

Report

of

**Muhlenberg County Water District #3
Bremen, Kentucky**

For The Years Ended December 31, 2023 and 2022

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INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT

To the Commissioners
Muhlenberg County Water District Number 3
Bremen, Kentucky

Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements

Opinions

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of Muhlenberg County Water District Number 3 as of and for the years ended December 31, 2023 and 2022, and the related notes to the 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 financial position of Muhlenberg County Water District Number 3 as of December 31, 2023 and 2022, and the changes in financial position and cash flows thereof for the years 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 Auditors' Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of our report. We are required to be independent of the Muhlenberg County Water District Number 3 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 these 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 Muhlenberg County Water District Number 3'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.

Auditors' Responsibility 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 auditors' 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 judgement 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 judgement 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 Muhlenberg County Water District Number 3'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 Muhlenberg County Water District Number 3'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

Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require that the management's discussion and analysis on pages 4-8 and pension and OPEB schedules on pages 28-31 be presented to supplement the basic financial statements. Such information is the responsibility of management and, although not part of the basic financial statements, is required by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board who considers it to be an essential part of financial reporting for placing the basic financial statements in an appropriate operational, economic, or historical context. We have applied certain limited procedures to the required supplementary information in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, which consisted of inquiries of management about the methods of preparing the information and comparing the information for consistency with management's responses to our inquiries, the basic financial statements, and other knowledge we obtained during our audit of the basic financial statements. We do not express an opinion or provide any assurance on the information because the limited procedures do not provide us with sufficient evidence to express an opinion or provide any assurance.

Other Reporting Required by *Government Auditing Standards*

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated April 23, 2024, on our consideration of Muhlenberg County Water District Number 3'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 Muhlenberg County Water District Number 3'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 Muhlenberg County Water District Number 3's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.

Knight Wagner, PLLC

Madisonville, Kentucky

April 23, 2024

MUHLENBERG COUNTY WATER DISTRICT NUMBER 3
Management's Discussion and Analysis
December 31, 2023 and 2022

The discussion and analysis of the Muhlenberg County Water District Number 3's financial performance provides an overview and analysis of the District's financial activities for the years ended December 31, 2023 and 2022. It should be read in conjunction with the accompanying basic financial statements.

Financial Highlights for the Year 2023

- The District's change in net position was an increase of \$189.2 thousand for the year ended December 31, 2023.

Overview Of The Financial Statements

This report consists of this management's discussion and analysis, basic financial statements, and notes to the financial statements. The basic financial statements are reported using the full accrual basis of accounting.

Basic financial statements:

The Statements of Net Position include information on the District's assets, deferred outflows of resources, liabilities, and deferred inflows of resources and provide information about the nature and amounts of investments in resources (assets) and the obligations to District creditors (liabilities). In simple terms, this statement presents a snap-shot view of the assets the District owns, the liabilities it owes and the net difference. The net difference is further separated into amounts restricted for specific purposes and unrestricted amounts.

The Statements of Revenues, Expenses, and Changes in Fund Net Position include the District's revenues and expenses for the years ended December 31, 2023 and 2022. This statement provides information on the District's operations and can be used to determine whether the District has recovered all of its actual and projected costs through user fees and other charges.

The Statements of Cash Flows include information on the District's cash receipts and payments and the changes in cash balances resulting from operating activities, investing activities, and financing activities.

The notes to the financial statements provide additional disclosures required by governmental accounting standards and provide information to assist the reader in understanding the District's financial condition.

District Financial Analysis

A summary of the District's Statements of Net Position is presented below.

Table 1
Condensed Statements of Net Position
(in thousands)

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>dollar change</u>	<u>percent change</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>dollar change</u>	<u>percent change</u>
Current assets	\$ 883.4	\$ 906.0	(\$ 22.6)	(2.5%)	\$1,019.9	(\$ 113.9)	(11.2%)
Capital assets	2,394.4	2,223.7	170.7	7.7%	2,214.3	9.4	0.4%
Other noncurrent assets	<u>107.1</u>	<u>87.2</u>	19.9	22.8%	<u>102.9</u>	(15.7)	(15.3%)
Total assets	<u>3,384.9</u>	<u>3,216.9</u>	168.0	5.2%	<u>3,337.1</u>	(120.2)	(3.6%)
Total deferred outflows of resources	<u>213.0</u>	<u>260.1</u>	(47.1)	(18.1%)	<u>241.2</u>	18.9	7.8%
Current liabilities	110.2	90.3	19.9	22.0%	167.3	(77.0)	(46.0%)
Long-term liabilities	<u>667.0</u>	<u>939.4</u>	(272.4)	(29.0%)	<u>887.4</u>	52.0	5.9%
Total liabilities	<u>777.2</u>	<u>1,029.7</u>	(252.5)	(24.5%)	<u>1,054.7</u>	(25.0)	(2.4%)
Total deferred inflows of resources	<u>402.1</u>	<u>217.9</u>	184.2	84.5%	<u>228.9</u>	(11.0)	(4.8%)
Net assets invested in capital assets, net of related debt	2,394.4	2,223.7	170.7	7.7%	2,135.4	88.3	4.1%
Unrestricted net position	<u>24.2</u>	<u>5.7</u>	18.5	324.6%	<u>159.3</u>	(153.6)	(96.4%)
Total net position	<u>\$2,418.6</u>	<u>\$2,229.4</u>	\$ 189.2	8.5%	<u>\$2,294.7</u>	(\$ 65.3)	(2.8%)

Net assets may serve over time as a useful indicator of a government's financial position. In the case of the District, assets and deferred outflows of resources exceeded liabilities and deferred inflows of resources by \$2.419 million at the close of the current year.

2022 to 2023

As shown in table 1, the District's total assets increased \$168,000 from \$3,216,900 to \$3,384,900. Current assets decreased \$22,600. This was due primarily to decreases in cash and cash equivalents which decreased \$19,000. The District's cash flow statement shows a similar decrease in cash. Capital assets increased \$170,700 as capital asset acquisitions out paced depreciation expense. Other noncurrent assets increased \$19,900 as the District's net OPEB liabilities/assets was positive for the first time.

Deferred outflows of resources decreased \$47,100 due to changes in the District's proportional share of the County Employee Retirement System (CERS) valuation measurements for both pensions and OPEB.

The District's current liabilities increased \$19,900 as accounts payable increased a similar amount. The District's long-term liabilities decreased \$272,400. Net pension liability decreased \$78,000 and net OPEB liability decreased \$197,500, also due to the District's proportional share of CERS valuation measurements.

Deferred inflows of resources increased \$184,200 due to changes in the District's proportional share of the County Employee Retirement System (CERS) valuation measurements for both pensions and OPEB.

2021 to 2022

As shown in table 1, the District's total assets decreased \$120,200 from \$3,337,100 to \$3,216,900. Current assets increased \$113,900. This was due to decreases in cash and cash equivalents which decreased \$135,000. The District's cash flow statement shows a significant decrease in cash. Capital assets increased \$9,400 as capital asset acquisitions out paced depreciation expense.

Deferred outflows of resources increased \$18,900 due to changes in the District's proportional share of the County Employee Retirement System (CERS) valuation measurements for both pensions and OPEB.

The District's current liabilities decreased \$77,000 as construction project payable decreased \$79,000. The District's long-term liabilities increased \$52,000. Net pension liability increased \$54,800 and net OPEB liability decreased \$3,200, also due to the District's proportional share of CERS valuation measurements.

Deferred inflows of resources decreased \$11,000 due to changes in the District's proportional share of the County Employee Retirement System (CERS) valuation measurements for both pensions and OPEB.

A summary of the District's Statements of Revenues, Expenses and Changes in Net Position is presented below.

Table 2
Condensed Statements of Revenues, Expenses and Changes in Net Position
(in thousands)

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>	dollar <u>change</u>	percent <u>change</u>	<u>2021</u>	dollar <u>change</u>	percent <u>change</u>
Operating revenues	\$1,400.6	\$1,338.0	\$ 62.6	4.7%	\$1,327.7	\$ 10.3	0.8%
Nonoperating revenues	<u>17.8</u>	<u>24.2</u>	(6.4)	(26.4%)	<u>6.5</u>	17.7	272.3%
Total revenues	<u>1,418.4</u>	<u>1,362.2</u>	56.2	4.1%	<u>1,334.2</u>	28.0	2.1%
Operating expenses	1,383.0	1,445.2	(62.2)	(4.3%)	1,337.7	107.5	8.0%
Nonoperating expenses	<u>0.0</u>	<u>0.0</u>	0.0	0.0%	<u>0.0</u>	0.0	0.0%
Total expenses	<u>1,383.0</u>	<u>1,445.2</u>	(62.2)	(4.3%)	<u>1,337.7</u>	107.5	8.0%
Income (loss) before capital contributions	35.4	(83.0)	118.4	142.7%	(3.5)	(79.5)	(2271.4%)
Capital contributions	<u>153.8</u>	<u>17.7</u>	136.1	768.9%	<u>10.6</u>	7.1	67.0%
Changes in net position	189.2	(65.3)	254.5	389.7%	7.1	(72.4)	(1019.7%)
Beginning net position	<u>2,229.4</u>	<u>2,294.7</u>	(65.3)	(2.8%)	<u>2,287.6</u>	7.1	0.3%
Ending net position	<u>\$2,418.6</u>	<u>\$2,229.4</u>	\$ 189.2	8.5%	<u>\$2,294.7</u>	(\$ 65.3)	(2.8%)

2022 to 2023

As shown in table 2, the District's operating revenues increased \$62,600. Water sales increased \$57,600 compared to the prior year. Non-operating revenues increased slightly \$5,000.

The District's operating expenses decreased \$62,200 compared to the prior year. Purchased water increased \$18,000. Salaries and wages increased \$11,000. The primary decrease was in employee benefits which decreased \$80,200. The significant decrease is found in pension and OPEB expenses which is the result from the District's proportional share of the CERS valuation measurements.

Capital contributions increased \$135,100. The District received \$146,793 in grant funds provided by the federal American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Program. These funds were expended for tank renovations and software upgrades.

Changes in net position increased \$189,200 due to the net effect of the above changes.

2021 to 2022

As shown in table 2, the District's operating revenues increased \$10,300. Water sales remained similar to the prior year increasing \$10,000. Non-operating revenues increased \$17,700. The District received insurance recoveries of \$18,400 relating to damage caused by a tornado in December 2021.

The District's operating expenses increased \$107,500 compared to the prior year. Purchased water increased \$54,500. Salaries and wages increased \$15,000. Transportation increased \$8,000 due to higher fuel cost. Materials and supplies increased \$16,600 due to higher repair cost.

Capital contributions increased \$7,100 as higher amounts of customer contributions occurred.

Changes in net position decreased \$65,300 due to the net effect of the above changes.

Capital Assets and Debt Administration

Capital Assets

At December 31, 2023 the District had \$2,394,430 invested in capital assets, net of accumulated depreciation, including land, structures, improvements and water system, and office furniture and equipment. This amount represents a net increase (additions, retirements, depreciation) of \$170,741 from the prior year.

Significant expenditures during the year included \$133,685 for tank renovatons, \$46,984 on meters, \$40,737 for a truck, and \$17,566 for a mapping system.

At December 31, 2022 the District had \$2,223,689 invested in capital assets, net of accumulated depreciation, including land, structures, improvements and water system, and office furniture and equipment. This amount represents a net increase (additions, retirements, depreciation) of \$9,423 from the prior year.

Significant expenditures during the year included \$88,859 on meters and \$19,375 on a excavator.

A comparison of the District's capital assets over the past three years is presented in Note E of the financial statements.

Long-Term Debt

At December 31, 2023, the District had \$28,405, net additions of \$3,990, in long-term liabilities which consisted of customer deposits. There were no new borrowings.

At December 31, 2022, the District had \$24,415, net additions of \$1,385, in long-term liabilities which consisted of customer deposits. There were no new borrowings.

Additional information on the District's long-term debt can be found in Note F of the financial statements.

Currently Known Facts, Decisions, or Conditions

There are no currently known facts, decisions, or conditions that District management expects to have a significant effect on financial position or results of operations.

Requests For Information

This financial report is designed to provide a general overview of the District's finances for all those with an interest in the government's finances. Questions concerning any of the information provided in this report or requests for additional information should be addressed to the Muhlenberg County Water District Number 3, 4815 Main Street, Bremen, Kentucky 42325.

Muhlenberg County Water District Number 3
Statement of Net Position
December 31, 2023 and 2022

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
<u>Assets</u>		
Current assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 653,445	\$ 672,472
Accounts receivable	166,088	173,753
Material and parts inventory	52,220	48,983
Prepaid expenses	<u>11,615</u>	<u>10,749</u>
Total current assets	<u>883,368</u>	<u>905,957</u>
Noncurrent assets		
Restricted cash and cash equivalents	93,203	87,244
Net OPEB asset	13,891	0
Capital assets:		
Nondepreciable	22,950	22,950
Depreciable, net of accumulated depreciation	<u>2,371,480</u>	<u>2,200,739</u>
Total noncurrent assets	<u>2,501,524</u>	<u>2,310,933</u>
Total assets	<u>3,384,892</u>	<u>3,216,890</u>
<u>Deferred outflows of resources</u>		
Deferred outflows of resources-pensions	142,294	155,188
Deferred outflows of resources-OPEB	<u>70,713</u>	<u>104,912</u>
Total deferred outflows of resources	<u>213,007</u>	<u>260,100</u>
<u>Liabilities</u>		
Current liabilities payable from current assets		
Accounts payable	79,029	61,150
Accrued taxes and other payables	7,065	7,588
Accumulated compensated absences	<u>17,168</u>	<u>15,486</u>
	<u>103,262</u>	<u>84,224</u>
Current liabilities payable from restricted assets		
Customer deposits	<u>6,963</u>	<u>6,055</u>
	<u>6,963</u>	<u>6,055</u>
Total current liabilities	<u>110,225</u>	<u>90,279</u>
Long-term liabilities		
Net pension liability	645,565	723,552
Net OPEB liability	0	197,490
Customer deposits	<u>21,442</u>	<u>18,360</u>
Total noncurrent liabilities	<u>667,007</u>	<u>939,402</u>
Total liabilities	<u>777,232</u>	<u>1,029,681</u>
<u>Deferred inflows of resources</u>		
Deferred inflows of resources-pensions	149,344	107,206
Deferred inflows of resources-OPEB	<u>252,708</u>	<u>110,698</u>
Total deferred inflows of resources	<u>402,052</u>	<u>217,904</u>
<u>Net Position</u>		
Invested in capital assets, net of related debt	2,394,430	2,223,689
Unrestricted	<u>24,185</u>	<u>5,716</u>
Total net position	<u>\$2,418,615</u>	<u>\$2,229,405</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these statements

Muhlenberg County Water District Number 3
Statement of Revenues, Expenses and Changes in Fund Net Position
Years Ended December 31, 2023 and 2022

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
Operating revenues		
Water sales	\$1,339,642	\$1,282,019
Other operating revenues	<u>60,970</u>	<u>55,953</u>
Total operating revenues	<u>1,400,612</u>	<u>1,337,972</u>
Operating expenses		
Purchased water	653,875	635,079
Salaries and wages	329,391	318,235
Depreciation	109,776	113,158
Employee benefits	64,378	144,671
Transportation	14,368	20,414
Contract services	41,494	43,671
Taxes	25,345	24,491
Purchased power	21,654	22,815
Materials and supplies	49,016	53,011
Insurance	22,845	21,476
Miscellaneous	43,577	41,718
Regulatory commission expense	1,769	1,983
Uncollectible accounts	<u>5,474</u>	<u>4,508</u>
Total operating expenses	<u>1,382,962</u>	<u>1,445,230</u>
Operating income (loss)	17,650	(107,258)
Nonoperating revenues (expenses)		
Insurance recoveries	5,748	18,403
Interest income	8,520	3,282
Interest expense	(1)	0
Gains (losses) on disposition of capital assets	<u>3,500</u>	<u>2,535</u>
Total nonoperating revenues (expenses)	<u>17,767</u>	<u>24,220</u>
Income (loss) before contributions	35,417	(83,038)
Capital contributions-tap fees	7,000	10,000
Capital contributions-Federal/State	146,793	0
Capital contributions-customers	<u>0</u>	<u>7,768</u>
Change in net position	189,210	(65,270)
Net position beginning of year	<u>2,229,405</u>	<u>2,294,675</u>
Net position end of year	<u>\$2,418,615</u>	<u>\$2,229,405</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these statements.

Muhlenberg County Water District Number 3
Statement of Cash Flows
Years Ended December 31, 2023 and 2022

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
<u>Cash flows from operating activities</u>		
Cash received from customers	\$1,341,833	\$1,272,310
Cash payments to suppliers for goods and services	(995,167)	(1,001,152)
Cash payments to employees for services	(329,391)	(318,235)
Other operating revenues	<u>60,970</u>	<u>55,953</u>
Net cash provided (used) by operating activities	78,245	8,876
<u>Cash flows from capital and related financing activities</u>		
Acquisition and construction of capital assets	(262,873)	(201,495)
Proceeds from insurance recoveries	5,748	18,403
Capital contributions received from customers	7,000	17,768
Grant proceeds received from federal/state	146,793	0
Interest paid on customer accounts	(1)	0
Proceeds received on disposition of capital assets	<u>3,500</u>	<u>2,535</u>
Net cash provided (used) for capital and related financing activities	(99,833)	(162,789)
<u>Cash flows from investing activities</u>		
Interest earned on bank deposits	<u>8,520</u>	<u>3,282</u>
Net cash provided (used) for investing activities	8,520	3,282
Net increase (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents	(13,068)	(150,631)
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year	<u>759,716</u>	<u>910,347</u>
Cash and cash equivalents at end of year	<u>\$ 746,648</u>	<u>\$ 759,716</u>
<u>Reconciliation of operating income to net cash provided (used) by operating activities</u>		
Operating income (loss)	\$ 17,650	(\$ 107,258)
Adjustments to reconcile operating income to net cash provided by operating activities:		
Depreciation	109,776	113,158
Change in assets and liabilities:		
(Increase) decrease in accounts receivable	7,665	(5,201)
(Increase) decrease in inventory	(3,237)	(15,897)
(Increase) decrease in prepaid expenses	(866)	84
(Increase) decrease in net OPEB asset	(13,891)	0
(Increase) decrease in deferred outflows-pensions	12,894	(33,105)
(Increase) decrease in deferred outflows-OPEB	34,199	14,212
Increase (decrease) in accounts payable	235	3,159
Increase (decrease) in accrued expenses	(523)	(8,010)
Increase (decrease) in net pension liability	(77,987)	54,860
Increase (decrease) in net OPEB liability	(197,490)	(3,259)
Increase (decrease) in customer deposits	3,990	1,385
Increase (decrease) in accumulated compensated absences	1,682	5,731
Increase (decrease) in deferred inflows-pensions	42,138	(15,633)
Increase (decrease) in deferred inflows-OPEB	<u>142,010</u>	<u>4,650</u>
Total adjustments	<u>60,595</u>	<u>116,134</u>
Net cash provided by operating activities	<u>\$ 78,245</u>	<u>\$ 8,876</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these statements.

Muhlenberg County Water District Number 3
 Notes to Financial Statements
December 31, 2023 and 2022

NOTE A - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The accounting policies of the Muhlenberg County Water District Number 3 (the "District") conform to Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP) as applicable to governments. The District's reporting entity applies all relevant Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) pronouncements. The following is a summary of the more significant policies:

The Financial Reporting Entity

Muhlenberg County Water District Number 3 was created on April 24, 1967, under the provisions of Chapter 74 of the Kentucky Revised Statutes of the Commonwealth of Kentucky. The principal office of the District is located at Bremen, Kentucky. The District is composed of three commissioners who are appointed by the Muhlenberg County Judge Executive and provides water to its members in and around Muhlenberg County, Kentucky.

In evaluating how to define the government, for financial reporting purposes, management has considered all potential component units. The decision to include a potential component unit in the reporting entity was made by applying the criteria set forth in GASB Statements No. 14 and 61. The District has no component units.

Basis of Presentation, Measurement Focus, and Basis of Accounting

The accounts of the District are organized in accordance with the uniform system of accounts adopted by the Public Service Commission of Kentucky. Those accounts are organized on the basis of a proprietary fund type, specifically an enterprise fund. Enterprise Funds account for activities 1) that are financed with debt that is secured solely by a pledge of the net revenues from fees and charges of the activity; or 2) that are required by laws or regulations that the activities costs of providing services, including capital costs (such as depreciation or debt service), be recovered with fees and charges, rather than with taxes or similar revenues; or 3) that the pricing policies of the activity establish fees and charges designed to recover its costs, including capital costs (such as depreciation or debt service).

The transactions of the District are accounted for on a flow of economic resources measurement focus. With this measurement focus, all assets and all liabilities are included on the statement of net position. Net position is required to be displayed in three components: 1) invested in capital assets, net of related debt, 2) restricted, and 3) unrestricted. Invested in capital assets, net of related debt is capital assets net of accumulated depreciation and reduced by outstanding balances of any bonds, mortgages, notes or other borrowings that are attributable to the acquisition, construction, or improvement of those assets. Restricted net position are those with constraints placed on their use by either: 1) externally imposed by creditors (such as through debt covenants), grantors, contributors, or laws or regulations of other governments, or 2) imposed by law through constitutional provisions or enabling legislation. Net position not otherwise classified as restricted, are shown as unrestricted. The statements of revenue, expenses, and changes in net position present increases (revenues) and decreases (expenses) in net position.

Basis of accounting refers to when revenues and expenses are recognized in the accounts and reported in the financial statements. The accounts of the District are maintained on the accrual basis of accounting. Its revenues are recognized when they are earned, and its expenses are recognized when they are incurred.

Muhlenberg County Water District Number 3
 Notes to Financial Statements
December 31, 2023 and 2022

NOTE A - SUMMARY OF ACCOUNTING POLICIES continued

Proprietary funds distinguish operating revenues and expenses from non-operating items. Operating revenues and expenses generally result from providing services and producing and delivering goods in connection with a proprietary fund's principal ongoing operations. The principal operating revenues and expenses of the District's enterprise fund are charges to customers for sales and services, administrative expenses, and depreciation on capital assets. All revenues and expenses not meeting this definition are reported as non-operating revenues and expenses.

Unbilled water receivables for utility services provided through December 31 are included in the financial statements.

When both restricted and unrestricted resources are available for use, the District generally first uses restricted resources, then unrestricted resources as they are needed.

Cash and Cash Equivalents

All cash except for a small amount kept "on hand" is deposited in financial institutions. Deposits are interest bearing checking accounts and certificates of deposit. Unrestricted cash is available to be expended for normal operating expenses. Restricted cash is limited to payments of bond principal and interest, emergency capital improvements, and other designated purposes. Cash and cash equivalents are defined as being all monies on deposit in banks and investments with a maturity of 90 days or less. The District does not have a formal deposit and investment policy for credit risk, custodial credit risk, or limitations on deposits and investments.

Inventory

Inventory consists primarily of replacement parts and supplies. Inventory is stated at the lower of cost or market. Cost is determined primarily by the first-in, first-out method.

Capital Assets

Capital assets, which include property, plant, and equipment, are recorded at historical cost or estimated historical cost if actual historical cost is not available. Donated capital assets are recorded at estimated fair market value at the date of donation. The cost of normal maintenance and repairs that do not add to the value of the asset or materially extend asset 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. No interest was capitalized during the years ended December 31, 2023 and 2022.

Capital assets of the District are depreciated using a straight-line method over the following estimated useful lives:

Structures, improvements and water system	10 to 65 years
Furniture, machinery and equipment	2 to 10 years
Vehicles	5 years

Muhlenberg County Water District Number 3
Notes to Financial Statements
December 31, 2023 and 2022

NOTE A - SUMMARY OF ACCOUNTING POLICIES continued

Restricted Net Position

Restricted net position is cash set aside for the repayment of debt in compliance with bond covenants and cash restricted for future operations in compliance with escrow reserve agreements. The District currently doesn't have any restricted net position.

Long-Term Liabilities

Long-term debt is reported as liabilities in the statement of net position. Long-term debt is reported at face value.

Deferred Outflows/Inflows of Resources

In addition to assets, the statement of net position will sometimes report a separate section for deferred outflows of resources. This separate financial statement element, *deferred outflows of resources*, represents a consumption of net position that applies to a future period(s) and so will not be recognized as an outflow of resources (expense) until then.

In addition to liabilities, the statement of net position will sometimes report a separate section for deferred inflows of resources. This separate financial statement element, *deferred inflows of resources*, represents an acquisition of net position that applies to a future period(s) and so will not be recognized as an inflow of resources (revenue) until that time.

Pensions

For purposes of measuring the net pension liability, deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources, and pension expense, information about the fiduciary net position of the County Employees Retirement System Non-Hazardous (CERS) and additions to/deductions from CERS's fiduciary net position have been determined on the same basis as they are reported by CERS. For this purpose, benefit payments (including refunds of employee contributions) are recognized when due and payable in accordance with the benefit terms. Investments are reported at fair value.

Uncollectible Accounts

All accounts receivable are considered by management to be collectible, therefore no provision for uncollectible accounts has been established. Uncollectible accounts are expensed using the direct write-off method.

Use of Estimates

The preparation of financial statements in accordance with accounting principals generally accepted in the United States requires management to make estimates that affect amounts reported in the financial statements during the reporting period. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

Muhlenberg County Water District Number 3
Notes to Financial Statements
December 31, 2023 and 2022

NOTE B - DEPOSITS

The District maintains deposits with depository institutions insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC). According to law, the depository institution should pledge sufficient securities as collateral which, together with FDIC insurance, equals or exceeds the amount on deposit at all times. In order to be valid against the FDIC in the event of failure or insolvency of the depository institution, this pledge of securities should be evidenced by an agreement that is (1) in writing, (2) approved by the board of directors of the depository institution or its loan committee, which approval must be reflected in the minutes of the board or committee, and (3) an official record of the depository institution. This agreement, signed by both parties, must be sufficient to create an enforceable and perfected security interest in the collateral under Kentucky law.

Also by Kentucky law, the District is allowed to invest as specified in KRS 66.480 which includes U. S. Treasury and its Obligations, certain federal investments, repurchase agreements, commercial banks' certificates of deposit, and savings and loan deposits.

Deposits are categorized to give an indication of risk assumed by the District at the end of the year. Category 1 includes deposits that are insured, Category 2 includes collateralized deposits held by the pledging institution's trust department or agent in the District's name, and Category 3 includes uncollateralized and uninsured deposits.

On December 31, 2023, the reconciled balance of the District's deposits totaled \$746,648 and the bank balances were \$776,594. Of the bank balances \$500,000 was covered by federal depository insurance (category 1). Also of the bank balances, \$276,594 was collateralized by additional securities held by the pledging depository institution's trust department or agent in the District's name (category 2).

On December 31, 2022, the reconciled balance of the District's deposits totaled \$759,716 and the bank balances were \$769,483. Of the bank balances \$500,000 was covered by federal depository insurance (category 1). Also of the bank balances, \$269,483 was collateralized by additional securities held by the pledging depository institution's trust department or agent in the District's name (category 2).

NOTE C - PREPAID EXPENSES

Prepaid expenses include prepaid insurance, which represents the amount of unexpired insurance, which the District had previously paid for at the balance sheet date.

At December 31, 2023, the District's prepaid expenses consisted of \$11,615 of insurance. At December 31, 2022, the District's prepaid expenses consisted of \$10,749 of insurance.

Muhlenberg County Water District Number 3
Notes to Financial Statements
December 31, 2023 and 2022

NOTE D - RESTRICTED CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS

The District has cash set aside for the repayment of debt (which has been fully paid), cash restricted for future operations, cash set aside for future capital assets, and cash set aside for repayment of customer deposits.

Restricted balances as of December 31 are as follows:

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
Customer meter deposit fund	\$ 45,333	\$ 28,343
Construction fund	<u>47,870</u>	<u>58,901</u>
Totals	<u>\$ 93,204</u>	<u>\$ 87,244</u>

NOTE E - CAPITAL ASSETS

Capital asset activities for the years ended December 31, 2023 and 2022, were as follows:

	<u>Balances</u> <u>12/31/21</u>	<u>Transfers/</u> <u>Additions</u>	<u>Transfers/</u> <u>Retirements</u>	<u>Balances</u> <u>12/31/22</u>	<u>Transfers/</u> <u>Additions</u>	<u>Transfers/</u> <u>Retirements</u>	<u>Balances</u> <u>12/31/23</u>
Business-type activities:							
Capital assets not being depreciated							
Land & land rights	\$ 22,950	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 22,950	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 22,950
Construction in progress	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	<u>22,950</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>22,950</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>22,950</u>
Capital assets being depreciated							
Structures, improvements, & water system	3,966,154	88,860	37,539	4,017,475	200,728	0	4,218,203
Office furniture & equipment	92,600	1,645	0	94,245	18,594	0	112,839
Vehicles & equipment	144,618	0	0	144,618	40,737	21,251	164,104
Machinery & equipment	<u>555,376</u>	<u>40,005</u>	<u>42,527</u>	<u>552,854</u>	<u>20,458</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>573,312</u>
Total	<u>4,758,748</u>	<u>130,510</u>	<u>80,066</u>	<u>4,809,192</u>	<u>280,517</u>	<u>21,251</u>	<u>5,068,458</u>
Total capital assets	<u>4,781,698</u>	<u>130,510</u>	<u>80,066</u>	<u>4,832,142</u>	<u>280,517</u>	<u>21,251</u>	<u>5,091,408</u>
Less accumulated depreciation for:							
Structures, improvements, & water system	2,051,985	76,982	37,539	2,091,428	77,981	0	2,169,409
Office furniture & equipment	64,490	5,128	0	69,618	4,620	0	74,238
Vehicles & equipment	111,452	8,626	0	120,078	6,431	21,251	105,258
Machinery & equipment	<u>339,505</u>	<u>22,422</u>	<u>34,598</u>	<u>327,329</u>	<u>20,744</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>348,073</u>
Total accumulated depreciation	<u>2,567,432</u>	<u>113,158</u>	<u>72,137</u>	<u>2,608,453</u>	<u>109,776</u>	<u>21,251</u>	<u>2,696,978</u>
Total business-type activities capital assets, net	<u>\$2,214,266</u>	<u>\$ 17,352</u>	<u>\$ 7,929</u>	<u>\$2,223,689</u>	<u>\$ 170,741</u>	<u>\$ 0</u>	<u>\$2,394,430</u>

Muhlenberg County Water District Number 3
Notes to Financial Statements
December 31, 2023 and 2022

NOTE F – LONG-TERM LIABILITIES

Long-term liability activity

Long-term liability activity for the years ended December 31, 2023 and 2022, were as follows:

	Balances			Balances			Balances		Amounts
	<u>12/31/21</u>	<u>Additions</u>	<u>Reductions</u>	<u>12/31/22</u>	<u>Additions</u>	<u>Reductions</u>	<u>12/31/23</u>	<u>One Year</u>	
Customer Deposits	\$ 23,030	\$ 8,925	\$ 7,540	\$ 24,415	\$ 11,475	\$ 7,485	\$ 28,405	\$ 6,963	
Business-type Activities Long- Term Liabilities	\$ 23,030	\$ 8,925	\$ 7,540	\$ 24,415	\$ 11,475	\$ 7,485	\$ 28,405	\$ 6,963	

NOTE G - ACCUMULATED COMPENSATED ABSENCES

Effective March 2011 employees are no longer permitted to accumulate earned but unused vacation days beyond one year. The employees must use or cash out their yearly allotment of vacation time earned by the annual anniversary date of their employment.

NOTE H - EMPLOYEES' PENSION PLAN

General Information about the Pension Plan

Plan Description. The District and covered employees contribute to the County Employers Retirement System (CERS), a cost-sharing, multiple-employer defined benefit plan administered by the Board of Trustees of the Kentucky Public Pensions Authority (KPPA). The KPPA is the successor to Kentucky Retirement Systems and was created by state statute under Kentucky Revised Statute Section 61.645 as amended by House Bill 484 and House Bill 9 of the 2020 and 2021 regular sessions, respectively, of the Kentucky General Assembly. These amendments transferred governance of the CERS to a separate nine member board of trustees. The CERS Board of Trustees is responsible for the proper operation and administration of the CERS. The KPPA issues a publicly available financial report that can be obtained by writing to Kentucky Public Pensions Authority, Perimeter Park West 1260 Louisville Road, Frankfort, Kentucky 40601 or by calling (502) 564-4646.

Benefits provided. Kentucky Revised Statute Section 61.645 establishes the benefit terms and can be amended only by the Kentucky General Assembly. The plan provides for retirement, disability, and death benefits to plan members. Retirement benefits may be extended to beneficiaries of plan members under circumstances. Cost-of-living adjustments are provided at the discretion of the State legislature. There are currently three benefit tiers. Tier 1 members are those participating in the plan before 9/1/2008, Tier 2 members are those that began participation 9/1/2008 through 12/31/2013, and Tier 3 are those members that began participation on or after 1/1/2014.

Benefits provided-non hazardous. Tier 1 non-hazardous members are eligible to retire with an unreduced benefit at age 65 with four years of service credit or after 27 years of service credit regardless of age. Benefits are determined by a formula using the member's highest five consecutive year average compensation, which must contain at least 48 months. Reduced benefits for early retirement are available prior to age 65 with at least

Muhlenberg County Water District Number 3
 Notes to Financial Statements
December 31, 2023 and 2022

NOTE H - EMPLOYEES' PENSION PLAN continued

25 but less than 27 years of service credit and at age 55 with at least 5 years of service credit. Members vest with five years of service credit. Service related disability benefits are provided after five years of service. Tier 2 non-hazardous members are eligible to retire based on the rule of 87: the member must be at least age 57 and age + earned service must equal 87 years at retirement or at age 65 with five years of service credit. Benefits are determined by a formula using the member's highest five consecutive year average compensation, which must be 60 months. Reduced benefits for early retirement are available at age 60 with 10 years of service. Tier 3 non-hazardous members are also eligible to retire based on the rule of 87. Benefits are determined by a life annuity calculated in accordance with actuarial assumptions and methods adopted by the KPPA board based on a member's accumulated account balance. Tier 3 members are not eligible for reduced retirement benefits.

Contributions. Contributions for employees are established in the statutes governing the KPPA and may only be changed by the Kentucky General Assembly. Non-Hazardous employees contribute 5% of salary if they were plan members prior to September 1, 2008. Non-Hazardous employees that entered the plan after September 1, 2008, are required to contribute 6% of their annual creditable compensation. The District is required to contribute at an actuarial determined rate. The District was required to contribute 23.34% or \$36,584 of each employee's creditable compensation for the last six months of the year ended December 31, 2023. Of the 23.34%, 23.34% or \$36,584 was comprised of amounts for pensions. The District was required to contribute 26.79% or \$78,243 of each employee's creditable compensation for the first six months of the year ended December 31, 2023 and for the final six months of the year ended December 31, 2022. Of the 26.79%, 23.40% or \$68,342 was comprised of amounts for pensions. The District was required to contribute 26.95% or \$74,288 of each employee's creditable compensation for the first six months of the year ended December 31, 2022 and for the final six months of the year ended December 31, 2021. Of the 26.95%, 21.17%/22.78% or \$60,747 was comprised of amounts for pensions. The District was required to contribute 24.06% or \$32,640 of each employee's creditable compensation for the first six months of the year ended December 31, 2021. Of the 24.06%, 19.30% or \$26,183 was comprised of amounts for pensions. The District's payable to the plan at December 31, 2023 and 2022 was \$0 and \$0, respectively, which consisted of employees' withholdings and legally required contributions for the month of December.

Pension Liabilities, Pension Expense, and Deferred Outflows of Resources and Deferred Inflows of Resources Related to Pensions

At December 31, 2023, the District reported a liability of \$645,565 for its proportionate share of the net pension liability. For financial reporting, the actuarial valuation as of June 30, 2022, was performed by Gabriel Roeder Smith (GRS). The total pension liability, net pension liability, and sensitivity information as of June 30, 2023 were based on an actuarial valuation date as of June 30, 2022. The total pension liability was rolled-forward from the valuation date (June 30, 2022) to the plan's fiscal year ending June 30, 2023, using generally accepted actuarial principles. At December 31, 2022, the District reported a liability of \$723,552 for its proportionate share of the net pension liability. For financial reporting, the actuarial valuation as of June 30, 2021, was performed by Gabriel Roeder Smith (GRS). The total pension liability, net pension liability, and sensitivity information as of June 30, 2022 were based on an actuarial valuation date as of June 30, 2021. The total pension liability was rolled-forward from the valuation date (June 30, 2021) to the plan's fiscal year ending June 30, 2022, using generally accepted actuarial principles.

Muhlenberg County Water District Number 3
 Notes to Financial Statements
December 31, 2023 and 2022

NOTE H - EMPLOYEES' PENSION PLAN continued

For the year ended December 31, 2023, the District recognized pension expense of \$48,274. For the year ended December 31, 2022, the District recognized pension expense of \$75,964. At December 31, 2023 and 2022, the District reported deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to pensions from the following sources:

	<u>12/31/2023</u>		<u>12/31/2022</u>	
	<u>Deferred Outflows of Resources</u>	<u>Deferred Inflows of Resources</u>	<u>Deferred Outflows of Resources</u>	<u>Deferred Inflows of Resources</u>
Net difference between projected and actual earnings on pension plan investments	\$ 69,739	\$ 78,545	\$ 98,454	\$ 79,905
Net difference between expected and actual experience	33,420	1,754	774	6,444
Changes in proportional and differences between employer contributions and proportional share of contributions	2,551	9,879	22,261	20,857
Change of assumptions	-	59,166	-	-
District contributions subsequent to the measurement date	<u>36,584</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>33,699</u>	<u>-</u>
Total	<u>\$ 142,294</u>	<u>\$ 149,344</u>	<u>\$ 155,188</u>	<u>\$ 107,206</u>

\$36,584 reported as deferred outflows of resources related to pensions resulting from District contributions subsequent to the measurement date will be recognized as a reduction of the net pension liability in the year ended December 31, 2024. Other amounts reported as deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to pensions will be recognized in pension expense as follows:

Year ended December 31:	
2024	(\$ 28,156)
2025	(23,642)
2026	14,412
2027	(6,249)

Actuarial assumptions. There have been no actuarial assumption or method changes since June 30, 2020. The assumptions based on June 30, 2021 are:

<u>2021</u>	
Inflation	2.30%
Salary increases	3.30% to 10.30%, varies by service
Investment rate of return	6.25%
Payroll growth rate	2.00%

During the 2018 legislation session, House Bill 185 was recommended, which updated the benefit provisions for active members who die in the line of duty. Benefits paid to the spouses of deceased members have been increased from 25% of the member's final rate of pay to 75% of the member's average pay. If the member does not have a surviving spouse, benefits paid to surviving dependent children have been increased from the 10% of the member's final pay to 50% of average pay for one child, 65% of average pay for two children, or 75% of average pay for three children.

Senate Bill 249 passed during the 2020 legislative session changed the funding period for the amortization of the unfunded liability to 30 years as of June 30, 2019. Gains and losses incurred in future years will be

Muhlenberg County Water District Number 3
Notes to Financial Statements
December 31, 2023 and 2022

NOTE H - EMPLOYEES' PENSION PLAN continued

amortized over separate 20-year amortization bases. This change does not impact the calculation of the Total Pension Liability and only impacts the calculation of the contribution rates that would be payable starting July 1, 2020. There were no other material plan provision changes.

The mortality table used for active members was a Pub-2010 General Mortality table, for the Non-Hazardous System, projected with the ultimate rates from the MP-2014 mortality improvement scale using a base year of 2010. The mortality table used for healthy retired members was a system specific mortality table based on mortality experience from 2013-2018, projected with the ultimate rates from MP-2014 mortality improvement scale using a base year of 2020. The mortality table used for the disabled members was PUB-2010 Disabled Mortality table, with a 4-year set-forward for both male and female rates, projected with the ultimate rates from the MP-2014 mortality improvement scale using a base year of 2010.

The long-term expected return on plan assets was determined by using a building-block method in which best-estimate ranges of expected future real rate of returns are developed for each asset class. The ranges are combined by weighting the expected future real rate of return by the target asset allocation percentage.

The target asset allocation and best estimates of arithmetic real rates of return for each major asset class are summarized in the following table:

<u>Asset Class</u>	<u>Target Allocation</u>	<u>Long-Term Expected Real Rate of Return</u>
Equity		
Public Equity	50.00%	5.90%
Private Equity	10.00%	11.73%
Fixed Income		
Core Bonds	10.00%	2.45%
Specialty Credit	10.00%	3.65%
Cash	0.00%	1.39%
Inflation Protected		
Real Estate	7.00%	4.99%
Real Return	<u>13.00%</u>	<u>5.15%</u>
Expected real return	100.00%	5.75%
Long term inflation assumption	<u>=====</u>	<u>2.50%</u>
Expected nominal rate of portfolio		8.25%

Discount rate. For CERS, the discount rate used to measure the total pension liability was 6.50%. The projection of cash flows used to determine the single discount rate assumed that local employers would contribute the required employee contributions each future year, as determined by the current funding policy established in statute as last amended by House Bill 8 (passed in 2021). The discount rate does not use a municipal bond rate. The target asset allocation and best estimates of arithmetic nominal real rates of return for each major asset class are summarized in the KPPA financial report.

Sensitivity of the District's proportionate share of the net pension liability to changes in the discount rate. The following presents the District's proportionate share of the net pension liability calculated using the discount rate of 6.50% for June 30, 2023 and 6.25% for June 30, 2022, as well as what the District's proportionate share of the net pension liability would be if it were calculated using a discount rate that is 1-percentage-point lower (5.50% and 5.25%) or 1-percentage-point higher (7.50% and 7.25%) than the current rate.

Muhlenberg County Water District Number 3
Notes to Financial Statements
December 31, 2023 and 2022

NOTE H - EMPLOYEES' PENSION PLAN continued

	1% Decrease <u>(5.50%)</u>	Discount Rate <u>(6.50%)</u>	1% Increase <u>(7.50%)</u>
District's 2023 proportionate share of the net pension liability	\$ 815,065	\$ 645,565	\$ 504,704
	1% Decrease <u>(5.25%)</u>	Discount Rate <u>(6.25%)</u>	1% Increase <u>(7.25%)</u>
District's 2022 proportionate share of the net pension liability	\$ 904,350	\$ 723,552	\$ 574,017

Pension plan fiduciary net position. Detailed information about the pension plan's fiduciary net position is available in the separately issued financial report of CERS.

NOTE I – OTHER POST EMPLOYMENT BENEFITS (OPEB)

General Information about the OPEB Plan

Plan Description. Employees of the District are provided hospital and medical insurance through the Kentucky Public Pensions Authority's County Employees' Retirement Insurance Fund (Insurance Fund), a cost-sharing, multi-employer defined benefit OPEB plan. The KPPA was created by State statute under the Kentucky Revised Statute Section 61.645. The CERS Board of Trustees is responsible for the proper operation and administration of the CERS. The KPPA issues a publicly available financial report that can be obtained by writing to Kentucky Public Pension Authority, Perimeter Park West 1260 Louisville Road, Frankfort, Kentucky 40601 or by calling (502) 564-4646.

Benefits provided. The Insurance Fund pays a prescribed contribution for whole or partial payment of required premiums to purchase hospital and medical insurance. As a result of House Bill 290 (2004 Kentucky General Assembly), medical insurance benefits are calculated differently for members who began participating on, or after, July 1, 2003. Once members reach a minimum vesting period of 10 years, non-hazardous employees whose participation began on, or after, July 1, 2003, earn \$10 per month for insurance benefits at retirement for every year of earned service without regard to a maximum dollar amount.

Contributions. Contributions requirements of the participating employers are established and may be amended by the CERS Board of Trustees. Employees that entered the plan prior to September 1, 2008, are not required to contribute to the Insurance Fund. Employees that entered the plan after September 1, 2008, are required to contribute 1% of their annual creditable compensation which is deposited to an account created for the payment of health insurance benefits under 26 USC Section 401(h) in the Pension Fund. The District is required to contribute at an actuarial determined rate. The District was required to contribute 23.34% or \$36,584 of each employee's creditable compensation for the last six months of the year ended December 31, 2023. Of the 23.34%, 0% or \$0 was comprised of amounts for insurance. The District was required to contribute 26.79% or \$78,243 of each employee's creditable compensation for the first six months of the year ended December 31, 2023 and for the final six months of the year ended December 31, 2022. Of the 26.79%, 3.39% or \$9,901 was comprised of amounts for insurance. The District was required to contribute 26.95% or \$74,288 of each employee's creditable compensation for the first six months of the year ended December 31, 2022 and

Muhlenberg County Water District Number 3
Notes to Financial Statements
December 31, 2023 and 2022

NOTE I – OTHER POST EMPLOYMENT BENEFITS (OPEB) continued

for the final six months of the year ended December 31, 2021. Of the 24.06%, 4.17%/5.78% or \$13,541 was comprised of amounts for insurance. The District was required to contribute 24.06% or \$32,640 of each employee's creditable compensation for the first six months of the year ended December 31, 2021. Of the 24.06%, 4.76% or \$6,457 was comprised of amounts for insurance. The District's payable to the plan at December 31, 2023 and 2022 was \$0 and \$0, respectively, which consisted of employees' withholdings and legally required contributions for the month of December.

OPEB Liabilities, OPEB Expense, and Deferred Outflows of Resources and Deferred Inflows of Resources Related to OPEB

At December 31, 2023, the District reported an asset of \$13,891 for its proportionate share of the net OPEB asset/liability. For financial reporting, the actuarial valuation as of June 30, 2023, was performed by Gabriel Roeder Smith (GRS). The total OPEB expense, net OPEB asset/liability, and sensitivity information as of June 30, 2023 were based on an actuarial valuation date as of June 30, 2022. The total OPEB liability was rolled-forward from the valuation date (June 30, 2022) to the plan's fiscal year ending June 30, 2023 using generally accepted actuarial principles. At December 31, 2022, the District reported a liability of \$197,490 for its proportionate share of the net OPEB liability. For financial reporting, the actuarial valuation as of June 30, 2022, was performed by Gabriel Roeder Smith (GRS). The total OPEB liability, net OPEB liability, and sensitivity information as of June 30, 2022 were based on an actuarial valuation date as of June 30, 2021. The total OPEB liability was rolled-forward from the valuation date (June 30, 2021) to the plan's fiscal year ending June 30, 2022 using generally accepted actuarial principles.

For the year ended December 31, 2023, the District recognized OPEB expense of (\$25,626). For the year ended December 31, 2022, the District recognized OPEB expense of \$31,068. At December 31, 2023 and 2022, the District reported deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to OPEB from the following sources:

	<u>12/31/2023</u>		<u>12/31/2022</u>	
	<u>Deferred Outflows of Resources</u>	<u>Deferred Inflows of Resources</u>	<u>Deferred Outflows of Resources</u>	<u>Deferred Inflows of Resources</u>
Net difference between projected and actual earnings on OPEB plan investments	\$ 25,996	\$ 29,220	\$ 36,775	\$ 28,759
Net difference between expected and actual experience	9,684	197,237	19,879	45,289
Changes in proportional and differences between employer contributions and proportional share of contributions	7,697	7,200	12,142	10,913
Change of assumptions	27,336	19,051	31,234	25,737
District contributions subsequent to the measurement date	-	-	4,882	-
Total	<u>\$ 70,713</u>	<u>\$ 252,708</u>	<u>\$ 104,912</u>	<u>\$ 110,698</u>

Muhlenberg County Water District Number 3
 Notes to Financial Statements
December 31, 2023 and 2022

NOTE I – OTHER POST EMPLOYMENT BENEFITS (OPEB) continued

\$0 reported as deferred outflows of resources related to OPEB resulting from District contributions subsequent to the measurement date will be recognized as a reduction of the net OPEB liability in the year ended December 31, 2024. Other amounts reported as deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to OPEB will be recognized in OPEB expense as follows:

Year ended December 31:	
2024	(\$ 43,486)
2025	(55,579)
2026	(44,992)
2027	(37,939)

Actuarial assumptions.

Actuarial assumptions as of December 31, 2023 and 2022 were determined using the following updated assumptions:

2021

Payroll growth rate	2.00%
Inflation	2.30%
Salary increases	3.30% to 10.30%, varies by service
Investment rate of return	6.25%
Healthcare cost trend rates (pre-65)	Initial trend starting at 6.30% and gradually decreasing to an ultimate trend rate of 4.05% over a period of 13 years
Healthcare cost trend rates (post-65)	Initial trend starting at 6.30% and gradually decreasing to an ultimate trend rate of 4.05% over a period of 13 years

Senate Bill 209 passed during the 2022 legislation session and increased the insurance dollar contribution for members hired on or after July 1, 2003 by \$5 for each year of service a member attains over certain thresholds, depending on a member's retirement eligibility requirement. This increase in the insurance dollar contribution does not increase by 1.5% annually and is only payable for non-Medicare retirees. Additionally, it is only payable when the member's applicable insurance fund is at least 90% funded. The increase is first payable January 1, 2023. Senate Bill 209 also allows members receiving the insurance dollar contribution to participate in a medical insurance reimbursement plan that would provide the reimbursement of premiums for health plans other than those administered by KPPA.

Muhlenberg County Water District Number 3
Notes to Financial Statements
December 31, 2023 and 2022

NOTE I – OTHER POST EMPLOYMENT BENEFITS (OPEB) continued

Senate Bill 169 passed during the 2021 legislative session and changed the disability benefits for certain qualifying members who become “totally and permanently disabled” in the line of duty or as a result of a duty-related disability. The total OPEB liability as of June 30, 2021, is determined using the updated benefit provisions. There were no other material plan provision changes.

The mortality table used for active members was a Pub-2010 General Mortality table, for the Non-Hazardous System, projected with the ultimate rates from the MP-2014 mortality improvement scale using a base year of 2010. The mortality table used for healthy retired members was a system specific mortality table based on mortality experience from 2013-2018, projected with the ultimate rates from MP-2014 mortality improvement scale using a base year of 2019. The mortality table used for the disabled members was PUB-2010 Disabled Mortality table, with a 4-year set-forward for both male and female rates, projected with the ultimate rates from the MP-2014 mortality improvement scale using a base year of 2010.

The long-term expected rate of return was determined by using a building-block method in which best-estimate ranges of expected future real rate of returns are developed for each asset class. The ranges are combined by weighting the expected future real rate of return by the target asset allocation percentage.

The target asset allocation and best estimates of arithmetic real rates of return for each major asset class are summarized in the following table:

<u>Asset Class</u>	<u>Target Allocation</u>	<u>Long-Term Expected Real Rate of Return</u>
Equity		
Public Equity	50.00%	5.90%
Private Equity	10.00%	11.73%
Fixed Income		
Core Bonds	10.00%	2.45%
Specialty Credit	10.00%	3.65%
Cash	0.00%	1.39%
Inflation Protected		
Real Estate	7.00%	4.99%
Real Return	13.00%	5.15%
Expected real return	100.00%	5.75%
Long term inflation assumption	=====	2.50%
Expected nominal rate of portfolio		8.25%

For 2023 and 2022, the discount rate used to measure the total OPEB liability was 5.93% and 5.70%, respectively. The discount rate is based on the expected rate of return on OPEB plan investments of 6.50% and 6.25%, respectively, and a municipal bond rate of 3.86% and 3.69%, respectively, as reported in Fidelity Index's “20-Year Municipal GO AA Index” as of June 30, 2023 and June 30, 2022. Based on the stated assumptions and the projection of cash flows as of each fiscal year ending, the plan's fiduciary net position and future contributions were projected to be sufficient to finance future benefit payments of current plan members. Therefore, the long-term expected rate of return on insurance plan investments was applied to all periods of the projected benefit payments paid from the plan.

Muhlenberg County Water District Number 3
 Notes to Financial Statements
 December 31, 2023 and 2022

NOTE I – OTHER POST EMPLOYMENT BENEFITS (OPEB) continued

However, the cost associated with the implicit employer subsidy was not included in the calculation of the plan's actuarial determined contributions, and any cost associated with the implicit subsidy will not be paid out of the plan's trusts. Therefore, the municipal bond rate was applied to future expected benefit payments associated with the implicit subsidy.

The projection of cash flows used to determine the single discount rate must include an assumption regarding actual employer contributions made each future year. Future contributions are projected assuming that each participating employer in each insurance plan contributes the actuarially determined employer contribution each future year calculated in accordance with the current funding policy, as most recently revised by House Bill 8, passed during the 2021 legislative session. The assumed future employer contributions reflect the provisions of House Bill 362 (passed during the 2018 legislative session) which limit the increases to the employer contribution rates to 12% over the fiscal year through June 30, 2028.

Discount rate. For CERS, the discount rate used to measure the total OPEB liability was 5.93% for 2023 and 5.70% for 2022.

Sensitivity of the District's proportionate share of the net OPEB liability to changes in the discount rate. The following presents the District's proportionate share of the net OPEB liability calculated using the discount rate of 5.93% for June 30, 2023 and 5.70% for June 30, 2022 as well as what the District's proportionate share of the net OPEB liability would be if it were calculated using a discount rate that is 1-percentage-point lower (4.93% and 4.70%) or 1-percentage-point higher (6.93% and 6.70%) than the current rate.

	1% Decrease <u>(4.93%)</u>	Discount Rate <u>(5.93%)</u>	1% Increase <u>(6.93%)</u>
District's 2023 proportionate share of the net OPEB liability	\$ 26,068	(\$ 13,891)	(\$ 47,351)
	1% Decrease <u>(4.70%)</u>	Discount Rate <u>(5.70%)</u>	1% Increase <u>(6.70%)</u>
District's 2022 proportionate share of the net OPEB liability	\$ 264,012	\$ 197,490	\$ 142,498

Sensitivity of the District's proportionate share of the net OPEB liability to changes in the healthcare cost trend rate. The following presents the District's proportionate share of the net OPEB liability calculated using the healthcare cost trend rate, as well as what the District's proportionate share of the net OPEB liability would be if it were calculated using a healthcare cost trend that is 1-percentage-point lower or 1-percentage-point higher than the current rate.

	1% Decrease (5.3% & 5.3% decreasing to 3.05%)	Discount Rate (6.3% & 6.3% decreasing to 4.05%)	1% Increase (7.3% & 7.3% decreasing to 5.05%)
District's 2023 proportionate share of the net OPEB liability	(\$ 44,523)	(\$ 13,891)	\$ 23,737

Muhlenberg County Water District Number 3
 Notes to Financial Statements
December 31, 2023 and 2022

NOTE I – OTHER POST EMPLOYMENT BENEFITS (OPEB) continued

	1% Decrease (5.40% & 5.3% decreasing <u>to 3.05%</u>)	Discount Rate (6.40% & 6.3% decreasing <u>to 4.05%</u>)	1% Increase (7.40% & 7.3% decreasing <u>to 5.05%</u>)
District's 2022 proportionate share of the net OPEB liability	\$ 146,829	\$ 197,790	\$ 258,323

OPEB plan fiduciary net position. Detailed information about the OPEB plan's fiduciary net position is available in the separately issued financial report of CERS.

NOTE J - RISK MANAGEMENT

The District is exposed to various risks of losses related to torts; theft of, damage to, and destruction of assets; errors and omissions; and injuries to employees. The District purchases commercial insurance for all risks of losses. Settlements resulting from these risks have not exceeded commercial insurance coverage in any of the past three fiscal years.

NOTE K – FEDERAL/STATE GRANTS

The District has been awarded grant funds from the Kentucky Cleaner Water Program approved by the Kentucky Infrastructure Authority. These funds were provided by the federal American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Program. During 2023, the District received \$146,793 in grant funds. These funds were expended for tank renovations and software upgrades.

Required Supplementary Information

Muhlenberg County Water District Number 3
 Schedule of Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability
 December 31, 2023 and 2022

	Last 10 Fiscal Years									
	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	
Total net pension liability for County Employees'										
Retirement System	\$9,112,465	\$10,280,470	\$9,037,944	\$10,684,945	\$9,795,340	\$5,508,762	\$8,090,586	\$6,639,580	\$5,834,631	
District's proportionate share of the net pension liability (asset)	0.010061%	0.010009%	0.010488%	0.009665%	0.009150%	0.009376%	0.009638%	0.010000%	0.009410%	
District's proportionate share of the net pension liability (asset)	\$646	\$724	\$669	\$742	\$644	\$571	\$564	\$493	\$405	
District's covered-employer payroll	\$305	\$293	\$263	\$264	\$228	\$240	\$230	\$237	\$220	
District's proportionate share of the net pension liability (asset) as a percentage of its covered-employer payroll	211.81%	247.30%	254.50%	281.26%	282.66%	238.23%	245.80%	207.49%	184.28%	
Total pension plan's fiduciary net position	\$11,707,789	\$10,661,820	\$11,480,060	\$9,407,031	\$9,573,629	\$9,367,300	\$8,905,233	\$8,151,568	\$8,519,002	
Total pension plan's pension liability	\$20,820,254	\$20,962,290	\$20,518,004	\$20,091,976	\$19,368,969	\$17,876,062	\$16,995,819	\$14,791,128	\$14,353,633	
Total pension plan's fiduciary net position as a percentage of the total pension liability	56.23%	50.96%	55.95%	46.82%	52.40%	52.40%	52.40%	55.11%	59.35%	

Note: This schedule is intended to present a 10-year trend per GASB 68. Additional years will be reported as incurred.

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

Muhlenberg County Water District Number 3
 Schedule of District Contributions-Pension Plan
 December 31, 2023 and 2022

	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
Actuarially determined contribution	\$71,227	\$67,542	\$53,087	\$50,882	\$40,507	\$36,784	\$32,611	\$30,224	\$32,110
Contributions in relation to the actuarially determined contribution	71,227	67,542	53,087	50,882	40,507	36,784	32,611	30,224	32,110
Contribution deficiency (excess)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
District's covered-employee payroll	\$304,790	\$292,576	\$262,750	\$263,640	\$227,664	\$239,693	\$229,516	\$237,399	\$219,505
Contributions as a percentage of covered-employee payroll	23.37%	23.09%	20.20%	19.30%	17.79%	15.35%	14.21%	12.73%	14.63%

Note: This schedule is intended to present a 10-year trend per GASB 68. Additional years will be reported as incurred.

The County Employees Retirement System measurement date is 6 months prior to the District's Financial Statements; the 2023 measurement date is 06/30/2022.

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

Muhlenberg County Water District Number 3
 Schedule of Proportionate Share of the Net OPEB Liability
 December 31, 2023 and 2022

	Last 10 Fiscal Years						
	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017
Total net OPEB liability (asset) for County Employees'							
Retirement System	(\$1,244)	\$2,825,300	\$2,723,009	\$3,338,801	\$2,421,815	\$2,488,439	\$2,837,014
District's proportionate share of the net OPEB liability (asset)	0.010061%	0.010007%	0.010466%	0.009665%	0.009150%	0.009376%	0.009638%
District's proportionate share of the net OPEB liability (asset)	(\$14)	\$197	\$201	\$233	\$154	\$166	\$194
District's covered-employer payroll	\$305	\$293	\$263	\$264	\$228	\$240	\$230
District's proportionate share of the net OPEB liability (asset) as a percentage of its covered-employer payroll	(4.56%)	67.50%	76.40%	88.52%	66.56%	68.17%	84.35%
Total OPEB plan's fiduciary net position	\$5,032,567	\$4,802,655	\$4,874,625	\$3,902,730	\$3,910,225	\$3,695,108	\$3,401,537
Total OPEB plan's OPEB liability	\$5,031,323	\$7,427,955	\$7,597,634	\$7,241,631	\$6,332,040	\$6,183,547	\$6,238,551
Total OPEB plan's fiduciary net position as a percentage of the total OPEB liability	100.02%	61.96%	64.16%	53.89%	61.75%	59.76%	55.42%

Note: This schedule is intended to present a 10-year trend per GASB 75. Additional years will be reported as incurred.

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

Muhlenberg County Water District Number 3
 Schedule of District Contributions-OPEB Plan
 December 31, 2023 and 2022

	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017
Actuarially determined contribution	\$5,019	\$11,077	\$13,803	\$12,549	\$11,394	\$11,934	\$10,823
Contributions in relation to the actuarially determined contribution	5,019	11,077	13,803	12,549	11,934	11,934	10,823
Contribution deficiency (excess)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
District's covered-employee payroll	\$304,790	\$292,576	\$262,750	\$263,640	\$227,664	\$239,693	\$229,516
Contributions as a percentage of covered-employee payroll	1.65%	3.79%	5.25%	4.76%	5.00%	4.98%	4.72%

Note: This schedule is intended to present a 10-year trend per GASB 75. Additional years will be reported as incurred.

The County Employees Retirement System measurement date is 6 months prior to the District's Financial Statements; the 2023 measurement date is 06/30/2022.

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

Muhlenberg County Water District Number 3
 Notes to Required Supplementary Information (RSI) on Pension and OPEB Schedules
 December 31, 2023 and 2022

NOTE A – COUNTY EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM (CERS) PENSION PLAN AND
 OTHER POSTEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS (OPEB) PLAN

Pension Plan

Changes of benefit terms: During the 2018 legislative session, House Bill 185 was enacted, which updated the benefit provisions for active members who die in the line of duty. Benefits paid to the spouses of deceased members have been increased from 25% of the member's final pay to 75% of the member's average pay. If the member does not have a surviving spouse, benefits paid to surviving dependent children have been increased from 10% of member's final pay to 50% of average pay for one child, 65% over average pay for two children, of 75% of average pay for three children. The Total Pension Liability beginning June 30, 2018 is determined using these updated benefit provisions.

Changes of assumptions: In the June 30, 2019, 2017, and 2015 actuarial valuations, the following changes in actuarial assumptions were made:

	June 30, <u>2019</u>	June 30, <u>2017</u>	June 30, <u>2015</u>	June 30, <u>2014</u>
Inflation	2.30%	2.30%	3.25%	3.50%
Payroll Growth	2.00%	0.75%	0.75%	1.00%
Salary Increases		3.05%		
Non-hazardous	3.30%			
	to 10.30%			
Investment Rate of Return	6.25%	6.25%	7.50%	7.75%

In the June 30, 2019 actuarial valuation, the mortality table used for active members was a Pub-2010 General Mortality table, for the Non-Hazardous System, projected with the ultimate rates from MP-2014 mortality improvement scale using a base year of 2010. The mortality table used for healthy retired members was a system specific mortality table based on mortality experience from 2013-2018, projected with the ultimate rates from MP-2014 mortality improvement scale using a base year of 2019. The mortality table used for the disabled members was PUB-2010 Disabled Mortality table, with a 4-year set-forward for both male and female rates, projected with the ultimate rates from the MP-2014 mortality improvement scale using a base year of 2010.

Beginning with the June 30, 2015 actuarial valuation, the mortality table used for active members is RP-2000 Combined Mortality Table projected with Scale BB to 2013 (multiplied by 50% for males and 30% for females). For healthy retired members and beneficiaries, the mortality table used is the RP-2000 Combined Mortality Table projected with Scale BB to 2013 (set back one year for females). For disabled members, the RP-2000 Combined Disabled Mortality Table projected with Scale BB to 2013 (set back four years for males) is used for the period after disability retirement.

For periods prior to the June 30, 2015 actuarial valuation, the rates of mortality for the period after service retirement are according to the 1983 Group Annuity Mortality Table for all retired members and beneficiaries as of June 30, 2006 and the 1994 Group Annuity Mortality Table for all other members. The Group Annuity Mortality Table set forward five years was used for the period after disability retirement.

Muhlenberg County Water District Number 3
 Notes to Required Supplementary Information (RSI) on Pension and OPEB Schedules
 December 31, 2023 and 2022

NOTE A – COUNTY EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM (CERS) PENSION PLAN AND
 OTHER POSTEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS (OPEB) PLAN continued

Other Postemployment Benefits Plan

Changes in benefit terms: During the 2018 legislative session, House Bill 185 was enacted, which updated the benefit provisions for active members who die in the line of duty. The system shall now pay 100% of the insurance premium for spouses and children of all active members who die in the line of duty. The Total OPEB Liability beginning June 30, 2018 is determined using these updated benefit provisions.

Changes in Assumptions: In the June 30, 2019 actuarial valuation, the following changes in actuarial assumptions were made:

	June 30, <u>2019</u>	June 30, <u>2017</u>
Inflation	2.30%	2.30%
Payroll Growth	2.00%	0.75%
Salary Increases		3.05%
Non-hazardous	3.30%	
	to 10.30%	
Investment Rate of Return	6.25%	6.25%

In the June 30, 2019 actuarial valuation, the mortality table used for active members was a Pub-2010 General Mortality table, for the Non-Hazardous System, projected with the ultimate rates from MP-2014 mortality improvement scale using a base year of 2010. The mortality table used for healthy retired members was a system specific mortality table based on mortality experience from 2013-2018, projected with the ultimate rates from MP-2014 mortality improvement scale using a base year of 2019. The mortality table used for the disabled members was PUB-2010 Disabled Mortality table, with a 4-year set-forward for both male and female rates, projected with the ultimate rates from the MP-2014 mortality improvement scale using a base year of 2010.

Beginning with the June 30, 2017 actuarial valuation, the mortality table used for active members is RP-2000 Combined Mortality Table projected with Scale BB to 2013 (multiplied by 50% for males and 30% for females). For healthy retired members and beneficiaries, the mortality table used is the RP-2000 Combined Mortality Table projected with Scale BB to 2013 (set back one year for females).

For disabled members, the RP-2000 Combined Disabled Mortality Table projected with Scale BB to 2013 (set back four years for males) is used for the period after disability retirement.

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

To The Commissioners
Muhlenberg County Water District Number 3
Bremen, Kentucky

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 Muhlenberg County Water District Number 3 as of and for the years ended December 31, 2023 and 2022, and the related notes to the financial statements, and have issued our report thereon dated April 23, 2024.

Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

In planning and performing our audit of the financial statements, we considered Muhlenberg County Water District Number 3'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 Muhlenberg County Water District Number 3's internal control. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of Muhlenberg County Water District Number 3's internal control.

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

Our consideration of internal control was for the limited purpose described in the first paragraph of this section and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control that might be material weaknesses or significant deficiencies and therefore, material weaknesses or significant deficiencies may exist that were not identified. Given these limitations, during our audit we did not identify any deficiencies in internal control that we consider to be material weaknesses. We identified certain deficiencies in internal control, as discussed below, that we consider to be significant deficiencies.

2023-1 Segregation of Duties

Condition: The internal control relating to receipts and disbursements is inadequate due to a lack of segregation of duties.

Criteria: Adequate segregation of duties is essential to an adequate internal control over financial reporting by allocating various duties among employees.

Effect: The lack of proper segregation of duties may permit errors or irregularities to go undetected.

Cause: There is a small number of accounting personnel. The cost versus benefit relationship prevents the District from hiring enough accounting personnel to properly segregate key accounting functions.

Recommendation: While the small number of employees that exist will never provide proper segregation of duties, the District should continually review job responsibilities for better accounting controls.

Response: The District concurs with the recommendation and will continually review job responsibilities to improve accounting controls when possible.

2023-2 Lack of Financial Reporting Expertise

Condition: The District lacks personnel with the expertise to apply generally accepted accounting principles in preparing its financial statements including note disclosures. Management engaged the auditor to prepare draft financial statements, including the related notes to the financial statements. Management reviewed, approved and accepted responsibility for the financial statements prior to their issuance.

Criteria: The District is required to have internal controls in place that enable it to prepare complete financial statements, including note disclosures, in compliance with generally accepted accounting principles.

Effect: The absence of such controls may allow errors to go undetected.

Cause: There is a lack of personnel who possess the required knowledge.

Recommendation: We recommend management review the costs and benefits involved to retain a consultant with the required expertise to prepare the financial statements or review the financial statements as prepared by the auditor for compliance with generally accepted accounting principles.

Response: Management has determined that it is more cost effective to continue to engage the auditor to draft the financial statements and related notes.

Report on Compliance and Other Matters

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether Muhlenberg County Water District Number 3's financial statements are free of 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*.

Muhlenberg County Water District Number 3's Response to Findings

Government Auditing Standards requires the auditor to perform limited procedures on Muhlenberg County Water District Number 3's response to the findings identified in our audit and described above. Muhlenberg County Water District Number 3's response was not subjected to the 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 result 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 purposes.

Knight Wagner, P.C.

Madisonville, Kentucky

April 23, 2024