



**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

**NEWS RELEASE**

Contact: Brian Brustkern  
515/281-5834

FOR RELEASE

November 12, 2024

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Auditor of State Rob Sand today released an audit report on the Wayne-Ringgold-Decatur County Solid Waste Management Commission.

**FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS:**

The Commission had total receipts of \$895,290 for the year ended June 30, 2023, a 4.6% decrease from the prior year. Disbursements for the year ended June 30, 2023 totaled \$628,434, a 12.3% increase. The significant increase in disbursements is due primarily to the purchase of a dozer and payments on equipment purchase agreement.

**AUDIT FINDINGS:**

Sand reported three findings related to the receipt and disbursement of taxpayer funds. The findings are found on pages 30 through 33 of this report and addresses a lack of segregation of duties for billing, collection and deposit of receipts and lack of bank reconciliations for the Commission's accounts. Sand provided the Commission with a recommendation to address the findings.

Two of the findings discussed above are repeated from the prior year. The Solid Waste Management Commission has a fiduciary responsibility to provide oversight of the Landfill's 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 website at [Audit Reports – Auditor of State](#).

###

**WAYNE-RINGGOLD-DECATUR COUNTY  
SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT COMMISSION**

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

**JUNE 30, 2023**

**Wayne-Ringgold-Decatur County  
Solid Waste Management Commission**



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October 4, 2024

Officials of the Wayne-Ringgold-Decatur County Solid Waste Management Commission  
Grand River, Iowa

Dear Commission Members:

I am pleased to submit to you the financial and compliance audit report for the Wayne-Ringgold-Decatur County Solid Waste Management Commission for the year ended June 30, 2023. 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 Government Auditing Standards.

I appreciate the cooperation and courtesy extended by the officials and employees of the Wayne-Ringgold-Decatur County Solid Waste Management Commission 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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rob Sand".

Rob Sand  
Auditor of State

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**Wayne-Ringgold-Decatur County  
Solid Waste Management Commission**

**Officials**

<u>Name</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Representing</u>
<u>Executive Board</u>		
Colby Holmes	Chair	Ringgold County
Chris Moore	Vice Chair	Wayne County
Steve Fulkerson	Member	Decatur County
Mike Wik	Member	City of Mount Ayr
Jonathan Erb	Member	City of Leon
<u>Members</u>		
Sandy White	Member	City of Grand River
Gary Anderson	Member	City of Davis City
Nathan Silver	Member	City of Lamoni
Travis Miller	Member	City of Decatur
Jack Shields	Member	City of Lineville
Curt Jackson	Member	City of Maloy
Ken Robertson	Member	City of Mount Ayr
Charlene Hoover	Fiscal Agent (July 1, 2022-December 31, 2022)	
Amanda Waske	Fiscal Agent (January 1, 2023 – June 30, 2023)	
Sheila Caldwell	Office Manager	

**Wayne-Ringgold-Decatur County  
Solid Waste Management Commission**



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Independent Auditor's Report

To the Members of the Wayne-Ringgold-Decatur County Solid Waste Management Commission:

Report on the Audit of the Financial Statement

Opinion

We have audited the accompanying financial statement of the Wayne-Ringgold-Decatur County Solid Waste Management Commission as of and for the year ended June 30, 2023 and the related Notes to Financial Statement which collectively comprise the Wayne-Ringgold-Decatur County Solid Waste Management Commission's basic financial statement as listed in the table of contents.

In our opinion, the financial statement referred to above presents fairly, in all material respects, the respective cash basis financial position of the Wayne-Ringgold-Decatur County Solid Waste Management Commission as of June 30, 2023, and the respective changes in cash basis financial position for the year then ended in accordance with the basis of accounting described in Note 1.

Basis for Opinion

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

Basis of Accounting

We draw attention to Note 1 of the financial statements, which describes the basis of accounting. The financial statements are prepared on the cash basis of accounting, which is a basis of accounting other than accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. Our opinion is not modified with respect to this matter.

Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statement

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



In preparing the financial statement, management is required to evaluate whether there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the Wayne-Ringgold-Decatur County Solid Waste Management Commission's ability to continue as a going concern for twelve months beyond the financial statement date, including any currently known information that may raise substantial doubt shortly thereafter.

#### Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statement

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statement as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's 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 GAAS 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 statement.

In performing an audit in accordance with GAAS 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 statement, 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 statement.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Wayne-Ringgold-Decatur County Solid Waste Management Commission's internal control. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluate the overall presentation of the financial statement.
- Conclude whether, in our judgment, there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the Wayne-Ringgold-Decatur County Solid Waste Management Commission's ability to continue as a going concern for a reasonable period of time.

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

Other Information

Management is responsible for the other information included in the annual report. The other information comprises the Schedule of the Commission's Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability and the Schedule of Commission Contributions on pages 22 through 27 but does not include the basic financial statement and our auditor's report thereon. Our opinion on the basic financial statement does not cover the other information, and we do not express an opinion or any form of assurance thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statement, our responsibility is to read the other information and consider whether a material inconsistency exists between the other information and the financial statement, or the other information otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If, based on the work performed, we conclude that an uncorrected material misstatement of the other information exists, we are required to describe it in our report.

Other Reporting Required by Government Auditing Standards

In accordance with Government Auditing Standards, we have also issued our report dated October 4, 2024 on our consideration of the Wayne-Ringgold-Decatur County Solid Waste Management Commission'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 compliance and the results of that testing and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the Commission's internal control over financial reporting or on compliance. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with Government Auditing Standards in considering the Wayne-Ringgold-Decatur County Solid Waste Management Commission's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.



Brian R. Brustkern, CPA  
Deputy Auditor of State

October 4, 2024

**Wayne-Ringgold-Decatur County  
Solid Waste Management Commission**

**Basic Financial Statement**

**Wayne-Ringgold-Decatur County  
Solid Waste Management Commission**

Wayne-Ringgold-Decatur County Solid Waste Management Commission

Statement of Cash Receipts, Disbursements and  
Changes in Cash Balance

As of and for the Year ended June 30, 2023

Operating receipts:	
Member assessments	\$ 180,768
Landfill gate receipts	663,705
Miscellaneous	7,534
Total operating receipts	852,007
Operating disbursements:	
Salaries and benefits	220,296
Iowa Department of Natural Resources tonnage fee	38,178
Insurance	29,774
Fuel	39,072
Equipment repair, maintenance and supplies	65,176
Leachate lagoon draining	79,642
Meetings and travel	1,201
Road rock and sand	15,590
Utilities	5,824
Office operation	7,761
Professional services	36,920
Miscellaneous	6,443
Total operating disbursements	545,877
Excess of operating receipts over operating disbursements	306,130
Non-operating receipts (disbursements):	
Interest on investments	40,283
Rent	3,000
Equipment	(82,557)
Net non-operating receipts (disbursements)	(39,274)
Change in cash balance	266,856
Cash balance beginning of year	3,753,225
Cash balance end of year	\$ 4,020,081
<b>Cash Basis Fund Balance</b>	
Restricted for:	
Closure and postclosure care	\$ 2,420,371
Solid waste tonnage fees retained	59,527
Total restricted cash basis fund balance	2,479,898
Unrestricted	1,540,183
Total cash basis fund balance	\$ 4,020,081

See notes to financial statements.

Wayne-Ringgold-Decatur County Solid Waste Management Commission

Notes to Financial Statement

June 30, 2023

**(1) Summary of Significant Accounting Policies**

The Wayne-Ringgold-Decatur County Solid Waste Management Commission was formed in 1988 pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 28E of the Code of Iowa. The purpose of the Commission is to develop, operate and maintain solid waste and recycling facilities for Wayne, Ringgold and Decatur Counties on behalf of the units of government which are members of the Commission.

The governing body of the Commission is composed of one representative from each of the member counties and one representative from each county who shall represent all of the cities within that county. The member counties are Wayne, Ringgold and Decatur Counties and the member cities are the cities of Lamoni, Leon, Davis City, Garden Grove, Van Wert, Grand River, Decatur, Weldon, Pleasanton, Le Roy, Mount Ayr, Diagonal, Kellerton, Tingley, Redding, Ellston, Delphos, Maloy, Beaconsfield, Benton, Humeston, Lineville, Clio, and Allerton. The commissioners are appointed by the participating political subdivisions, and each has one vote.

A. Reporting Entity

For financial reporting purposes, the Wayne-Ringgold-Decatur County Solid Waste Management Commission has included all funds, organizations, agencies, boards, commissions and authorities. The Commission 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 Commission are such that exclusion would cause the Commission'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 Commission 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 Commission. The Commission has no component units which meet the Governmental Accounting Standards Board criteria.

B. Basis of Presentation

The accounts of the Commission are organized as an Enterprise Fund. Enterprise Funds are utilized to finance and account for the acquisition, operation and maintenance of governmental facilities and services supported by user charges.

Enterprise Funds distinguish operating receipts and disbursements from non-operating items. Operating receipts and disbursements generally result from providing services and producing and delivering goods in connection with an Enterprise Fund's principal ongoing operations. All receipts and disbursements not meeting this definition are reported as non-operating receipts and disbursements.

C. Basis of Accounting

The Commission maintains its financial records on the basis of cash receipts and disbursements and the financial statement of the Commission is prepared on that basis. The cash basis of accounting does not give effect to accounts receivable, accounts payable and accrued items, including the estimated payables for closure and post-closure care. Accordingly, the financial statement does not present the financial position and results of operations of the Commission in accordance with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles.

D. Cash Basis Fund Balance

Funds set aside for payment of closure and post-closure care and solid waste tonnage fees retained are classified as restricted.

**(2) Cash and Investments**

The Commission's deposits in banks at June 30, 2023 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 Commission 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 Commission; 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 Commission had no investment meeting the disclosure requirements of Governmental Accounting Standards Board Statement No. 72.

**(3) Long-Term Debt**

Equipment Purchase Agreement – On March 10, 2022, the Commission entered into a loan agreement with US Bank for \$386,696 for a new dozer. The agreement bears interest at 2.41% per annum and requires semi-annual payments totaling \$82,557 per year, with final maturity date of March 2027. During the year ended June 30, 2023, the Commission paid \$73,679 of principal and \$8,878 of interest under the agreement.

Year Ending June 30,	US Bank		
	Issued Mar 10, 2022		
	Interest Rates	Principal	Interest
2024	2.41%	\$ 75,465	7,092
2025	2.41	77,295	5,262
2026	2.41	79,169	3,388
2027	2.41	81,088	1,469
Total		\$ 313,017	17,211



#### **(4) Pension Plan**

Plan Description – IPERS membership is mandatory for employees of the Commission, except for those covered by another retirement system. Employees of the Commission are provided with pensions through a cost-sharing multiple employer defined benefit pension plan administered by the Iowa Public Employees' Retirement System (IPERS). IPERS issues a stand-alone financial report which is available to the public by mail at PO Box 9117, Des Moines, Iowa 50306-9117 or at [www.ipers.org](http://www.ipers.org).

IPERS benefits are established under Iowa Code Chapter 97B and the administrative rules thereunder. Chapter 97B and the administrative rules are the official plan documents. The following brief description is provided for general informational purposes only. Refer to the plan documents for more information.

Pension Benefits – A Regular member may retire at normal retirement age and receive monthly benefits without an early-retirement reduction. Normal retirement age is age 65, any time after reaching age 62 with 20 or more years of covered employment or when the member's years of service plus the member's age at the last birthday equals or exceeds 88, whichever comes first. These qualifications must be met on the member's first month of entitlement to benefits. Members cannot begin receiving retirement benefits before age 55. The formula used to calculate a Regular member's monthly IPERS benefit includes:

- A multiplier based on years of service.
- The member's highest five-year average salary except members with service before June 30, 2012 will use the highest three-year average salary as of that date if it is greater than the highest five-year average salary.

If a member retires before normal retirement age, the member's monthly retirement benefit will be permanently reduced by an early-retirement reduction. The early-retirement reduction is calculated differently for service earned before and after July 1, 2012. For service earned before July 1, 2012, the reduction is 0.25% for each month the member receives benefits before the member's earliest normal retirement age. For service earned on or after July 1, 2012, the reduction is 0.50% for each month the member receives benefits before age 65.

Generally, once a member selects a benefit option, a monthly benefit is calculated and remains the same for the rest of the member's lifetime. However, to combat the effects of inflation, retirees who began receiving benefits prior to July 1990 receive a guaranteed dividend with their regular November benefit payments.

Disability and Death Benefits – A vested member who is awarded federal Social Security disability or Railroad Retirement disability benefits is eligible to claim IPERS benefits regardless of age. Disability benefits are not reduced for early retirement. If a member dies before retirement, the member's beneficiary will receive a lifetime annuity or a lump-sum payment equal to the present actuarial value of the member's accrued benefit or calculated with a set formula, whichever is greater. When a member dies after retirement, death benefits depend on the benefit option the member selected at retirement.

Contributions – Contribution rates are established by IPERS following the annual actuarial valuation which applies IPERS' Contribution Rate Funding Policy and Actuarial Amortization Method. State statute limits the amount rates can increase or decrease each year to 1 percentage point. IPERS Contribution Rate Funding Policy requires the actuarial contribution rate be determined using the "entry age normal" actuarial cost method and the actuarial assumptions and methods approved by the IPERS Investment Board. The actuarial contribution rate covers normal cost plus the unfunded actuarial liability payment based on a 30-year amortization period. The payment to amortize the unfunded actuarial liability is determined as a level percentage of payroll based on the Actuarial Amortization Method adopted by the Investment Board.

In fiscal year 2023, pursuant to the required rate, Regular members contributed 6.29% of covered payroll and the Commission contributed 9.44% of covered payroll, for a total rate of 15.73%.

The Commission's contributions to IPERS for the year ended June 30, 2023 totaled \$14,746.

Net Pension Liability, Pension Expense (Reduction), Deferred Outflows of Resources and Deferred Inflows of Resources Related to Pensions – At June 30, 2023, the Commission had a liability of \$73,279 for its proportionate share of the net pension liability. The net pension liability was measured as of June 30, 2022 and the total pension liability used to calculate the net pension liability was determined by an actuarial valuation as of that date. The Commission's proportion of the net pension liability was based on the Commission's share of contributions to IPERS relative to the contributions of all IPERS participating employers. At June 30, 2022, the Commission's proportion was 0.001940%, which was an increase of 0.002705% from its proportion measured as of June 30, 2021.

For the year ended June 30, 2023, the Commission's pension expense (reduction), deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources totaled \$(1,052), \$74,261 and \$79,800, respectively.

There were no non-employer contributing entities to IPERS.

Actuarial Assumptions – The total pension liability in the June 30, 2022 actuarial valuation was determined using the following actuarial assumptions applied to all periods included in the measurement.

Rate of inflation (effective June 30, 2017)	2.60% per annum.
Rates of salary increase (effective June 30, 2017)	3.25 to 16.25% average, including inflation. Rates vary by membership group.
Long-term investment rate of return (effective June 30, 2017)	7.00% compounded annually, net of investment expense, including inflation.
Wage growth (effective June 30, 2017)	3.25% per annum, based on 2.60% inflation and 0.65% real wage inflation.

The actuarial assumptions used in the June 30, 2022 valuation were based on the results of a quadrennial experience study covering the period of July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2021.

Mortality rates used in the 2022 valuation were based on the PubG-2010 mortality tables with future mortality improvements modeled using Scale MP-2021.

The long-term expected rate of return on IPERS' investments was determined using a building-block method in which best-estimate ranges of expected future real rates (expected returns, net of investment expense and inflation) are developed for each major asset class. These ranges are combined to produce the long-term expected rate of return by weighting the expected future real rates of return by the target asset allocation percentage and by adding expected inflation. The target allocation and best estimates of geometric real rates of return for each major asset class are summarized in the following table:

Asset Class	Asset Allocation	Long-Term Expected Real Rate of Return
Domestic equity	22.0%	3.57%
International equity	17.5	4.79
Global smart beta equity	6.0	4.16
Core plus fixed income	20.0	1.66
Public credit	4.0	3.77
Cash	1.0	0.77
Private equity	13.0	7.57
Private real assets	8.5	3.55
Private credit	8.0	3.63
	<u>100.0%</u>	

Discount Rate – The discount rate used to measure the total pension liability was 7.00%. The projection of cash flows used to determine the discount rate assumed employee contributions will be made at the contractually required rate and contributions from the Commission will be made at contractually required rates, actuarially determined. Based on those assumptions, IPERS' fiduciary net position was projected to be available to make all projected future benefit payments to current active and inactive employees. Therefore, the long-term expected rate of return on IPERS' investments was applied to all periods of projected benefit payments to determine the total pension liability.

Sensitivity of the Commission's Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability to Changes in the Discount Rate – The following presents the Commission's proportionate share of the net pension liability calculated using the discount rate of 7.00%, as well as what the Commission's proportionate share of the net pension liability would be if it were calculated using a discount rate 1% lower (6.00%) or 1% higher (8.00%) than the current rate.

	1% Decrease (6.00%)	Discount Rate (7.00%)	1% Increase (8.00%)
Commission's proportionate share of the net pension liability	\$ 136,527	73,279	17,540

IPERS Fiduciary Net Position – Detailed information about IPERS' fiduciary net position is available in the separately issued IPERS financial report which is available on IPERS' website at [www.ipers.org](http://www.ipers.org).

**(5) Other Postemployment Benefits (OPEB)**

Plan Description – The Commission operates a single-employer health benefit plan which provides medical/prescription drug benefits for employees, retirees and their spouses. Group insurance benefits are established under Iowa Code Chapter 509A.13. The Commission currently finances the benefit plan on a pay-as-you-go basis. For the year ended June 30, 2023, the Commission contributed \$32,261 and plan members eligible for benefits were not required to contribute to the plan. No assets are accumulated in a trust that meets the criteria in paragraph 4 of GASB Statement No. 75.

OPEB Benefits – Individuals who are employed by Wayne-Ringgold-Decatur County Solid Waste Management Commission and are eligible to participate in the group health plan are eligible to continue healthcare benefits upon retirement. Retirees under age 65 pay the same premium for the medical/prescription drug benefits as active employees, which results in an implicit rate subsidy.

Retired participants must be age 55 or older at retirement. At June 30, 2023, 2 active and no inactive employees were covered by the benefit terms.

**(6) Compensated Absences**

Commission employees accumulate a limited amount of earned but unused vacation leave hours for subsequent use or for payment upon termination, retirement or death. Sick leave hours are lost upon resignation, retirement or death. These accumulations are not recognized as disbursements by the Commission until used or paid. The Commission's approximate liability for earned vacation leave at June 30, 2023 was approximately \$8,700. This liability has been computed based on rates of pay in effect at June 30, 2023.

**(7) Closure and Post-closure Care**

To comply with federal and state regulations, the Commission is required to complete a monitoring system plan and a closure/post-closure care plan to provide funding necessary to effect closure and post-closure care, including the proper monitoring and care of the landfill after closure. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) requirements have established closure and thirty-year care requirements for all municipal solid waste landfills which receive waste after October 9, 1993. State governments are primarily responsible for implementation and enforcement of those requirements and have been given flexibility to tailor requirements to accommodate local conditions that exist. The effect of the EPA requirement is to commit landfill owners to perform certain closing functions and post-closure monitoring functions as a condition for the right to operate the landfill in the current period. The EPA requirements provide when a landfill stops accepting waste, it must be covered with a minimum of twenty-four inches of earth to keep liquid away from the buried waste. Once the landfill is closed, the owner is responsible for maintaining the final cover, monitoring ground water and methane gas, and collecting and treating leachate (the liquid that drains out of waste) for thirty years.

Governmental Accounting Standards Board Statement No. 18 requires landfill owners to estimate total landfill closure and post-closure care costs and recognize a portion of these costs each year based on the percentage of estimated total landfill capacity used that year. Estimated total costs consist of four components: (1) the cost of equipment and facilities used in post-closure monitoring and care, (2) the cost of final cover (material and labor), (3) the cost of monitoring the landfill during the post-closure period and (4) the cost of any environmental cleanup required after closure. Estimated total cost is based on the cost to purchase those services and equipment currently and is required to be updated annually due to the potential for changes due to inflation or deflation, technology, or applicable laws or regulations.

These costs for the Commission have been estimated at \$1,481,456 for closure and \$1,247,703 for post-closure care for a total of \$2,729,159 as of June 30, 2023. The estimated remaining life of the landfill is 50 years, with approximately 28.7% of the landfill's capacity used at June 30, 2023.

Chapter 455B.306(9)(b) of the Code of Iowa requires permit holders of municipal solid waste landfills to maintain separate closure and post-closure care accounts to accumulate resources for the payment of closure and post-closure care costs. The Commission has begun to accumulate resources to fund these costs and, at June 30, 2023 assets of \$2,420,371 are restricted for these purposes. They are reported as restricted cash balance in the Statement of Cash Receipts, Disbursements and Changes in Cash Balance.

Also, pursuant to Chapter 567-113.14 of the Iowa Administrative Code (IAC), since the estimated closure and postclosure care costs are not fully funded, the Commission is required to demonstrate financial assurance for the unfunded costs. The Commission has adopted the dedicated fund financial assurance mechanism. Under this mechanism, the Commission must certify the following to the Iowa Department of Natural Resources:

- The fund is dedicated by local government statute as a reserve fund.
- Payments into the fund are made annually over a pay-in period of ten years or the permitted life of the landfill, whichever is shorter.
- Annual deposits to the fund are determined by the following formula:

$$NP = \frac{CE - CB}{Y}$$

NP = next payment

CE = total required financial assurance

CB = current balance of the fund

Y = number years remaining in the pay-in period

Chapter 567-113.14(8) of the IAC allows a government to choose the dedicated fund mechanism to demonstrate financial assurance and use the accounts established to satisfy the closure and postclosure care account requirements. Accordingly, the Commission is not required to establish closure and postclosure accounts in addition to the accounts established to comply with the dedicated fund financial assurance mechanism.

The Commission did not comply with the Iowa Department of Natural Resources rules requiring deposits to be made at least annually within 30 days of the close of the fiscal year.

#### **(8) Solid Waste Tonnage Fees Retained**

The Commission has established an account for restricting and using solid waste tonnage fees retained by the Commission in accordance with Chapter 455B.310 of the Code of Iowa. At June 30, 2023, the Commission had unspent tonnage fees of \$59,527.

## **(9) Risk Management**

The Commission is a member of the Iowa Communities Assurance Pool, as allowed by Chapter 670.7 of the Code of Iowa. The Iowa Communities Assurance Pool (Pool) is a local government risk-sharing pool whose 800 members include various governmental entities throughout the State of Iowa. The Pool was formed in August 1986 for the purpose of managing and funding third-party liability claims against its members. The Pool provides coverage and protection in the following categories: general liability, automobile liability, automobile physical damage, employment practices liability, public officials liability, cyber liability, law enforcement liability, and property. There have been no reductions in insurance coverage from prior years.

Each member's annual casualty contributions to the Pool fund current operations and provide capital. Annual casualty operating contributions are those amounts necessary to fund, on a cash basis, the Pool's general and administrative expenses, claims, claims expenses and reinsurance expenses estimated for the fiscal year, plus all or any portion of any deficiency in capital. Capital contributions are made during the first six years of membership and are maintained at a level determined by the Board not to exceed 300% of basis rate.

The Pool also provides property coverage. Members who elect such coverage make annual property operating contributions which are necessary to fund, on a cash basis, the Pool's general and administrative expenses, reinsurance premiums, losses and loss expenses for property risks estimated for the fiscal year, plus all or any portion of any deficiency in capital. Any year-end operating surplus is transferred to capital. Deficiencies in operations are offset by transfers from capital and, if insufficient, by the subsequent year's member contributions.

The Commission's property and casualty contributions to the Pool are recorded as disbursements from its operating funds at the time of payment to the Pool. The Commission's contributions to the Pool for the year ended June 30, 2023 were \$19,324.

The Pool uses reinsurance and excess risk-sharing agreements to reduce its exposure to large losses. The Pool retains general, automobile, employment practices, law enforcement, cyber and public officials' liability risks up to \$500,000 per claim. Claims exceeding \$500,000 are reinsured through reinsurance and excess risk-sharing agreements up to the amount of risk-sharing protection provided by the Commission's risk-sharing certificate. Property and automobile physical damage risks are retained by the Pool up to \$250,000 each occurrence, each location. Property risks exceeding \$250,000 are reinsured through reinsurance and excess risk-sharing agreements up to the amount of risk-sharing protection provided by the Commission's risk-sharing certificate.

The Pool's intergovernmental contract with its members provides that in the event a casualty claim, property loss or series of claims or losses exceeds the amount of risk-sharing protection provided by the Commission's risk-sharing certificate, or in the event a casualty claim, property loss or series of claims or losses exhausts the Pool's funds and any excess risk-sharing recoveries, then payment of such claims or losses shall be the obligation of the respective individual member against whom the claim was made or the loss was incurred. As of June 30, 2023, settled claims have not exceeded the risk pool or reinsurance coverage since the Pool's inception.

Members agree to continue membership in the Pool for a period of not less than one full year. After such period, a member who has given 60 days' prior written notice may withdraw from the Pool. Upon withdrawal, payments for all casualty claims and claims expenses become the sole responsibility of the withdrawing member, regardless of whether a claim was incurred or reported prior to the member's withdrawal. Upon withdrawal, a formula set forth in the Pool's intergovernmental contract with its members is applied to determine the amount (if any) to be refunded to the withdrawing member.

The Commission also carries commercial insurance purchased from other insurers for coverage associated with workers compensation in the amount of \$1,000,000. The Commission assumes liability for any deductibles and claims in excess of coverage limitations. Settled claims resulting from these risks have not exceeded commercial insurance coverage in any of the past three fiscal years.

## **Other Information**



Wayne-Ringgold-Decatur County Solid Waste Management Commission

Schedule of the Commission's Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability

Iowa Public Employees' Retirement System  
For the Last Nine Years\*

Other Information

	2023	2022	2021	2020
Commission's proportion of the net pension liability (asset)	0.001940%	(0.000765)% **	0.002005%	0.002113%
Commission's proportionate share of the net pension liability	\$ 73,279	2,640	140,827	122,373
Commission's covered payroll	\$ 152,849	159,100	160,826	153,475
Commission's proportionate share of the net pension liability as a percentage of its covered payroll	47.94%	1.66%	87.56%	79.73%
IPERS' net position as a percentage of the total pension liability	91.40%	100.81%	82.90%	85.45%

\* In accordance with GASB Statement No. 68, the amounts presented for each fiscal year were determined as of June 30 of the preceding fiscal year.

\*\* Overall plan net pension asset.

See accompanying independent auditor's report.

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2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
0.002159%	0.002037%	0.001965%	0.001986%	0.002225%
136,603	135,661	123,643	98,125	88,221
150,034	152,020	141,003	136,069	146,753
91.05%	89.24%	87.69%	72.11%	60.12%
83.62%	82.21%	81.82%	85.19%	87.61%

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Wayne-Ringgold-Decatur County Solid Waste Management Commission

Schedule of Commission Contributions

Iowa Public Employees' Retirement System  
For the Last Ten Years

Other Information

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>
Statutorily required contribution	\$ 14,746	14,429	15,019	15,182
Contributions in relation to the statutorily required contribution	<u>(14,746)</u>	<u>(14,429)</u>	<u>(15,019)</u>	<u>(15,182)</u>
Contribution deficiency (excess)	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Commission's covered payroll	\$ 156,211	152,849	159,100	160,826
Contributions as a percentage of covered payroll	9.44%	9.44%	9.44%	9.44%

See accompanying independent auditor's report.

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2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014
14,488	13,398	13,575	12,592	12,151	13,105
(14,488)	(13,398)	(13,575)	(12,592)	(12,151)	(13,105)
-	-	-	-	-	-
153,475	150,034	152,020	141,003	136,069	146,753
9.44%	8.93%	8.93%	8.93%	8.93%	8.93%

**Wayne-Ringgold-Decatur County  
Solid Waste Management Commission**

Wayne-Ringgold-Decatur County Solid Waste Management Commission

Notes to Other Information – Pension Liability

Year ended June 30, 2023

Changes of benefit terms:

There are no significant changes in benefit terms.

Changes of assumptions:

The 2022 valuation incorporated the following refinements after a quadrennial experience study:

- Changed mortality assumptions to the PubG-2010 mortality tables with mortality improvements modeled using Scale MP-2021.
- Adjusted retirement rates for Regular members.
- Lowered disability rates for Regular members.
- Adjusted termination rates for all membership groups.

The 2018 valuation implemented the following refinements as a result of a demographic assumption study dated June 28, 2018:

- Changed mortality assumptions to the RP-2014 mortality tables with mortality improvements modeled using Scale MP-2017.
- Adjusted retirement rates.
- Lowered disability rates.
- Adjusted the probability of a vested Regular member electing to receive a deferred benefit.
- Adjusted the merit component of the salary increase assumption.

The 2017 valuation implemented the following refinements as a result of an experience study dated March 24, 2017:

- Decreased the inflation assumption from 3.00% to 2.60%.
- Decreased the assumed rate of interest on member accounts from 3.75% to 3.50% per year.
- Decreased the discount rate from 7.50% to 7.00%.
- Decreased the wage growth assumption from 4.00% to 3.25%.
- Decreased the payroll growth assumption from 4.00% to 3.25%.

The 2014 valuation implemented the following refinements as a result of a quadrennial experience study:

- Decreased the inflation assumption from 3.25% to 3.00%.
- Decreased the assumed rate of interest on member accounts from 4.00% to 3.75% per year.
- Adjusted male mortality rates for retirees in the Regular membership group.
- Moved from an open 30-year amortization period to a closed 30-year amortization period for the UAL (unfunded actuarial liability) beginning June 30, 2014. Each year thereafter, changes in the UAL from plan experience will be amortized on a separate closed 20-year period.



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Rob Sand  
Auditor of State

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

To the Members of the Wayne-Ringgold-Decatur County Solid Waste Management Commission:

We have audited in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in Government Auditing Standards, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States, the financial statement of the Wayne-Ringgold-Decatur County Solid Waste Management Commission, Iowa, as of and for the year ended June 30, 2023, and the related Notes to Financial Statement, and have issued our report thereon dated October 4, 2024. Our report expressed unmodified opinions on the financial statement which was prepared on the basis of cash receipts and disbursements, a basis of accounting other than accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

In planning and performing our audit of the financial statement, we considered Wayne-Ringgold-Decatur County Solid Waste Management Commission's internal control over financial reporting (internal control) as a basis for designing audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances for the purpose of expressing our opinion on the financial statement, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of Wayne-Ringgold-Decatur County Solid Waste Management Commission's internal control. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of Wayne-Ringgold-Decatur County Solid Waste Management Commission's internal control.

A deficiency in internal control exists when the design or operation of a control does not allow management or employees, in the normal course of performing their assigned functions, to prevent or detect and correct misstatements on a timely basis. A material weakness is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control such that there is a reasonable possibility that a material misstatement of the Commission's financial statement 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. We identified certain deficiencies in internal control, described in the accompanying Schedule of Findings as items 2023-001 and 2023-002 that we consider to be material weaknesses.

## Report on Compliance and Other Matters

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether Wayne-Ringgold-Decatur County Solid Waste Management Commission's financial statement is free from material misstatement, we performed tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts and grant agreements, noncompliance with which could have a direct and material effect on the financial statement. However, providing an opinion on compliance with those provisions was not an objective of our audit and, accordingly, we do not express such an opinion. The results of our tests disclosed no instances of noncompliance or other matters which are required to be reported under Government Auditing Standards. However, we noted certain immaterial instances of noncompliance or other matters which are described in the accompanying Schedule of Findings.

Comments involving statutory and other legal matters about the Commission's operations for the year ended June 30, 2023 are based exclusively on knowledge obtained from procedures performed during our audit of the financial statement of the Commission. 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.

## Wayne-Ringgold-Decatur County Solid Waste Management Commission's Responses to Findings

Government Auditing Standards requires the auditor to perform limited procedures on the Wayne-Ringgold-Decatur County Solid Waste Management Commission's responses to the findings identified in our audit and described in the accompanying Schedule of Findings. Wayne-Ringgold-Decatur County Solid Waste Management Commission's responses were not subjected to the other auditing procedures applied in the audit of the financial statement and, accordingly, we express no opinion on the responses.

## 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 Commission'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 Commission'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 Wayne-Ringgold-Decatur County Solid Waste Management Commission 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.



Brian R. Brustkern, CPA  
Deputy Auditor of State

October 4, 2024



Schedule of Findings

Year ended June 30, 2023

**Findings Related to the Financial Statement:**

**INTERNAL CONTROL DEFICIENCIES:**

2023-001 Segregation of Duties

Criteria – 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 from employee error or dishonesty and maximizes the accuracy of the Commission’s financial statement.

Condition – One person has control over each of the following areas:

- Cash – handling, reconciling, recording and opening mail.
- Receipts – billing, collecting, depositing, posting and daily reconciling.

Cause – The Commission 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.

Effect – Inadequate segregation of duties could adversely affect the Commission’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.

Recommendation – The Commission should review its control activities to obtain the maximum internal control possible under the circumstances utilizing currently available staff or a designated member of the Commission to provide additional control through review of financial transactions, reconciliations and reports to help ensure receipts are properly recorded and deposited intact. Such reviews should be documented by the signature or initials of the reviewer and the date of the review.

Response – As already explained, we have two people working in the office. Both are present when mail is opened and both are involved with deposits (sign off on every deposit slip), both are involved in monthly billing as well. Both sign every daily activity summary, counting cash and totaling checks received each day.

Conclusion – Response acknowledged. The Commission could also utilize Commission members to provide additional control through review of financial transactions, reconciliations and reports.

Wayne-Ringgold-Decatur County Solid Waste Management Commission

Schedule of Findings

Year ended June 30, 2023

2023-002 Bank Reconciliations

Criteria – An effective internal control system provides for internal controls related to ensuring proper accounting for all funds by maintaining appropriate accounting records and reconciling bank and book balances.

Condition – Bank reconciliations were not prepared for the Wayne-Ringgold-Decatur County Solid Waste Management Commission accounts by Decatur County and Ringgold County, the fiscal agents. The savings account interest, money market interest and the direct deposit gate fees were not recorded by the Ringgold County fiscal agent. These amounts were subsequently recorded and the activity is included in the financial statements.

Cause – Procedures have not been designed and implemented to ensure all accounts are reconciled and the amounts recorded in the books and bank balances are complete and accurate to ensure proper accounting for all funds.

Effect – A lack of bank to book reconciliations can result in unrecorded transactions, undetected errors and opportunity for misappropriation.

Recommendation – Decatur County and Ringgold County, as the fiscal agent for the Commission should prepare bank reconciliations and have an independent person review the reconciliations for propriety. The reviews should be documented by the signature or initials of the reviewer and the date of the review.

Response – The Treasurer is pulling the online bank statements monthly to review and process interest and any direct deposit transactions. She will then give to the Auditor to reconcile/confirm amounts and transactions. The Auditor will also verify debits and credits to the records in the county system. The statement will then be given to the Board of Supervisors to review at their meeting, along with the other county statements.

Conclusion – Response accepted.

**INSTANCES OF NONCOMPLIANCE:**

No matters were reported.

Wayne-Ringgold-Decatur County Solid Waste Management Commission

Schedule of Findings

Year ended June 30, 2023

**Other Findings Related to Required Statutory Reporting:**

- 2022-A Questionable Disbursements – No disbursements we believe may not meet the requirements of public purpose as defined in an Attorney General’s opinion dated April 25, 1979 were noted.
- 2022-B Travel Expense – No disbursements of Commission money for travel expenses of spouses of Commission officials or employees were noted.
- 2022-C Restricted Donor Activity – No transactions were noted between the Commission, Commission officials, Commission employees and restricted donors in compliance with Chapter 68B of the Code of Iowa.
- 2022-D Commission Minutes – No transactions were found that we believe should be approved in the Commission’s minutes but were not.
- 2022-E Deposits and Investments – No instances of noncompliance with the deposit and investment provisions of Chapter 12B and Chapter 12C of the Code of Iowa and the Commission’s investment policy were noted.
- 2022-F Solid Waste Fees Retainage – No instance of noncompliance with the solid waste fees used or retained in accordance with provisions of Chapter 455B.310 of the Code of Iowa were noted.
- 2022-G Financial Assurance – The Commission has elected to demonstrate financial assurance for closure and postclosure care by establishing local government dedicated funds as provided in Chapter 567-113.14(6) of the Iowa Administrative Code. The calculation is made as follows:

	Closure		Postclosure Care		Total
	Phases 1 - 3	Phase 4	Phases 1 - 3	Phase 4	
Total estimated costs for closure and postclosure care at June 30 2023	\$ 1,106,658	374,798	1,018,018	229,685	2,729,159
Less: Balance of funds held in the local dedicated fund at June 30, 2022	984,328	264,985	940,783	161,964	2,352,060
	122,330	109,813	77,235	67,721	377,099
Divided by the number of years remaining in the pay-in period	2	8	2	8	
Required payment into the local dedicated fund for the year ended June 30, 2023	61,165	13,727	38,618	8,465	121,974
Balance of funds held in the local dedicated fund at June 30, 2022	984,328	264,985	940,783	161,964	2,352,060
Balance of funds required to be held in the local dedicated fund at June 30, 2023	\$ 1,045,493	278,712	979,401	170,429	2,474,034
Amount Commission has restricted for closure and postclosure care at June 30, 2023					\$ 2,420,371

Wayne-Ringgold-Decatur County Solid Waste Management Commission

Schedule of Findings

Year ended June 30, 2023

The Commission transferred \$121,331 to the closure and postclosure care accounts for the year ended June 30, 2023 on August 11, 2023. With this additional amount added to the restricted amount for closure and postclosure care costs the Commission has demonstrated financial assurance for closure and post closure care by depositing sufficient amounts in the dedicated fund.

However, Iowa Department of Natural Resources rules and regulations require deposits into the closure and postclosure care accounts be made at least annually within 30 days of the close of each fiscal year. The required deposit was not made timely.

Response – As already explained, we were never informed that the deposit was to be made by a certain date. After finally being informed, deposit has been made in a timely manner.

Conclusion – Response acknowledged. Required deposits should be made within 30 days of the end of the fiscal year.

Wayne-Ringgold-Decatur County Solid Waste Management Commission

Staff

This audit was performed by:

Brian R. Brustkern, CPA, Deputy  
Katherine L. Rupp, CPA, Manager  
Mackenzie L. Johnson, Senior Auditor  
Benjamin I. Manchester, Staff Auditor