

Whitley County Water District
Williamsburg, Kentucky

Independent Auditors' Report
And Financial Statements
For the Year Ended
December 31, 2023

Whitley County Water District
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Abner & Cox, PLLC
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

Independent Auditors' Report

To the Commissioners
Whitley County Water District
Williamsburg, Kentucky

Opinion

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of Whitley County Water District, which comprise the statement of net position as of December 31, 2023, and the related statements of revenues, expenses, and changes in net position and cash flows for the year then ended, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise Whitley County Water District's basic financial statements.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Whitley County Water District, as of December 31, 2023, and the respective changes in financial position, and cash flows thereof for the year then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Basis for Opinion

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 Whitley County Water District and to meet our other ethical responsibilities, in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements relating to our audit. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, and 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 Whitley County Water District's ability to continue as a going concern for twelve months beyond the financial statement date, including any currently known information that may raise substantial doubt shortly thereafter.

Auditors' Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

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

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

- Exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.
- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, and design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks. Such procedures include examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of Whitley County Water District's internal control. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluate the overall presentation of the financial statements.
- Conclude whether, in our judgment, there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about Whitley County Water District's ability to continue as a going concern for a reasonable period of time.

We are required to communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit, significant audit findings, and certain internal control related matters that we identified during the audit.

Required Supplementary Information

Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require that the Schedule of the District's Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability, Schedule of the District's Proportionate Share of the Net OPEB Liability, Schedule of the District's Pension Contributions, and Schedule of the District's OPEB Contributions on pages 25-28 be presented to supplement the basic financial statements. Such information, although not a part of the basic financial statements, is required by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board, who considers it to be an essential part of financial reporting for placing the basic financial statements in an appropriate operational, economic, or historical context. 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.

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

Other Reporting Required by *Government Auditing Standards*

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated July 28, 2025, on our consideration of Whitley County Water District's internal control over financial reporting and on our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts and grant agreements and other matters. The purpose of that report is 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 Whitley County Water District'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 Whitley County Water District's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.

Abner & Cox, PLLC

Abner & Cox, PLLC
London, Kentucky

July 28, 2025

Whitley County Water District
Statement of Net Position
December 31, 2023

Assets

Current Assets

Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 196,024
Accounts receivable	186,565
Unbilled accounts receivable	47,875
Total Current Assets	<u>430,464</u>

Noncurrent Assets

Restricted Assets

Customer deposits	276,313
Debt and interest funds	873,339
Water loss surcharge funds	78,361
Total Restricted Assets	<u>1,228,013</u>

Capital Assets

Land and improvements	48,038
Buildings and improvements	559,143
Source of supply and pumping	20,050,512
Transmission and distribution plant	254,894
Vehicles and other equipment	75,418
Less: accumulated depreciation	<u>(8,651,826)</u>
Net Capital Assets	<u>12,336,179</u>

Total Noncurrent Assets

13,564,192

Total Assets

13,994,656

Deferred Outflows of Resources

Deferred outflows related to pension	269,582
Deferred outflows related to other post retirement employee benefits (OPEB)	114,607
Total Deferred Outflows of Resources	<u>384,189</u>

Whitley County Water District
Statement of Net Position (Continued)
December 31, 2023

Liabilities

Current Liabilities

Current portion of long-term debt	99,721
Accounts payable	64,868
Accrued salaries and taxes payable	18,859
Accrued interest payable	45,853
Customer deposits	216,771
Total Current Liabilities	<u>446,072</u>

Noncurrent Liabilities

Long-term debt, less current portion included in current liabilities	3,443,255
Net pension liability	678,289
Net OPEB liability (asset)	(14,594)
Total Noncurrent Liabilities	<u>4,106,950</u>

Total Liabilities

4,553,022

Deferred Inflows of Resources

Deferred inflows related to pension	106,296
Deferred inflows related to other post retirement employee benefits (OPEB)	250,700
	<u>356,996</u>

Total Deferred Outflows of Resources

Net Position

Net investment in capital assets	8,793,203
Restricted	1,228,013
Unrestricted	(552,389)
Total Net Position	<u>\$ 9,468,827</u>

Whitley County Water District
Statement of Revenues, Expenses and Changes in Net Position
For the Year Ended December 31, 2023

Operating Revenues	
Water sales	\$ 1,852,767
Other revenues	<u>481,302</u>
Total Operating Revenues	<u>2,334,069</u>
Operating Expenses	
Salaries and wages	330,382
Employee benefits	171,392
Purchased water	709,012
Utilities	27,832
Materials and supplies	129,672
Contracted services	31,987
Vehicle and equipment expenses	69,886
Insurance	28,074
Office expenses	56,004
Depreciation	520,936
Other operating expenses	<u>266,361</u>
Total Operating Expenses	<u>2,341,538</u>
Operating Income (Loss)	<u>(7,469)</u>
Non-operating Revenues (Expenses)	
Interest income	67,425
Interest expense	<u>(135,946)</u>
Total Non-operating Revenues (Expenses)	<u>(68,521)</u>
Change in Net Position	(75,990)
Net Position, Beginning of Year	<u>9,544,817</u>
Net Position, End of Year	<u><u>\$ 9,468,827</u></u>

Whitley County Water District
Statement of Cash Flows
For the Year Ended December 31, 2023

Cash Flows From Operating Activities	
Receipts from customers	\$ 2,345,719
Payments to employees	(456,798)
Payments to suppliers	<u>(1,335,600)</u>
Net Cash Provided by Operating Activities	<u>553,321</u>
Cash Flows From Capital and Related Financing Activities	
Purchases of property, plant and equipment	(131,608)
Principal payments on debt	(293,794)
Interest payments on debt	<u>(90,093)</u>
Net Cash Used by Capital and Related Financing Activities	<u>(515,495)</u>
Cash Flows From Investing Activities	
Interest income	<u>67,425</u>
Net Cash Provided by Investing Activities	<u>67,425</u>
Net Increase in Cash and Cash Equivalents	105,251
Cash and Cash Equivalents at Beginning of Year	<u>1,318,786</u>
Cash and Cash Equivalents at End of Year	<u><u>\$ 1,424,037</u></u>
Reconciliation of cash per Statement of Net Position to cash per Statement of Cash Flows:	
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 196,024
Customer deposits	276,313
Debt and interest funds	873,339
Water loss surcharge funds	<u>78,361</u>
Cash and cash equivalents per Statement of Cash Flows	<u><u>\$ 1,424,037</u></u>

Whitley County Water District
Statement of Cash Flows (Continued)
For the Year Ended December 31, 2023

Reconciliation of Operating Income (Loss) to Net Cash

Provided by Operating Activities:

Operating income (loss)	\$ (7,469)
Adjustments to reconcile operating income (loss) to net cash provided by operating activities	
Depreciation	520,936
Deferred pension and OPEB costs	(65,585)
(Increase) Decrease in operating assets	
Accounts receivable	(6,280)
Increase (Decrease) in operating liabilities	
Accounts payable	(16,772)
Accrued salaries and taxes payable	9,304
Customer deposits	17,930
Pension and OPEB liabilities	<u>101,257</u>

Net Cash Provided by Operating Activities

\$ 553,321

Whitley County Water District
Notes to Financial Statements
December 31, 2023

Note 1 – Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

Reporting Entity

Whitley County Water District (the District) was created pursuant to Kentucky Revised Statute Chapter 74 through the Whitley County Fiscal Court, September 13, 1960. The District is governed by a Board of Commissioners. The District is regulated by the Kentucky Public Service Commission.

The District is a rural water utility system whose purpose is to establish, develop and operate a water supply and distribution system for its customers in Whitley County, Kentucky. The District's primary source of revenue is from water sales to its customers, including public bodies and local businesses in its service area.

Basis of Accounting, Financial Presentation and Measurement Focus

The basic financial statements of the District have been prepared in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America ("GAAP") as applied to governmental units. The Governmental Accounting Standards Board ("GASB") is the standard-setting body for governmental accounting and financial reporting. The GASB periodically updates its codification of the existing Governmental Accounting and Financial Reporting Standards which, along with subsequent GASB pronouncements (Statements and Interpretations), constitutes GAAP for governmental units.

The District applies all relevant Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB) pronouncements and Accounting Principles Board (APB) opinions issued on or before November 30, 1989, unless those pronouncements conflict or contradict GASB pronouncements, in which case, GASB prevails. In addition, the District applies all applicable FASB Statements and Interpretations issued after November 30, 1989, except those that conflict with or contradict GASB pronouncements.

The Statement of Net Position and Statement of Revenues, Expenses and Changes in Net Position display information about the District as a whole. These statements include all funds of the District.

The financial statements are prepared using the accrual basis of accounting. Revenues are recognized when earned and expenses are recorded when a liability is incurred, regardless of the timing of related cash flows.

Operating income reported by the District includes revenues and expenses related to the continuing operation of water service for its customers. Principal operating revenues are charges to customers for services. Principal operating expenses are the costs of providing the services and include administrative expenses and depreciation of capital assets. Other revenues and expenses are classified as non-operating in the financial statements.

Cash and Cash Equivalents

The District considers demand deposits and certificates of deposit to be cash equivalents.

Accounts Receivable

Receivables include amounts due from customers for water services. These receivables are due at the time the services are billed and are considered past due on the first day of the following month. Accounts receivable are presented net of uncollectible accounts. Uncollectible accounts are written off based on management's assessment of collectability; therefore, no allowance for doubtful accounts is considered necessary.

Whitley County Water District
Notes to Financial Statements (Continued)
December 31, 2023

Note 1 - Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (Continued)

Unbilled Accounts Receivable

Estimated unbilled revenues from water sales are recognized at the end of each fiscal year on a pro rata basis. The estimated amount is based on billing during the month following the close of the fiscal year.

Capital Assets

The District's property, plant and equipment with useful lives of more than one year are stated at historical cost. The costs of normal maintenance and repairs that do not add to the asset value or materially extend useful lives are not capitalized. Capital assets are depreciated using the straight-line method. When assets are disposed, the cost and applicable accumulated depreciation are removed from the respective accounts, and the resulting gain or loss is recorded in operations.

Estimated useful lives for depreciable assets are as follows:

<u>Asset Classification</u>	<u>Range of Lives</u>
Water and sewer system utility plants	20-40 years
Buildings and improvements	7-40 years
Trucks and equipment	3-10 years
Office equipment	3-10 years

Customer Deposits

The District collects and holds in escrow deposits from customers to ensure collection of its water charges. The deposits are fully refundable to the customer when service is discontinued and any outstanding balance is paid in full.

Compensated Absences

Full-time employees receive annual vacation time based on their years of continuous service. The District allows employees to accumulate and carry over a maximum of 240 hours of vacation time. Employees are paid for any unused vacation time earned upon termination of employment. The District does not accumulate sick leave to employees.

Net Position

Net position is comprised of the various net earnings from operating income, non-operating revenues and expenses, and capital contributions. Net position is classified in the following three components:

Net investment in capital assets – This component of net position consists of capital assets, net of accumulated depreciation, reduced by the outstanding balances of any bonds, mortgages, notes or other borrowings that are attributable to the acquisition, construction or improvement of those assets.

Restricted – This component of net position consists of restricted assets less liabilities and deferred inflows of resources related to those assets. Restricted assets are those with limits on their use that are externally imposed constraints imposed by creditors (such as through debt covenants), grantors, contributors, or laws or regulations of other governments or constraints imposed by law through constitutional provisions or enabling legislation.

Whitley County Water District
Notes to Financial Statements (Continued)
December 31, 2023

Note 1 - Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (Continued)

Net Position (Continued)

Unrestricted – This component of net position consists of net amounts of the assets, deferred outflows of resources, liabilities, and deferred inflows of resources that are not included in the determination of the net investment in capital assets or the restricted component of net position.

When an expense is incurred for purposes for which both restricted and unrestricted net position are available, the District would typically use restricted assets first, but reserves the right to selectively spend unrestricted assets first.

Use of Estimates

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the reporting period. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

Pensions and OPEB

For purposes of measuring net pension liability, net OPEB liability, deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to pensions and OPEB, and pension and OPEB expense, information about the fiduciary net position of the County Employees Retirement System (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. The plan's financial statements are prepared using the accrual basis of accounting and are prepared in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAP) that apply to governmental accounting for fiduciary funds. Investments are reported at fair value.

Note 2 – Restricted Assets

Under the terms of certain loan resolutions, the District is required to maintain certain accounts and funds for the benefit and protection of the creditors. The resolutions require the District to establish a depreciation fund or reserve to be used to finance the cost of unusual repairs, renewals and replacements not included in the annual budget and to pay for future system extensions. The balance of these accounts at December 31, 2023 total \$873,839.

The balances of customer deposits held at December 31, 2023 was \$276,313.

Under an agreement with the Public Service Commission, the District began charging customers for a water loss surcharge. The funds are maintained in a separate account and are only to be used for water loss prevention efforts. The balance of this account at December 31, 2023 is \$78,361.

Whitley County Water District
Notes to Financial Statements (Continued)
December 31, 2023

Note 3 – Kentucky Revised Statute

In accordance with Kentucky Revised Statute (KRS) 91A.060, the deposits are to be insured by the Federal Depository Insurance Corporation or collateralized to the extent uninsured by any obligations permitted by KRS 41.240(4). According to KRS 41.240(4), the financial institution shall either pledge or provide as collateral securities or other obligations having an aggregate current face value or current quoted market value at least equal to the deposits. According to KRS 66.480, the District is allowed to invest in obligations of the U.S. Treasury and U.S. agencies, repurchase agreements, obligations of the Commonwealth of Kentucky and its agencies, interest bearing deposits of insured savings and loans, or interest bearing deposits of insured national or state banks. For additional cash descriptive information, see Note 1.

Note 4 – Custodial Credit Risk - Deposits

Custodial credit risk is the risk that in the event of a bank failure, the District's deposits may not be returned to it. The District does not have a deposit policy for custodial credit risk. As of December 31, 2023, the District's total deposits at banks of \$1,440,741 were exposed to custodial credit risk as follows:

Uninsured and uncollateralized	\$ 1,136,337
Uninsured and collateral held by pledging bank	-
Uninsured and collateral held by pledging bank's trust department not in the District's name	-
Total	<u>\$ 1,136,337</u>

Note 5 – Capital Assets

The following is a summary of capital asset transactions for the year ended December 31, 2023:

	Balance Dec. 31, 2022	Additions	Dispositions	Balance Dec. 31, 2023
Land and land improvements	\$ 48,038	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 48,038
Buildings and equipment	559,143	-	-	559,143
Source of supply and pumping	20,050,512	-	-	20,050,512
Transmission and distribution plant	167,675	87,219	-	254,894
Vehicles and other equipment	31,029	44,389	-	75,418
Totals at historical cost	<u>20,856,397</u>	<u>131,608</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>20,988,005</u>
Less accumulated depreciation	<u>8,130,890</u>	<u>520,936</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>8,651,826</u>
Capital assets - net	<u>\$ 12,725,507</u>	<u>\$ (389,328)</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 12,336,179</u>

Whitley County Water District
Notes to Financial Statements (Continued)
December 31, 2023

Note 6 – Long-Term Debt

The following is a summary of long-term debt transactions for the year ended December 31, 2023:

	<u>Balance Dec. 31, 2022</u>	<u>Additions</u>	<u>Payments</u>	<u>Balance Dec. 31, 2023</u>	<u>Due Within One Year</u>
Loan payable to United States Department of Agriculture, principal and interest payable annually at 4.125%, with final payment due in 2047, secured by water distribution system	\$ 230,100	\$ -	\$ 6,000	\$ 224,100	\$ 6,300
Loan payable to Kentucky Association of Counties, principal and interest payable annually at 3.63%, with final payment due in 2042, secured by assets	2,295,000	-	195,000	2,100,000	-
Loan payable to Kentucky Infrastructure Authority, principal and interest due semi-annually at 0.75%, with final payment due in 2039.	808,032	-	46,182	761,850	46,529
Loan payable to Kentucky Infrastructure Authority, principal and interest due semi-annually at 0.60%, with final payment due in 2033.	503,638	-	46,612	457,026	46,892
	<u>\$ 3,836,770</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 293,794</u>	<u>\$ 3,542,976</u>	<u>\$ 99,721</u>

Whitley County Water District
Notes to Financial Statements (Continued)
December 31, 2023

Note 6 – Long-Term Debt (Continued)

The aggregate annual principal repayments on long-term debt at December 31, 2023 are summarized as follows:

<u>Year Ending December 31,</u>	<u>Principal</u>	<u>Interest</u>	<u>Total</u>
2024	\$ 99,721	\$ 106,619	\$ 206,340
2025	205,552	100,598	306,150
2026	211,488	94,314	305,802
2027	217,428	87,762	305,190
2028	223,374	80,942	304,316
2029-2033	1,197,106	308,786	1,505,892
2034-2038	891,926	168,083	1,060,009
2039-2043	465,881	43,860	509,741
2044-2046	30,500	1,281	31,781
	<u>\$ 3,542,976</u>	<u>\$ 992,245</u>	<u>\$ 4,535,221</u>

Note 7 – Retirement Plan

Whitley County Water District is a participating employer of the County Employees Retirement System (CERS). Under the provisions of Kentucky Revised Statute Section 61.645, the Board of Trustees of the Kentucky Public Pensions Authority (KPPA) administers CERS, in accordance with the provisions of Kentucky Revised Statute Sections 16.555, 61.570, and 78.630. The assets of the system are segregated by plan (KERS, CERS, and SPRS), where each system's assets are used only for the payment of benefits to the members of that plan and a pro rata share of administrative costs. The plan issues a publicly available financial report that includes financial statements and required supplementary information. That report may be downloaded from the Kentucky Public Pensions Authority website (kyret.ky.gov).

Plan Description

CERS is a cost sharing, multiple-employer, defined benefit pension plan that covers substantially all regular full-time members employed in non-hazardous and hazardous duty positions of each participating state department, board, agency, county, city, school board, and any additional eligible local agencies electing to participate in the System.

Benefits Provided

The plan provides for retirement, disability, and death benefits to plan members. Retirement benefits may be extended to beneficiaries of plan members under certain circumstances. Benefits under the plan will vary based on final compensation, years of service and other factors as fully described in the Plan documents. Cost-of-living adjustments (COLA) are provided at the discretion of state legislature.

Contributions

Funding for the plan is provided through payroll withholdings and contributions by the District. All employees meeting the requirements for membership are required to contribute a percentage of their gross wages. For the year ended December 31, 2023, plan members in non-hazardous positions were required to contribute 5% of the employee's total compensation subject to contribution.

Whitley County Water District
Notes to Financial Statements (Continued)
December 31, 2023

Note 7 – Retirement Plan (Continued)

Contributions (Continued)

Employees hired after September 1, 2008 are required to contribute an additional 1% to cover the cost of medical insurance that is provided through CERS. Participating employers are required to contribute at an actuarially determined rate. Per Kentucky Revised Statute Section 61.565, normal contribution and past service contribution rates shall be determined by the KPPA Board of Trustees on the basis of the annual actuarial valuation last preceding the July 1 of a new biennium. The Board may amend contribution rates as of July 1 of the second year of a biennium, if it is determined on the basis of a subsequent actuarial valuation that amended contribution rates are necessary to satisfy requirements in accordance with the actuarial basis adopted by the Board. The District's required contribution rates for the year ended December 31, 2023 were 26.79% (January through June 2023) and 23.34% (July through December 2023). Required contribution rates were actuarially determined and adopted by the KPPA Board of Trustees. Administrative costs of the KPPA are financed through employer contributions and investment earnings.

Plan members who began participating on or after January 1, 2014 are required to contribute to the Cash Balance Plan. The Cash Balance Plan is known as a hybrid plan because it has characteristics of both a defined benefit plan and a defined contribution plan. A Cash Balance Plan resembles a defined contribution plan because it determines the value of benefits for each participant based on individual accounts. However, the assets of the plan remain in a single investment pool like a traditional defined benefit plan. A Cash Balance Plan resembles a defined benefit plan since it uses a specific formula to determine benefits. Members and employers contribute specified percentages of the member's wages each month to the member's account. Non-hazardous plan members are required to contribute 5% of wages to their individual account. All members are required to contribute 1% to the health insurance fund. The employer contribution rate is set annually by the Board based on an actuarial valuation. Each month, when employer contributions are received, an Employer Pay Credit is deposited to the member's account.

For non-hazardous members, their account is credited with a 4% Employer Pay Credit. The Employer Pay Credit represents a portion of the employer contribution. The account earns a guaranteed amount of interest, 4% on both the member contributions and the Employer Pay Credit balance, at the end of each fiscal year. If the member contributed to the plan during the fiscal year, there may be additional interest credit added to the member's account depending on KPPA's investment returns. This "upside" interest sharing is based on the 5-year average geometric investment return. If it exceeds 4%, the member's account will be credited with 75% of the amount of the returns over 4% on the account balance as of June 30 of the previous year.

The District's payroll covered by CERS for the years ended December 31, 2023, 2022, and 2021 was \$249,682, \$264,471, and \$183,987, respectively. The District's contribution requirements for CERS for the years ended December 31, 2023, 2022, and 2021 were \$62,439 (\$58,348 allocated to the CERS pension fund and \$4,091 allocated to the CERS insurance fund), \$70,977 (\$55,691 allocated to the CERS pension fund and \$15,286 allocated to the CERS insurance fund), and \$46,889 (\$37,206 allocated to the CERS pension fund and \$9,683 allocated to the CERS insurance fund), respectively. The District contributed 100% of their required contributions for the years ended December 31, 2023, 2022, and 2021.

Whitley County Water District
Notes to Financial Statements (Continued)
December 31, 2023

Note 7 – Retirement Plan (Continued)

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 \$678,289 for their proportionate share of the net pension liability. The net pension liability was measured as of June 30, 2023, and the total pension liability used to calculate net pension liability was determined by an actuarial valuation as of that date. The District's proportion of the net pension liability was based on a projection of the District's long-term share of contributions to the pension plan relative to the projected contributions of all participating plan members, as actuarially determined. At the June 30, 2023 measurement date, the District's proportion was 0.010571%.

For financial reporting, the actuarial valuation as of June 30, 2023, 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 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.

There have been no actuarial assumption or method changes since June 30, 2022. Senate Bill 169 passed during the 2021 legislative session and increased 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 pension liability as of June 30, 2023 is determined using these updated benefit provisions. The actuarial assumptions are:

Inflation	2.30%
Payroll Growth Rate	2.00% for CERS non-hazardous and hazardous
Salary Increase	3.30% to 10.30%, varies by service for CERS non-hazardous
Investment Rate of Return	6.25% for CERS Non-hazardous and hazardous

The mortality table used for active members was a Pub-2010 General Mortality table, for the Non-Hazardous System, and the Pub-2010 Public Safety Mortality table for the 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 District recognized pension expense of \$116,405 for the year ended December 31, 2023. At December 31, 2023, the District reported deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to pensions from the following sources:

Whitley County Water District
Notes to Financial Statements (Continued)
December 31, 2023

Note 7 – Retirement Plan (Continued)

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

	Deferred Outflows of Resources	Deferred Inflows of Resources
Difference between expected and actual experience	\$ 35,114	\$ 1,843
Net difference between projected and actual investment earnings on pension plan investments	-	9,253
Changes of assumptions	-	62,166
Changes in proportion and differences between employer contributions and proportionate share of contributions	204,358	33,034
Employer contributions subsequent to the measurement date	30,110	-
Total	<u>\$ 269,582</u>	<u>\$ 106,296</u>

Deferred outflows and inflows related to differences between projected and actual earnings on plan investments are netted and amortized over a closed five-year period. Deferred outflows and inflows related to experience gains/losses, the impact of changes in actuarial assumptions, changes in the employer's proportionate share of net pension liability, and differences between employer contributions and the proportionate share of contributions are amortized over the average remaining service life of the active and inactive System members at the beginning of the fiscal year.

The \$30,110 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 and deferred inflows of resources related to pensions will be recognized in pension expense as follows:

Year ended December 31:

2024	\$ 56,175
2025	68,427
2026	15,142
2027	(6,568)
2028	-
Thereafter	-
Total	<u>\$ 133,176</u>

Whitley County Water District
Notes to Financial Statements (Continued)
December 31, 2023

Note 7 – Retirement Plan (Continued)

Actuarial Assumptions

The following actuarial methods and assumptions were used to determine the actuarially determined contributions effective for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2023:

Amortization Method	Level percent of pay
Remaining Amortization Period	30 years, closed
Payroll Growth Rate	2.00%
Asset Valuation Method	20% of the difference between the market value of assets and the expected actuarial value of assets is recognized
Inflation	2.30%
Salary Increase	3.30% to 10.30%, varies by service, for CERS non-hazardous
Investment Rate of Return	6.25%

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 for 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. There is some margin in the current mortality tables for possible future improvement in mortality rates and that margin will be reviewed again when the next experience investigation is conducted.

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

Asset Class	Target Allocation	Long-Term Expected Real Rate of Return
Growth	68.50%	
US Equity	21.75%	5.70%
Non-US Equity	21.75%	6.35%
Private Equity	10.00%	9.70%
Specialty Credit/High Yield	15.00%	2.80%
Liquidity	11.50%	
Core Bonds	10.00%	0.00%
Cash	1.50%	-0.60%
Diversifying Strategies	20.00%	
Real Estate	10.00%	5.40%
Opportunistic	0.00%	N/A
Real Return	10.00%	4.55%
Expected Real Return	100.00%	5.00%
Long Term Inflation Assumption		2.30%
Expected Nominal Return for Portfolio		7.30%

Whitley County Water District
Notes to Financial Statements (Continued)
December 31, 2023

Note 7 – Retirement Plan (Continued)

Discount Rate

The discount rate used to measure the total pension liability was 6.50 percent. The projection of cash flows used to determine the discount rate assumes that the funds receive the required employer contributions each future year, as determined by 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 prior fiscal year through June 30, 2028.

Sensitivity of the District's Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability to Changes in the Discount Rate

The following presents the net pension liability of the District's CERS pension plan, calculated using the discount rate of 6.50 percent, as well as what the District's net pension liability would be if it were calculated using a discount rate that is 1-percentage-point lower (5.50 percent) or 1-percentage-point higher (7.50 percent) than the current rate:

	1% Decrease (5.50%)	Current Discount Rate (6.50%)	1% Increase (7.50%)
District's net pension liability	\$ 856,381	\$ 678,289	\$ 530,288

Pension Plan Fiduciary Net Position

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

Note 8 –OPEB Plan

As a participating employer of the County Employees' Retirement System (CERS), the District also participates in the County Employees Retirement System Insurance Fund (Insurance Fund). Under the provisions of Kentucky Revised Statute Sections 61.645 and 61.701, the Board of Trustees of Kentucky Public Pensions Authority (KPPA) administers the Kentucky Retirement Systems Insurance Fund (KERS), County Employees Retirement System (CERS) and State Police Retirement System (SPRS). The statutes provide for a single insurance fund to provide group hospital and medical benefits to retirees drawing a benefit from the three pension funds. The assets of the Insurance Fund are also segregated by plan. The plan issues a publicly available financial report that includes financial statements and required supplementary information. That report may be downloaded from the Kentucky Public Pensions Authority website.

Plan Description

CERS Insurance Fund is a cost sharing, multiple-employer, defined benefit Other Postemployment Benefits (OPEB) plan that covers substantially all regular full-time members employed in non-hazardous and hazardous duty positions of each participating state department, board, agency, county, city, school board, and any additional eligible local agencies electing to participate in the System.

Whitley County Water District
Notes to Financial Statements (Continued)
December 31, 2023

Note 8 – OPEB Plan (Continued)

Plan Membership

The net OPEB liability was calculated based on the Insurance plan membership as of June 30, 2021:

<u>Membership Status</u>	<u>Non-Hazardous</u>
Inactive plan members currently receiving benefits	37,584
Inactive plan members entitled to but not yet receiving benefits	28,719
Active plan members	76,946
Total Membership	<u>143,249</u>

Benefits Provided

The Insurance Fund was established to provide hospital and medical insurance for eligible members receiving benefits from KERS, CERS, and SPRS. The eligible non-Medicare retirees are covered by the Department of Employee Insurance (DEI) plans. KPPA submits the premium payments to DEI. The Board contracts with Humana to provide health care benefits to the eligible Medicare retirees through a Medicare Advantage Plan. The Insurance Fund pays a prescribed contribution for whole or partial payment of required premiums to purchase hospital and medical insurance. The Insurance Fund pays a proportion of hospital and medical insurance premiums for the spouse and dependents of retired hazardous members killed in the line of duty. The amount of contribution paid by the Insurance Fund is based on years of service. Additional details can be found in the publicly available KPPA Comprehensive Annual Financial Report which may be downloaded from the KPPA website.

Contributions

Funding for the plan is provided through payroll withholdings and contributions by the District. See Note 7 for a description of the District's covered payroll and contribution requirements as well as the breakdown of contributions between the pension and insurance funds.

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

At December 31, 2023 the District reported a liability (asset) of \$(14,594) for its proportionate share of the net OPEB liability. The net OPEB liability was measured as of June 30, 2023, and the total OPEB liability used to calculate net OPEB liability was determined by an actuarial valuation as of that date. The District's proportion of the net OPEB liability was based on a projection of the District's long-term share of contributions to the OPEB plan relative to the projected contributions of all participating plan members, as actuarially determined. At the June 30, 2023 measurement date, the District's proportion was 0.010570%.

For financial reporting the actuarial valuation as of June 30, 2023 was performed by Gabriel Roeder Smith (GRS). The total OPEB liability, net OPEB liability, and sensitivity information as of June 30, 2023, were based on an actuarial valuation date 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. The KPPA Board adopted new actuarial assumptions since June 30, 2022. These assumptions can be readily obtained from KPPA's 2022 Annual Report.

Whitley County Water District
Notes to Financial Statements (Continued)
December 31, 2023

Note 8 –OPEB Plan (Continued)

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

The following actuarial assumptions were used in performing the actuarial valuation as of June 30, 2023:

Valuation Date	June 30, 2022
Actuarial Cost Method	Entry Age Normal
Amortization Method	Level percent of pay
Remaining Amortization Period	30 years, closed
Payroll Growth Rate	2.00%
Asset Valuation Method	20% of the difference between the market value of assets and the expected actuarial value of assets is recognized
Inflation	2.30%
Salary Increases	3.30% to 10.30%, varies by service for CERS non-hazardous
Investment Rate of Return	6.25%
Healthcare Trend Rates	
Pre - 65	Initial trend starting at 6.25% at January 1, 2021 and gradually decreasing to an ultimate trend rate of 4.05% over a period of 13 years.
Post - 65	Initial trend starting at 5.50% at January 1, 2021 and gradually decreasing to an ultimate trend rate of 4.05% over a period of 14 years.
Phase-in Provision	Board certified rate is phased into the actuarially determined rate in accordance with HB 362 enacted in 2018 for CERS non-hazardous and hazardous

The long-term expected return was determined by using the building-block method in which best-estimate ranges of expected future real rates of returns are developed for each asset class. The ranges are combined by weighting the expected future real rate of return by the target allocation percentage. The target allocation and best estimates of arithmetic real rates of return for each major asset class are the same as those adopted for the CERS Pension Plan and are summarized in the table in Note 7.

The District recognized OPEB expense (benefit) of \$(13,539) for the year ended December 31, 2023. At December 31, 2023, the District reported deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to OPEB from the following sources:

	Deferred Outflows of Resources	Deferred Inflows of Resources
Differences between expected and actual experience	\$ 10,174	\$ 207,215
Changes of assumptions	28,719	20,014
Net difference between projected and actual earnings on OPEB plan investments	-	3,387
Changes in proportion and differences between employer contributions and proportionate share of contributions	75,714	20,084
Employer contributions subsequent to the measurement date	-	-
Total	<u>\$ 114,607</u>	<u>\$ 250,700</u>

Whitley County Water District
Notes to Financial Statements (Continued)
December 31, 2023

Note 8 –OPEB Plan (Continued)

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

Deferred outflows and inflows related to differences between projected and actual earnings on plan investments are netted and amortized over a closed five-year period. Deferred outflows and inflows related to experience gains/losses, the impact of changes in actuarial assumptions, changes in the employer's proportionate share of net OPEB liability, and differences between employer contributions and the proportionate share of contributions are amortized over the average remaining service life of the active and inactive System members at the beginning of the fiscal year.

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

Year ended December 31:

2024	\$	(34,148)
2025		(46,616)
2026		(31,615)
2027		(23,714)
2028		-
Thereafter		-
Total	\$	<u>(136,093)</u>

Investment Policy

Kentucky Revised Statute 61.650 grants the responsibility for the investment of plan assets to the Board of the Kentucky Pension Plan Authority. The Board has established an Investment Committee which is specifically charged with the oversight and investment of plan assets. The Investment Committee recognizes their duty to invest the funds in accordance with the "Prudent Person Rule" (set forth in Kentucky Revised Statute 61.650) and manage those funds consistent with the long-term nature of the systems. The Investment Committee has adopted an Investment Policy Statement (IPS) that contains guidelines and restrictions for deposits and investments. By statute, all investments are to be registered and held in the name of Kentucky Retirement Systems. The IPS contains the specific guidelines for the investment of Pension and Insurance assets. The target allocation and best estimates of arithmetic real rates of return for each major asset class adopted by the KPPA Board for the Insurance Plan are the same as those adopted for the CERS Pension Plan (See Note 7).

Whitley County Water District
Notes to Financial Statements (Continued)
December 31, 2023

Note 8 –OPEB Plan (Continued)

Net OPEB Liability

The components of the net OPEB liability of the participating employers in the CERS Non-Hazardous System and the District's proportionate share at June 30, 2023 were as follows:

	Total CERS Non- Hazardous System	District's Proportionate Share
Total OPEB liability	\$ 3,260,308,000	\$ 345,593
Plan fiduciary net position	(3,398,375,000)	(360,187)
Employers' Net OPEB Liability	<u>\$ (138,067,000)</u>	<u>\$ (14,594)</u>
Plan Fiduciary Net Position as a Percentage of the Total OPEB Liability	104.23%	104.23%

Actuarial Methods and Assumptions

The following actuarial methods and assumptions were used to determine the actuarially determined contributions effective for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2023:

Valuation Date	June 30, 2022
Actuarial Cost Method	Entry Age Normal
Amortization Method	Level percent of pay
Remaining Amortization Period	30 years, closed
Payroll Growth Rate	2.00%
Asset Valuation Method	20% of the difference between the market value of assets and the expected actuarial value of assets is recognized
Inflation	2.30%
Salary Increases	3.30% to 10.30%, varies by service for CERS non-hazardous
Investment Rate of Return	6.25%
Healthcare Trend Rates	
Pre - 65	Initial trend starting at 6.25% at January 1, 2021 and gradually decreasing to an ultimate trend rate of 4.05% over a period of 13 years.
Post - 65	Initial trend starting at 5.50% at January 1, 2021 and gradually decreasing to an ultimate trend rate of 4.05% over a period of 14 years.
Phase-in Provision	Board certified rate is phased into the actuarially determined rate in accordance with HB 362 enacted in 2018 for CERS non-hazardous and hazardous

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 for 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.

Whitley County Water District
Notes to Financial Statements (Continued)
December 31, 2023

Note 8 – OPEB Plan (Continued)

Discount Rate

The discount rate used to measure the total OPEB liability increased from 5.70% to 5.93%. The projection of cash flows used to determine the discount rate assumed that local employers would contribute the actuarially determined contribution rate of projected compensation over the remaining 24 years (closed) amortization period of the unfunded actuarial accrued liability. The discount rate determination used an expected rate of return of 6.25% and a municipal bond rate of 3.69%, as reported in Fidelity Index's "20-Year Municipal GO AA Index" as of June 30, 2023.

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 percent, 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 percent) or 1-percentage-point higher (6.93 percent) than the current rate:

	1% Decrease (4.93%)	Current Discount Rate (5.93%)	1% Increase (6.93%)
District's proportionate share of net OPEB liability (asset)	\$ 27,387	\$ (14,594)	\$ (49,747)

Sensitivity of the District's Proportionate Share of the Net OPEB Liability to Changes in the Healthcare Cost Trend Rates

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 rate that is 1-percentage-point lower or 1-percentage-point higher than the current rate:

	1% Decrease	Current Healthcare Cost Trend Rate	1% Increase
District's proportionate share of net OPEB liability (asset)	\$ (46,775)	\$ (14,594)	\$ 24,938

Note 9 – Risk Management

The District is exposed to various risks of loss related to limited torts; theft of, damage to and destruction of assets; errors and omissions and natural disasters for which the District carries commercial insurance. There have been no significant reductions in coverage for the year and settlements have not exceeded coverage in the past three years.

Note 10 - Subsequent Events

Management of the District has evaluated subsequent events through July 28, 2025, the date on which the financial statements were available to be issued.

Whitley County Water District
Schedule of the District's Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability
County Employees Retirement System (CERS) Pension Plan
Last Ten Fiscal Years*

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2017</u>
District's proportion of the net pension liability (asset)	0.010571%	0.006112%	0.007625%	0.007577%	0.007054%	0.007668%	0.00696%
District's proportionate share of the net pension liability (asset)	\$ 678,289	\$ 441,837	\$ 486,154	\$ 581,303	\$ 467,005	\$ 407,624	\$ 344,425
District's covered-employee payroll	\$ 249,682	\$ 264,471	\$ 183,987	\$ 181,544	\$ 177,979	\$ 190,092	\$ 169,562
District's proportionate share of the net pension liability (asset) as a percentage of its covered-employee payroll	271.66%	167.06%	264.23%	320.20%	262.39%	214.44%	203.13%
Plan fiduciary net position as a percentage of the total pension liability	57.48%	52.42%	57.33%	50.45%	50.45%	53.54%	53.32%

Source: Kentucky Retirement Systems

Notes: There were no changes in benefit terms, size or composition of the population covered by the benefit terms since the prior year. See the notes to the financial statements for a description of changes in actuarial assumptions from the prior year.

This schedule is presented to illustrate the requirement to show information for ten years. However, until a full ten year trend is compiled, the District will present information for those years for which information is available.

* The amounts presented for each year were determined (measured) as of the fiscal year-end that occurred within the calendar year.

Whitley County Water District
Schedule of the District's Proportionate Share of the Net OPEB Liability
County Employees Retirement System (CERS) OPEB Plan
Last Ten Fiscal Years*

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2017</u>
District's proportion of the net OPEB liability (asset)	0.010571%	0.006111%	0.007624%	0.007577%	0.007054%	0.007668%	0.00696%
District's proportionate share of the total OPEB liability (asset)	\$ 345,593	\$ 308,263	\$ 392,255	\$ 380,465	\$ 301,893	\$ 321,416	\$ 295,778
District's proportionate share of the plan fiduciary net position	<u>(360,187)</u>	<u>(187,662)</u>	<u>(246,297)</u>	<u>(197,503)</u>	<u>(183,248)</u>	<u>(185,272)</u>	<u>(155,778)</u>
District's proportionate share of the net OPEB liability (asset)	\$ (14,594)	\$ 120,601	\$ 145,958	\$ 182,962	\$ 118,645	\$ 136,144	\$ 140,000
District's covered-employee payroll	\$ 249,682	\$ 264,471	\$ 183,987	\$ 181,544	\$ 177,979	\$ 190,092	\$ 169,562
District's proportionate share of the net OPEB liability (asset) as a percentage of its covered-employee payroll	-5.85%	45.60%	79.33%	100.78%	66.66%	71.62%	82.57%
Plan fiduciary net position as a percentage of the total OPEB liability	-104.22%	60.95%	62.91%	29.47%	30.92%	57.62%	52.39%

Source: Kentucky Retirement Systems

Notes: There were no changes in benefit terms, size or composition of the population covered by the benefit terms since the prior year. See the notes to the financial statements for a description of changes in actuarial assumptions from the prior year.

This schedule is presented to illustrate the requirement to show information for ten years. However, until a full ten year trend is compiled, the District will present information for those years for which information is available.

* The amounts presented for each year were determined (measured) as of the fiscal year-end that occurred within the calendar year.

Whitley County Water District
Schedule of the District's Pension Contributions
County Employees Retirement System (CERS) Pension Plan
Last Ten Fiscal Years*

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2017</u>
Contractually required contribution	\$ 58,348	\$ 38,502	\$ 37,591	\$ 37,470	\$ 28,868	\$ 27,521	\$ 23,654
Contributions in relation to the contractually required contribution	<u>(58,348)</u>	<u>(38,502)</u>	<u>(37,591)</u>	<u>(37,470)</u>	<u>(28,868)</u>	<u>(27,521)</u>	<u>(23,654)</u>
Contribution deficiency (excess)	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>
District's covered-employee payroll	\$ 249,682	\$ 264,471	\$ 183,987	\$ 181,544	\$ 177,979	\$ 190,092	\$ 169,562
Contributions as a percentage of covered-employee payroll	23.37%	14.56%	20.43%	20.64%	16.22%	14.48%	13.95%

Source: Kentucky Retirement Systems

Notes: There were no changes in benefit terms, size or composition of the population covered by the benefit terms since the prior year. See the notes to the financial statements for a description of changes in actuarial assumptions from the prior year.

Contractually required employer contributions exclude the portion of contributions paid to CERS but allocated to the insurance fund of the CERS. The above contributions include those contributions allocated directly to the CERS pension fund.

This schedule is presented to illustrate the requirement to show information for ten years. However, until a full ten year trend is compiled, the District will present information for those years for which information is available.

* The amounts presented for each year were determined (measured) as of the fiscal year-end that occurred within the calendar year.

Whitley County Water District
Schedule of the District's OPEB Contributions
County Employees Retirement System (CERS) OPEB Plan
Last Ten Fiscal Years*

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2017</u>
Contractually required contribution	\$ 4,091	\$ 7,048	\$ 9,271	\$ 9,241	\$ 9,362	\$ 8,933	\$ 8,020
Contributions in relation to the contractually required contribution	<u>(4,091)</u>	<u>(7,048)</u>	<u>(9,271)</u>	<u>(9,241)</u>	<u>(9,362)</u>	<u>(8,933)</u>	<u>(8,020)</u>
Contribution deficiency (excess)	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>
District's covered-employee payroll	\$ 249,682	\$ 264,471	\$ 183,987	\$ 181,544	\$ 177,979	\$ 190,092	\$ 169,562
Contributions as a percentage of covered-employee payroll	1.64%	2.66%	5.04%	5.09%	5.26%	4.70%	4.73%

Source: Kentucky Retirement Systems

Notes: There were no changes in benefit terms, size or composition of the population covered by the benefit terms since the prior year. See the notes to the financial statements for a description of changes in actuarial assumptions from the prior year.

Contractually required employer contributions exclude the portion of contributions paid to CERS but allocated to the pension fund of the CERS. The above contributions include those contributions allocated directly to the CERS insurance fund.

This schedule is presented to illustrate the requirement to show information for ten years. However, until a full ten year trend is compiled, the District will present information for those years for which information is available.

* The amounts presented for each year were determined (measured) as of the fiscal year-end that occurred within the calendar year.

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
Whitley County Water District
Williamsburg, Kentucky

We have audited, in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to the financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards* issued by the Comptroller General of the United States, the financial statements of the business-type activities of Whitley County Water District, as of and for the year ended December 31, 2023, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise Whitley County Water District's basic financial statements, and have issued our report thereon dated July 28, 2025.

Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

In planning and performing our audit of the financial statements, we considered Whitley County Water District's internal control over financial reporting (internal control) to determine the audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances for the purpose of expressing our opinion on the financial statements, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the District's internal control. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the District's internal control.

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

Our consideration of internal control was for the limited purpose described in the first paragraph of this section and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control that might be material weaknesses or significant deficiencies and, therefore, material weaknesses or significant deficiencies may exist that were not identified. However, as described in the accompanying schedule of findings and responses, we identified a deficiency in internal control that we consider to be a material weakness (See items 2023-1).

Compliance and Other Matters

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether Whitley County Water District's financial statements are free from material misstatement, we performed tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements, noncompliance with which could have a direct and material effect on the determination of financial statement amounts. 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 an instance of noncompliance or other matters that is required to be reported under *Government Auditing Standards* and which is described in the accompanying schedule of findings and responses (See item 2023-2).

Whitley County Water District's Response to Findings

Whitley County Water District's response to the findings identified in our audit is described in the accompanying schedule of findings and responses. Whitley County Water District's response was not subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the financial statements and, accordingly, we express no opinion on it.

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 purpose.

Abner & Cox, PLLC

Abner & Cox, PLLC
London, Kentucky

July 28, 2025

Whitley County Water District
Schedule of Findings and Responses
For the Year Ended December 31, 2023

Findings – Financial Statement Audit

2023-1

Criteria: As discussed in *Standards for Internal Control in the Federal Government* published by the General Accounting Office of the United States, internal control is an integral component of an organization's management that provides reasonable assurance that an objective of reliable financial reporting is being achieved. Organizations should implement procedures to ensure this objective is achieved.

Condition: During the audit procedures performed, instances of this objective not being completely achieved were noted.

Cause: The size of the Water District's office staff does not allow proper segregation of duties in the areas of cash receipts, billing, accounts receivable, and payroll.

Effect: This condition creates a weakness in internal controls which could result in unauthorized transactions being processed.

Recommendation: Management should determine if any action is warranted to address this control weakness.

Views of responsible officials and planned corrective actions:

The District feels that it would not be cost beneficial to hire the personnel required to complete these tasks.

2023-2

Criteria: In accordance with Kentucky Revised Statute (KRS) 91A.060, the District's deposits are to be insured by the Federal Depository Insurance Corporation or collateralized to the extent uninsured by any obligations permitted by KRS 41.240(4).

Condition: At December 31, 2023, the District has bank deposits in excess of FDIC insurance coverage that are not adequately collateralized.

Cause: The District was not monitoring its bank balances to take appropriate steps to adequately insure its deposits.

Effect: The District failed to comply with KRS 91A.060 and adequately insure its bank deposits.

Recommendation: Management should monitor its bank balances to adequately protect its deposits.

Views of responsible officials and planned corrective actions:

The District plans to get in compliance with the KRS immediately and monitor its bank balances for adequate coverage going forward.