



Reporting and insights from the 2021 audit:

Grand Rapids Public Utilities Commission

December 31, 2021

Executive summary

May __, 2022

The Commissioners
Grand Rapids Public Utilities Commission
500 SE 4th Street
Grand Rapids, MN 55744

We have completed our audit of the financial statements of the Grand Rapids Public Utilities Commission (GRPUC) for the year ended December 31, 2021, and have issued our report thereon dated May __, 2022. This letter presents communications required by our professional standards.

Your audit should provide you with confidence in your financial statements. The audit was performed based on information obtained from meetings with management, data from your systems, knowledge of the GRPUC's operating environment and our risk assessment procedures. We strive to provide you clear, concise communication throughout the audit process and of the final results of our audit.

Additionally, we have included information on key risk areas GRPUC should be aware of in your strategic planning. We are available to discuss these risks as they relate to your organization's financial stability and future planning.

If you have questions at any point, please connect with us:

- Aaron Worthman, Partner: Aaron.Worthman@bakertilly.com or +1 (512) 975 7281
- Dan La Haye, Senior Manager: Dan.LaHaye@bakertilly.com or +1 (608) 240 2534

Sincerely,

Baker Tilly US, LLP

[Insert PIC signature graphic]

Aaron Worthman, CPA

Responsibilities

Our responsibilities

As your independent auditor, our responsibilities include:

- Planning and performing the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance.
- Assessing the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. Included in that assessment is a consideration of the GRPUC's internal control over financial reporting.
- Performing appropriate procedures based upon our risk assessment.
- Evaluating the appropriateness of the accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management.
- Forming and expressing an opinion based on our audit about whether the financial statements prepared by management, with the oversight of the Commissioners:
 - Are free from material misstatement
 - Present fairly, in all material respects and in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America
- Our audit does not relieve management or the Commissioners of their responsibilities.

We are also required to communicate significant matters related to our audit that are relevant to the responsibilities of the Commissioners, including:

- Internal control matters
- Qualitative aspects of the GRPUC's accounting practice including policies, accounting estimates and financial statement disclosures
- Significant unusual transactions
- Significant difficulties encountered
- Disagreements with management
- Circumstances that affect the form and content of the auditors' report
- Audit consultations outside the engagement team
- Corrected and uncorrected misstatements
- Other audit findings or issues

Audit status

Significant changes to the audit plan

There were no significant changes made to either our planned audit strategy or to the significant risks and other areas of emphasis identified during the performance of our risk assessment procedures.

Audit approach and results

Planned scope and timing

Audit focus

Based on our understanding of the GRPUC and environment in which you operate, we focused our audit on the following key areas:

- Key transaction cycles
- Areas with significant estimates
- Implementation of new accounting standards

Our areas of audit focus were informed by, among other things, our assessment of materiality. Materiality in the context of our audit was determined based on specific qualitative and quantitative factors combined with our expectations about the GRPUC's current year results.

Key areas of focus and significant findings

Significant risks of material misstatement

A significant risk is an identified and assessed risk of material misstatement that, in the auditor's professional judgment, requires special audit consideration. Within our audit, we focused on the following areas below.

Significant risk areas	Testing approach	Conclusion
Management override of controls	Incorporate unpredictability into audit procedures, emphasize professional skepticism and utilize audit team with industry expertise	Procedures identified provided sufficient evidence for our audit opinion
Improper revenue recognition due to fraud	Validation of certain revenues supplemented with detailed predictive analytics based on non-financial data and substantive testing of related receivables	Procedures identified provided sufficient evidence for our audit opinion

Other areas of emphasis

We also focused on other areas that did not meet the definition of a significant risk, but were determined to require specific awareness and a unique audit response.

Other areas of emphasis		
Cash and investments	Revenues and receivables	General disbursements
Landfill post closure costs	Pension and OPEB liabilities	Long-term debt
Capital assets	Net position calculations	Financial reporting and required disclosures

Internal control matters

We considered the GRPUC's internal control over financial reporting as a basis for designing our audit procedures for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the financial statements. We are not expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the GRPUC'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.

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. We did not identify any deficiencies in internal control that we consider to be material weaknesses.

Other comments and recommendations

FIXED ASSET CLOSING PROCESS

During our audit, we noted immaterial adjustments to construction costs, depreciation, and fixed assets. We also noted the fixed asset documents were not provided in a timely manner and appear to be a very cumbersome time-consuming process requiring subledgers outside the fixed asset system. To prevent these minor adjustments and help with timeliness, we noted improvements that could be done as part of the fixed asset closing process.

While fixed assets were materially accurate, we recommend adding these additional procedures to the fixed asset closing process:

- Have all plant documentation available before audit fieldwork
- Track all workorders created and capitalized during the year and reconcile to general ledger detail
- Periodically close workorders throughout the year rather than all at year end
- Reconcile construction work in progress close outs/transfers to fixed asset additions
- Reconcile detailed fixed asset listing and depreciation to general ledger detail and keep track of additions/retirements periodically throughout the year rather than all at year end
- Track detailed fixed asset listing and depreciation for all assets, not just the wastewater treatment plant

We do not consider this a material weakness or significant deficiency but point it out as a potential area for improvement.

Management Response

Required communications

Qualitative aspect of accounting practices

- Accounting policies: Management is responsible for the selection and use of appropriate accounting policies. In accordance with the terms of our engagement letter, we have advised management about the appropriateness of accounting policies and their application. The significant accounting policies used by the GRPUC are described in Note 1 to the financial statements. As described in Note 1 GRPUC changed accounting policies by adopting Government Accounting Standards Board Statement Number 89 – *Accounting for Interest Costs Incurred Before the End of a Construction Period*. Accordingly, the accounting change has been prospectively applied. We noted no transactions entered into by the GRPUC during the year for which accounting policies are controversial or for which there is a lack of authoritative guidance or consensus or diversity in practice.
- Accounting estimates: Accounting estimates, including fair value estimates, are an integral part of the financial statements prepared by management and are based on management's knowledge and experience about past and current events and assumptions about future events. Certain accounting estimates are particularly sensitive because of their significance to the financial statements, the degree of subjectivity involved in their development and because of the possibility that future events affecting them may differ significantly from those expected. The following estimates are of most significance to the financial statements:

Estimate	Management's process to determine	Baker Tilly's conclusions regarding reasonableness
Landfill closure/post closure liabilities	Evaluation changes in assumptions, provided by management, from the closure cost study prepared by an external specialist	Reasonable in relation to the financial statements as a whole
Net pension liability and related deferrals	Evaluation of information provided by the Minnesota Public Employees Retirement Association	Reasonable in relation to the financial statements as a whole
Allowance for doubtful accounts	Evaluation of historical revenues and loss levels with the analysis on collectability of individual amounts	Reasonable in relation to the financial statements as a whole
Depreciation	Evaluate estimated useful life of the asset and original acquisition value	Reasonable in relation to the financial statements as a whole

There have been no significant changes made by management to either the processes used to develop the particularly sensitive accounting estimates, or to the significant assumptions used to develop the estimates, noted above.

- Financial statement disclosures: The disclosures in the financial statements are neutral, consistent and clear.

Significant unusual transactions

There have been no significant transactions that are outside the normal course of business for the GRPUC or that otherwise appear to be unusual due to their timing, size or nature.

Significant difficulties encountered during the audit

We encountered no significant difficulties in dealing with management and completing our audit.

Disagreements with management

Professional standards define a disagreement with management as a matter, whether or not resolved to our satisfaction, concerning a financial accounting, reporting, or auditing matter that could be significant to the financial statements or the auditors' report. We are pleased to report that no such disagreements arose during the course of our audit.

Audit report

There have been no departures from the auditors' standard report.

Audit consultations outside the engagement team

We encountered no difficult or contentious matters for which we consulted outside of the engagement team.

Uncorrected misstatements and corrected misstatements

Professional standards require us to accumulate misstatements identified during the audit, other than those that are clearly trivial, and to communicate accumulated misstatements to management. The schedule within the Appendix summarizes the uncorrected misstatements, other than those that are clearly trivial, that we presented to management that, in our judgment, may not have been detected except through our auditing procedures. In our judgment, neither the uncorrected misstatements nor the misstatements that management corrected, either individually or in the aggregate, indicate matters that could have had a significant effect on GRPUC's financial reporting process.

Management has determined that the effects of the uncorrected misstatements are immaterial, both individually and in the aggregate, to the financial statements as a whole. The uncorrected misstatements or the matters underlying them could potentially cause future period financial statements to be materially misstated, even though, in our judgment, such uncorrected misstatements are immaterial to the basic financial statements under audit.

Other audit findings or issues

We encountered no other audit findings or issues that require communication at this time.

We generally discuss a variety of matters, including the application of accounting principles and auditing standards, with management each year prior to retention as the GRPUC's auditors. However, these discussions occurred in the normal course of our professional relationship and our responses were not a condition to our retention.

Other information in documents containing audited basic financial statements

The GRPUC's audited financial statements will be included in Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR). Our responsibility for this information does not extend beyond the financial information identified in the audit report, and we are not required to perform any procedures to corroborate such other information. We have read the Introductory Section and Statistical Section of the ACFR to determine whether a material inconsistency exists between the other information and the financial statements. Nothing came to our attention that caused us to believe that such information, or its manner of presentation, was materially inconsistent with the information, or manner of its presentation, in the financial statements.

The GRPUC's audited financial statements are "general purpose" financial statements. General purpose financial statements consist of the basic financial statements that can be used by a broad group of people for a broad range of activities. Once we have issued our audit report, we have no further obligation to update our report for events occurring subsequent to the date of our report. The GRPUC can use the audited financial statements in other client prepare documents, such as official statements related to the issuance of debt, without our acknowledgement. Unless we have been engaged to perform services in connection with any subsequent transaction requiring the inclusion of our audit report, as well as to issue an auditor's acknowledgment letter, we have neither read the document nor performed subsequent event procedures in order to determine whether or not our report remains appropriate.

Management's consultations with other accountants

In some cases, management may decide to consult with other accountants about auditing and accounting matters. Management informed us that, and to our knowledge, there were no consultations with other accountants regarding auditing or accounting matters.

Written communications between management and Baker Tilly

The Appendix includes copies of other material written communications, including a copy of the management representation letter.

Compliance with laws and regulations

We did not identify any non-compliance with laws and regulations during our audit.

Fraud

We did not identify any known or suspected fraud during our audit.

Going concern

Pursuant to professional standards, we are required to communicate to you, when applicable, certain matters relating to our evaluation of the GRPUC's ability to continue as a going concern for a reasonable period of time but no less than 12 months from the date the financial statements are issued or available to be issued, including the effects on the financial statements and the adequacy of the related disclosures, and the effects on the auditor's report. No such matters or conditions have come to our attention during our engagement.

Independence

We are not aware of any relationships between Baker Tilly and the GRPUC that, in our professional judgment, may reasonably be thought to bear on our independence.

Related parties

We did not have any significant findings or issues arise during the audit in connection with the GRPUC's related parties.

Other matters

We applied certain limited procedures to the required supplementary information (RSI) that supplements the basic financial statements. Our procedures consisted of inquiries of management regarding 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 did not audit the RSI and do not express an opinion or provide any assurance on the RSI.

We were engaged to report on the supplementary information which accompanies the basic financial statements but is not RSI. With respect to the supplementary information, we made certain inquiries of management and evaluated the form, content, and methods of preparing the information to determine that the information complies with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, the method of preparing it has not changed from the prior period, and the information is appropriate and complete in relation to our audit of the basic financial statements. We compared and reconciled the supplementary information to the underlying accounting records used to prepare the basic financial statements or to the basic financial statements themselves.

We were not engaged to report on the other information, which accompanies the basic financial statements but are not RSI. We did not audit or perform other procedures on this other information and we do not express an opinion or provide any assurance on it.

Nonattest services

The following nonattest services were provided by Baker Tilly:

- Financial statement preparation
- Adjusting journal entries

None of these nonattest services constitute an audit under generally accepted auditing standards, including *Government Auditing Standards*.

Audit committee resources

Visit our resource page for regulatory updates, trending challenges and opportunities in your industry and other timely updates.

Visit the resource page at

<https://www.bakertilly.com/insights/audit-committee-resource-page>.

May __, 2022

Baker Tilly US, LLP
P.O. Box 7398
Madison, WI 53707-7398

Dear Baker Tilly US, LLP:

We are providing this letter in connection with your audits of the financial statements of the Grand Rapids Public Utilities Commission (GRPUC) as of December 31, 2021 and 2020 and for the years then ended for the purpose of expressing an opinion as to whether the basic financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the GRPUC and the respective changes in financial position and cash flows in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. We confirm that we are responsible for the fair presentation of the previously mentioned basic financial statements in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. We are also responsible for adopting sound accounting policies, establishing and maintaining internal control over financial reporting, and preventing and detecting fraud.

Certain representations in this letter are described as being limited to matters that are material. Items are considered material, regardless of size, if they involve an omission or misstatement of accounting information that, in the light of surrounding circumstances, makes it probable that the judgment of a reasonable person relying on the information would be changed or influenced by the omission or misstatement. An omission or misstatement that is monetarily small in amount could be considered material as a result of qualitative factors.

We confirm, to the best of our knowledge and belief, the following representations made to you during your audits.

Financial Statements

1. We have fulfilled our responsibilities, as set out in the terms of the audit engagement letter.
2. The basic financial statements referred to above are fairly presented in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. We have engaged you to advise us in fulfilling that responsibility.
3. We acknowledge our responsibility for 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.
4. We acknowledge our responsibility for the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control to prevent and detect fraud.
5. Significant assumptions we used in making accounting estimates are reasonable.

6. All events subsequent to the date of the financial statements and for which accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require adjustment or disclosure have been adjusted or disclosed. No other events, including instances of noncompliance, have occurred subsequent to the financial statement date and through the date of this letter that would require adjustment to or disclosure in the aforementioned financial statements, other than those items have already been identified.
7. All material transactions have been recorded in the accounting records and are reflected in the financial statements.
8. We believe the effects of the uncorrected financial statement misstatements summarized in the attached schedule are immaterial, both individually and in the aggregate, to the financial statements as a whole. In addition, you have recommended adjusting journal entries, and we are in agreement with those adjustments.
9. There are no known or possible litigation claims and assessments whose effects should be considered when preparing the financial statements. There are no unasserted claims or assessments that our lawyer has advised us are probable of assertion and must be disclosed in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Information Provided

10. We have provided you with:
 - a. Access to all information, of which we are aware, that is relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements, such as financial records and related data, documentation, and other matters.
 - b. Additional information that you have requested from us for the purpose of the audit.
 - c. Unrestricted access to persons within the entity from whom you determined it necessary to obtain audit evidence.
 - d. Minutes of the meetings of the Commission or summaries of actions of recent meetings for which minutes have not yet been prepared.
11. We have disclosed to you the results of our assessment of the risk that the financial statements may be materially misstated as a result of fraud.
12. We have no knowledge of any fraud or suspected fraud that affects the entity and involves:
 - a. Management,
 - b. Employees who have significant roles in internal control, or
 - c. Others where the fraud could have a material effect on the financial statements.
13. We have no knowledge of any allegations of fraud or suspected fraud affecting the entity received in communications from employees, former employees, regulators, or others.
14. We have no knowledge of known instances of noncompliance or suspected noncompliance with provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, or grant agreements, or abuse, whose effects should be considered when preparing the basic financial statements.
15. We have disclosed to you the names of our related parties and all the related party relationships and transactions, including any side agreements.

Other

16. There have been no communications from regulatory agencies concerning noncompliance with, or deficiencies in, financial reporting practices.
17. We have a process to track the status of audit findings and recommendations.
18. We have provided our views on reported findings, conclusions, and recommendations, as well as our planned corrective actions, for our report.
19. The GRPUC has no plans or intentions that may materially affect the carrying value or classification of assets, liabilities, or net position.
20. We are responsible for compliance with federal, state, and local laws, regulations, and provisions of contracts and grant agreements applicable to us, including tax or debt limits and debt contracts; and we have identified and disclosed to you all federal, state, and local laws, regulations and provisions of contracts and grant agreements that we believe have a direct and material effect on the determination of the basic financial statement amounts or other financial data significant to the audit objectives, including legal and contractual provisions for reporting specific activities in separate funds.
21. There are no:
 - a. Violations or possible violations of budget ordinances, federal, state, and local laws or regulations (including those pertaining to adopting and amending budgets), provisions of contracts and grant agreements, tax or debt limits, and any related debt covenants whose effects should be considered for disclosure in the basic financial statements or as a basis for recording a loss contingency, or for reporting on noncompliance.
 - b. Other liabilities or gain or loss contingencies that are required to be accrued or disclosed by accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.
 - c. Rates being charged to customers other than the rates as authorized by the applicable authoritative body.
 - d. Violations of restrictions placed on revenues as a result of bond resolution covenants such as revenue distribution or debt service funding.
22. In regards to the nonattest services performed by you listed below, we have 1) made all management decisions and performed all management functions; 2) designated an individual with suitable skill, knowledge, or experience to oversee the services; 3) evaluated the adequacy and results of the services performed, and 4) accepted responsibility for the results of the services.
 - a. Financial statement preparation
 - b. Adjusting journal entries

None of these nonattest services constitute an audit under generally accepted auditing standards, including *Government Auditing Standards*.
23. The GRPUC has satisfactory title to all owned assets, and there are no liens or encumbrances on such assets nor has any asset been pledged as collateral.
24. The GRPUC has complied with all aspects of contractual agreements that would have a material effect on the financial statement in the event of noncompliance.
25. We have followed all applicable laws and regulations in adopting, approving, and amending budgets.
26. Components of net position (net investment in capital assets; restricted; and unrestricted) and equity amounts are properly classified and, if applicable, approved.

27. The GRPUC has no derivative financial instruments such as contracts that could be assigned to someone else or net settled, interest rate swaps, collars or caps.
28. Provisions for uncollectible receivables have been properly identified and recorded.
29. Interfund, internal, and intra-entity activity and balances have been appropriately classified and reported.
30. Deposits and investment securities are properly classified as to risk, and investments are properly valued.
31. Provision, when material, has been made to reduce excess or obsolete inventories to their estimated net realizable value.
32. Capital assets, including infrastructure and intangible assets, are properly capitalized, reported, and, if applicable, depreciated/amortized. Any known impairments have been recorded.
33. The operations and rate setting process meet the condition for application of accounting for regulated operations as outlined in GASB Statement No. 62. All regulatory items included in the financial statements have been approved and are being accounted for in accordance with specific action taken by the regulatory body and as such the expectation of future recovery or refund is reasonable.
34. We have appropriately disclosed the GRPUC's policy regarding whether to first apply restricted or unrestricted resources when an expense is incurred for purposes for which both restricted and unrestricted net position are available and have determined that net position were properly recognized under the policy.
35. We acknowledge our responsibility for the required supplementary information (RSI). The RSI is measured and presented within prescribed guidelines and the methods of measurement and presentation have not changed from those used in the prior period. We have disclosed to you any significant assumptions and interpretations underlying the measurement and presentation of the RSI.
36. With respect to the Combining Schedules of Revenues and Expenses, Detailed Schedules of Revenues and Expenses, Schedules of Expenses, Combined Schedule of Administrative, General and Customer Accounts Expense, Schedule of Changes in Utility Plant, Schedule of Changes in Accumulated Depreciation, and Schedule of Contributions to the City of Grand Rapids:
 - a. We acknowledge our responsibility for presenting the Combining Schedules of Revenues and Expenses, Detailed Schedules of Revenues and Expenses, Schedules of Expenses, Combined Schedule of Administrative, General and Customer Accounts Expense, Schedule of Changes in Utility Plant, Schedule of Changes in Accumulated Depreciation, and Schedule of Contributions to the City of Grand Rapids in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, and we believe the Combining Schedules of Revenues and Expenses, Detailed Schedules of Revenues and Expenses, Schedules of Expenses, Combined Schedule of Administrative, General and Customer Accounts Expense, Schedule of Changes in Utility Plant, Schedule of Changes in Accumulated Depreciation, and Schedule of Contributions to the City of Grand Rapids, including its form and content, is fairly presented in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. The methods of measurement and presentation of the Combining Schedules of Revenues and Expenses, Detailed Schedules of Revenues and Expenses, Schedules of Expenses, Combined Schedule of Administrative, General and Customer Accounts Expense, Schedule of Changes in Utility Plant, Schedule of Changes in Accumulated Depreciation, and Schedule of Contributions to the City of Grand Rapids have not changed from those used in the prior period, and we have disclosed to you any significant assumptions or interpretations underlying the measurement and presentation of the supplementary information.

- b. If the Combining Schedules of Revenues and Expenses, Detailed Schedules of Revenues and Expenses, Schedules of Expenses, Combined Schedule of Administrative, General and Customer Accounts Expense, Schedule of Changes in Utility Plant, Schedule of Changes in Accumulated Depreciation, and Schedule of Contributions to the City of Grand Rapids is not presented with the audited basic financial statements, we will make the audited basic financial statements readily available to the intended users of the supplementary information no later than the date we issue the supplementary information and the auditor's report thereon.
- 37. We assume responsibility for, and agree with, the findings of specialists in evaluating the financial assurance cost estimates for the GRPUC sludge landfill and have adequately considered the qualifications of the specialists in determining the amounts and disclosures used in the financial statements and underlying accounting records. We did not give or cause any instructions to be given to specialists with respect to the values or amounts derived in an attempt to bias their work, and we are not otherwise aware of any matters that have had impact on the independence or objectivity of the specialists.
- 38. We assume responsibility for, and agree with, the information provided by the Public Employees Retirement Association of Minnesota as audited by Clifton Larsen Allen, LLP relating to the net pension asset/liability and related deferred outflows and deferred inflows and have adequately considered the reasonableness of the amounts and disclosures used in the financial statements and underlying accounting records. We also assume responsibility for the census data that has been reported to the plan.
- 39. We have evaluated our Other Post Employment Liabilities and have determined they are not material to the financial statements.
- 40. We have evaluated the requirements of GASB Statement No. 83 – *Asset Retirement Obligations* and concluded that the GRPUC does not own any assets that have an asset retirement obligation.
- 41. Any direct borrowings, direct placements, lines of credit or default clauses have been identified and properly disclosed.
- 42. The auditing standards define an annual report as “a document, or combination of documents, typically prepared on an annual basis by management or those charged with governance in accordance with law, regulation, or custom, the purpose of which is to provide owners (or similar stakeholders) with information on the entity’s operations and the entity’s financial results and financial position as set out in the financial statements.” Among other items, an annual report contains, accompanies, or incorporates by reference the financial statements and the auditor’s report thereon. Our annual report is comprised of the following documents: Basic Financial Statements, Required Supplementary Information, Supplemental Information, Financial Trends, Revenue Capacity, Debt Capacity, Demographic and Economic Information, and Operating Information. We have provided you with the final version of such documents. There are no material inconsistencies between the financial statements and any other information contained within the documents that comprise the annual report.

Sincerely,

Grand Rapids Public Utilities Commission

Signed: _____

Name/Title: _____

Signed: _____

Name/Title: _____

Grand Rapids Public Utilities Commission
 SUMMARY OF UNCORRECTED FINANCIAL STATEMENT MISSTATEMENTS

December 31, 2021

	Financial Statements Effect - Increase (Decrease) to Financial Statement Total									
	<u>Current Assets</u>	<u>Noncurrent Assets</u>	<u>Total Assets/ Deferred Outflows</u>	<u>Current Liabilities</u>	<u>Noncurrent Liabilities</u>	<u>Total Liabilities/ Deferred Inflows</u>	<u>Total Net Position</u>	<u>Total Revenues</u>	<u>Total Expenses</u>	<u>Change in Net Position</u>
Total Net Audit Differences	\$ 159,000	\$ -	\$ 159,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 159,000	\$ 143,181	\$ -	\$ 143,181

Client service team

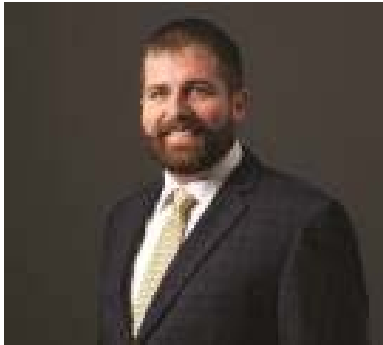


Aaron Worthman, CPA

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
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Accounting changes relevant to Grand Rapids Public Utilities Commission

Future accounting standards update

GASB Statement Number	Description	Potentially Impacts you	Effective Date
87	Leases		12/31/22*
91	Conduit Debt		12/31/22*
94	Public-Private and Public-Public Partnerships and Availability Payment Arrangements		12/31/23
96	Subscription-Based Information Technology Arrangements		12/31/23
97	Certain Component Unit Criteria, and Accounting and Financial Reporting for Internal Revenue Code Section 457 Deferred Compensation Plans		12/31/22

*The statements listed above through Statement No. 93 had their required effective dates postponed by one year with the issuance of Statement No. 95, *Postponement of Effective Dates of Certain Authoritative Guidance*, with the exception of Statement No. 87 which was postponed by one and a half years. The effective date reflected above is the required revised implementation date.

Further information on upcoming [GASB pronouncements](#).

Ready or not – the new lease standard is here!

GASB's new single model for lease accounting is effective for next year's audit (fiscal years ending June 30, 2022 and later). This standard requires governments to identify and evaluate contracts that convey control of the right to use another entity's nonfinancial asset for a period of time in an exchange or exchange-like transaction. Contracts meeting the criteria for control, term and other items within the standard will result in recognizing a right to use asset and lease liability or a receivable and deferred inflow of resources. The standard specifies that leases should be recognized and measured using the facts and circumstances that exist at the beginning of the period of implementation (or, if applied to earlier periods, the beginning of the earliest period restated).

The implementation process can be broken down into a four-step methodology:



Now is the time to evaluate where your government is in this process and the timeline to complete implementation. The third step for lease evaluation, data extraction and review is typically the most time-consuming step; organizations should begin this process well before year end to ensure adequate lead time. A key decision that will need to be made is whether a lease administration software package is necessary. Depending on the volume and complexity of your lease activity, spreadsheets may not be sufficient to track and calculate all the required information.

We are available to discuss this further and help you develop an action plan. Baker Tilly also has complimentary resources available online including:

- GASB 87 lease identification questionnaire
- GASB 87 lease assistance tool
- Variety of GASB 87 podcasts and articles

Access tools and learn more about [GASB 87](#).

Preparing for the new conduit debt reporting

Conduit debt includes arrangements where there are three separate parties involved including a third party that is obligated for payment, a debt holder or lender and an issuing party which is often a government. This standard provides additional criteria for identifying and classifying conduit debt with the intent of providing consistency in how the debt is recorded and reported in governmental financial statements. The GRPUC should identify any existing debt arrangements involving third-party obligors and evaluate how those arrangements will be reported under the new standard in order to determine the potential impact of this standard on future financial reporting.

Determining if GASB 94 applies for your organization

GASB 94, *Public-Private and Public-Public Partnerships and Availability Payment Arrangements* provides guidance related to public-private and public-public partnerships (PPP) and availability payment arrangements (APA).

A PPP is an arrangement in which an entity contracts with an operator to provide public services by conveying control of the right to operate or use infrastructure or other capital asset. A common example of PPP is a service concession arrangement.

An APA is an arrangement in which an entity compensates an operator for services that may include designing, constructing, financing, maintaining, or operating an asset.

The GRPUC should start to identify any contracts that could meet either definition to ensure they are reviewed for applicability and accounted for correctly when the standard is effective. Initial steps include reviewing contracts that didn't meet the definition of a lease under GASB 87 and identifying any other agreements where the organization contracts with or partners with another entity to provide services.

Future accounting for subscription-based IT arrangements

Subscription-based IT arrangements include contracts that convey control of the right to use another party's IT software. It would not include any licensing arrangements that provide a perpetual license, which would still be accounted for as an intangible asset. Subscription-based IT arrangements are becoming more and more popular with IT vendors. This standard mirrors the new lease standard. The GRPUC will be able to utilize the systems put into place to implement the lease standard to properly account for these contracts. Common examples of these contracts in the utility industry include:

- Leasing space in the cloud
- GIS systems
- SCADA systems
- Some work order or inventory systems as well as some general ledger or billing systems

The GRPUC should work with its IT department and department managers to determine a population listing of contracts that would fall under this standard to determine the potential future impact to financial reporting.

Two-way audit communications

As part of our audit of your financial statements, we are providing communications to you throughout the audit process. Auditing requirements provide for two-way communication and are important in assisting the auditor and you with more information relevant to the audit.

As this past audit is concluded, we use what we have learned to begin the planning process for next year's audit. It is important that you understand the following points about the scope and timing of our next audit:

- a. We address the significant risks of material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, through our detailed audit procedures.
- b. We will obtain an understanding of the five components of internal control sufficient to assess the risk of material misstatement of the financial statements whether due to error or fraud, and to design the nature, timing and extent of further audit procedures. We will obtain a sufficient understanding by performing risk assessment procedures to evaluate the design of controls relevant to an audit of financial statements and to determine whether they have been implemented. We will use such knowledge to:
 - Identify types of potential misstatements.
 - Consider factors that affect the risks of material misstatement.
 - Design tests of controls, when applicable, and substantive procedures.
- c. We will not express an opinion on the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting or compliance with laws, regulations and provisions of contracts or grant programs.
- d. The concept of materiality recognizes that some matters, either individually or in the aggregate, are important for fair presentation of financial statements in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles while other matters are not important. In performing the audit, we are concerned with matters that, either individually or in the aggregate, could be material to the financial statements. Our responsibility is to plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance that material misstatements, whether caused by errors or fraud, are detected.

Our audit will be performed in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America.

We are very interested in your views regarding certain matters. Those matters are listed here:

- a. We typically will communicate with your top level of management unless you tell us otherwise.
- b. We understand that the governing board has the responsibility to oversee the strategic direction of your organization, as well as the overall accountability of the entity. Management has the responsibility for achieving the objectives of the entity.
- c. We need to know your views about your organization's objectives and strategies, and the related business risks that may result in material misstatements.
- d. We anticipate that the GRPUC will receive an unmodified opinion on its financial statements.
- e. Which matters do you consider warrant particular attention during the audit, and are there any areas where you request additional procedures to be undertaken?
- f. Have you had any significant communications with regulators or grantor agencies?

- g. Are there other matters that you believe are relevant to the audit of the financial statements?

Also, is there anything that we need to know about the attitudes, awareness and actions of the governing body concerning:

- a. The entity's internal control and its importance in the entity, including how those charged with governance oversee the effectiveness of internal control?
- b. The detection or the possibility of fraud?

We also need to know if you have taken actions in response to developments in financial reporting, laws, accounting standards, governance practices, or other related matters, or in response to previous communications with us.

With regard to the timing of our audit, here is some general information. If necessary, we may do preliminary financial audit work during the months of October-December, and sometimes early in January. Our final financial fieldwork is scheduled during the spring to best coincide with your readiness and report deadlines. After fieldwork, we wrap up our financial audit procedures at our office and may issue drafts of our report for your review. Final copies of our report and other communications are issued after approval by your staff. This is typically 6-12 weeks after final fieldwork, but may vary depending on a number of factors.

Keep in mind that while this communication may assist us with planning the scope and timing of the audit, it does not change the auditor's sole responsibility to determine the overall audit strategy and the audit plan, including the nature, timing and extent of procedures necessary to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence.

We realize that you may have questions on what this all means, or wish to provide other feedback. We welcome the opportunity to hear from you.