

**CASS SOIL AND WATER  
CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**DECEMBER 31, 2016**

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## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

Board of Supervisors  
Cass Soil and Water Conservation District  
Walker, Minnesota

### **Report on the Financial Statements**

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the governmental activities and the general fund of Cass Soil and Water Conservation District, Walker, Minnesota, as of and for the year ended December 31, 2016, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the District's basic financial statements as listed in the table of contents.

### ***Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements***

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. This includes the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

### ***Auditor's Responsibility***

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

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. Accordingly, we express no such opinion. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

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

### ***Opinions***

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the respective financial position of the governmental activities and the general fund of the Cass Soil and Water Conservation District as of December 31, 2016, and the respective changes in financial position for the general fund for the year then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

### ***Other Matters***

#### ***Required Supplementary Information***

Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require that the management's discussion and analysis on pages 3–5, and the budgetary comparison statement on page 13 be presented to supplement the basic financial statements. Such information, although not a part of the basic financial statements, is required by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board, who considers it to be an essential part of financial reporting for placing the basic financial statements in an appropriate operational, economic, or historical context. We have applied certain limited procedures to the required supplementary information in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, which consisted of inquiries of management about the methods of preparing the information and comparing the information for consistency with management's responses to our inquiries, the basic financial statements, and other knowledge we obtained during our audit of the basic financial statements. We do not express an opinion or provide any assurance on the information because the limited procedures do not provide us with sufficient evidence to express an opinion or provide any assurance.

### **Other Reporting Required by Government Auditing Standards**

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated September 18, 2017, on our consideration of the Cass Soil and Water Conservation District's internal control over financial reporting and on our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements and other matters. The purpose of that report is to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on 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 Cass Soil and Water Conservation District's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.

*Peterson Company Ltd*

PETERSON COMPANY LTD.  
Certified Public Accountants  
Waconia, Minnesota

September 18, 2017

**MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS  
CASS SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT  
DECEMBER 31, 2016**

The Cass Soil and Water Conservation District's discussion and analysis provides an overview of the District's financial activities for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2016. 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 financial statements.

**USING THIS ANNUAL REPORT**

This annual report consists of three parts: management's discussion and analysis (this section), the basic financial statements, and required supplementary information. The basic financial statements include a series of financial statements. The Statement of Net Position and the Statement of Activities provide information about the activities of the District as a whole and present a longer-term view of the District's finances. For governmental activities, financial statements tell how services were financed in the short term as well as what remains for future spending. Fund financial statements also report the District's operations in more detail than the government-wide statements by providing information about the District's general fund. Since Districts are single-purpose, special-purpose government units, the District combines the government-wide and fund financial statements into a single presentation.

**The Statement of Net Position and the Statement of Activities**

One of the most important questions asked about the District's finances is, "Is the District as a whole better or worse off as a result of the year's activities?" The Statement of Net Position and the Statement of Activities report information about the District as a whole and about its activities in a way that helps answer this question. These statements include all assets and liabilities using the accrual basis of accounting, which is similar to the accounting used by 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 District's net position and changes in them. You can think of the District's net position — the difference between assets and liabilities — as one way to measure the District's financial health, or financial position. Over time, increases or decreases in the District's net position are one indicator of whether its financial health is improving or deteriorating. You will need to consider other non-financial factors, however, such as changes in the state and local governmental funding, to assess the overall health of the District.

In the Statement of Net Position and the Statement of Activities, the District presents governmental activities. All of the District's basic services are reported here. Appropriations from the county and state finance most activities.

**Reporting the District's General Fund**

Our analysis of the District's general fund is part of this report. The fund financial statements provide detailed information about the general fund—not the District as a whole. The District presents only a general fund, which is a governmental fund. All of the District's basic services are reported in the general fund, which focuses on how money flows into and out of the fund 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 District'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 District's programs. We describe the relationship (or differences) between governmental activities (reported in the Statement of Net Position and the Statement of Activities) and governmental funds in a reconciliation included with the financial statements.

## THE DISTRICT AS A WHOLE

Our analysis focuses on the net position and change in net position of the District's governmental activities.

Net Position:

	<b>Governmental Activities</b>	
	<b>2016</b>	<b>2015</b>
Current Assets	\$ 212,491	\$ 165,553
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$ 212,491</b>	<b>\$ 165,553</b>
Current Liabilities	\$ 131,066	\$ 90,361
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>\$ 131,066</b>	<b>\$ 90,361</b>
Unrestricted	\$ 81,425	\$ 75,192
<b>Total Net Position</b>	<b>\$ 81,425</b>	<b>\$ 75,192</b>

Net position of the District's governmental activities increased by \$6,233. Unrestricted net position, the part of net position that can be used to finance day-to-day operations without constraints established by debt covenants, enabling legislation, or other legal requirements changed from \$75,192 at December 31, 2015 to \$81,425 at December 31, 2016.

Change in Net Position:

	<b>Governmental Activities</b>	
	<b>2016</b>	<b>2015</b>
<b>Revenues</b>		
Intergovernmental	\$ 661,525	\$ 406,936
Charges for Services	-	480
Investment Earnings	425	455
Miscellaneous	25,856	3,575
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>\$ 687,806</b>	<b>\$ 411,446</b>
<b>Expenditures</b>		
Conservation	\$ 681,573	\$ 416,277
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>\$ 681,573</b>	<b>\$ 416,277</b>
<b>Increase (decrease) in Net Position</b>	<b>\$ 6,233</b>	<b>\$ (4,831)</b>

The District's total revenues increased by \$276,360. The total cost of programs and services increased by \$265,296.

## **THE DISTRICT'S GENERAL FUND**

As the District completed the year, its general fund as presented in the balance sheet reported a combined fund balance of \$81,425, which is above last year's total of \$75,193.

### **General Fund Budgetary Highlights**

The actual charges to appropriations (expenditures) were \$501,816 above the final budgeted amounts. The most significant negative variance of \$510,033 occurred in State Project Expenditures. The most significant positive variance of \$492,341 occurred in County Revenue.

## **CONTACTING THE DISTRICT'S FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT**

This financial report is designed to provide our citizens, customers and creditors with a general overview of the District's finances and to show the District's accountability for the money it receives. If you have questions about this report or need additional financial information, contact the Cass Soil and Water Conservation District at PO Box 3000, Walker, MN 56484. The phone number is 218-547-7399.

**CASS SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT  
WALKER, MINNESOTA  
STATEMENT OF NET POSITION AND  
GOVERNMENTAL FUND BALANCE SHEET  
DECEMBER 31, 2016**

	General Fund	Adjustments	Statement of Net Position
<b>Assets</b>			
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$ 169,935	\$ -	\$ 169,935
Due from Other Governments	42,522	-	42,522
Prepaid Items	34	-	34
Total Assets	<u><u>\$ 212,491</u></u>	<u><u>\$ -</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 212,491</u></u>
<b>Liabilities</b>			
Current Liabilities:			
Unearned Revenue	\$ 131,066	\$ -	\$ 131,066
Total Liabilities	<u><u>\$ 131,066</u></u>	<u><u>\$ -</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 131,066</u></u>
<b>Fund Balance/Net Position</b>			
Fund Balance			
Nonspendable - Prepaids	\$ 34	\$ (34)	\$ -
Unassigned	81,391	(81,391)	-
Total Fund Balance	<u><u>\$ 81,425</u></u>	<u><u>\$ (81,425)</u></u>	<u><u>\$ -</u></u>
Net Position			
Unrestricted	\$ 81,425	\$ 81,425	\$ 81,425
Total Net Position	<u><u>\$ 81,425</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 81,425</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 81,425</u></u>

**CASS SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT  
WALKER, MINNESOTA  
STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES AND  
GOVERNMENTAL FUND REVENUES, EXPENDITURES AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCE  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2016**

	General Fund	Adjustments	Statement of Activities
<b>Revenues</b>			
Intergovernmental	\$ 661,525	\$ -	\$ 661,525
Investment Earnings	425	-	425
Miscellaneous	25,856	-	25,856
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>\$ 687,806</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 687,806</b>
<b>Expenditures/Expenses</b>			
Conservation			
Current	\$ 681,573	\$ -	\$ 681,573
<b>Total Expenditures/Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 681,573</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 681,573</b>
Excess of Revenues Over (Under) Expenditures/Expenses	\$ 6,233	\$ -	\$ 6,233
Fund Balance/Net Position January 1	<u>\$ 75,192</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 75,192</u>
Fund Balance/Net Position December 31	<u>\$ 81,425</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 81,425</u>

Notes are an integral part of the basic financial statements.

**CASS SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT**  
**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**DECEMBER 31, 2016**

**Note 1 - Summary of Significant Accounting Policies**

The financial reporting policies of the Cass Soil and Water Conservation District conform to generally accepted accounting principles. The Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) is responsible for establishing GAAP for state and local governments through its pronouncements (statements and interpretations).

**Financial Reporting Entity**

The Cass 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 District provides technical and financial assistance to individuals, groups, districts, 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.

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 (i.e. The Statement of Net Position 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.

**CASS SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT  
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
DECEMBER 31, 2016**

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.

Intergovernmental revenues are reported in conformity with the legal and contractual requirements of the individual programs. Generally, grant revenues are recognized when the corresponding expenditures are incurred.

Investment earnings are recognized when earned. Other revenues are recognized when they are received in cash because they usually are not measurable until then.

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 revenues and expenditures 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 which affect: the reported amounts of assets and liabilities, the disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements, and the reported amounts of revenues and expenditures during the reporting period. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

**Assets, Liabilities, and Net Position**

**Assets**

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

**CASS SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT**  
**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**DECEMBER 31, 2016**

**Unearned Revenue**

Governmental funds and government-wide financial statements report unearned revenue in connection with resources that have been received, but not yet earned.

**Classification of Net Position**

Net position in the government-wide financial statements is classified in the following categories:

Restricted net position – the amount of net position for which external restrictions have been imposed by creditors, grantors, contributors, or laws or regulations of other governments; and restrictions imposed by law through constitutional provisions or enabling legislation.

Unrestricted net position – the amount of net position that does not meet the definition of restricted or investment in capital assets.

**Classifications of Fund Balances**

Fund balance is divided into five classifications based primarily on the extent to which the District is bound to observe constraints imposed upon the use of the resources in the General Fund. The classifications are as follows:

**Nonspendable** – the nonspendable fund balance category includes amounts that cannot be spent because they are not in spendable form, or are legally or contractually required to be maintained intact. The “not in spendable form” criterion includes items that are not expected to be converted to cash.

**Restricted** – fund balance is reported as restricted when constraints placed on the use of resources are either externally imposed by creditors (such as through debt covenants), grantors, contributors, or laws or regulations of other governments; or are imposed by law through constitutional provisions or enabling legislation.

**Committed** – the committed fund balance classification includes amounts that can be used only for the specific purposes imposed by formal action (resolution) of the Board. Those committed amounts cannot be used for any other purposes unless the Board removes or changes the specified use by taking the same type of action (resolution) it employed to previously commit those amounts.

**Assigned** – amounts in the assigned fund balance classification the District intends to use for specific purposes that do not meet the criteria to be classified as restricted or committed. In the General Fund, assigned amounts represent intended uses established by the Board or the Board Administrator who has been delegated that authority by Board resolution.

**Unassigned** – Unassigned fund balance is the residual classification for the general fund and includes all spendable amounts not contained in the other fund balance classifications.

**CASS SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT  
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
DECEMBER 31, 2016**

The District applies restricted resources first when expenditures are incurred for purposes for which either restricted or unrestricted (committed, assigned, and unassigned) amounts are available. Similarly, within unrestricted fund balance, committed amounts are reduced first followed by assigned, and then unassigned amounts when expenditures are incurred for purposes for which amounts in any of the unrestricted fund balance classifications could be used.

**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; workers' compensation claims; and natural disasters. Property and casualty liabilities and workers' compensation are insured through Minnesota Counties Intergovernmental 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 Intergovernmental 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**

**Unearned Revenue**

Unearned 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. Unearned revenue for the year ended December 31, 2016, consists of the following: BWSR Service Grants \$17,545; BWSR Cost Share Grants \$7,454; Wild Rice Easement \$7,929; CISCO Lakes Cost Share \$20,000; Buffer \$10,000; Initiative Foundation \$223; Local Capacity \$67,915; Total \$131,066.

**Deposits**

Minnesota 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. When not covered by insurance or surety bonds, 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.

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.

**CASS SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT  
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
DECEMBER 31, 2016**

**Custodial Credit Risk 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, 2016, the District's deposits were not exposed to custodial credit risk.

**Note 3 – Defined Benefit Pension Plans**

The District contracts with the County for services. All employee salaries, compensated absences and PERA are the responsibility of the County.

**Note 4 - Stewardship, Compliance and Accountability**

Excess of expenditures over budget – The General Fund had expenditures in excess of budget for the year as follows: Expenditures \$681,573; Budget \$179,757; Excess \$501,816.

**Note 5 - Reconciliation of Fund Balance to Net Position**

Governmental Fund Balance, January 1	\$ 75,192
Plus: Excess of Revenues Over Expenditures	6,233
Governmental Fund Balance, December 31	<u>\$ 81,425</u>
Net Position	<u>\$ 81,425</u>

**Note 6 - Reconciliation of Change in Fund Balance to Change in Net Position**

Change in Fund Balance	\$ 6,233
Change in Net Position	<u>\$ 6,233</u>

**CASS SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT**  
**WALKER, MINNESOTA**  
**BUDGETARY COMPARISON STATEMENT**  
**BUDGET AND ACTUAL**  
**GENERAL FUND**  
**YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2016**

	<u>Original/ Final Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Variance With Final Budget Positive (Neg)</u>
<b>Revenues</b>			
Intergovernmental			
County	\$ 8,000	\$ 500,341	\$ 492,341
State	140,621	161,184	20,563
Total Intergovernmental	<u>\$ 148,621</u>	<u>\$ 661,525</u>	<u>\$ 512,904</u>
Charges for Services	<u>\$ 480</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 480</u>
Miscellaneous			
Interest Earnings	\$ 485	\$ 425	\$ (60)
Other	30,372	25,856	(4,516)
Total Miscellaneous	<u>\$ 30,857</u>	<u>\$ 26,281</u>	<u>\$ (4,576)</u>
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b><u>\$ 179,958</u></b>	<b><u>\$ 687,806</u></b>	<b><u>\$ 508,808</u></b>
<b>Expenditures</b>			
District Operations			
Personnel Services	\$ 17,000	\$ 14,939	\$ 2,061
Other Services and Charges	18,199	12,043	6,156
Total District Operations	<u>\$ 35,199</u>	<u>\$ 26,982</u>	<u>\$ 8,217</u>
Project Expenditures			
State	\$ 144,558	\$ 654,591	\$ (510,033)
Total Project Expenditures	<u>\$ 144,558</u>	<u>\$ 654,591</u>	<u>\$ (510,033)</u>
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b><u>\$ 179,757</u></b>	<b><u>\$ 681,573</u></b>	<b><u>\$ (501,816)</u></b>
Excess of Revenues Over (Under) Expenditures	<u>\$ 201</u>	<u>\$ 6,233</u>	<u>\$ 6,992</u>
Fund Balance - January 1	<u>\$ 75,192</u>	<u>\$ 75,192</u>	<u>\$ -</u>
Fund Balance - December 31	<u>\$ 75,393</u>	<u>\$ 81,425</u>	<u>\$ 6,992</u>

Notes are an integral part of the basic financial statements.

## MINNESOTA LEGAL COMPLIANCE REPORT

Board of Supervisors  
Cass Soil and Water Conservation District  
Walker, Minnesota

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 statements of Cass Soil and Water Conservation District of Walker, Minnesota, as of and for the year ended December 31, 2016, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the Cass Soil and Water Conservation District's basic financial statements, and have issued our report thereon dated September 18, 2017.

The *Minnesota Legal Compliance Audit Guide for Political Subdivisions*, promulgated by the State Auditor pursuant to Minnesota Statutes 6.65, contains six categories of compliance to be tested: contracting and bidding, deposits and investments, conflicts of interest, public indebtedness, claims and disbursements, and miscellaneous provisions. Our audit considered all of the listed categories, except that we did not test for compliance with the provisions for public indebtedness because the District is not allowed to issue debt.

In connection with our audit, nothing came to our attention that caused us to believe that the Cass Soil and Water Conservation District failed to comply with the provisions of the *Minnesota Legal Compliance Audit Guide for Political Subdivisions*. However, our audit was not directed primarily toward obtaining the knowledge of such noncompliance. Accordingly, had we performed additional procedures, other matters may have come to our attention regarding the Cass Soil and Water Conservation District's noncompliance with the above referenced provisions.

The purpose of this report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on compliance. Accordingly, this communication is not suitable for any other purpose.

*Peterson Company Ltd*

PETERSON COMPANY LTD.  
Certified Public Accountants  
Waconia, Minnesota

September 18, 2017

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

Board of Supervisors  
Cass Soil and Water Conservation District  
Walker, Minnesota

We have audited, in accordance with the 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 statements of the governmental activities of Cass Soil and Water Conservation District, Walker, Minnesota, as of and for the year ended December 31, 2016, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise Cass Soil and Water Conservation District's basic financial statements, and have issued our report thereon dated September 18, 2017.

**Internal Control Over Financial Reporting**

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

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 on a timely basis. A *material weakness* is a deficiency or a combination of deficiencies in internal control over financial reporting, such that there is a reasonable possibility that a material misstatement of the entity's financial statements will not be prevented, or detected and corrected, on a timely basis. A *significant deficiency* is a deficiency or a combination of deficiencies in internal control over financial reporting that is less severe than a material weakness, yet important enough to merit attention by those charged with governance.

Our 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 material weaknesses or significant deficiencies. Given these limitations, during our audit we did not identify any deficiencies in internal control over financial reporting that we consider to be material weaknesses. However, material weaknesses may exist that have not been identified.

## **Compliance and Other Matters**

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

## **Purpose of this Report**

The purpose of this 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 entity's internal control over financial reporting or on compliance. This report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the entity's internal control and compliance. Accordingly, this communication is not suitable for any other purpose.

*Peterson Company Ltd*

PETERSON COMPANY LTD.  
Certified Public Accountants  
Waconia, Minnesota

September 18, 2017