

**North Fork Crow River
Watershed District
Brooten, Minnesota**

Communications Letter

December 31, 2015



**North Fork Crow River Watershed District
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**Report on Matters Identified as a Result of the
Audit of the Financial Statements**

Board of Managers
North Fork Crow River Watershed District
Brooten, Minnesota

In planning and performing our audit of the financial statements of North Fork Crow River Watershed District, Brooten, Minnesota, as of and for the year ended December 31, 2015, in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, we considered the District's internal control over financial reporting (internal control) as a basis for designing auditing procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances for the purpose of expressing our opinions on the financial statements, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the District's internal control. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the District's internal control.

Our consideration of internal control was for the limited purpose described in the preceding paragraph 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.

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 District's financial statements will not be prevented, or detected and corrected on a timely basis. The material weaknesses identified are stated within this letter.

A significant deficiency is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control that is less severe than a material weakness, yet important enough to merit attention by those charged with governance.

The accompanying memorandum also includes financial analysis provided as a basis for discussion. The matters discussed herein were considered by us during our audit and they do not modify the opinion expressed in our Independent Auditor's Report dated June 2, 2016, on such statements.

BerganKDV, Ltd.

Cedar Falls
602 Main Street
Suite 100
P.O. Box 489
Cedar Falls, IA
50613-0026
T 319.268.1715
F 319.268.1720

Cedar Rapids
2720 1st Avenue NE
Suite 300
P.O. Box 10200
Cedar Rapids, IA
52402-0200
T 319.294.8000
F 319.294.9003

Coralville
2530 Corridor Way
Suite 301
P.O. Box 5267
Coralville, IA
52241-0267
T 319.248.0367
F 319.248.0582

Des Moines
9207 Northpark Drive
Johnston, IA
50131-2933
T 515.727.5700
F 515.727.5800

Minneapolis
3800 American Blvd W
Suite 1000
Bloomington, MN
55431-4420
T 952.563.6800
F 952.563.6801

St. Cloud
220 Park Avenue S
P.O. Box 1304
St. Cloud, MN
56302-3713
T 320.251.7010
F 320.251.1784

Waterloo
100 East Park Avenue
Suite 300
P.O. Box 2100
Waterloo, IA
50704-2100
T 319.234.6885
F 319.234.6287

bergankdv.com



This communication is intended solely for the information and use of management and the Board of Managers, others within the District and state oversight agencies and is not intended to be and should not be used by anyone other than these specified parties.

Bergan KDV, Ltd.

St. Cloud, Minnesota
June 2, 2016

North Fork Crow River Watershed District
Material Weaknesses

LACK OF SEGREGATION OF ACCOUNTING DUTIES

The District had a lack of segregation of accounting duties due to a limited number of office employees. The lack of adequate segregation of accounting duties could adversely affect the District's ability to initiate, record, process, and report financial data consistent with the assertions of management in the financial statements. In order to have appropriate segregation of accounting duties, the performance of the following duties would need to be completed by a different employee: initiation and authorization of transactions, recording and processing of transactions, reconciliation and reporting of transactions, and financial information and custody of assets.

Management is aware of this condition and will take certain steps to compensate for the lack of segregation. However, due to the number of staff needed to properly segregate all of the accounting duties, the cost of obtaining desirable segregation of accounting duties can often exceed benefits which could be derived. Due to this reason, management has determined a complete segregation of accounting duties is impractical to correct.

We recommend management, along with the Board of Managers, remain aware of this situation, and continually monitor the accounting system including changes that occur.

PREPARATION OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND RELATED NOTE DISCLOSURES

As a function of the audit process, auditors are required to gain an understanding of the District's internal control, including the financial reporting process.

The District does not have an internal control system designed to provide for the preparation of the financial statements and related note disclosures in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. As auditors, we were requested to draft the financial statements and accompanying notes to financial statements. This circumstance is not unusual in an organization of your size.

This condition increases the risk that errors could occur which would not be prevented, or detected and corrected in a timely manner. Even though all management decisions related to financial reporting are made by the District's management and approval of the financial statements lies with management, it is the responsibility of management and those charged with governance to make the decision whether to accept the degree of risk associated with this condition because of cost or other considerations.

**North Fork Crow River Watershed District
Required Communication**

We have audited the financial statements of the District for the year ended December 31, 2015, and have issued our report thereon dated June 2, 2016. Professional standards require that we provide you with the following information related to our audit.

OUR RESPONSIBILITY UNDER AUDITING STANDARDS GENERALLY ACCEPTED IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND *GOVERNMENT AUDITING STANDARDS*

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

As part of our audit, we considered the internal control of the District. Such considerations were solely for the purpose of determining our audit procedures and not to provide any assurance concerning such internal control.

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement, we performed tests of the District's compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grants. However, the objective of our tests was not to provide an opinion on compliance with such provisions.

Our responsibility for the supplementary information accompanying the financial statements, as described by professional standards, is to evaluate the presentation of the supplementary information in relation to the financial statements as a whole and to report on whether the supplementary information is fairly stated, in all material respects, in relation to the financial statements as a whole.

PLANNED SCOPE AND TIMING OF THE AUDIT

An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements; therefore, our audit involved judgment about the number of transactions to be examined and the areas to be tested.

Our audit included obtaining an understanding of the District and its environment, including internal control, sufficient to assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements and to design the nature, timing, and extent of further audit procedures. Material misstatements may result from (1) errors, (2) fraudulent financial reporting, (3) misappropriation of assets, or (4) violations of laws or governmental regulations that are attributable to the District or to acts by management or employees acting on behalf of the District.

**North Fork Crow River Watershed District
Required Communication**

QUALITATIVE ASPECTS OF ACCOUNTING PRACTICES

Management is responsible for the selection and use of appropriate accounting policies. The significant accounting policies used by the District are described in Note 1 to the financial statements. No new accounting policies were adopted and the application of existing policies was not changed during the year ended December 31, 2015. We noted no transactions entered into by the District during the year for which there is a lack of authoritative guidance or consensus. All significant transactions have been recognized in the proper period.

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

Depreciation – The District is currently depreciating its capital assets over their estimated useful lives, as determined by management, using the straight-line method.

Net Pension Liability, Deferred Outflows/Inflows of Resources Relating to Pension Activity – These balances are based on an allocation by the pension plans using estimates based on contributions.

The financial statement disclosures are neutral, consistent, and clear.

DIFFICULTIES ENCOUNTERED IN PERFORMING THE AUDIT

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

CORRECTED AND UNCORRECTED MISSTATEMENTS

Professional standards require us to accumulate all misstatements identified during the audit, other than those that are clearly trivial, and communicate them to the appropriate level of management. We identified the following uncorrected misstatement of the financial statements. Management has determined its effect is immaterial, both individually and in the aggregate, to the financial statements taken as a whole.

- A prepaid item was not recorded for a subscription that covers part of 2016.

In addition, none of the misstatements detected as a result of audit procedures and corrected by management were material, either individually or in the aggregate, to the financial statements taken as a whole.

**North Fork Crow River Watershed District
Required Communication**

DISAGREEMENTS WITH MANAGEMENT

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

MANAGEMENT REPRESENTATIONS

We requested certain representations from management which were provided to us in the management representation letter.

MANAGEMENT CONSULTATIONS WITH OTHER ACCOUNTANTS

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

OTHER AUDIT FINDINGS OR ISSUES

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

OTHER MATTERS

With respect to the supplementary information accompanying the financial statements, we made certain inquiries of management and evaluated the form, content and methods of preparing the information to determine that the information complies with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, the method of preparing it has not changed from the prior period, and the information is appropriate and complete in relation to our audit of the statements. We compared and reconciled the supplementary information to the underlying accounting records used to prepare the financial statements or to the financial statements themselves.

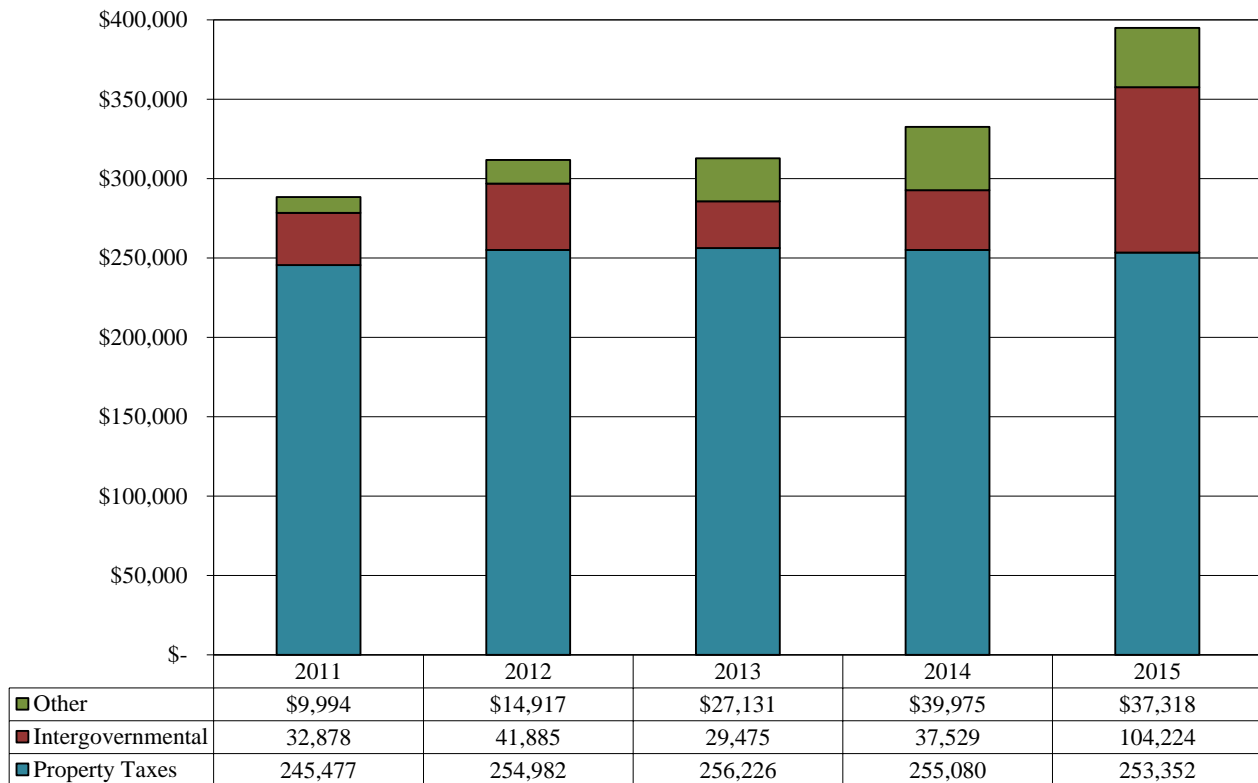
North Fork Crow River Watershed District Financial Analysis

The following pages provide graphic representation of select data pertaining to the financial position and operations of the District for the past five years. Our analysis of each graph is presented to provide a basis for discussion of past performance and how implementing certain changes may enhance future performance. We suggest you view each graph and document if our analysis is consistent with yours. A subsequent discussion of this information should be useful for planning purposes.

ADMINISTRATIVE FUND

Total revenues in the Administrative Fund increased from 2014 to 2015. Property taxes remained flat, as the 2015 Administrative Fund levy remained consistent with the 2014 levy. Other revenues also remained consistent with the prior year, decreasing only \$2,657. Intergovernmental revenues increased \$66,695 due to receiving more grant revenues in 2015, including two new grants.

Administrative Fund Revenues



North Fork Crow River Watershed District Financial Analysis

ADMINISTRATIVE FUND

In 2015, Administrative Fund revenues were \$135,994 over budget. Property taxes were under budget \$5,548 as the District budgets at the full levy amount and does not budget for the effect of delinquent amounts or state credits. Intergovernmental revenues and other revenues, including grants, investment income, contributions, and agricultural market value credits, are not budgeted for as the amounts vary each year and are not predictable at the time the District's budget is determined.

2015 Administrative Fund Revenues Budget and Actual

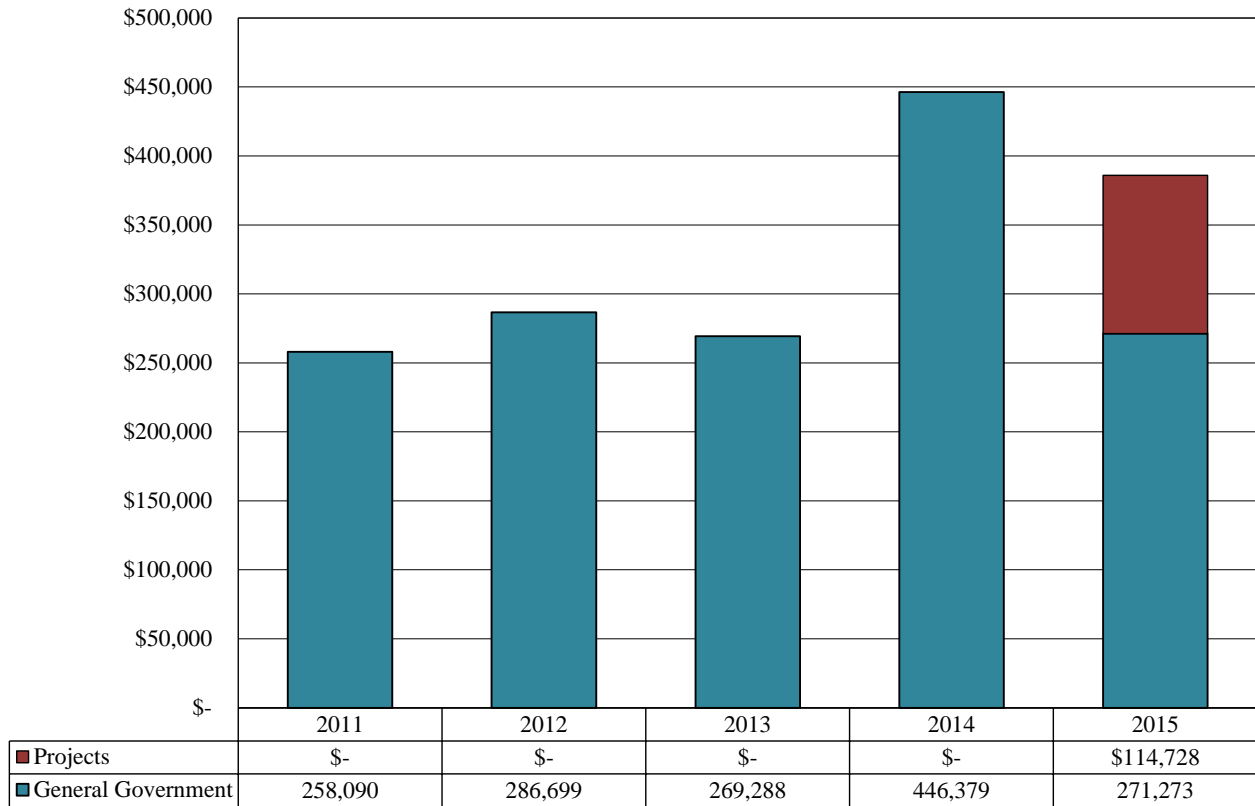


North Fork Crow River Watershed District Financial Analysis

ADMINISTRATIVE FUND

Expenditures decreased \$60,378, or 13.5%, from 2014 to 2015 due to the purchase of a new office building at the end of 2014. In addition, the District also updated its office equipment in 2014 when they moved into the new building. In 2015, the District started separating costs directly related to projects, which accounted for \$114,728 of the total \$386,001 in Administrative Fund expenditures in 2015.

Administrative Fund Expenditures



North Fork Crow River Watershed District Financial Analysis

ADMINISTRATIVE FUND

In total, expenditures were over budget in 2015 by \$85,951. The District only budgets for the expenditures that will be covered by the levy and not what will be covered by grants or other funding received during the year. In 2015, the District split out various water quality grant expenditures to a projects classification rather than general government. These expenditures are not related to specific special project funds and classified in the administrative fund and were not budgeted for.

2015 Administrative Fund Expenditures Budget and Actual

