

**BENTON SOIL AND WATER
CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

December 31, 2009

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JAMES MAISER
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANT & CONSULTANT

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INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

Board of Supervisors
Benton Soil and Water Conservation District
Foley, Minnesota

I have audited the accompanying financial statements of the governmental activities and the General fund of the Benton Soil and Water Conservation District, Foley, Minnesota as of and for the year ended December 31, 2009 which collectively comprise the District's basic financial statements as listed in the table of contents. These financial statements are the responsibility of District management. My responsibility is to express opinions on these financial statements based on the audit.

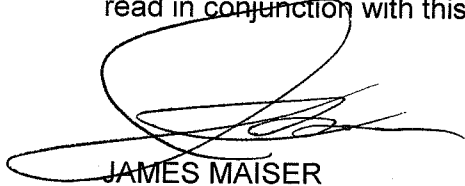
I conducted the audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. Those standards require that I plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. I believe that my audit provides a reasonable basis for my opinions.

In my opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the respective financial position of the governmental activities and the General fund of the Benton Soil and Water Conservation District, Foley, Minnesota as of December 31, 2009, and the results of operations and the respective budgetary comparison for the General fund for the year then ended in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

The management's discussion and analysis information is not a required part of the basic financial statements but it is supplementary information required by accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. I have applied certain limited procedures, which consisted principally of inquiries of management regarding the methods of measurement and presentation of the required supplementary information. However, I did not audit the information and express no opinion on it.

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, I have also issued a report dated August 21, 2010 on my consideration of the District's internal control over financial reporting and on my tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations,

contracts and grant agreements and other matters. The purpose of that report is to describe the scope of my testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the internal control over financial reporting or on compliance. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Governmental Auditing Standards* and should be read in conjunction with this report in considering the results of my audit.



JAMES MAISER
Certified Public Accountant and Consultant

August 21, 2010
Waconia, Minnesota

BENTON SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS

The Benton Soil & Water Conservation District's discussion and analysis provides an overview of the SWCD's financial activities for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2009. Since this information is designed to focus on the current year's activities, resulting changes, and currently known facts, it should be read in conjunction with the SWCD's financial statements.

This annual report consists of two parts: management's discussion and analysis, and the basic financial statements. The basic financial statements include a series of financial statements. The Statement of Net Assets and the Statement of Activities provide information about the activities of the SWCD as a whole and present a long-term view of the SWCD's finances. For governmental activities, these statements tell how these services were financed in the short term as well as what remains for future spending. Fund financial statements also report the SWCD's operations in more detail than the government-wide statements by providing information about the SWCD's most significant funds. Since SWCD's are single-purpose special purpose governments they are generally able to combine the government-wide and fund financial statements into single presentations. Benton Soil & Water Conservation District has elected to present in this format.

The Statement of Net Assets and the Statement of Activities

One of the most important questions asked about the SWCD's finances is, "Is the SWCD as a whole better or worse off as a result of the year's activities?" The Statement of Net Assets and Statement of Activities report information about the SWCD as a whole and about its activities in a way that helps answer this question. These statements include all assets and liabilities using accrual basis of accounting, which is similar to the accounting used by the most private-sector companies. All of the current year's revenues and expenses are taken into account regardless of when cash is received or paid.

These two statements report the SWCD's net assets and changes in them. You can think of the SWCD's net assets — the difference between assets and liabilities—as one way to measure the SWCD's financial health, or financial position. Over time, increases or decreases in the SWCD's net assets are one indicator of whether its financial health is improving or deteriorating

In Statement of Net Assets and the Statement of Activities, the SWCD presents Governmental activities. All of the SWCD's basic services are reported here. Appropriations from the state and Benton County finance most activities.

Reporting the SWCD's General Fund

The fund financial statements provide detailed information about the general fund—not the SWCD as a whole. The SWCD presents only a general fund, which is a governmental fund. All of the SWCD's basic services are reported in the general fund, which focuses on how money flows into and out of those funds and the balances left at year-end that are available for spending.

The fund is reported using an accounting method called modified accrual accounting. This method measures cash and all other financial assets that can be readily converted to cash. The general fund statements provide a detailed short-term view of the SWCD's general government operations and the basic services it provides. Governmental fund information helps you determine whether there are more or

fewer financial resources that can be spent in the near future to finance the SWCD's programs. We describe the relationship (or differences) between governmental activities (reported in the Statement of Net Assets and the Statement of Activities) and governmental funds in a reconciliation included with the financial statements.

THE SWCD AS A WHOLE

Our analysis focuses on the net assets and changes in net assets of the District's governmental activities.

Net Assets	Governmental Activities	
	2009	2008
	Current Assets	\$275,339
Capital Assets	40,573	42,217
Total Assets	315,876	412,949
Current Liabilities	202,800	299,594
Long term liabilities	6,970	3,213
Total Liabilities	209,770	302,807
Total Net Assets	\$106,106	\$110,142

Net assets of the District governmental activities decreased by \$4,036. Unrestricted net assets, the part of net assets that can be used to finance day-to-day operations without constraints established by debt covenants, enabling legislation, or other legal requirements changed from \$67,925 at December 31, 2008 to \$65,569 at the end of this year.

Governmental Activities		
	2009	2008
Revenues		
Intergovernmental	\$405,701	\$436,609
Charges for Services	\$48,891	\$53,660
Investment earnings	\$3,223	\$15,310
Miscellaneous	\$5,170	\$3,425
Total Revenues	\$462,985	\$509,004
Expenses		
Conservation, Total	\$467,021	\$504,300
Increase (decrease) in net assets	(\$4,036)	\$4,704
Net Assets, January 1	\$110,142	\$105,438
Net Assets, December 31	\$106,106	\$110,142

The District's total revenues decreased by \$46,019. The total cost of programs and services decreased by \$37,279.

As the SWCD completed the year, its general fund reported a combined fund balance of \$72,539, which is above last year's total of \$71,138. The primary reasons for the General Fund's surplus mirror the governmental activities analysis.

BUDGETARY COMPARISON

The Budgetary Comparison Statement shows that in 2009 actual revenues exceeded expenditures by \$1,401. Factors contributing to this excess include action taken by the Benton SWCD board on September 30, 2009. 1) Reduction in per diems for board members. 2) Reduction in salary for one employee. 3) Reduction in work hours for four employees.

CAPITAL ASSETS AND LONG-TERM LIABILITIES

Capital Assets

At the end of 2009, the SWCD had \$40,537 invested in capital assets, including: field equipment, office equipment, tree and food plot planters and a manure spreader. During the year the district invested \$4,539 in load scales for calibrating manure spreaders and measuring crop yields..

Long-Term Liabilities

Other obligations include accrued vacation pay and sick leave. More detailed information about SWCD's long-term liabilities is presented in the notes to the financial statements.

CONTACTING THE SWCD'S FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

This financial report is designed to provide our citizens, taxpayers, customers, and investors and creditors with a general overview of the SWCD'S finances and to show the SWCD's accountability for the money it receives. If you have questions about this report or need additional financial information, contact the SWCD's office at 14 2nd Avenue West, Foley, MN 56329, phone 320-968-5300 ext. 3.

BENTON SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
FOLEY, MINNESOTA

STATEMENT OF NET ASSETS AND
GOVERNMENTAL FUND BALANCE SHEET
DECEMBER 31, 2009

	General Fund	Adjustments	Statement of Net Assets
<u>Assets</u>			
Cash and investments	\$ 250,212	\$ -	\$ 250,212
Accounts Receivable	1,758	-	1,758
Accrued Interest Receivable	431	-	431
Due From Other Governments	18,287	-	18,287
Inventory	4,651	-	4,651
Capital Assets:			
Equipment (net of accumulated depreciation)	-	40,537	40,537
Total Assets	\$ 275,339	\$ 40,537	\$ 315,876
<u>Liabilities</u>			
Current liabilities:			
Accounts Payable	\$ 6,692	\$ -	\$ 6,692
Accrued Payroll Payable	3,404	-	3,404
Deferred Revenue	181,902	-	181,902
Deposit on Sales	10,802	-	10,802
Long-term liabilities:			
Due within one year	-	-	-
Due after one year	-	6,970	6,970
Total Liabilities	\$ 202,800	\$ 6,970	\$ 209,770
<u>Fund Balance/Net Assets</u>			
Fund Balance/Net Assets			
Unreserved			
Undesignated	72,539	(72,539)	-
Total Fund Balance	\$ 72,539	\$ (72,539)	\$ -
Net Assets			
Invested in capital assets		\$ 40,537	\$ 40,537
Unrestricted		65,569	65,569
Total Net Assets		\$ 106,106	\$ 106,106

Notes are an integral part of the basic financial statements.

BENTON SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
FOLEY, MINNESOTA

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES AND
GOVERNMENTAL FUND REVENUES, EXPENDITURES AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCE
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2009

	General Fund	Adjustments	Statement of Activities
Revenues			
Intergovernmental	\$ 405,701	\$ -	\$ 405,701
Charges for services	48,891	-	48,891
Investment earnings	3,223	-	3,223
Miscellaneous	5,170	-	5,170
Total Revenues	<u>\$ 462,985</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 462,985</u>
Expenditures/Expenses			
Conservation			
Current	\$ 457,045	\$ 9,976	\$ 467,021
Capital outlay	4,539	(4,539)	-
Total Expenditures/Expenses	<u>\$ 461,584</u>	<u>\$ 5,437</u>	<u>\$ 467,021</u>
Excess of Revenues Over (Under) Expenditures/Expenses	<u>\$ 1,401</u>	<u>\$ (5,437)</u>	<u>\$ (4,036)</u>
Fund Balance/Net Assets January 1	<u>\$ 71,138</u>	<u>\$ 39,004</u>	<u>\$ 110,142</u>
Fund Balance/Net Assets December 31	<u><u>\$ 72,539</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 33,567</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 106,106</u></u>

Notes are an integral part of the basic financial statements.

BENTON SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
FOLEY, MINNESOTA

BUDGETARY COMPARISON STATEMENT
BUDGET AND ACTUAL
GENERAL FUND
YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2009

	<u>Original/Final Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Variance with Final Budget Positive (Neg)</u>
Revenues			
Intergovernmental			
County	\$ 175,257	\$ 175,299	\$ 42
State Grant	249,697	227,032	(22,665)
Federal	5,000	3,370	(1,630)
Total intergovernmental	<u>\$ 429,954</u>	<u>\$ 405,701</u>	<u>\$ (24,253)</u>
Charges for services	<u>\$ 45,710</u>	<u>\$ 48,891</u>	<u>\$ 3,181</u>
Miscellaneous			
Interest earnings	\$ 8,500	\$ 3,223	\$ (5,277)
Other	3,300	5,170	1,870
Total miscellaneous	<u>\$ 11,800</u>	<u>\$ 8,393</u>	<u>\$ (3,407)</u>
Total Revenues	<u>\$ 487,464</u>	<u>\$ 462,985</u>	<u>\$ (24,479)</u>
Expenditures			
District operations			
Personnel services	\$ 285,173	\$ 282,242	\$ 2,931
Other services and charges	51,713	41,875	9,838
Supplies	100	2,607	(2,507)
Capital outlay	-	4,539	(4,539)
Total district operations	<u>\$ 336,986</u>	<u>\$ 331,263</u>	<u>\$ 5,723</u>
Project expenditures			
District	\$ 35,214	\$ 31,502	\$ 3,712
State	133,686	98,819	34,867
Total project expenditures	<u>\$ 168,900</u>	<u>\$ 130,321</u>	<u>\$ 38,579</u>
Total Expenditures	<u>\$ 505,886</u>	<u>\$ 461,584</u>	<u>\$ 44,302</u>
Excess of Revenues Over (Under)			
Expenditures	<u>\$ (18,422)</u>	<u>\$ 1,401</u>	<u>\$ 19,823</u>
Fund Balance - January 1	<u>\$ 71,138</u>	<u>\$ 71,138</u>	<u>\$ -</u>
Fund Balance - December 31	<u>\$ 52,716</u>	<u>\$ 72,539</u>	<u>\$ 19,823</u>

Notes are an integral part of the basic financial statements.

BENTON SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
December 31, 2009

Note 1 - Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

Financial Reporting Entity

The Benton Soil and Water Conservation District is organized under the provisions of Minnesota Statutes Chapter 103C. The District is governed by a Board of Supervisors composed of five members nominated by voters of the District and elected to four-year terms by the voters of the County.

The purpose of the District is to assist land occupiers in applying practices for the conservation of soil and water resources. These practices are intended to control wind and water erosion, pollution of lakes and streams, and damage to wetlands and wildlife habitats.

The Benton Soil and Water Conservation District, in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service and other agencies, provides technical and financial assistance to individuals, groups, organizations, and governments in reducing costly waste of soil and water resulting from soil erosion, sedimentation, pollution and improper land use.

Each fiscal year the District develops a work plan which is used as a guide in using resources effectively to provide maximum conservation of all lands within its boundaries. The work plan includes guidelines for employees and technicians to follow in order to achieve the District's objectives.

The District is not considered a part of Benton County because, even though the County provides a significant amount of the District's revenues in the form of an appropriation, it does not retain any control over the operations of the district.

Generally accepted accounting principles require that the financial reporting entity include the primary government and component units for which the primary government is financially accountable. Under these principles the District does not have any component units.

Government-Wide Financial Statements

The government-wide financial statements (ie., the Statement of Net Assets and The Statement of Activities) report information on all of the nonfiduciary activities of the District.

The Statement of Activities demonstrates the degree to which the direct expenses of a given function or segment are offset by program revenues. Direct expenses are those that are clearly identifiable with a specific function.

The government-wide financial statements are reported using the economic resources measurement focus and the accrual basis of accounting. Revenues are recorded when earned and expenses are recorded when a liability is incurred, regardless of the timing of cash flows. Grants and similar items are recognized as revenues as soon as all eligibility requirements imposed by the provider have been met.

Fund Financial Statements

The government reports the general fund as its only major governmental fund. The general fund accounts for all financial resources of the government.

Governmental fund financial statements are reported using the current financial resources measurement focus and the modified accrual basis of accounting. Revenues are recognized as soon as they are both measurable and available. Revenues are considered to be available when they are collectible within the current period or soon enough thereafter to pay liabilities of the current period. For this purpose, the District considers all revenues, except reimbursement grants, to be available if they are collected within 60 days of the end of the current fiscal period.

Reimbursement grants are considered available if they are collected within one year of the end of the current fiscal period. Expenditures are recorded when a liability is incurred under accrual accounting.

BENTON SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
December 31, 2009

Intergovernmental revenues are reported in conformity with the legal and contractual requirements of the individual programs. Generally, grant revenues is recognized when the corresponding expenditures are incurred. The District also receives an annual appropriation from the County, which is recognized as revenue when received, unless it is received prior to the period to which it applies. In that case, revenue recognition is then deferred until the appropriate period.

Investment earnings and revenue from sale of trees are recognized when earned. Agricultural conservation fees and other revenue are recognized when they are received in cash because they usually are not measurable until then.

Project expenditures represent costs that are funded from federal, state, or district revenues. State project expenditures consist of grants to participants of the Cost-Share Program and other state programs. District project expenditures are costs of materials and supplies in District projects.

In accordance with Governmental Accounting Standards Board Statement No. 33, *Accounting and Financial Reporting for Nonexchange Transactions*, revenues for nonexchange transactions are recognized based on the principal characteristics of the revenue. Exchange transactions are recognized as revenue when the exchange occurs.

Budget Information

The District adopts an estimated revenue and expenditure budget for the General Fund. Comparisons of estimated revenues and budgeted expenditures to actual are presented in the financial statements in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles. Amendments to the original budget require board approval. Appropriations lapse at year-end. The District does not use encumbrance accounting.

Use of Estimates

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

Assets, Liabilities and Fund Equity Accounts

Assets

Investments are stated at fair value, except for non-negotiable certificates of deposits, which are on a cost basis, and short-term money market investments, which are stated at amortized cost.

Capital assets are reported on a net (depreciated) basis. General capital assets are still valued at historical or estimated historical cost.

Liabilities

Long-term liabilities, such as compensated absences, are accounted for as an adjustment to Net Assets.

Equity

Reserved fund balance indicates the portion of fund equity, which has been legally segregated for specific purposes or is not appropriable for spending.

Unreserved, designated account indicates the portion of fund equity that the District has set aside for planned future expenditures.

Unreserved, undesignated fund balance account indicates the portion of fund balance that is available for budgeting and spending in future periods.

**BENTON SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
December 31, 2009**

Vacation and Sick Leave

Under the District's personnel policies, employees are granted vacation leave in varying amounts based on their length of service. Vacation leave accrual varies from 8 to 16 hours per month. Sick leave accrual is 4 hours per 2 weeks. The limit on the accumulation of annual leave is 80 hours and the limit on sick leave is 800 hours. Upon termination of employment from the district, employees are paid accumulated annual leave.

Risk Management

The District is exposed to various risks of loss related to tort; theft of, damage to, and destruction of assets; errors and omissions; injuries to employees; worker's compensation claims; and natural disasters. Property and casualty liabilities and workers' compensation are insured through Minnesota Counties Insurance Trust. The District retains risk for the deductible portion of the insurance. The amounts of these deductibles are considered immaterial to the financial statements.

The Minnesota Counties Insurance Trust is a public entity risk pool currently operated as a common risk management and insurance program for its members. The District pays an annual premium based on its annual payroll. There were no significant increases or reductions in insurance from the previous year or settlements in excess of insurance coverage for any of the past three fiscal years.

Note 2 – Detailed Notes

Capital Assets

Changes in Capital Assets, Asset Capitalization and Depreciation.

	Beginning	Addition	Deletion	Ending
Equipment	\$71,269	\$ 4,539	\$ 0	\$75,808
Less: Accumulated Depreciation	<u>29,052</u>	6,219	0	<u>35,271</u>
Net Capital Assets	<u>\$ 42,217</u>			<u>\$ 40,537</u>

The cost of property, plant and equipment is depreciated over the estimated useful lives of the related assets. Leasehold improvements are depreciated over the lesser of the term of the related lease or the estimated useful lives of the assets. Depreciation is computed on the straight-line method. The useful lives of property, plant and equipment for the purpose of computing depreciation are Machinery and equipment 5 to 10 years. Current year depreciation is \$6,219.

The district uses the threshold of \$100 for capitalizing assets purchased.

Deferred Revenue

Deferred revenue represents unearned advances from the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) for administrative service grants and for the cost-share program. Revenues will be recognized when the related program expenditures are recorded. Deferred revenue for the year ended December 31, 2009, consists of the following: BWSR Service Grant, \$49,606; BWSR Cost Share Programs \$59,634; County WCA Funds, \$7,500; County Water Plan Funds, \$23,529; Clean Water Technical Assistance Grant, \$41,633; Total, \$181,902.

Long-Term Liabilities - Compensated Absences Payable

Changes in long-term liabilities for the period ended December 31, 2009 are:

Balance January 1, 2009	\$3,213
Net Change in Compensated Absences	<u>3,757</u>
Balance December 31, 2009	<u>\$6,970</u>

**BENTON SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
December 31, 2009**

Deposits

Minn. Statutes 118A.02 and 118A.04 authorize the District to designate a depository for public funds and to invest in certificates of deposit. Minnesota Statute 118A.03 requires that all district deposits be protected by insurance, surety bond, or collateral. The market value of collateral pledged shall be at least ten percent more than the amount on deposit plus accrued interest at the close of the financial institution's banking day, not covered by insurance or bonds.

Authorized collateral includes treasury bills, notes and bonds; issues of U.S. government agencies; general obligations rated "A" or better, revenue obligations rated "AA" or better; irrevocable standard letters of credit issued by the Federal Home Loan Bank; and certificates of deposit. Minnesota Statutes require that securities pledged as collateral be held in safekeeping in a restricted account at the Federal Reserve Bank or in an account at a trust department of a commercial bank or other financial institution that is not owned or controlled by the financial institution furnishing the collateral.

Custodial Credit Risk Deposits

At December 31, 2009, the District's deposits totaled \$250,212, of which \$150,212 were cash deposits and \$100,000 was invested in bank certificate of deposits. Custodial credit risk is the risk that in the event of a financial institution failure, the District's deposits may not be returned to it. The District does not have a deposit policy for custodial credit risk. As of December 31, 2009, the District's deposits were not exposed to custodial credit risk.

Note 3 - Defined Benefit Pension Plans – Statewide

Plan Description - Public Employees Retirement Association

The district contributes to a cost-sharing multiple-employer defined pension plan administered by the Public Employee Retirement Association of Minnesota (PERA). The PERA provides retirement benefits as well as disability to members, and benefits to survivors upon death of eligible members. The plan and its benefits are established and administered in accordance with Minn. Statute Chapters 353 and 356. PERA issues a publicly available financial report that includes financial statements and required supplementary information. That report may be obtained by writing to the Public Employees Retirement Association, 60 Empire Drive, Suite 200, St. Paul, Minnesota, 55103-1855.

Funding Policy

Minnesota Statutes Chapter 353 sets the rates for employer and employee contributions. These statutes are established and amended by the state legislature. The District makes annual contributions to the pension plans equal to the amount required by state statutes. Coordinated Plan members were required to contribute 6.0% of their annual covered salary. The District is required to contribute 6.75% of annual covered payroll. The District's contributions to the Public Employees Retirement Fund for the years ending December 31, 2009, 2008 and 2007 were \$13,348, \$13,580, and \$11,487 respectively. The District's contributions were equal to the contractually required contributions for each year as set by Minnesota statute.

Note 4 – Due From Other Governments

Represents reimbursement due for services provided.

Note 5 – Operating Leases

The District leases office space on a yearly basis. Under the current agreement, total costs for 2009 were \$15,681.

BENTON SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
December 31, 2009

Note 6– Reconciliation of Fund Balance to Net Assets

Governmental Fund Balance, January 1	\$ 71,138
Plus: Excess of Revenue Over Expenditures	<u>1,401</u>
Governmental Fund Balance, December 31	<u>\$ 72,539</u>
Adjustments from Fund Balance to Net Assets:	
Plus: Capital Assets	\$ 40,537
Less: Long Term Liabilities	<u>(6,970)</u>
Net Assets	<u>\$ 106,106</u>

Note 7 – Reconciliation of Change in Fund Balance to Change in Net Assets

Change in fund balance	\$ 1,401
Capital Outlay	4,539
The cost of capital assets are allocated over the capital asset's useful lives at the government-wide level.	<u>(6,219)</u>
In the statement of activities certain operating expenses including compensated absences are measured by the amounts earned.	<u>(3,757)</u>
Net change in net assets	<u>\$ (4,036)</u>

JAMES MAISER
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANT & CONSULTANT

44 West First Street, Waconia, MN 55387 Office: 952-442-4807 Fax: 952-442-6888

REPORT ON LEGAL COMPLIANCE

Board of Supervisors
Benton Soil and Water Conservation District
Foley, Minnesota

I have audited the accompanying financial statements of the governmental activities, and the General fund of the Benton Soil and Water Conservation District, Foley, Minnesota, as of and for the year ended December 31, 2009, which collectively comprise the District's basic financial statements and have issued my report thereon dated August 21, 2010.

My audit was made in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and provisions of the Minnesota Legal Compliance Audit Guide for Local Government, promulgated by the State Auditor pursuant to Minnesota Statutes Sec. 6.65. Accordingly, the audit included such tests of the accounting records and such other auditing procedures, as I considered necessary in the circumstances.

The Legal Compliance Audit Guide for Local Government covers five main categories of compliance to be tested: contracting and bidding, deposits and investments, conflicts of interest, public indebtedness, and claims and disbursements. My study included all of the listed categories except public indebtedness. The public indebtedness category was not tested because the District is not allowed to issue debt.

The results of my test indicate that for the items tested, the District complied with the material terms and conditions of applicable legal provisions.

This report is intended solely for the information and use of the District, Board of Soil and Water Resources, State Auditor and is not intended to be, and should not be, used by anyone other than these specified parties.


JAMES MAISER
Certified Public Accountant and Consultant

August 21, 2010
Waconia, Minnesota

JAMES MAISER
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANT & CONSULTANT

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

Board of Supervisors
Benton Soil and Water Conservation District
Foley, Minnesota

I have audited the financial statements of the governmental activities, and the General fund of the Benton Soil and Water Conservation District as of and for the year ended December 31, 2009, and have issued my report thereon dated August 21, 2010. I conducted my audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States.

Internal Control

In planning and performing my audit of the financial statements of the governmental activities, and the General fund of the Benton Soil and Water Conservation District, Foley, Minnesota as of and for the year ended December 31, 2009, in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, I considered the District's internal control over financial reporting as a basis for designing my auditing procedures for the purpose of expressing my opinion on the financial statements, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the District's internal control over financial reporting. Accordingly, I do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the District's internal control over financial reporting.

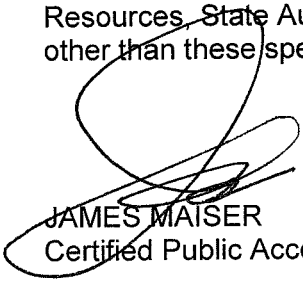
A deficiency in internal control exists when the design or operation of a control does not allow management or employees, in the normal course of performing their assigned functions, to prevent, or detect and correct misstatements on a timely basis. A *material weakness* is a deficiency, or combination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

My consideration of internal control over financial reporting was for the limited purpose described in the first paragraph of this section and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control over financial reporting that might be deficiencies, significant deficiencies or material weaknesses. I did not identify any deficiencies in internal control over financial reporting that I consider to be material weaknesses, as defined above.

Compliance and Other Matters

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether Benton Soil and Water Conservation District's financial statements are free of material misstatement, I performed tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts and grant agreements, noncompliance with which could have a direct and material effect on the determination of financial statement amounts. However, providing an opinion on compliance with those provisions was not an objective of my audit and, accordingly, I do not express such an opinion. The results of my tests disclosed no instances of noncompliance or other matters that are required to be reported under *Government Auditing Standards*.

This report is intended solely for the information and use of management and others within the organization and the Board of Supervisors, Board of Soil and Water Resources, State Auditor and is not intended to be and should not be used by anyone other than these specified parties.



JAMES MAISER

Certified Public Accountant and Consultant

August 21, 2010
Waconia, Minnesota