financial statements. Basis of accounting refers to “when” transactions are recorded regardless of the measurement focus applied. The statement of net position and statement of activities are presented using the economic resources measurement focus.

Measurement Focus

The enterprise fund utilizes an “economic resources” measurement focus. The accounting objectives of this measurement focus are the determination of operating income, changes in net position (or cost recovery), financial position, and cash flows. All assets and liabilities (whether current or noncurrent) associated with their activities are reported. Proprietary fund equity is classified as net position.

Basis of Accounting

The proprietary fund financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accrual basis of accounting. Accordingly, revenues are recorded when earned, and expenses and related liabilities are recorded when incurred.

VERNON PARISH WATER AND SEWER COMMISSION NO. 1
New Llano, Louisiana

Notes to Basic Financial Statements (Continued)

E. Assets, Deferred Outflows, Liabilities, Deferred Inflows, and Equity

Cash and interest-bearing deposits

For purposes of the statement of net position, cash and interest-bearing deposits include all demand accounts, savings accounts, and certificates of deposits of the Commission. For the purposes of the statement of cash flows, cash and cash equivalents include all demand and savings accounts, and certificates of deposit or short-term investments with an original maturity of three months or less when purchased.

Receivables

Receivables consist of all revenues earned at year-end and not yet received. Enterprise fund activities report customer's utility service receivables as their major receivables. This receivable is reported net of an allowance for doubtful accounts, if any. There was no allowance recorded at May 31, 2024 due to immateriality.

Unbilled receivables resulting from services rendered between the date of meter reading and billing and the end of the month are recorded at year-end.

Inventory

Inventories are valued at cost, which approximates market value, using the first-in/first-out (FIFO) method. All inventories are accounted for as assets when purchased and recorded as expenditures when consumed.

Prepaid Items

Payments made to vendors for services that will benefit periods beyond May 31, 2024, are recorded as prepaid items.

Capital Assets

Capital assets include property, plant, equipment, and infrastructure assets. Donated assets are recorded as capital assets at acquisition value at the date of donation. The Commission maintains a threshold level of \$1,000 or more for capitalizing capital assets.

The costs of normal maintenance and repairs that do not add to the value of the asset or materially extend assets lives are not capitalized. Major outlays for capital assets and improvements are capitalized as projects are constructed. Interest incurred during the construction phase of capital assets is included as part of the capitalized value of the assets constructed. Depreciation of all exhaustible fixed assets used by the proprietary fund is charged as an expense against its operations. Depreciation has been provided over the estimated useful lives using the straight-line method.

VERNON PARISH WATER AND SEWER COMMISSION NO. 1
New Llano, Louisiana

Notes to Basic Financial Statements (Continued)

The estimated useful lives are as follows:

Buildings	30 years
Land improvements	10 years
Equipment and Vehicles	5-15 years
Water distribution system	20 - 40 years

Deferred Outflows of Resources and Deferred Inflows of Resources

In addition to assets, the statement of net position will sometimes report a separate section for deferred outflows of resources. This represents a consumption of net position that applies to a future period and so will not be recognized as an outflow of resources (expense) until then. The Commission has no deferred outflows of resources at May 31, 2024.

In addition to liabilities, the statement of net position will sometimes report a separate section for deferred inflows of resources. This represents an acquisition of net position that applies to a future period and so will not be recognized as an inflow of resources (revenue) until then. The Commission has no deferred inflows of resources at May 31, 2024.

Compensated Absences

Sick leave is earned at the rate of one day for each month worked, with a limit of twelve days per year. Vacation leave is earned over a calendar year basis at a rate of one day for each month worked. Employees are allowed to carry over accumulated sick leave and up to 20 days of accumulated vacation leave each calendar year. Total accumulated vacation and sick leave time up to 60 days is payable at termination of employment.

Long-term Debt

All long-term debt to be repaid from business-type resources is reported as liabilities. The long-term debt consists of bonds payable.

Equity Classifications

Equity is classified as net position and displayed in three components:

- a. Net investment in capital assets consists of capital assets, including restricted capital assets, net of accumulated depreciation and reduced by the outstanding balances of any bonds, mortgages, notes, or other borrowings that are attributable to the acquisition, construction, or improvements of those assets.

VERNON PARISH WATER AND SEWER COMMISSION NO. 1
New Llano, Louisiana

Notes to Basic Financial Statements (Continued)

- b. Restricted net position consists of net position with constraints placed on the use either by external groups, such as creditors, grantors, and contributors, laws or regulations of other governments; or law through constitutional provisions or enabling legislation. At May 31, 2024, the Commission reported \$329,579 of restricted net position, none of which was restricted by enabling legislation. It is the Commission's policy to use restricted net position prior to the use of unrestricted net position when both restricted and unrestricted new position are available for an expense which has been incurred.
- c. Unrestricted net position consists of all other assets, deferred outflows of resources, liabilities, and deferred inflows or resources that do not meet the definition of "restricted" or "net investment in capital assets."

It is the Commission's policy to use restricted amounts first when both restricted and unrestricted resources are available unless prohibited by legal or contractual provisions.

F. Revenues and Expenses

Operating Revenues and Expenses

Operating revenues and expenses for proprietary funds generally are those that result from providing services and producing and delivering goods and/or services in connection with a proprietary fund's principal ongoing operations. The principal operating revenues of the Commission's enterprise fund are charges to customers for sales and services. The Commission also recognizes as operating revenue the portion of new installation and tap fees intended to recover the cost of connecting new customers to the system. Operating expenses for enterprise funds include the cost of sales and services, administrative expenses, and depreciation on capital assets.

Nonoperating revenues and expenses are all amounts not meeting the above definition.

G. 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, the 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.

VERNON PARISH WATER AND SEWER COMMISSION NO. 1
New Llano, Louisiana

Notes to Basic Financial Statements (Continued)

(2) Cash and Interest-Bearing Deposits

Under state law, the Commission may deposit funds within a fiscal agent bank organized under the laws of the State of Louisiana, the laws of any other state in the Union, or the laws of the United States. The Commission may invest in certificates and time deposits of the state banks organized under Louisiana law and national banks having principal offices in Louisiana. At May 31, 2024, the Commission had cash and interest-bearing deposits (book balances) totaling \$555,551.

Custodial credit risk for deposits is the risk that in the event of the failure of a depository financial institution, the Commission's deposits may not be recovered or the collateral securities that are in the possession of an outside party will not be recovered. These deposits are stated at cost, which approximates fair value. Under state law, these deposits (or the resulting bank balances) must be secured by federal deposit insurance, or the pledge of securities owned by the pledging financial institution. The market value of the pledged securities plus the federal deposit insurance must at all times equal the amount on deposit with the financial institution. These securities are held in the name of the pledging financial institution in a holding or custodial bank that is mutually acceptable to both parties. Deposit balances (bank balances) at May 31, 2024, are as follows:

Bank balances	<u>\$ 581,334</u>
Federal deposit insurance	\$ 473,552
Pledged securities	<u>107,782</u>
Total	<u>\$ 581,334</u>

Deposits in the amount of \$107,782 were exposed to custodial credit risk. These deposits are uninsured and collateralized with securities held by the pledging institution's trust department or agent, but not in the Commission's name. The Commission does not have a policy for custodial credit risk.

(3) Investments

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

Accounting standards require disclosure of credit risk, custodial credit risk, concentration of credit risk, interest rate risk, and foreign currency risk for all public entity investments.

LAMP is an investment pool that, to the extent practical, invests in a manner consistent with accounting standards. The following facts are relevant for investment pools:

- Credit risk: LAMP is rated AAAM issued by Standard & Poor's.

VERNON PARISH WATER AND SEWER COMMISSION NO. 1
New Llano, Louisiana

Notes to Basic Financial Statements (Continued)

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

The investment in LAMP totaling \$1,370,092 is stated at fair value. The fair value is determined on a weekly basis by LAMP and the value of the position in the external investment pool is the same as the net asset value of the pool shares. LAMP, Inc. is subject to the regulatory oversight of the state treasurer and the board of directors. LAMP is not registered with the SEC as an investment company.

(4) Accounts Receivable

Accounts receivable at May 31, 2024 consisted of the following:

Accounts	\$ 24,084
Unbilled water	<u>98,585</u>
Total	<u>\$ 122,669</u>

(5) Restricted Assets

Restricted assets consisted of the following at May 31, 2024:

Revenue bond debt service account	\$ 164,724
Revenue bond reserve account	81,792
Revenue bond depreciation & contingency account	100,246
Customer deposits	<u>147,637</u>
Total restricted assets	<u>\$ 494,399</u>

VERNON PARISH WATER AND SEWER COMMISSION NO. 1
New Llano, Louisiana

Notes to Basic Financial Statements (Continued)

(6) Capital Assets

Capital asset activity for the year ended May 31, 2024 was as follows:

	<u>Beginning Balance</u>	<u>Increases</u>	<u>Decreases</u>	<u>Ending Balance</u>
Capital assets not being depreciated:				
Land	\$ 34,649	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 34,649
Construction in process	4,064	12,055	-	16,119
Capital assets being depreciated:				
Buildings	113,536	66,577	-	180,113
Land improvements	22,982	-	-	22,982
Equipment and vehicles	420,802	4,500	-	425,302
Water distribution system	<u>7,129,979</u>	<u>56,581</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>7,186,560</u>
Total capital assets	<u>7,726,012</u>	<u>139,713</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>7,865,725</u>
Less accumulated depreciation for:				
Buildings	105,634	920	-	106,554
Land improvements	22,024	-	-	22,024
Equipment and vehicles	354,057	9,838	-	363,895
Water distribution system	<u>3,642,075</u>	<u>229,615</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>3,871,690</u>
Total accumulated depreciation	<u>4,123,790</u>	<u>240,373</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>4,364,163</u>
Capital assets, net	<u>\$ 3,602,222</u>	<u>\$ (100,660)</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 3,501,562</u>

Depreciation expense included in the financial statements for the year ended May 31, 2024 totaled \$240,373.

(7) Change in Long-Term Debt

The following is a summary of debt transactions of the Commission for the year ended May 31, 2024:

Long-term debt payable at May 31, 2023	\$ 2,219,000
Long-term debt issued	-
Long-term debt retired	<u>(115,000)</u>
Long-term debt payable at May 31, 2024	\$ 2,104,000
Less portion of long-term debt due within one year	<u>(118,000)</u>
Portion of long-term debt due in more than one year	<u>\$ 1,986,000</u>

VERNON PARISH WATER AND SEWER COMMISSION NO. 1
New Llano, Louisiana

Notes to Basic Financial Statements (Continued)

Long-term debt at May 31, 2024 is comprised of the following individual issue:

\$2,575,000 Taxable Water Revenue Bonds, Series 2019, due in annual installments of \$101,000 - \$160,000 through February 1, 2039; interest at 1.95%. The bonds were sold to the Louisiana Department of Health, Drinking Water Revolving Loan Fund.

\$ 2,104,000

The annual requirements to amortize all debt outstanding at May 31, 2024 is as follows:

	Principal	Interest	Total
2025	\$ 118,000	39,838	\$ 157,838
2026	117,000	37,616	154,616
2027	120,000	35,334	155,334
2028	123,000	32,994	155,994
2029	126,000	30,595	156,595
2030 - 2034	678,000	114,893	792,893
2035 - 2039	822,000	45,453	867,453
Total	\$ 2,104,000	\$ 336,723	\$ 2,440,723

(8) Flow of Funds; Restrictions on Use – Utility Revenues

Under the terms of the bond indenture on the \$2,575,000 Taxable Water Revenue Bond, Series 2019, all income and revenue of every nature, earned or derived from operations of the Commission are pledged and dedicated to the retirement of said bonds are to be set aside into funds in the following order of priority and for the following express purposes:

All revenue must be deposited into a Water System Revenue Fund to be first used for the payment of all reasonable and necessary expenses of operating and maintaining the System.

Water Revenue Bond Debt Service Fund – An amount sufficient to accumulate the amount needed to assure the prompt payment of the principal and interest installments as they become due is required to be set aside into this fund and may be used only for such purposes.

Water Revenue Bond Reserve Fund – The Commission is required to set aside twenty-five percent (25%) of the amount to be paid into the Debt Service Fund until \$81,591 has been accumulated.

Water Revenue Bond Depreciation and Contingencies Fund – Each month the Commission is required to set aside five percent (5%) of the net revenues for the preceding month until \$100,000 has been accumulated.

VERNON PARISH WATER AND SEWER COMMISSION NO. 1
New Llano, Louisiana

Notes to Basic Financial Statements (Continued)

All of the revenues received in any fiscal year and that are not required to be paid into any of the above noted funds in such fiscal year shall be regarded as surplus and may be used for any lawful purpose.

During the year ended May 31, 2024, all required balances were designated as restricted by the Commission.

(9) Compensation of Board Members

The following is a list of the commissioners and compensation paid for the year ended May 31, 2024:

Commissioner	Compensation
Paul R. Eaves	\$ 2,093
Gary R. Wilson	2,254
Edwin Koenck	2,093
Arthur Muse	2,254
Mavis Odette	2,093
	\$ 10,787

(10) Compensation, Benefits, and Other Payments to Commission Supervisor

A detail of compensation, benefits, and other payments paid to the Commission Supervisor, Milton Midkiff, for the year ended May 31, 2024, follows:

Purpose	Amount
Salary	\$ 89,582
Benefits - insurance	1,186
Total	\$ 90,768

(11) Risk Management

The Commission is exposed to risks of loss in the areas of general liability, property hazards, and worker's compensation. All of these risks are handled by purchasing commercial insurance coverage. There have been no significant reductions in the insurance during the year, nor have settlements exceeded coverage for the past three years.

(12) Pending Litigation

There was no pending litigation against the Commission at May 31, 2024.

VERNON PARISH WATER AND SEWER COMMISSION NO. 1
New Llano, Louisiana

Notes to Basic Financial Statements (Continued)

(13) New Accounting Pronouncements

The following accounting standards adopted by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board, scheduled to be implemented in the future, may affect the Commission's financial statements:

GASB Statement 100, *Accounting Changes and Error Corrections – An Amendment of GASB Statement No. 62*. The primary objective of this Statement is to enhance accounting and financial reporting requirements for accounting changes and error corrections to provide more understandable, reliable, relevant, consistent, and comparable information for making decisions or assessing accountability. The standard is effective for annual reporting periods beginning after June 15, 2023. The effect of implementation on the Commission's financial statements has not yet been determined.

GASB Statement 101, *Compensated Absences*. This standard updates the recognition and measurement guidance for compensated absences by aligning the guidance under a unified model and by amending certain disclosures. This standard is effective for reporting periods beginning after December 15, 2023. The Commission will include the requirements of this standard, as applicable, in its May 31, 2025, financial statements. The effect of this standard or its applicability to the Commission are unknown at this time.

(14) Beginning Net Position Adjustment

The Commission has determined that a certain transaction was recorded incorrectly in a prior year resulting in an understatement of capital assets. This error resulted in a restatement of previously reported net position, as follows:

Net position, previously reported	\$ 3,335,078
Prior period adjustment:	
Correction of an error	<u>4,064</u>
Net position, as restated	<u>\$ 3,339,142</u>

**INTERNAL CONTROL, COMPLIANCE
AND
OTHER MATTERS**

KOLDER, SLAVEN & COMPANY, LLC

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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*

The Board of Commissioners
Vernon Parish Water and Sewer Commission No. 1
New Llano, Louisiana

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 business-type activities of the Vernon Parish Water and Sewer Commission No. 1 (Commission), a component unit of the Vernon Parish Police Jury, as of and for the year ended May 31, 2024, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the Commission's basic financial statements and have issued our report thereon dated August 19, 2024.

Report on Internal Control over Financial Reporting

In planning and performing our audit of the financial statements, we considered the Commission'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 Commission's internal control. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the Commission'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 the 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 and therefore, material weaknesses or significant deficiencies may exist that were not identified. We identified a certain deficiency in internal control, described in the accompanying summary schedule of current and prior year audit findings and management's corrective action plan as item 2024-001 that we consider to be a material weakness.

Report on Compliance and Other Matters

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the Commission’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*.

The Commission’s Response to Findings

Government Auditing Standards requires the auditor to perform limited procedures on the Commission’s response to the findings identified in our audit and described in the accompanying summary schedule of current and prior year audit findings and management’s corrective action plan. The Commission’s response was not subjected to the other auditing procedures applied in the audit of the financial statements and, accordingly, we express no opinion on the response.

Purpose of this Report

The purpose of this report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity’s internal control or on compliance. This report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the entity’s internal control and compliance. Accordingly, this communication is not suitable for any other purpose. However, under Louisiana Revised Statute 24:513, this report is distributed by the Legislative Auditor as a public document.

Kolder, Slaven & Company, LLC

Certified Public Accountants

Ville Platte, Louisiana
August 19, 2024

VERNON PARISH WATER AND SEWER COMMISSION NO. 1
New Llano, Louisiana

Schedule of Current and Prior Year Audit Findings
and Management's Corrective Action Plan
Year Ended May 31, 2024

Part I: Current Year Findings and Management's Corrective Action Plan

A. Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

2024-001 Inadequate Segregation of Accounting Functions

Fiscal year finding initially occurred: Unknown

CONDITION: The Commission did not have adequate segregation of functions within the accounting system.

CRITERIA: AU-C §315.04, *Understanding the Entity and its Environment and Assessing the Risks of Material Misstatement*, defines internal control as follows:

“Internal control is a process, affected by those charged with governance, management, and other personnel, designed to provide reasonable assurance about the achievement of objectives with regard to reliability of financial reporting, effectiveness and efficiency of operations, and compliance with applicable laws and regulations.”

CAUSE: The cause of the condition is the fact that the Commission does not have a sufficient number of staff performing administrative and financial duties so as to provide adequate segregation of accounting and financial duties.

EFFECT: Failure to adequately segregate accounting and financial functions increases the risk that errors and/or irregularities including fraud and/or defalcations may occur and not be prevented and/or detected.

RECOMMENDATION: Management should reassign incompatible duties among different employees to ensure that a single employee does not have control of more than one of the following responsibilities: (1) authorization; (2) custody; (3) recordkeeping; and (4) reconciliation.

MANAGEMENT'S CORRECTIVE ACTION PLAN: The Commission has provided as much segregation as possible with the resources available.

B. Compliance

There were no compliance findings.

VERNON PARISH WATER AND SEWER COMMISSION NO. 1
New Llano, Louisiana

Schedule of Current and Prior Year Audit Findings
and Management's Corrective Action Plan (Continued)
Year Ended May 31, 2024

Part II: Prior Year Findings:

A. Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

2023-001 Inadequate Segregation of Accounting Functions

CONDITION: The Commission did not have adequate segregation of functions within the accounting system.

RECOMMENDATION: Management should reassign incompatible duties among different employees to ensure that a single employee does not have control of more than one of the following responsibilities: (1) authorization; (2) custody; (3) recordkeeping; and (4) reconciliation.

CURRENT STATUS: Unresolved. See item 2024-001.

B. Compliance

There were no compliance findings.

**VERNON PARISH WATER AND
SEWER COMMISSION NO. 1**

Statewide Agreed-Upon Procedures Report

Year Ended May 31, 2024

KOLDER, SLAVEN & COMPANY, LLC

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INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANT'S REPORT ON APPLYING AGREED-UPON PROCEDURES

To the Board of Commissioners of
Vernon Parish Water and Sewer Commission No. 1
and the Louisiana Legislative Auditor:

We have performed the procedures enumerated below on the control and compliance (C/C) areas identified in the Louisiana Legislative Auditor's (LLA's) Statewide Agreed-Upon Procedures (SAUPs) for the fiscal period June 1, 2023 through May 31, 2024. The Vernon Parish Water and Sewer Commission No. 1's management is responsible for those C/C areas identified in the SAUPs.

The Vernon Parish Water and Sewer Commission No. 1 has agreed to and acknowledged that the procedures performed are appropriate to meet the intended purpose of the engagement, which is to perform specified procedures on the C/C areas identified in LLA's SAUPs for the fiscal period June 1, 2023 through May 31, 2024. Additionally, LLA has agreed to and acknowledged that the procedures performed are appropriate for its purposes. This report may not be suitable for any other purpose. The procedures performed may not address all the items of interest to a user of this report and may not meet the needs of all users of this report and, as such, users are responsible for determining whether the procedures performed are appropriate for their purposes.

The procedures and associated findings are as follows:

1) Written Policies and Procedures

A. Obtain and inspect the entity's written policies and procedures and observe whether they address each of the following categories and subcategories, if applicable, to public funds and the entity's operations:

i. **Budgeting**, including preparing, adopting, monitoring, and amending the budget.

Written policies and procedures were obtained and address the functions noted above.

ii. **Purchasing**, including (1) how purchases are initiated; (2) how vendors are added to the vendor list; (3) the preparation and approval process of purchase requisitions and purchase orders; (4) controls to ensure compliance with the Public Bid Law; and (5) documentation required to be maintained for all bids and price quotes.

Written policies and procedures were obtained and address the functions noted above.

iii. **Disbursements**, including processing, reviewing, and approving.

Written policies and procedures were obtained and address the functions noted above.

- iv. **Receipts/Collections**, including receiving, recording, and preparing deposits. Also, policies and procedures should include management's actions to determine the completeness of all collections for each type of revenue or agency fund additions (e.g., periodic confirmation with outside parties, reconciliation to utility billing after cutoff procedures, reconciliation of traffic ticket number sequences, agency fund forfeiture monies confirmation).

Written policies and procedures were obtained and address the functions noted above.

- v. **Payroll/Personnel**, including (1) payroll processing, (2) reviewing and approving time and attendance records, including leave and overtime worked, and (3) approval process for employee rates of pay or approval and maintenance of pay rate schedules.

Written policies and procedures were obtained and do not address the approval process for employee rates of pay or approval and maintenance of pay rate schedules.

- vi. **Contracting**, including (1) types of services requiring written contracts, (2) standard terms and conditions, (3) legal review, (4) approval process, and (5) monitoring process.

Written policies and procedures were obtained and address the functions noted above.

- vii. **Travel and Expense Reimbursement**, including (1) allowable expenses, (2) dollar thresholds by category of expense, (3) documentation requirements, and (4) required approvers.

Written policies and procedures were obtained and address the functions noted above.

- viii. **Credit Cards (and debit cards, fuel cards, purchase cards, if applicable)**, including (1) how cards are to be controlled, (2) allowable business uses, (3) documentation requirements, (4) required approvers of statements, and (5) monitoring card usage (e.g., determining the reasonableness of fuel card purchases).

Written policies and procedures were obtained and address the functions noted above.

- ix. **Ethics**, including (1) the prohibitions as defined in Louisiana Revised Statute (R.S.) 42:1111-1121, (2) actions to be taken if an ethics violation takes place, (3) system to monitor possible ethics violations, and (4) a requirement that documentation is maintained to demonstrate that all employees and officials were notified of any changes to the entity's ethics policy.

Written policies and procedures were obtained and address the functions noted above.

- x. **Debt Service**, including (1) debt issuance approval, (2) continuing disclosure/EMMA reporting requirements, (3) debt reserve requirements, and (4) debt service requirements.

Written policies and procedures were obtained and address the functions noted above.

- xi. **Information Technology Disaster Recovery/Business Continuity**, including (1) identification of critical data and frequency of data backups, (2) storage of backups in a separate physical location isolated from the network, (3) periodic testing/verification that backups can be restored, (4) use of antivirus software on all systems, (5) timely application of all available system and software patches/updates, and (6) identification of personnel, processes, and tools needed to recover operations after a critical event.

Written policies and procedures were obtained and address the functions noted above.

- xii. **Prevention of Sexual Harassment**, including R.S. 42:342-344 requirements for (1) agency responsibilities and prohibitions, (2) annual employee training, and (3) annual reporting.

Written policies and procedures were obtained and address the functions noted above.

2) Board or Finance Committee

- A. Obtain and inspect the board/finance committee minutes for the fiscal period, as well as the board's enabling legislation, charter, bylaws, or equivalent document in effect during the fiscal period, and:
- i. Observe that the board/finance committee met with a quorum at least monthly, or on a frequency in accordance with the board's enabling legislation, charter, bylaws, or other equivalent document.
No exceptions were found as a result of this procedure.
 - ii. For those entities reporting on the governmental accounting model, observe whether the minutes referenced or included monthly budget-to-actual comparisons on the general fund, quarterly budget-to-actual comparisons, at a minimum, on all proprietary funds, and semi-annual budget-to-actual comparisons, at a minimum, on all special revenue funds. *Alternatively, for those entities reporting on the not-for-profit accounting model, observe that the minutes referenced or included financial activity relating to public funds if those public funds comprised more than 10% of the entity's collections during the fiscal period.*
No exceptions were found as a result of this procedure.
 - iii. For governmental entities, obtain the prior year audit report and observe the unassigned fund balance in the general fund. If the general fund had a negative ending unassigned fund balance in the prior year audit report, observe that the minutes for at least one meeting during the fiscal period referenced or included a formal plan to eliminate the negative unassigned fund balance in the general fund.
N/A – This procedure is not applicable to the entity.
 - iv. Observe whether the board/finance committee received written updates of the progress of resolving audit finding(s), according to management's corrective action plan at each meeting until the findings are considered fully resolved.
It was noted that the board/finance committee did not receive written updates of the progress of resolving audit finding(s).

3) Bank Reconciliations

- A. Obtain a listing of entity bank accounts for the fiscal period from management and management's representation that the listing is complete. Ask management to identify the entity's main operating account. Select the entity's main operating account and randomly select 4 additional accounts (or all accounts if less than 5). Randomly select one month from the fiscal period, obtain and inspect the corresponding bank statement and reconciliation for each selected account, and observe that:
- Obtained a listing of entity bank accounts for the fiscal period and management's representation that the listing is complete.*
- i. Bank reconciliations include evidence that they were prepared within 2 months of the related statement closing date (e.g., initialed and dated or electronically logged);
No exceptions were found as a result of this procedure.
 - ii. Bank reconciliations include written evidence that a member of management or a board member who does not handle cash, post ledgers, or issue checks has reviewed each bank reconciliation within 1 month of the date the reconciliation was prepared (e.g., initialed and dated or electronically logged); and
No exceptions were found as a result of this procedure.

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

For 2 out of the 5 bank reconciliations selected for testing, there was no documentation reflecting management has researched reconciling items that have been outstanding for more than 12 months from the statement closing date.

4) Collections (excluding electronic funds transfers)

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

Obtained a listing of deposit sites for the fiscal period and management's representation that the listing is complete.

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

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

Observed that employees responsible for cash collections share the same cash drawers/registers.

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

Observed that employees responsible for collecting cash are also responsible for preparing/making bank deposits. However, another employee/official is responsible for reconciling collection documentation to the deposit.

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

Observed that employees responsible for collecting cash are not responsible for posting collection entries to the general ledger or subsidiary ledgers.

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

Observed that employees responsible for reconciling cash collections to the general ledger are not responsible for collecting cash.

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

Obtained and reviewed a copy of the bond or insurance policy for theft covering all employees who have access to cash, noting no exceptions.

- D. Randomly select two deposit dates for each of the 5 bank accounts selected for Bank Reconciliations procedure #3A (select the next deposit date chronologically if no deposits were made on the dates randomly selected and randomly select a deposit if multiple deposits are made on the same day). *Alternatively, the practitioner may use a source document other than bank statements when selecting the deposit dates for testing, such as a cash collection log, daily revenue report, receipt book, etc.* Obtain supporting documentation for each of the 10 deposits and
- i. Observe that receipts are sequentially pre-numbered.
No exceptions were found as a result of the procedure.
 - ii. Trace sequentially pre-numbered receipts, system reports, and other related collection documentation to the deposit slip.
No exceptions were found as a result of this procedure.
 - iii. Trace the deposit slip total to the actual deposit per the bank statement.
No exceptions were found as a result of this procedure.
 - iv. Observe the deposit was made within one business day of receipt at the collection location (within one week if the depository is more than 10 miles from the collection location or the deposit is less than \$100 and the cash is stored securely in a locked safe or drawer).
No exceptions were found as a result of this procedure.
 - v. Trace the actual deposit per the bank statement to the general ledger.
No exceptions were found as a result of this procedure.

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

- A. Obtain a listing of locations that process payments for the fiscal period and management's representation that the listing is complete. Randomly select 5 locations (or all locations if less than 5).
Obtained a listing of locations that process payments for the fiscal period and managements representation that the listing is complete.
- B. For each location selected under procedure #5A above, obtain a listing of those employees involved with non-payroll purchasing and payment functions. Obtain written policies and procedures relating to employee job duties (if the agency has no written policies and procedures, inquire of employees about their job duties), and observe that job duties are properly segregated such that:
- i. At least two employees are involved in initiating a purchase request, approving a purchase, and placing an order or making the purchase;
Observed that there are at least two employees involved in initiating a purchase request, approving a purchase, and placing an order/making the purchase.
 - ii. At least two employees are involved in processing and approving payments to vendors;
Observed that at least two employees are involved in processing and approving payments to vendors.
 - iii. The employee responsible for processing payments is prohibited from adding/modifying vendor files, unless another employee is responsible for periodically reviewing changes to vendor files;
Observed that the employee responsible for processing payments is prohibited from adding/modifying vendor files.

- iv. Either the employee/official responsible for signing checks mails the payment or gives the signed checks to an employee to mail who is not responsible for processing payments; and
Observed that the employee responsible for signing checks mails the payment or gives the signed checks to an employee to mail who is not responsible for processing payments.
 - v. Only employees/officials authorized to sign checks approve the electronic disbursement (release) of funds, whether through automated clearinghouse (ACH), electronic funds transfer (EFT), wire transfer, or some other electronic means.
Observed that only employees/officials authorized to sign checks approve the electronic disbursement (release) of funds, whether through automated clearinghouse (ACH), electronic funds transfer (EFT), wire transfer, or some other electronic means.
- C. For each location selected under procedure #5A above, obtain the entity's non-payroll disbursement transaction population (excluding cards and travel reimbursements) and obtain management's representation that the population is complete. Randomly select 5 disbursements for each location, obtain supporting documentation for each transaction, and:
- i. Observe whether the disbursement, whether by paper or electronic means, matched the related original itemized invoice and supporting documentation indicates that deliverables included on the invoice were received by the entity; and
No exceptions were found as a result of this procedure.
 - ii. Observe whether the disbursement documentation included evidence (e.g., initial/date, electronic logging) of segregation of duties tested under procedure #5B above, as applicable.
No exceptions were found as a result of this procedure.
- D. Using the entity's main operating account and the month selected in Bank Reconciliations procedure #3A, randomly select 5 non-payroll-related electronic disbursements (or all electronic disbursements if less than 5) and observe that each electronic disbursement was (a) approved by only those persons authorized to disburse funds (e.g., sign checks) per the entity's policy, and (b) approved by the required number of authorized signers per the entity's policy. *Note: If no electronic payments were made from the main operating account during the month selected the practitioner should select an alternative month and/or account for testing that does include electronic disbursements.*
No exceptions were found as a result of this procedure.

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

- A. Obtain from management a listing of all active credit cards, bank debit cards, fuel cards, and purchase cards (cards) for the fiscal period, including the card numbers and the names of the persons who maintained possession of the cards. Obtain management's representation that the listing is complete.
Obtained a listing of all active credit cards, bank debit cards, fuel cards, and purchase cards for the fiscal period and management's representation that the listing is complete.
- B. Using the listing prepared by management, randomly select 5 cards (or all cards if less than 5) that were used during the fiscal period. Randomly select one monthly statement or combined statement for each card (for a debit card, randomly select one monthly bank statement), obtain supporting documentation, and
 - i. Observe whether there is evidence that the monthly statement or combined statement and supporting documentation (e.g., original receipts for credit/debit card purchases, exception reports for excessive fuel card usage) were reviewed and approved, in writing (or electronically approved), by someone other than the authorized card holder (those instances requiring such approval that may

constrain the legal authority of certain public officials, such as the mayor of a Lawrason Act municipality, should not be reported); and

No exceptions were found as a result of this procedure.

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

No exceptions were found as a result of this procedure.

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

No exceptions were found as a result of this procedure.

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

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

Obtained a listing of all travel and travel-related expense reimbursements during the fiscal period and management’s representation that the listing is complete.

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

No exceptions were found as a result of this procedure.

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

No exceptions were found as a result of this procedure.

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

No exceptions were found as a result of this procedure.

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

No exceptions were found as a result of this procedure.

8) Contracts

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

Per discussion with management, it was noted that Vernon Parish Water & Sewer Commission No. 1 did not have any contracts that were initiated or renewed during the fiscal period. Therefore, the following procedures are not applicable for the current period.

- i. Observe whether the contract was bid in accordance with the Louisiana Public Bid Law (e.g., solicited quotes or bids, advertised), if required by law;
- ii. Observe whether the contract was approved by the governing body/board, if required by policy or law (e.g., Lawrason Act, Home Rule Charter);
- iii. If the contract was amended (e.g., change order), observe that the original contract terms provided for such an amendment and that amendments were made in compliance with the contract terms (e.g., if approval is required for any amendment, the documented approval); and
- iv. Randomly select one payment from the fiscal period for each of the 5 contracts, obtain the supporting invoice, agree the invoice to the contract terms, and observe that the invoice and related payment agreed to the terms and conditions of the contract.

9) Payroll and Personnel

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

Obtained a listing of employees and officials employed during the fiscal period and managements representation that the listing is complete. Obtained related paid salaries and personnel files and agreed to authorized salaries/pay rates in the personnel files, noting no exceptions.

- B. Randomly select one pay period during the fiscal period. For the 5 employees or officials selected under procedure #9A above, obtain attendance records and leave documentation for the pay period, and
- i. Observe that all selected employees or officials documented their daily attendance and leave (e.g., vacation, sick, compensatory);
No exceptions were found as a result of this procedure.
 - ii. Observe whether supervisors approved the attendance and leave of the selected employees or officials;
No exceptions were found as a result of this procedure.
 - iii. Observe that any leave accrued or taken during the pay period is reflected in the entity's cumulative leave records; and
No exceptions were found as a result of this procedure.
 - iv. Observe the rate paid to the employees or officials agrees to the authorized salary/pay rate found within the personnel file.
No exceptions were found as a result of this procedure.

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

There were no termination payments made during the fiscal period.

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

No exceptions were found as a result of this procedure.

10) Ethics

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

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

No exceptions were found as a result of this procedure.

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

No exceptions were found as a result of this procedure.

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

No exceptions were found as a result of this procedure.

11) Debt Service

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

Per discussion with management and review of the official minutes, there were no bonds/notes or other debt instruments issued during the fiscal period.

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

No exceptions were found as a result of this procedure.

12) Fraud Notice

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

Per discussion with management, there were no misappropriations of public funds and assets during the fiscal period.

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

No exceptions were found as a result of this procedure.

13) Information Technology Disaster Recovery/Business Continuity

- A. Perform the following procedures:

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

We performed the procedure and discussed the results with management.

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

We performed the procedure and discussed the results with management.

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

We performed the procedure and discussed the results with management.

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

There were no terminated employees during the fiscal period.

- C. Using the 5 randomly selected employees/officials from Payroll and Personnel procedure #9A, obtain cybersecurity training documentation from management, and observe that the documentation demonstrates that the following employees/officials with access to the agency's information technology assets have completed cybersecurity training as required by R.S. 42:1267. The requirements are as follows:

- Hired before June 9, 2020 – completed the training; and
- Hired on or after June 9, 2020 – completed the training within 30 days of initial service or employment.

No exceptions were found as a result of this procedure.

14) Prevention of Sexual Harassment

- A. Using the 5 randomly selected employees/officials from Payroll and Personnel procedure #9A, obtain sexual harassment training documentation from management, and observe that the documentation demonstrates each employee/official completed at least one hour of sexual harassment training during the calendar year as required by R.S. 42:343.

No exceptions were found as a result of this procedure.

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

No exceptions were found as a result of this procedure.

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

- i. Number and percentage of public servants in the agency who have completed the training requirements;
- ii. Number of sexual harassment complaints received by the agency;
- iii. Number of complaints which resulted in a finding that sexual harassment occurred;
- iv. Number of complaints in which the finding of sexual harassment resulted in discipline or corrective action; and
- v. Amount of time it took to resolve each complaint.

No exceptions were found as a result of this procedure.

Management's Response

Management of the Vernon Parish Water and Sewer Commission No. 1 concurs with the exceptions and are working to address the deficiencies identified.

We were engaged by the Vernon Parish Water and Sewer Commission No. 1 to perform this agreed-upon procedures engagement and conducted our engagement in accordance with attestation standards established by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants and applicable standards of *Government Auditing Standards*. We were not engaged to and did not conduct an examination or review engagement, the objective of which would be the expression of an opinion or conclusion, respectively, on those C/C areas identified in the SAUPs. Accordingly, we do not express such an opinion or conclusion. Had we performed additional procedures, other matters might have come to our attention that would have been reported to you.

We are required to be independent of the Vernon Parish Water and Sewer Commission No. 1 and to meet our other ethical responsibilities, in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements related to our agreed-upon procedures engagement.

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

Kolder, Slaven & Company, LLC
Certified Public Accountants

Ville Platte, Louisiana
August 19, 2024