

OFFICE OF AUDITOR OF STATE STATE OF IOWA

Rob Sand Auditor of State

State Capitol Building Des Moines, Iowa 50319-0006

Telephone (515) 281-5834 Facsimile (515) 281-6518

NEWS RELEASE

FOR RELEASE

March 8, 2021

Contact: Marlys Gaston 515/281-5834

Auditor of State Rob Sand today released an audit report on the Holiday Lake Rural Improvement Zone.

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS:

The Rural Improvement Zone (RIZ) had total receipts of \$891,324 for the year ended June 30, 2020, a 127% increase over the prior year. Disbursements for the year ended June 30, 2020 totaled \$887,718, a 103% increase over the prior year. The significant increase in receipts and disbursements is due to the RIZ restructuring their debt from multiple notes to one line of credit.

AUDIT FINDINGS:

Sand reported three findings related to the receipt and disbursement of taxpayer funds. They are found on pages 18 through 20 of this report. The findings address a lack of segregation of duties, disbursements exceeding budgeted amounts and the lack of a written investment policy. Sand provided the Rural Improvement Zone with recommendations to address each of the findings.

Two of the three findings discussed above are repeated from the prior year. The Rural Improvement Zone Trustees have a fiduciary responsibility to provide oversight of the Rural Improvement Zone operations and financial transactions. Oversight is typically defined as the "watchful and responsible care" a governing body exercises in its fiduciary capacity.

A copy of the audit report is available for review on the Auditor of State's web site at <u>https://auditor.iowa.gov/audit-reports/</u>.

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HOLIDAY LAKE RURAL IMPROVEMENT ZONE

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORTS BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND OTHER INFORMATION SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS

JUNE 30, 2020



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January 29, 2021

Officials of the Holiday Lake Rural Improvement Zone Brooklyn, Iowa

Dear Board Members:

I am pleased to submit to you the financial and compliance audit report for the Holiday Lake Rural Improvement Zone for the year ended June 30, 2020. The audit was performed pursuant to Chapter 11.6 of the Code of Iowa and in accordance with U.S. auditing standards and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in <u>Government Auditing Standards</u>.

I appreciate the cooperation and courtesy extended by the officials of the Holiday Lake Rural Improvement Zone throughout the audit. If I or this office can be of any further assistance, please contact me or my staff at 515-281-5834.

Sincerely,

Rob Sand Auditor of State

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Board of Trustees

Name	<u>Title</u>	<u>Term Expires</u>
Mike Beumer	President	August 2020
Del Sherwood	Clerk	August 2020
Rick Happe	Treasurer	August 2021
Brian Edelan	Trustee	August 2021
Dale Nelson	Trustee	August 2022



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Independent Auditor's Report

To the Trustees of the Holiday Lake Rural Improvement Zone:

Report on the Financial Statements

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the governmental activities and the major fund of the Holiday Lake Rural Improvement Zone, as of and for the year ended June 30, 2020, and the related Notes to Financial Statements, which collectively comprise the Rural Improvement Zone's basic financial statements listed in the table of contents.

Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with the cash basis of accounting described in Note 1. This includes determining the cash basis of accounting is an acceptable basis for the preparation of the financial statements in the circumstances. This includes the design, implementation and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of a financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial statements based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with U.S. generally accepted auditing standards and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in <u>Government Auditing Standards</u>, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the Rural Improvement Zone's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements 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 Rural Improvement Zone's internal control. Accordingly, we express no such opinion. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

We believe the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinions.

Opinions

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the cash basis financial position of the governmental activities and the major fund of the Holiday Lake Rural Improvement Zone as of June 30, 2020, and the changes in its cash basis financial position for the year then ended in accordance with the basis of accounting described in Note 1.

Basis of Accounting

As described in Note 1, the financial statements were prepared on the basis of cash receipts and disbursements, which is a basis of accounting other than U.S. generally accepted accounting principles. Our opinions are not modified with respect to this matter.

Other Matters

Other Information

The Other Information, the Budgetary Comparison Information on pages 14 and 15, has not been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the financial statements and, accordingly, we do not express an opinion or provide any assurance on it.

Other Reporting Required by Government Auditing Standards

In accordance with <u>Government Auditing Standards</u>, we have also issued our report dated January 29, 2021 on our consideration of the Holiday Lake Rural Improvement Zone's internal control over financial reporting and 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 not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the internal control over financial reporting or on compliance. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with <u>Government Auditing Standards</u> in considering the Holiday Lake Rural Improvement Zone's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.

Marly Daston

Marlys K. Gaston, CPA Deputy Auditor of State

January 29, 2021

Basic Financial Statements

Cash Basis Statement of Activities and Net Position

As of and for the year ended June 30, 2020

Net (Disbursements) Receipts and Changes in Cash Basis Net Position Governmental	
Activities	
(104,057)	
(99,706)	
(4,416)	
(21,813)	
(657,726)	
(887,718)	
279,099 215 612,010	
891,324	
3,606	
443	
4,049	
4,049	

Statement of Cash Receipts, Disbursements and Changes in Cash Balances Governmental Funds

As of and for the year ended June 30, 2020

	General		
	Fund		
Receipts:			
Tax increment financing	\$	279,099	
Use of money and property		215	
Total receipts		279,314	
Disbursements:			
Maintenance and improvement:			
Erosion control		104,057	
Water quality		99,706	
Administration		4,416	
Professional fees		21,813	
Debt service:			
Principal on loans		622,537	
Interest on loans		35,189	
Total disbursements		887,718	
Deficiency of receipts under disbursements		(608,404)	
Other financing sources:			
Loan proceeds		612,010	
Change in cash balances		3,606	
Cash balances beginning of year		443	
Cash balances end of year	\$	4,049	
Cash Basis Fund Balances			
Restricted for rural improvement zone purposes	\$	4,049	
See notes to financial statements.			

Notes to Financial Statements

June 30, 2020

(1) Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

The Holiday Lake Rural Improvement Zone was formed in 2010 pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 357H of the Code of Iowa. The governing body of the Rural Improvement Zone is composed of five elected Trustees. The purpose of the Rural Improvement Zone is to manage maintenance and improvement of the Holiday Lake development in rural Poweshiek County.

A. <u>Reporting Entity</u>

For financial reporting purposes, the Holiday Lake Rural Improvement Zone has included all funds, organizations, agencies, boards, commissions and authorities. The Rural Improvement Zone has also considered all potential component units for which it is financially accountable and other organizations for which the nature and significance of their relationship with the Rural Improvement Zone are such that exclusion would cause the Rural Improvement Zone's financial statement to be misleading or incomplete. The Governmental Accounting Standards Board has set forth criteria to be considered in determining financial accountability. These criteria include appointing a voting majority of an organization's governing body and (1) the ability of the rural Improvement Zone to impose its will on that organization or (2) the potential for the organization to provide specific benefits to or impose specific financial burdens on the Rural Improvement Zone. The Rural Improvement Zone has no component units which meet the Governmental Accounting Standards Board criteria.

B. <u>Basis of Presentation</u>

<u>Entity-wide Financial Statement</u> - The Cash Basis Statement of Activities and Net Position reports information on all of the nonfiduciary activities of the Rural Improvement Zone. For the most part, the effect of interfund activity has been removed from this statement. Governmental activities are supported by tax revenues.

Net position is reported in the following categories:

Restricted net position is used to manage maintenance and improvement of the Rural Improvement Zone.

The Cash Basis Statement of Activities and Net Position demonstrates the degree to which the direct disbursements of a given function are offset by program receipts. Direct disbursements are those clearly identifiable with a specific function. Program receipts include 1) charges to customers or applicants who purchase, use or directly benefit from goods, services or privileges provided by a given function and 2) grants, contributions and interest on investments restricted to meeting the operational or capital requirements of a particular function. Tax increment financing receipts and other items not properly included among program receipts are reported instead as general receipts.

<u>Fund Financial Statement</u> – A separate financial statement is provided for governmental funds. Major individual governmental funds are reported as separate columns in the fund financial statements.

The Rural Improvement Zone reports the following major governmental fund:

The General Fund is the special fund in which all tax increment financing receipts and other receipts are deposited. The fund pays the maintenance and improvement costs of the Rural Improvement Zone.

C. <u>Measurement Focus and Basis of Accounting</u>

The Rural Improvement Zone maintains its financial records on the basis of cash receipts and disbursements and the financial statements of the Rural Improvement Zone are prepared on that basis. The cash basis of accounting does not give effect to accounts receivable, accounts payable and accrued items. Accordingly, the financial statements do not present the financial position and results of operations of the Rural Improvement Zone in accordance with U. S. generally accepted accounting principles.

D. <u>Budgets and Budgetary Accounting</u>

The budget comparison and related disclosures are reported as Other Information. During the year ended June 30, 2020, disbursements exceeded the amounts budgeted.

(2) Cash and Investments

The Rural Improvement Zone's deposits in banks at June 30, 2020 were entirely covered by federal depository insurance or by the State Sinking Fund in accordance with Chapter 12C of the Code of Iowa. This chapter provides for additional assessments against the depositories to ensure there will be no loss of public funds.

The Rural Improvement Zone is authorized by statute to invest public funds in obligations of the United States government, its agencies and instrumentalities; certificates of deposit or other evidences of deposit at federally insured depository institutions approved by the Rural Improvement Zone; prime eligible bankers acceptances; certain high rated commercial paper; perfected repurchase agreements; certain registered open-end management investment companies; certain joint investment trusts; and warrants or improvement certificates of a drainage district.

The Rural Improvement Zone had no investments meeting the disclosure requirements of Governmental Accounting Standards Board Statement No. 72.

(3) Loans Payable

					Due
	Beginning			Ending	Within
	Balance	Increases	Decreases	Balance	One Year
Notes payable	\$ 350,000	-	350,000	-	-
Line of credit		612,010	272,537	339,473	_
Total debt	\$ 350,000	612,010	622,537	339,473	-

On November 29, 2013, the Rural Improvement Zone issued a promissory note to R.M. Clayton, Jr. and Jeanne Clayton for \$100,000 with interest of 5.00% per annum payable annually on November 29. The note matured on November 29, 2014 but was extended until November 29, 2019. This note was paid in full November 08, 2019. During the year ended June 30, 2020, the Rural Improvement Zone paid \$100,000 and \$4,712 of principal and interest, respectively, on the note.

On November 29, 2013, the Rural Improvement Zone issued a promissory note to Esther Brannian for \$200,000 with interest of 5.00% per annum payable annually on November 29. The note matured November 29, 2014 but \$100,000 of the note was extended until November 29, 2019. At the time of extension Esther Brannian was deceased and the note was reissued as note 8a and 8b, payable to her heirs Jeanne Clayton and Kim Bauman for \$50,000 each. This note was paid in full November 8, 2019. During the year ended June 30, 2020, the Rural Improvement Zone paid \$50,000 and \$4,712 of principal and interest, respectively, on the note.

On July 10, 2014, the Rural Improvement Zone issued a promissory note to the Holiday Lake Owners Association, Inc. for \$100,000 with interest of 5.50% per annum payable annually on July 10. The note matured on July 10, 2016 but \$50,000 was extended until July 10, 2018 and then July 10, 2019. This note was paid in full September 13, 2019. During the year ended June 30, 2020, the Rural Improvement Zone paid \$50,000 and \$3,232 of principal and interest, respectively, on the note.

On September 5, 2019, the Rural Improvement Zone issued a promissory note to the Holiday Lake Owners Association, Inc. for \$100,000 with interest of 5.50% per annum payable annually on July 10. This note was paid in full September 13, 2019. During the year ended June 30, 2020, the Rural Improvement Zone paid \$100,000 and \$6,464 of principal and interest, respectively, on the note.

Direct borrowings and direct placements

On September 5, 2019, the Rural Improvement Zone entered into an open-end line of credit with the First State Bank of Lynnville, Iowa for \$600,000 with interest of 6.29% per annum and a maturity date of September 5, 2020. During the year ended June 30, 2020, the Rural Improvement Zone drew \$612,010 on the line of credit and paid \$272,537 and \$13,216 of principal and interest, respectively, on the line of credit.

(4) Risk Management

The Rural Improvement Zone is exposed to various risks of loss related to torts; theft; damage to and destruction of assets; errors or omissions; and natural disasters. These risks are covered by the purchase of commercial insurance. The Rural Improvement Zone assumes liability for any deductibles and claims in excess of coverage limitations. Settled claims for these risks have not exceeded commercial insurance coverage in any of the past two fiscal years.

(5) COVID-19

In March 2020, the COVID-19 outbreak was declared a global pandemic. The disruption to businesses across a range of industries in the United States continues to evolve. The full impact to local, regional and national economies, including that of the Holiday Lake Rural Improvement Zone, remains uncertain.

To date, the outbreak has not created a material disruption to the operations of the rural Improvement Zone. However, the extent of the financial impact of COVID-19 will depend on future developments, including the spread of the virus, duration and timing of the economic recovery. Due to these uncertainties, management cannot reasonably estimate the potential impact to the Holiday Lake Rural Improvement Zone's operations and finances.

Other Information

Budgetary Comparison Schedule of Receipts, Disbursements and Changes in Balances – Budget and Actual – All Governmental Funds

Other Information

Year ended June 30, 2020

		Budgeted	
	_	Amounts	Final
		Original/	Actual
	 Actual	Final	Variance
Receipts:			
Tax increment financing	\$ 279,099	295,000	(15,901)
Use of money and property	 215	130	85
Total receipts	 279,314	295,130	(15,816)
Disbursements:			
Maintenance and improvement	229,992	420,400	190,408
Debt service	 657,726	-	(657,726)
Total disbursements	 887,718	420,400	(467,318)
Deficiency of receipts under disbursements	(608,404)	(125,270)	(483,134)
Other financing sources	 612,010	175,000	437,010
Excess (deficiency) of receipts and other financing			
sources over (under) disbursements	3,606	49,730	(46,124)
Cash balance beginning of year	 443	23,951	(23,508)
Cash balance end of year	\$ 4,049	73,681	(69,632)

See accompanying independent auditor's report.

Notes to Other Information – Budgetary Reporting

June 30, 2020

In accordance with the Code of Iowa, the Board of Trustees annually adopt a budget on the cash basis following required public notice and hearing for all funds. The annual budget may be amended during the year utilizing similar statutorily prescribed procedures.

Formal and legal budgetary control is based upon total General Fund disbursements.

During the year ended June 30, 2020, disbursements exceeded the amount budgeted.



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Independent Auditor's Report on Internal Control over Financial Reporting and on Compliance and Other Matters Based on an Audit of Financial Statements Performed in Accordance with Government Auditing Standards

To the Trustees of the Holiday Lake Rural Improvement Zone:

We have audited in accordance with U.S. generally accepted auditing standards and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in <u>Government Auditing Standards</u>, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States, the financial statements of the governmental activities and the major fund of the Holiday Lake Rural Improvement Zone as of and for the year ended June 30, 2020, and the related Notes to Financial Statements, and have issued our report thereon dated January 29, 2021. Our report expressed unmodified opinions on the financial statements which were prepared on the basis of cash receipts and disbursements, a basis of accounting other than U.S. generally accepted accounting principles.

Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

In planning and performing our audit of the financial statements, we considered the Holiday Lake Rural Improvement Zone's internal control over financial reporting to determine the audit procedures 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 Holiday Lake Rural Improvement Zone's internal control. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the Holiday Lake Rural Improvement Zone'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 intern control such that there is a reasonable possibility a material misstatement of the Holiday Lake Rural Improvement Zone'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 which 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 preceding paragraph and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control that might be material weaknesses or significant deficiencies and, therefore, material weaknesses or significant deficiencies may exist that have not been identified. We consider the deficiency described in the accompanying Schedule of Findings as item (A) to be a material weakness.

Compliance and Other Matters

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the Holiday Lake Rural Improvement Zone's financial statements are free of material misstatement, we performed tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts and grant agreements, non-compliance 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 no instances of non-compliance or other matters that are required to be reported under <u>Government Auditing Standards</u>. However, we noted certain immaterial instances of non-compliance or other matters which are described in the accompanying Schedule of Findings.

Comments involving statutory and other legal matters about the Rural Improvement Zone's operations for the year ended June 30, 2020 are based exclusively on knowledge obtained from procedures performed during our audit of the financial statements of the Rural Improvement Zone. Since our audit was based on tests and samples, not all transactions that might have had an impact on the comments were necessarily audited. The comments involving statutory and other legal matters are not intended to constitute legal interpretations of those statutes.

Holiday Lake Rural Improvement Zone's Responses to the Findings

Holiday Lake Rural Improvement Zone's responses to the findings identified in our audit are described in the accompanying Schedule of Findings. Holiday Lake Rural Improvement Zone's responses were not subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the financial statements and, accordingly, we express no opinion on them.

Purpose of this Report

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

We would like to acknowledge the many courtesies and assistance extended to us by personnel of the Holiday Rural Improvement Zone during the course of our audit. Should you have any questions concerning any of the above matters, we shall be pleased to discuss them with you at your convenience.

Marlys K. Gaston, CPA Deputy Auditor of State

January 29, 2021

Schedule of Findings

Year ended June 30, 2020

Findings Related to the Financial Statement:

INTERNAL CONTROL DEFICIENCY:

(A) <u>Segregation of Duties</u>

<u>Criteria</u> – Management is responsible for establishing and maintaining internal control. A good system of internal control provides for adequate segregation of duties so no one individual handles a transaction from its inception to completion. In order to maintain proper internal control, duties should be segregated so the authorization, custody and recording of transactions are not under the control of the same employee. This segregation of duties helps prevent losses form employee error or dishonesty and maximizes the accuracy of the Rural Improvement Zone's financial statements.

<u>Condition</u> – Generally, one individual in the Rural Improvement Zone has control over the processing of invoices, check preparation and signing, and preparing bank reconciliations. Eight of the bank reconciliations for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2020 did not include evidence of review by an independent person.

<u>Cause</u> – The Rural Improvement Zone has a limited number of employees and procedures have not been designed to adequately segregate duties or provide compensating controls through additional oversight of transactions and processes.

 $\underline{\text{Effect}}$ – Inadequate segregation of duties could adversely affect the Rural Improvement Zone's ability to prevent or detect and correct misstatements, errors or misappropriation on a timely basis by employees in the normal course of performing their assigned functions.

<u>Recommendation</u> – The Board should review its control activities to obtain the maximum internal control possible under the circumstances utilizing current members to provide additional control through review of financial transactions, reconciliations and reports. Independent review of reconciliations should be evidenced by the signature or initials of the reviewer and the date of the review.

<u>Response and Corrective Action Planned</u> – The Board is aware of the segregation of duties issue and mitigates the risk by having another officer review and initial bank statements (copies of checks included), the County disbursement statements, all loan documents, etc.

<u>Conclusion</u> – Response accepted.

INSTANCES OF NON-COMPLIANCE:

No matters were noted.

Schedule of Findings

Year ended June 30, 2020

Other Findings Related to Required Statutory Reporting:

(1) <u>Certified Budget</u> – Disbursements during the year ended June 30, 2020 exceeded the amount budgeted.

 $\underline{\text{Recommendation}}$ – The budget should have been amended in sufficient amounts in accordance with Chapter 24.9 of the Code of Iowa before disbursements were allowed to exceed the budget.

<u>Response</u> – The Trustees understanding is that loan principal is not a reimbursable expense and not generally considered by the Board at part of the budget expenditures. The restructuring in itself did not change the amount borrowed.

 $\underline{Conclusion}$ – Chapter 24 of the Code of Iowa requires the budget to include all disbursements, including those related to debt proceeds. The budget should be amended before disbursements are allowed to exceed the budget in accordance with Chapter 24.9 of the Code of Iowa.

- (2) <u>Questionable Disbursements</u> No disbursements we believe may not meet the requirements of public purpose as defined in the Attorney General's opinion dated April 25, 1979 were noted.
- (3) <u>Travel Expense</u> No disbursements of Rural Improvement Zone money for travel expenses of spouses of Rural Improvement Zone officials or employees were noted.
- (4) <u>Restricted Donor Activity</u> No transactions were noted between the Board of Trustees, Rural Improvement Zone officials, Rural Improvement Zone employees and restricted donors in compliance with Chapter 68B of the Code of Iowa.
- (5) <u>Bond Coverage</u> Surety bond coverage for Board members is in accordance with statutory provisions. The amount of coverage should be reviewed annually to ensure the coverage is adequate for current operations.
- (6) <u>Board Minutes</u> No transactions were found that we believe should have been approved in the Board minutes but were not.
- (7) <u>Deposits and Investments</u> No instances of non-compliance with the deposit and investment provisions of Chapter 12B and Chapter 12C of the Code of Iowa were noted, except as follows:

The Rural Improvement Zone has not adopted a written investment policy as required by Chapter 12B.10B of the Code of Iowa.

<u>Recommendation</u> – The Rural Improvement Zone should adopt a written investment policy that complies with the provisions of Chapter 12B.10B of the Code of Iowa.

<u>Response</u> – The draft Investment Policy was provided to the auditor in process of this audit. It was reviewed and adopted at the October 2020 regular meeting of the Trustees.

Schedule of Findings

Year ended June 30, 2020

(8) <u>Annual Urban Renewal Report (AURR)</u> – The Annual Urban Renewal Report was properly approved and certified to the Iowa Department of Management on or before December 1.

<u>Conclusion</u> – Response accepted.

Staff

This audit was performed by:

Marlys K. Gaston, CPA, Deputy Gwen D. Fangman, CPA, Manager Ethan M. Snedigar, Staff Auditor Jesse K. Villalobos, Assistant Auditor