



OFFICE OF AUDITOR OF STATE
STATE OF IOWA

State Capitol Building
Des Moines, Iowa 50319-0006
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Rob Sand
Auditor of State

NEWS RELEASE

FOR RELEASE

June 23, 2025

Contact: Brian Brustkern
515/281-5834

Auditor of State Rob Sand today released an audit report on the North Central Iowa Regional Solid Waste Agency.

The Agency had total receipts of \$4,609,744 for the year ended June 30, 2024, a less than 1% decrease. Disbursements for the year ended June 30, 2024, totaled \$5,081,903, a 22.2% increase. The significant increase in disbursements is primarily due to higher leachate control, equipment purchases and equipment maintenance expenses.

AUDIT FINDINGS:

Sand reported five findings related to the receipt and disbursement of taxpayer funds. The findings are found on pages 30 through 35 of this report. The findings address a lack of segregation of duties, financial reporting and performing surprise cash counts of the cash drawers. Sand provided the Agency with recommendations to address each of the findings.

Four of the findings discussed above are repeated from the prior year. The North Central Iowa Regional Solid Waste Agency Board has a fiduciary responsibility to provide oversight of the Agency'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](#).

#

NORTH CENTRAL IOWA REGIONAL SOLID WASTE AGENCY

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

JUNE 30, 2024

North Central Iowa Regional Solid Waste Agency



OFFICE OF AUDITOR OF STATE
STATE OF IOWA

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Des Moines, Iowa 50319-0006
Telephone (515) 281-5834

Rob Sand
Auditor of State

June 6, 2025

Officials of North Central Iowa Regional Solid Waste Agency
Fort Dodge, Iowa

Dear Board Members:

I am pleased to submit to you the financial and compliance audit report for the North Central Iowa Regional Solid Waste Agency, Fort Dodge, Iowa, for the year ended June 30, 2024. 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 North Central Iowa Regional Solid Waste Agency 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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North Central Iowa Regional Solid Waste Agency

Officials

<u>Name</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Representing</u>
Cole Bockelmann	Executive Board Chairperson	City of Humboldt
Megan Secor	Executive Board Vice Chairperson	City of Fort Dodge
Brandon Bahrenfuss	Executive Board Member	City of Webster City
Mark Campbell	Executive Board Member	Webster County
David Fierke	Executive Board Member	City of Fort Dodge
Dennis Frayne	Executive Board Member	City of Williams
Dave George	Executive Board Member	City of Manson
Jack Kersten	Executive Board Member	City of Fort Dodge
Wally Lorenzen	Executive Board Member	City of Eagle Grove
Lori Lindstrom	Secretary/Treasurer and Chief Financial Officer	Indefinite

North Central Iowa Regional Solid Waste Agency



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Rob Sand
Auditor of State

Independent Auditor's Report

To the Members of the North Central Iowa Regional Solid Waste Agency:

Report on the Audit of the Financial Statement

Opinion

We have audited the financial statement of the North Central Iowa Regional Solid Waste Agency as of and for the year ended June 30, 2024 and the related Notes to Financial Statement which collectively comprise the North Central Iowa Regional Solid Waste Agency's basic financial statement as listed in the table of contents.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statement referred to above presents fairly, in all material respects, the respective cash basis financial position of the North Central Iowa Regional Solid Waste Agency as of June 30, 2024, 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 the Financial Statement section of our report. We are required to be independent of North Central Iowa Regional Solid Waste Agency, 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 statement, which describes the basis of accounting. The financial statement is 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.

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 North Central Iowa Regional Solid Waste Agency'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 North Central Iowa Regional Solid Waste Agency'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 this report. The other information comprises the Schedule of the Agency's Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability and the Schedule of Agency 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 June 6, 2025 on our consideration of the North Central Iowa Regional Solid Waste Agency'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 Agency'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 North Central Iowa Regional Solid Waste Agency's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.



Brian R. Brustkern, CPA
Deputy Auditor of State

June 6, 2025

North Central Iowa Regional Solid Waste Agency

Basic Financial Statement

North Central Iowa Regional Solid Waste Agency

North Central Iowa Regional Solid Waste Agency

Statement of Cash Receipts, Disbursements and
Changes in Cash Balance

As of and for the year ended June 30, 2024

Operating receipts:	
Solid waste fees	\$ 3,390,009
Hamilton County solid waste fees	304,349
City member assessments	205,741
County member assessments	109,592
Recycling sales	229,399
Hazardous waste fees	13,010
Miscellaneous	26,658
Total operating receipts	<u>4,278,758</u>
Operating disbursements:	
Salaries and benefits	1,565,237
Department of Natural Resources tonnage fees	174,981
Equipment rental	115,853
Fuel	204,308
Consulting	21,373
Monitoring and inspection	16,524
Equipment maintenance	526,152
Building maintenance	184,977
Supplies	29,434
Legal and professional fees	107,354
Office expense and postage	20,728
Utilities	67,356
Advertising	5,908
Road maintenance	144,923
Insurance	127,361
Recycling	113,571
Leachate control	156,141
Miscellaneous	51,154
Total operating disbursements	<u>3,633,335</u>
Excess of operating receipts over operating disbursements	<u>645,423</u>
Non-operating receipts (disbursements):	
Interest on investments	303,686
Investment fees	(14,664)
Rental income	27,300
Expansion project	(33,883)
Equipment	(1,400,021)
Net non-operating receipts (disbursements)	<u>(1,117,582)</u>
Change in cash balance	(472,159)
Cash balance beginning of year	<u>20,827,771</u>
Cash balance end of year	<u>\$ 20,355,612</u>
Cash Basis Fund Balance	
Restricted for:	
Closure	\$ 918,989
Postclosure care	4,076,595
DNR - recycling projects and landfill planning	<u>1,526,143</u>
Total restricted cash basis fund balance	6,521,727
Unrestricted	<u>13,833,885</u>
Total cash basis fund balance	<u>\$ 20,355,612</u>

See notes to financial statements.

North Central Iowa Regional Solid Waste Agency

Notes to Financial Statement

June 30, 2024

(1) Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

The North Central Iowa Regional Solid Waste Agency was formed in December 1992 pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 28E of the Code of Iowa. The purpose of the Agency is to develop, operate and maintain solid waste facilities in Webster County on behalf of the units of government which are members of the Agency.

The governing body of the Agency is composed of one representative from each member for each 10,000 in population or fraction thereof. The members of the Agency include Hamilton, Humboldt and Webster Counties and the cities of Badger, Barnum, Blairsburg, Bradgate, Callender, Clare, Dakota City, Dayton, Duncombe, Eagle Grove, Ellsworth, Fort Dodge, Gilmore City, Gowrie, Harcourt, Hardy, Humboldt, Jewell, Kamrar, Knierim, Lehigh, Livermore, Manson, Moorland, Otho, Ottosen, Pomeroy, Randall, Renwick, Rockwell City, Rutland, Stanhope, Stratford, Thor, Vincent, Webster City and Williams.

A. Reporting Entity

For financial reporting purposes, the North Central Iowa Regional Solid Waste Agency has included all funds, organizations, agencies, boards, commissions and authorities. The Agency 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 Agency are such that exclusion would cause the Agency'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 Agency 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 Agency. The Agency has no component units which meet the Governmental Accounting Standards Board criteria.

B. Basis of Presentation

The accounts of the Agency 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 Agency maintains its financial records on the basis of cash receipts and disbursements and the financial statement of the Agency 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 postclosure care. Accordingly, the financial statement does not present the financial position and results of operations of the Agency in accordance with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles.

D. Cash Basis Fund Balance

Funds set aside for payment of closure and postclosure care, recycling projects and landfill planning are classified as restricted.

(2) Cash and Investments

The Agency's deposits in banks at June 30, 2024 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 Agency 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 Agency; 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.

At June 30, 2024, the Agency held negotiable certificates of deposit with a carrying amount of \$4,866,500 and a fair value of \$4,700,290. The certificates of deposit fully mature between October 2024 and June 2028. Also, at June 30, 2024, the Agency held United States Treasury Note/Bonds with a carrying amount of \$2,907,986 and a fair value of \$2,789,408.

The Agency uses the fair value hierarchy established by generally accepted accounting principles based on the valuation inputs used to measure the fair value of the asset. Level 1 inputs are quoted prices in active markets for identical assets. Level 2 inputs are significant other observable inputs. Level 3 inputs are significant unobservable inputs.

The recurring fair value measurement for the negotiable certificates of deposit of \$4,700,290 and the United States Treasury Note/Bonds of \$2,789,408 was determined using the last reported sales price at current exchange rates. (Level 1 inputs)

Interest rate risk – The Agency's investment policy limits the investment of operating funds (funds expected to be expended in the current budget year or within 15 months of receipt) to instruments that mature within 397 days. Funds not identified as operating funds may be invested in investments with maturities longer than 397 days, but the maturities shall be consistent with the needs and use of the Agency.

(3) Pension Plan

Plan Description – IPERS membership is mandatory for employees of the Agency, except for those covered by another retirement system. Employees of the Agency 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.

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 2024, pursuant to the required rate, Regular members contributed 6.29% of covered payroll and the Agency contributed 9.44% of covered payroll, for a total rate of 15.73%.

The Agency's contributions to IPERS for the year ended June 30, 2024 totaled \$106,065.

Net Pension Liability, Pension Expense, Deferred Outflows of Resources and Deferred Inflows of Resources Related to Pensions – At June 30, 2024, the Agency had a liability of \$610,834 for its 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 the net pension liability was determined by an actuarial valuation as of that date. The Agency's proportion of the net pension liability was based on the Agency's share of contributions to IPERS relative to the contributions of all IPERS participating employers. At June 30, 2023, the Agency's proportion was 0.013533%, which was an increase of 0.002408% from its proportion measured as of June 30, 2022.

For the year ended June 30, 2024, the Agency's pension expense, deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources totaled \$51,904, \$478,186 and \$372,460, respectively.

There were no non-employer contributing entities to IPERS.

Actuarial Assumptions – The total pension liability in the June 30, 2023 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	3.25 to 16.25% average, including inflation.
(effective June 30, 2017)	Rates vary by membership group.
Long-term investment rate of return	7.00% compounded annually, net of investment
(effective June 30, 2017)	expense, including inflation.
Wage growth	3.25% per annum, based on 2.60% inflation
(effective June 30, 2017)	and 0.65% real wage inflation.

The actuarial assumptions used in the June 30, 2023 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 2023 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	21.0%	4.56%
International equity	16.5	6.22
Global smart beta equity	5.0	5.22
Core plus fixed income	23.0	2.69
Public credit	3.0	4.38
Cash	1.0	1.59
Private equity	17.0	10.44
Private real assets	9.0	3.88
Private credit	4.5	4.60
Total	100.0%	

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 Agency 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 Agency's Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability to Changes in the Discount Rate – The following presents the Agency's proportionate share of the net pension liability calculated using the discount rate of 7.00%, as well as what the Agency'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%)
Agency's proportionate share of the net pension liability	\$ 1,298,770	610,834	34,333

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.

(4) Closure and Postclosure Care

To comply with federal and state regulations, the Agency is required to complete a monitoring system plan and a closure/postclosure plan and to provide funding necessary to effect closure and postclosure, 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 postclosure 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 postclosure 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 postclosure monitoring and care, (2) the cost of final cover (material and labor), (3) the cost of monitoring the landfill during the postclosure 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 Agency have been estimated to be \$3,248,800 for closure and \$1,521,000 for postclosure care, for a total of \$4,769,800 as of June 30, 2024. The estimated remaining life of the landfill is 2.53 years, with approximately 96.0% of the landfill's capacity used at June 30, 2024.

Chapter 455B.306(9)(b) of the Code of Iowa requires permit holders of municipal solid waste landfills to maintain separate closure and postclosure care accounts to accumulate resources for the payment of closure and postclosure care costs. The Agency has begun to accumulate resources to fund these costs and, at June 30, 2024, assets of \$4,995,584 are restricted for these purposes, of which \$918,989 is for closure and \$4,076,595 is for postclosure care. They are reported as restricted cash balance in the Statement of Cash Receipts, Disbursements and Changes in Cash Balance.

(5) Solid Waste Tonnage Fees Retained

The Agency has established an account for restricting and using solid waste tonnage fees retained by the Agency in accordance with Chapter 455B.310 of the Code of Iowa. At June 30, 2024, the unspent amount retained by the Agency and restricted for the required specific purposes totaled \$1,526,143.

(6) Risk Management

The Agency 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 803 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 Agency'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 Agency's contributions to the Pool for the year ended June 30, 2024 were \$91,890.

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 Agency's risk-sharing certificate. Property and automobile physical damage risks are retained by the Pool up to \$500,000 each occurrence, each location. Property risks exceeding \$500,000 are reinsured through reinsurance and excess risk-sharing agreements up to the amount of risk-sharing protection provided by the Agency'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 Agency'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, 2024, 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 Agency also carries workmen's compensation insurance through the Iowa Municipalities Workers' Compensation Association in the amount of \$1,000,000. The Agency 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.

(7) Compensated Absences

Agency employees accumulate a limited amount of earned but unused vacation hours for subsequent use or for payment upon termination, retirement or death. These accumulations are not recognized as disbursements by the Agency until used or paid. The Agency's approximate liability for earned vacation at June 30, 2024 was \$55,000. This liability has been computed based on rates of pay in effect at June 30, 2024.

Employees who retire from the Agency or who leave the Agency after ten years of employment are paid the equivalent of up to 25% of their accumulated unused sick leave. These accumulations are not recognized as disbursements by the Agency until used or paid. At June 30, 2024, the Agency had an approximate liability of \$9,000 for earned sick leave.

North Central Iowa Regional Solid Waste Agency

Other Information

North Central Iowa Regional Solid Waste Agency

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

Iowa Public Employees' Retirement System
For the Last Ten Years*

Other Information

	2024	2023	2022	2021
Agency's proportion of the net pension liability (asset)	0.013533%	0.011125%	(0.004516)% **	0.012481%
Agency's proportionate share of the net pension liability	\$ 610,834	420,328	15,591	876,775
Agency's covered payroll	\$ 1,188,470	896,029	902,353	990,537
Agency's proportionate share of the net pension liability as a percentage of its covered payroll	51.40%	46.91%	1.73%	88.52%
IPERS' net position as a percentage of the total pension liability	90.13%	91.40%	100.81%	82.90%

* 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.

North Central Iowa Regional Solid Waste Agency

Schedule of Agency Contributions

Iowa Public Employees' Retirement System
For the Last Ten Years

Other Information

	2024	2023	2022	2021
Statutorily required contribution	\$ 106,065	112,191	84,585	85,210
Contributions in relation to the statutorily required contribution	(106,065)	(112,191)	(84,585)	(85,210)
Contribution deficiency (excess)	\$ -	-	-	-
Agency's covered payroll	\$1,123,566	1,188,470	896,029	902,353
Contributions as a percentage of covered payroll	9.44%	9.44%	9.44%	9.44%

See accompanying independent auditor's report.

North Central Iowa Regional Solid Waste Agency

North Central Iowa Regional Solid Waste Agency

Notes to Other Information – Pension Liability

Year ended June 30, 2024

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%.



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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 North Central Iowa Regional Solid Waste Agency:

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 North Central Iowa Regional Solid Waste Agency, Iowa, as of and for the year ended June 30, 2024, and the related Notes to Financial Statement and have issued our report thereon dated June 6, 2025. Our report expressed an unmodified opinion on the financial statement which was prepared on the basis of cash receipts and disbursements, a basis of accounting other than U.S. generally accepted accounting principles.

Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

In planning and performing our audit of the financial statement, we considered North Central Iowa Regional Solid Waste Agency'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 North Central Iowa Regional Solid Waste Agency's internal control. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of North Central Iowa Regional Solid Waste Agency's internal control.

Our consideration of internal control was for the limited purpose described in the preceding paragraph and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control that might be material weaknesses or significant deficiencies and therefore, material weaknesses or significant deficiencies may exist that were not identified. However, as described in the accompanying Schedule of Findings, we identified certain deficiencies in internal control that we consider to be material weaknesses and significant deficiencies.

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 Agency's financial statement will not be prevented or detected and corrected on a timely basis. We consider the deficiencies described in the accompanying Schedule of Findings as items 2024-001 and 2024-002 to be material weaknesses.

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. We consider the deficiencies described in the accompanying Schedule of Findings as items 2024-003 and 2024-004 to be significant deficiencies.

Report on Compliance and Other Matters

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether North Central Iowa Regional Solid Waste Agency'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 Agency's operations for the year ended June 30, 2024 are based exclusively on knowledge obtained from procedures performed during our audit of the financial statement of the Agency. 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.

North Central Iowa Regional Solid Waste Agency's Responses to Findings

Government Auditing Standards requires the auditor to perform limited procedures on the North Central Iowa Regional Solid Waste Agency's responses to the findings identified in our audit and described in the accompanying Schedule of Findings. North Central Iowa Regional Solid Waste Agency'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 Agency'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 Agency'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 North Central Iowa Regional Solid Waste Agency 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

June 6, 2025

North Central Iowa Regional Solid Waste Agency

Schedule of Findings

Year ended June 30, 2024

Findings Related to the Financial Statement:

INTERNAL CONTROL DEFICIENCIES:

2024-001 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 Agency's financial statement.

Condition – One individual in the Agency has control over each of the following areas:

- (1) Accounting system – Duties are not rotated when employees are on vacation due to lack of accounting staff.
- (2) Receipts – billing, collecting, coding, depositing, posting and reconciling.

Cause – The Agency has a limited number of employees and procedures have not been designed to adequately segregate duties or provide compensating controls through additional oversight of transitions and processes.

Effect – Inadequate segregation of duties could adversely affect the Agency'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 – We realize segregation of duties is difficult with a limited number of office employees. However, the Agency should review its operating procedures to obtain the maximum internal control possible under the circumstances. Currently available personnel or designated Board members should be utilized to provide additional control through review of financial transactions and reconciliations. Such reviews should be performed by independent persons to the extent possible and should be documented by the signature or initials of the reviewer and the date of review.

Responses –

- (1) Accounting System – The Secretary/Treasurer-CFO does not input Accounts Receivable landfill transaction invoices into QuickBooks. The Administrative Assistant inputs the Accounts Receivable invoices into QuickBooks, balancing to the landfill scale tickets and workpapers; the Administrative Assistant balances the landfill, recycling center and HHW credit card transactions at month-end to the monthly credit card statement. The Agency understands the auditor's comment referencing duties are not rotated when employees are on vacation due to lack of accounting staff. The Agency responds that due to limited number of office employees, segregation of duties is implemented.

North Central Iowa Regional Solid Waste Agency

Schedule of Findings

Year ended June 30, 2024

(2) Receipts –

- a) Billing and Collecting – Following segregation of duties, the Administrative Assistant may not perform billing and collecting because the Administrative Assistant inputs invoices into QuickBooks for billing and collecting.
- b) Depositing – Following segregation of duties, the Administrative Assistant may not input Agency deposits into QuickBooks because the Administrative Assistant handles the cash and checks received from the public for the landfill, recycling center and HHM sites. The Administrative Assistant also prepares the daily bank deposits for checks received in the mail from charge customers.
- c) Posting and Reconciling – Following segregation of duties, the Administrative Assistant may not post receipts into QuickBooks because the Administrative Assistant accepts payment on account either by cash, check, or credit card from the public, whether paid on-site or received in the mail.

The Agency employs one employee with an accounting background and/or accounting experience. With that said, the Sec/Treasurer-CFO does not have available staff to delegate accounting functions to.

Conclusions – Responses acknowledged. The Agency should continue to review operating procedures to obtain the maximum control possible.

2024-002 Financial Reporting

Criteria – A deficiency in internal control over financial reporting 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 of the financial statements on a timely basis. Properly designed policies and procedures and implementation of the policies and procedures are an integral part of ensuring the reliability and accuracy of the Agency's financial statements.

Condition –

- 1. Bank fees were understated \$1,296 in the Agency's financial statements. Adjustments were subsequently made by the Agency to properly include these amounts in the financial statements.
- 2. An insurance premium refund totaling \$6,226 was coded to the refund account rather than a reduction to the insurance account, resulting in an overstatement of insurance expense.

Cause – Agency policies or procedures do not require expenses to be compared to accounting records by an independent person.

Effect – Lack of policies and procedures resulted in Agency employees not detecting the errors in the normal course of performing their assigned functions and adjustments to the Agency's financial statements were necessary.

North Central Iowa Regional Solid Waste Agency

Schedule of Findings

Year ended June 30, 2024

Recommendation – The Agency should implement procedures to ensure expenses are properly recorded in the Agency’s financial statements.

Responses –

1. An error occurred with bank fees being overstated. Due to the Secretary/Treasurer-CFO taking on additional workload of the Administrative Assistant and COO-HR Director for several months (and litigation), this caused the Secretary/Treasurer-CFO to fall behind with her workload and responsibilities. The Secretary/Treasurer-CFO did not proof entries due to falling behind and trying to catch up with work. The Secretary/Treasurer-CFO will proof entries when behind on workload.
2. The Agency used to offset expense accounts with refunds, however the prior auditor had requested refunds to be coded to a refund account rather than an expense account so all checks received by the Agency could be tracked/accounted for under Income. The Secretary/Treasurer/CFO will begin coding refunds to expense accounts.

Conclusions – Responses accepted.

2024-003 Cash Drawers

Criteria – The Agency has authorized four cash drawers totaling \$1,250 in the performance of landfill duties. Management is responsible for establishing and maintaining internal control over these cash drawers to ensure cash and receipts are safeguarded and accurately reported. The Agency’s accounting policies and procedures manual establishes end of day procedures for reconciling the cash drawers to invoices, checks and credit card payments received. Monthly random (surprise) cash counts on cash drawers are also required to be performed by the landfill manager, landfill supervisor and/or Chief Operating Officer (COO).

Condition – During fiscal year 2024, surprise counts of the Agency’s cash drawers were not performed as required by Agency policy.

Cause – Although policies to perform surprise cash counts have been established, the policies were not followed.

Effect – This condition could result in misappropriated cash receipts and the improper use or loss of Agency funds.

Recommendation – Surprise cash counts on the Agency’s cash drawers should be performed, as required. The surprise counts should be documented and initialed or signed and dated by the independent person who did the surprise count.

North Central Iowa Regional Solid Waste Agency

Schedule of Findings

Year ended June 30, 2024

Response – The Agency understands the importance of internal control and understands prior management was not conducting surprise cash bag counts monthly. The Agency COO, hired on January 24, 2025, along with the landfill manager, will do surprise cash bag counts monthly. The cash bags count paperwork will be signed and dated by the COO and landfill manager. With the landfill supervisor being a scale attendant, this position should not be involved with surprise cash bag counts. The paperwork for all cash bag surprise counts will be turned into the Secretary/Treasurer-CFO.

Conclusion – Response accepted.

2024-004 Journal Entries

Criteria – An independent review of journal entries helps prevent losses from employee error or dishonesty and maximizes the accuracy of the financial statements.

Condition – Five of five journal entries observed were approved by an independent person, but date of review was not present so unable to determine if the review was done timely.

Cause – Procedures have not been designed to require employees to document the review and approval of journal entries.

Effect – Lack of independent review of journal entries could adversely affect the Agency's ability to prevent or detect and correct misstatements, errors, or misappropriations on a timely basis by employees in the normal course of performing their assigned functions.

Recommendation – An independent person should review journal entries and the review should be documented by the signature or initials of the reviewer and the date of review.

Response – Due to the Agency being short-staffed, the additional work load of the Administrative Assistant and COO/HR Director positions were delegated to the Secretary/Treasurer-CFO for several months, and because of on-going litigation involving the Agency and Secretary/Treasurer-CFO for several months – this caused the Secretary/Treasurer-CFO to fall behind in her work tasks under her job description while working under a medical note and restricted hours. The Secretary/Treasurer-CFO completed tasks prioritizing deadlines and due dates, then causing the Secretary/Treasurer-CFO to fall behind with audit work papers. The Secretary/Treasurer-CFO will try to get this process done in a more timely manner.

Conclusion – Response accepted.

INSTANCES OF NONCOMPLIANCE:

No matters were noted.

North Central Iowa Regional Solid Waste Agency

Schedule of Findings

Year ended June 30, 2024

Other Findings Related to Required Statutory Reporting:

- 2024-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.
- 2024-B Travel Expense – No disbursements of Agency money for travel expenses of spouses of Agency officials or employees were noted.
- 2024-C Restricted Donor Activity – No transactions were noted between the Agency, Agency officials, Agency employees and restricted donors in compliance with Chapter 68B of the Code of Iowa.
- 2024-D Agency Minutes – No transactions were found that we believe should have been approved in the Agency minutes but were not.

- (1) Wage increases were approved by the Board as a percentage of the employees’ wage and did not document the actual approved wage.
- (2) Two of the minutes tested were not submitted for publication within the 20 days as required by Chapter 28E.6(3) of the Code of Iowa.

Recommendation – Wage increases should be approved by the Board and recorded in the minutes record as the actual amount of compensation, not just a percentage increase. The Agency should ensure publication of meeting minutes complies with Chapter 28E.6 of the Code of Iowa.

Responses –

- (1) The Agency will continue to approve wage increases in Board meetings, stating the amount of the pay increase. Going forward, the Agency will include all wage increases as the actual amount of compensation, not just a percentage increase.
- (2) The Secretary/Treasurer understands the comment and will continue to try to make sure that minutes are published timely.

Conclusions – Responses accepted.

- 2024-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 Agency’s investment policy were noted.
- 2024-F Solid Waste Fees Retainage – No instances 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.

North Central Iowa Regional Solid Waste Agency

Schedule of Findings

Year ended June 30, 2024

2024-G Financial Assurance – The Agency has elected to demonstrate financial assurance for closure and postclosure care by establishing a local government dedicated fund as provided in Chapter 567–113.14(6) of the Iowa Administrative Code (IAC). The calculation is made as follows:

	Closure	Postclosure	Total
Total estimated cost for closure and postclosure care at June 30, 2024	\$ 3,248,800	1,521,000	4,769,800
Amount Agency has restricted for closure and postclosure care at June 30, 2024	\$ 918,989	4,076,595	4,995,584

The Agency has demonstrated financial assurance for closure and postclosure care by depositing sufficient amounts in the dedicated funds.

North Central Iowa Regional Solid Waste Agency

Staff

This audit was performed by:

Brian R. Brustkern, CPA, Deputy
Jennifer L. Wall, CPA, Director
Kari L. Middleton, Staff Auditor
Therese A. Berning, Staff Auditor