# GULL LAKE SEWER AND WATER AUTHORITY FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

For the Years Ended March 31, 2018 and 2017

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page No.
Independent Auditors' Report	1
Management's Discussion and Analysis	2-6
Financial Statements Statements of Net Position Statements of Revenues, Expenses and Changes in Net Position Statements of Cash Flows Notes to Financial Statements	7 8 9 10-17
Supplemental Information Schedule of Operating Expenses Compared to Budget	18



#### INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT

To the Board of Supervisors
Gull Lake Sewer and Water Authority

We have audited the accompanying financial statements, which consist of a single enterprise fund, of Gull Lake Sewer and Water Authority as of and for the years ended March 31, 2018 and 2017, and the related notes to the 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.

# **Auditors' Responsibility**

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audits. We conducted our audits in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audits 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 auditors' 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 opinion.

### Opinion

In our opinion the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Gull Lake Sewer and Water Authority at March 31, 2018 and 2017, and the respective changes in financial position and cash flows thereof for the years 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 management's discussion and analysis (identified in the table of contents) be presented to supplement the basic financial statements. Such information, although not part of the basic financial statements, is required by the Government 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 Information

Our audits were conducted for the purpose of forming an opinion on the basic financial statements taken as a whole. The accompanying financial information listed as supplemental information in the table of contents is presented for the purpose of additional analysis and is not a required part of the basic financial statements of Gull Lake Sewer and Water Authority. Such information is the responsibility of management and was derived from and relates directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the basic financial statements. Such information has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the basic financial statements and certain additional procedures, including comparing and reconciling such information directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the basic financial statements or to the basic financial statements themselves, and other additional procedures in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. In our opinion, the information is fairly stated in all material respects in relation to the basic financial statements as a whole.

Seber Tans, PLC Kalamazoo, Michigan

Selver Tans, PLC

September 27, 2018

# **Using This Annual Report**

This annual report consists of the Statements of Net Position, the Statements of Revenues, Expenses and Changes in Net Position, and the Statements of Cash Flows. Along with the footnotes, they provide detailed financial information concerning the Authority (Gull Lake Sewer and Water Authority). This section, Management's Discussion and Analysis, is intended to provide an overview of the Authority's financial condition, results of operations, and other key information.

#### **Financial Overview**

In analyzing the Authority's financial position, it is important to recognize the mission of the Authority. From a financial perspective, the Authority's core objective is to manage the long-term costs of providing sanitary sewer service to the businesses and residents (collectively the Users) of participating Municipalities. The Authority acts as agent of the participating Municipalities. The quarterly amounts charged to Users approximate the operating costs incurred by the Authority in providing wastewater collection, operations, maintenance and replacement, including treatment of wastewater at the City of Kalamazoo's regional facility. In addition to the annual operating costs of providing sanitary sewer, the Authority is responsible for the repayment of long-term bonds and other debt obligations incurred from time-to-time to finance construction of various portions of the sanitary sewer system. Capital costs of new infrastructure are generally recovered from the benefiting property owners, the land owner(s) and/or developer(s), at the time the infrastructure is constructed, while replacement of existing infrastructure may be debt or cash financed and/or paid for from rates.

A significant non-cash expense of the Authority is depreciation. For budgeting purposes and setting User rates, management does not consider depreciation expense. Depreciation expense represents costs associated with the construction of the sanitary sewer system. Also, customer principal payments from assessments on the benefiting properties, customer payments of connection fees and Authority principal payments made on long-term financing are not reflected as revenues or expenses of the Authority.

	2018	200	2017
Total operating expense Less depreciation and amortization	\$ 1,920,213 (548,083)	\$	1,934,869 (531,050)
Operating expenses, net of depreciation and			(001,000)
amortization	1,372,148		1,403,819
Users (expressed as units)	4,341		4,273
Cost per Unit	\$ 316	\$	329

The Authority's costs of operating are primarily affected by (i) wastewater treatment charges from the City of Kalamazoo, (ii) the costs of employed personnel and (iii) the increasing cost of repair, rehabilitation and/or replacement. The sanitary sewer system covers a geographic area of 15 square miles. It is projected that over 500 new Users will connect to the sewer system over the next 10 years. Some of these users may be other than single family homes and contribute flow greater than single family homes (equivalent units of flow).

The Authority's net assets decreased \$(375,005) in 2018 and \$(64,459) in 2017. The decrease in 2018 and 2017 primarily represents the excess of annual depreciation expense not being offset by capital asset additions. In years net assets increase, the increase is driven primarily from new public sewer construction and benefiting property owners paying connection fees. In years with minimal

sewer expansions, net assets decrease primarily due to depreciation expense. There has been minimal new sewer expansion in the Authority's district over the past nine years, 2009-2018. Recently, construction activity is notably on the rise.

Authority assets, liabilities, and net assets are summarized as follows:

	2018	2017	% Change
Capital assets, net of depreciation	\$ 11,685,774	\$ 12,119,296	(3.6)
Other assets	2,877,516	2,873,649	0.1
Total assets	14,563,290	14,992,945	(2.9)
Other liabilities	124,293	178,943	(30.5)
Total liabilities	124,293	178,943	(30.5)
Net assets: Invested in capital assets, net			
of related debt	11,685,774	12,119,296	(3.6)
Unrestricted	2,753,223	2,694,706	2.2
Total net assets	\$ 14,438,997	\$ 14,814,002	(2.5)

Operating results for fiscal years 2018 and 2017 were as follows:

	2018	2017	% Change
Operating revenue Operating costs	\$ 1,438,810 1,920,213	\$ 1,572,627 1,934,869	(8.5) (0.8)
Net loss from operations	(481,403)	(362,242)	32.9
Net non-operating revenues	23,918	34,681	(31.0)
Loss before capital contributions	(457,485)	(327,561)	39.7
Capital contributions	82,480	263,102	(68.7)
Change in net assets	\$ (375,005)	\$ (64,459)	(481.8)

Absent depreciation, the Authority had an excess of operating revenues over operating costs of approximately \$67,000 and \$168,000 for 2018 and 2017, respectively. Operating revenues decreased by 8.5% for 2018 and increased by 0.4% for 2017. Operating revenues include \$71,491 and \$239,593 of SAW Grant Reimbursement for 2018 and 2017, respectively. See page 5 for a discussion of the SAW grant.

Treatment charges are a significant portion of the Authority's operating budget. After a period of rate increases approximating 7% increase per year (2003-2012), the City of Kalamazoo did not increase the treatment rate charged to the Authority (2013-2017), and the rate was lowered slightly in 2014. In 2018, the City of Kalamazoo increased the rate by 3.7%. Also, the City of Kalamazoo implements annual or bi-annual "true up" and in fiscal year 2015, the Authority received a "true up" (look back) treatment charge credit of \$28,900. There has not been a "true up" adjustment for fiscal years 2016-2018. A 1994 amendment to the Authority's 30 year contract for wastewater treatment services extends the Wastewater Discharge Contract with the City of Kalamazoo to July 2024. Renewal of this long-term wastewater treatment contract is anticipated prior to 2024.

In 2018 and 2017, the Authority recognized net contributed capital of \$82,480 and \$263,102, respectively. Based on review of the security of contractual liens, the Authority had stopped financing Utility Projects or Connection Fees for new users connecting to the system. The Authority reinstated Connection Fee Financing in early 2017. There were no Connection Fees financed as of FYE 2018. With respect to the security of User Fee receivables, per Michigan Attorney General's Opinion dated October 19, 2012, #7258, User Fee receivable liens on foreclosed properties are no longer enforceable; however, the amount of foreclosures is not material to the Authority's financial position.

# **Capital Assets and Debt Administration**

The Authority had \$0 of completed sewer construction during fiscal 2018 and \$231,300 during fiscal 2017. In fiscal year 2017, developer pipe contributed included \$150,400 for Cottage Pointe Condominiums, plus \$17,500 for Cottages at Gull Lake View. The Authority spent \$38,500 for sanitary sewer to the Gull Lake Schools Admin Building, plus \$24,900 for sewer extensions to 4 properties completed in 2017. In fiscal 2019, it is not anticipated the Authority will incur debt for major repairs and/or replacements. The Authority has completed an Asset Management Plan (AMP) / Capital Improvement Plan which proposes cash financing of capital improvements the next nine years, and debt financing for scheduled replacement / repair / improvements beginning in fiscal year 2028.

During 2009, the Gilmore Farms Sanitary Sewer - 30th Street Project (public portion) was constructed for \$434,141. The Authority initially contributed \$113,000 towards the project and the developer contributed \$375,000 based on the estimated \$488,000 construction cost. In recognition of the developer contribution to the Project, the Authority and the Township agree to refund to the developer 50% of the Indirect Connection Fees received from the developer by the Authority on behalf of the Township from the first 300 residential units constructed on the property connecting to the Project and connecting to additional public sewer to be constructed by the developer at the developer's cost. Through the initial contribution and refund of connection fees, it is estimated that the Authority will be responsible for approximately 60% of the project cost. There have been no developer connections to this project as of yet. Recently, as of July 2018, the developer completed a new addition to the development including sanitary sewer construction, and the Authority expects developer connections to begin in fiscal year 2019. Should the number of new housing units reach approximately 700 in the future phases of the project, the Authority is obligated to construct a relief sewer for the district of approximately \$585,200 (2018 estimated cost). Although the developer has indicated there is not likely to be 700 new homes in this development in 2018, the financial commitment for the pipeline has been inserted into the Authority's long-term Capital Improvement Plan.

Beginning in calendar year 2011, the Authority initiated a program to locate, find, minimize and/or eliminate clean water from entering the public sewer system in order to control costs. Clean water (groundwater) enters the public sewer system primarily through leaks within the Authority's pipes system, leaks within the customer's property, and residential clean water sump pumps. The cost of initiating, implementing and administering this on-going program is expected to be offset by the long-term savings of treatment cost expense.

### **Economic Factors and Next Year's Rates**

Each year, the Authority monitors its cash flow for operating expenses and makes recommendations to the participating municipalities for rate increases necessary to fund operations and maintenance. In 2012, due to (i) increasing treatment costs of the City of Kalamazoo, (ii) lack of new connections (economy), (iii) loss of customers from foreclosures, (iv) increasing repair, utilities/fuel and other costs, and (v) the increasing costs of repairing and replacing infrastructure and based on economic projections, the Authority found it necessary to implement a three year rate increase for single family residences ("units") from \$65 to \$78 per quarter (20% overall increase). The Authority, after thorough investigation of its system (2014-2017), prepared a 40year Asset Management Plan that calls for the replacement of \$4 Million dollars of piping and ancillary assets over the next 10 years, starting in 2018, with continued system upgrades thereafter. The financial analysis of the plan projects rate increases of approximately 3.5% starting April 1, 2018, and each April 1st thereafter subject to annual review and updating of the Capital Improvement Plan. Beginning April 1, 2018, the Authority municipalities implemented a series of rate increases of \$3 per quarter over each of the next 4 years (11.5%). The primary drivers for the rate increase are (i) increasing costs (inflation) and (ii) necessary replacement (capital) as per the Asset Management Plan.

The Authority has approximately 33% of its customer base that is serviced by public water from a neighboring entity and has completed preliminary work with a rate consultant to develop rates for sewer billing based on water meter data for those customers. Currently, commercial and industrial customers pay the single family home rate times a multiplier based on average domestic use by a single-family home expressed in units. For commercial customers served by public water, the public water meter has been used from time-to-time to calculate and adjust the units for the multiplier based upon actual consumption. The Authority is working on acquiring data routinely that will allow the use of actual water use consumption to generate sewer use bills for both commercial and residential customers that have water meters. Although this is intended to be revenue neutral at this time, sufficient margin will be included within the rate structure to assure the Authority adequate revenue from these customers. The implementation of this billing change has not yet been scheduled.

On May 8, 2014, the Authority was awarded a three year Storm and Wastewater Asset Management (SAW) Plan grant with the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality in the amount of \$1,285,523. The grant required a local match of \$206,286 which brought the total project amount to \$1,491,809. Eligible expenditures were reimbursed to the Authority. Under the SAW Grant the Authority was obligated to implement an Asset Management program that identifies current condition and replacement cost projections, and, if funding gaps were identified within the SAW plan, the Authority had to develop a long-term funding plan and increase rates to fund the plan. There were no significant funding gaps identified through this process.

Also, as part of the SAW grant process, the Authority pledged to work with neighboring communities whose infrastructure is used by the Authority for transporting wastewater from the Authority district to the Regional Wastewater Facility. Although not initially paid for by the Authority, the Authority

recognizes its dependence on these "downstream interceptors" and as such, will be considering long-term agreements in 2018-2019 with downstream communities obligating the Authority for operations, maintenance, repair and replacement costs, the latter of which may be significant. It is anticipated the estimated costs of these long-term obligations will be identified prior to entering into these agreements and added to the Capital Improvement Plan.

In fiscal 2017, the Authority submitted SAW Grant expenses totaling \$266,215 and received reimbursement of \$239,593. In fiscal 2018, the Authority submitted SAW Grant expenses totaling \$79,434 and received reimbursement of \$71,491. The final SAW Grant amount and local match were \$783,421.62 and \$87,046.85, respectively. The Authority's SAW investigation into the condition of its infrastructure has identified several potential projects that will need to be funded. The Asset Management Plan / Capital Improvement Plan completed as part of the SAW Grant identifies specific projects and the timeline and is available for review at the Authority offices upon written request.

In Spring 2014, the Authority agreed to be a Plaintiff in a lawsuit against the City of Kalamazoo over the methodologies by which Kalamazoo sets its rates for wastewater treatment and services. Management believes it necessary, to preserve its rights to long-term treatment capacity and to better regulate how Kalamazoo charges its customers, to join eight other Plaintiffs in this action. The lawsuit was dismissed in June of 2015, with a tolling agreement (can be refiled at any time) as the Plaintiffs are continuing to work with the City of Kalamazoo on proposed 40-year wastewater (and water) agreements. Negotiations continue with Kalamazoo in this regard.

# **Contacting the Authority's Management**

This financial report is intended to provide the Authority's citizens, taxpayers, customers, and investors with a general overview of the accountability for the money received by the Authority. If you have questions about this report or need additional information, the Authority welcomes you to contact John Crumb, Executive Director, or Anne Richmond, Executive Assistant, Gull Lake Sewer & Water Authority, at (269) 731-4595 or via email at crumbj@glswa.org or richmonda@glswa.org. Additional information is available on the Authority website at www.glswa.org.

# Gull Lake Sewer and Water Authority Statements of Net Position March 31, 2018 and 2017

	2018	2017
ASSETS		
Current Assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 215,028	\$ 360,296
Customer accounts receivable	158,084	143,297
Contracts receivable	14,327	13,303
Other receivables	9,836	23,322
Total Current Assets	397,275	540,218
Other Assets		
Contracts receivable, excluding current portion	40,800	54,104
Designated cash and investments	2,439,441	2,279,327
Total Other Assets	2,480,241	2,333,431
Property and Equipment Fixed assets, net of accumulated depreciation of		
\$11,301,211 and \$10,753,128	11,685,774	12,119,296
Total Assets	14,563,290	14,992,945
LIABILITIES		
Current Liabilities		
Accounts payable	97,193	147,901
Other	27,100	31,042
Total Current Liabilities	124,293	178,943
Total Liabilities	124,293	178,943
NET POSITION		
Unrestricted assets	2,753,223	2,694,706
Invested in capital assets, net of related debt	11,685,774	12,119,296
Total Net Position	\$ 14,438,997	\$ 14,814,002

# Gull Lake Sewer and Water Authority Statements of Revenues, Expenses and Changes in Net Position For the Years Ended March 31, 2018 and 2017

	2018	2017
Revenues	1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	
Charges for services	\$ 1,367,319	\$ 1,333,034
SAW Grant reimbursements	71,491	239,593
Total Revenues	1,438,810	1,572,627
Operating Expenses		
Salaries and wages	390,781	369,508
Fringe benefits	117,863	106,383
Contracted services	694,746	770,084
Utilities	86,635	80,867
Supplies	7,382	5,512
Maintenance and repairs	74,723	71,069
Depreciation	548,083	531,446
Total Operating Expenses	1,920,213	1,934,869
Operating Loss	(481,403)	(362,242)
Non-Operating Revenues (Expenses)		
Interest income	9,072	7,576
Lease income	16,646	16,646
Bad debt expense	(1,800)	_
Interest expense	_	(473)
Gain on sale of assets	-	10,932
Total Non-Operating Revenues	23,918	34,681
Change in Net Position from Operations		
Before Capital Contributions	(457,485)	(327,561)
Contributed capital	82,480	263,102
Change in Net Position	(375,005)	(64,459)
Net position at beginning of year	14,814,002	14,878,461_
Net Position at End of Year	\$ 14,438,997	\$ 14,814,002

# Gull Lake Sewer and Water Authority Statements of Cash Flows For the Years Ended March 31, 2018 and 2017

	2018	2017
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES		
Cash received from users	\$ 1,352,532	\$ 1,344,534
Cash received from grant	71,491	239,593
Cash payments to suppliers for goods and services	(918,377)	(888,468)
Cash payments to employees for services	(508,646)	(475,891)
Net Cash (Used in) Provided by Operating Activities	(3,000)	219,768
CASH FLOWS FROM CAPITAL AND RELATED FINANCING ACTIVITIES		
Other non-operating revenues	16,646	16,646
Proceeds from connection fees and developer	94,409	668,310
Proceeds from contracts with municipalities	12,280	14,981
Proceeds from sale of fixed assets	=	18,823
Principal paid on contract debt		(20,000)
Interest paid on contract debt	-	(948)
Acquisition and construction of capital assets	(114,561)	(334,731)
Net Cash Provided by Capital and		
Related Financing Activities	8,774	363,081
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES		
Interest earned on investments and receivables	9,072	7,576
Net Cash Provided by Investing Activities	9,072	7,576
Net Increase in Cash and Cash Equivalents	14,846	590,425
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year	2,639,623	2,049,198
Cash and Cash Equivalents at End of Year	\$ 2,654,469	\$ 2,639,623
BALANCE SHEET CLASSIFICATION OF CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS		
Unrestricted cash and cash equivalents	\$ 215,028	\$ 360,296
Designated cash and investments	2,439,441	2,279,327
	\$ 2,654,469	\$ 2,639,623

		2018	2017
Supplemental Disclosures	· .		
Reconciliation of operating loss to net cash provided by			
operating activities:			
Operating loss	\$	(481,403)	\$ (362,242)
Adjustments to reconcile operating loss to net cash			
provided by operating activities:			
Depreciation and amortization		548,083	531,446
Changes in operating assets and liabilities			
which provided (used) cash:			
Customer accounts		(14,787)	11,500
Accounts payable		(54,893)	39,064
Total Changes in Assets and Liabilities			
Included in Operating Results		478,403	 582,010
Net Cash (Used in) Provided by Operating Activities	\$	(3,000)	\$ 219,768

# NOTE A - Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

## Authority Formation and Mission

Gull Lake Sewer and Water Authority (the Authority) was established by the Townships of Ross and Richland, Kalamazoo County, and the Townships of Barry and Prairieville, Barry County and incorporated under the provisions of Act 233, Public Acts of 1955, as amended. The Authority is governed by a board consisting of an elected official appointed from each of the constituent Townships. The Authority was formed to operate, maintain, administer and manage sewage collection systems and water systems pursuant to Act 94, Public Acts of 1933, as amended.

The Authority transports sewage through its system to the City of Kalamazoo under a treatment contract that expires in 2024. Management anticipates that the contract will be renewed prior to 2024.

## Scope of Reporting Entity and Basis of Presentation

The financial statements of Gull Lake Sewer and Water Authority contain all the funds that are financially interdependent on the Authority's executive or legislative branches. The most significant manifestation in determining the reporting entity is financial interdependence. Other manifestations to be considered include, but are not limited to, the selection of governing authority, the designation of management, the ability to significantly influence operations and accountability for fiscal matters. Other criteria used to evaluate potential component units for inclusion or exclusion in a reporting entity is the existence of special financing relationships regardless of oversight responsibilities. The Authority does not have any potential component units. Based on these criteria the Authority is considered a reporting unit and is not considered a component unit of the Townships.

# **Basis of Accounting**

The statement of net position, the statement of revenues, expenses, and changes in net position and the statement of cash flows report information on all of the activities of the primary government (the "Authority"). The Authority engages in only business-type activities; business type activities rely significantly on fees and charges for services.

All activities of the Authority are accounted for in a single proprietary fund. The accounting and financial reporting treatment applied to a fund is determined by its measurement focus. All proprietary funds are accounted for on a flow of economic resources measurement focus. With this measurement focus, all assets and liabilities associated with the operation of these funds are included on the statement of net assets. Net assets are divided into the following components: invested in capital assets-net of related debt, restricted for debt service and other purposes, and unrestricted.

Proprietary fund-type operating statements present increases (i.e., revenues) and decreases (i.e., expenses) in net total assets. Activities of the Authority are accounted for using the accrual basis of accounting. Revenues are recognized when they are earned and expenses are recognized when they are incurred. Operating activities include all revenues and expenses associated with sewer activities. Non-operating revenues and expenses relate primarily to financing and investing activities.

# NOTE A - Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (Continued)

# Cash and Cash Equivalents

For purposes of the statements of cash flows, all highly liquid investments, with a maturity of three months or less when purchased.

#### Receivables

Contract receivables consist of contracts with member municipalities which are paid from assessments levied on individual properties for the extension of sewer services. Other contracts receivable consists of customer connection fees for hook ups and an extension of a sewer line to service a development. All receivables are considered 100% collectible and, as such, no allowance for uncollectible accounts has been established.

# Restricted and Designated Assets

Certain deposits and investments are restricted by contract and/or Township ordinance for debt service. Additionally, the Board may designate other funds for future maintenance and capacity of the sewer system. Board designated funds are generated primarily from capital charges and transfers from operating cash. Costs of capital improvements and significant repairs and replacements may be funded from these designated assets.

# **Fixed Assets**

Fixed assets of the Authority are accounted for on a cost of services or "capital maintenance" measurement focus. Fixed assets are valued at cost. Donated fixed assets are stated at their fair market value on the date donated.

Depreciation of all exhaustible fixed assets is charged as an expense against operations. Depreciation has been provided by using the straight-line method over the estimated useful lives of the related assets as follows: Buildings - 20 years, Sewer Lines - 50 years, Equipment - 10 years, Vehicles - 10 years and Water Lines - 50 years.

#### Capitalized Interest

Interest costs on debt incurred to finance fixed asset additions is capitalized during the construction period for additions greater than \$1,000,000 and six months duration. Interest is capitalized at the rate of the associated debt instrument based on the cost incurred on the related construction until such time as the sewer system is ready for service. The interest capitalized is added to the carrying cost of the sewer system. No interest costs were capitalized in 2018 or 2017.

#### **Estimates**

Preparation of financial statements in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles requires the use of estimates by management. Estimates are subject to change and, accordingly, actual results may differ from the estimates used in preparation of the accompanying financial statements. These financial statements include estimates primarily as to the depreciable lives and salvage values of fixed assets, and the current portion of contracts receivables.

# NOTE A - Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (Continued)

## Reclassification

Certain reclassifications have been made to the 2017 financial statement presentation to correspond to the current year's format. Those reclassifications had no impact on net assets.

# NOTE B - Cash, Deposits and Investments

The State of Michigan allows a political subdivision to authorize its treasurer or other chief financial officer to invest surplus funds belonging to and under the control of the entity into certain instruments described as follows: bonds, securities and other obligations of the United States, or an agency or instrumentality of the United States; certificates of deposit, savings accounts, deposit accounts, or depository receipts of a financial institution in compliance with section 6 of PA 105 of 1855, MCL 21.146. Financial institution means a state or nationally chartered bank or a state or federally chartered savings and loan association, savings bank or credit union whose deposits are insured by an agency of the United States government. The Authority may invest in commercial paper rated at the time of purchase within the two highest classifications established by not less than two standard rating services and which matures not more than 270 days after the date of purchase; in United States government or federal obligation repurchase agreements; in bankers' acceptances of United States banks; in mutual funds composed of investment vehicles which are legal for direct investment by local units of government in Michigan; or in surplus fund investment pools.

The Authority's cash and restricted assets were held with ten different banking institutions with locations in southwest Michigan. Authority management monitors cash held at financial institutions and transfers cash balances that significantly exceed federal insurance limits.

Balances at March 31 related to cash and cash equivalents and deposits (including certificates of deposit with greater than 90 day maturities at purchase) are detailed on the balance sheets as follows:

	Totals			
	(Memoran	ndum Only)		
	2018	2017		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 215,028	\$ 360,296		
Designated assets (See Note D) Certificates of deposits	153,142	151,333		
Deposits	2,286,299	2,127,994		
	2,439,441	2,279,327		
Totals	\$2,654,469	\$2,639,623		

Custodial credit risk is the risk that, in the event of a bank failure, the Authority's deposits may not be returned to it. Deposit are exposed to custodial credit risk if they are not covered by depository insurance and are uncollateralized. As of March 31, 2018, approximately \$175,000 of the Authority's bank balances were exposed to custodial credit risk because they exceeded federal bank or credit union insurance limits.

12

#### NOTE C - Receivables

Customer accounts receivable represent current sewer usage charges receivable. Unpaid customer accounts receivables are added to the tax rolls after approximately one year.

Long-term contracts receivable at March 31 consists of the following:

	 Current Portion				Total				
	2018	2017			2018		2017		
Developer	\$ -	\$	-	\$	40,800	\$	40,800		
Municipalities,									
assessment rolls	 14,327		13,303		14,327		26,607		
	\$ 14,327	\$	13,303	59 <del>-</del>	55,127		67,407		
Less current portion					(14,327)		(13,303)		
Totals				\$_	40,800		54,104		

Contracts receivable from a developer consists of one contract for the extension of a sewer line to service a development in Richland Township. At March 31, 2018 and 2017, the receivable is due as connections are made at the rate of \$600 per connection. The developer's obligation for repayment of this receivable is limited to new connections on the property.

Contracts receivable from connection fees represent amounts due from individuals and businesses for their initial connection to the sewer system. The amounts are receivable over a contractual term, usually requiring annual payments over 5 years from the date of connection, plus interest at 5% per annum on the unpaid balance and are secured by a lien on the premises.

The Authority evaluates the collectability of contracts receivable from developers and connection fees annually. Contracts are secured by mechanics liens on the properties and management believes the amounts receivable will be realized through repayment or through the collateral. No allowance for doubtful accounts has been made in the accompanying financial statements.

Contracts receivable from municipalities represent contractual amounts that are secured by special assessment rolls. Under the contracts, collection of special assessment rolls is made by the appropriate municipality and transferred to the Authority. The collections represent charges to the municipalities' residents and businesses for construction of the sewer system. The fees are paid annually at terms ranging from 10 years to 20 years, plus interest at 1% over the cost of borrowing. At March 31, 2018, one township accounted for 100% of the contract receivables. The individual residents and businesses are legally responsible for payment of the fees. This disperses the credit risk over the premises in the geographic area. The assessments become priority liens on each assessed premises. Additionally, unpaid portions of assessments due become tax liens due and payable in the same manner as property taxes.

As described in Note I, the Authority has two significant customers that when combined accounted for 19% and 20% of total revenues in 2018 and 2017, respectively.

# NOTE D - Restricted and Designated Assets

Cash and investments at March 31 are Board designated for the following purposes:

	2018	2017
Board designated for:		
Capital improvements	413,495	517,341
Construction of water facilities	8,358	8,338
Larger equipment replacements	1,940,240	1,693,869
Other	77,348	59,779
Total	\$ 2,439,441	\$ 2,279,327

# NOTE E - Summary of Property and Equipment

The property and equipment of the Authority, together with changes therein for the year ended March 31, 2018, are detailed as follows:

	Balances April 1, 2017		A	Additions		Disposals		Balances March 31, 2018		
Cost										
Land and improvements	\$	643,642	\$	6,000	\$	-	\$	649,642		
Buildings		556,246		1,446		-		557,692		
Equipment		1,296,097		72,306		-		1,368,403		
Sewer system		20,214,035		2,750		-		20,216,785		
Vehicles		162,404		32,059		-	Name of the last	194,463		
Total Property and										
Equipment		22,872,424		114,561		-		22,986,985		
Accumulated depreciation										
Land and improvements		132,828		1,510		-		134,338		
Buildings		296,032		20,739		-		316,771		
Equipment		899,098		101,380		-		1,000,478		
Sewer system		9,317,439		403,644		-		9,721,083		
Vehicles		107,731		20,810		_		128,541		
Total Accumulated			3.77							
Depreciation		10,753,128		548,083	2	-		11,301,211		
Net Property and	W - Z									
Equipment	\$	12,119,296	\$ (	433,522)	\$		_\$	11,685,774		

14

# NOTE E - Summary of Property and Equipment (Continued)

The property and equipment of the Authority, together with changes therein for the year ended March 31, 2017, are detailed as follows:

	Balances April 1, 2016		Additions		Disposals		Balances March 31, 2017	
Cost								•
Land and improvements	\$	643,642	\$	-	\$	-	\$	643,642
Buildings		552,196	50	4,050		_		556,246
Equipment		1,248,673	50	0,546		(3,122)		1,296,097
Sewer system		19,966,633	24	7,402		-		20,214,035
Vehicles		149,007	32	2,733		(19,336)		162,404
Total Property and								
Equipment		22,560,151	334	4,731		(22,458)		22,872,424
Accumulated depreciation						000 0000000000000000000000000000000000		
Land and improvements		131,155		1,673		-		132,828
Buildings		275,365	20	0,667		-		296,032
Equipment		799,055	103	3,165		(3,122)		899,098
Sewer system		8,918,771	399	9,064		(396)		9,317,439
Vehicles		111,903	(	5,877		(11,049)		107,731
Total Accumulated					-			(
Depreciation		10,236,249	531	1,446		(14,567)		10,753,128
Net Property and			-					
Equipment	\$	12,323,902	\$ (196	<u>6,715)</u>	\$	(7,891)	\$	12,119,296

# NOTE F - Storm and Wastewater Asset Management Plan Grant

On May 8, 2014, the Authority was awarded a three year Wastewater Asset Management Plan grant with the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality in the amount of \$1,285,523. The grant required the Authority to match \$206,286 for a total project amount to \$1,491,809. Eligible expenditures were reimbursed to the Authority.

Under the Grant, the Authority was obligated to implement an Asset Management program that identifies the current condition and replacement cost projections of each significant asset; develop a long-term funding plan; and increase rates to fund the plan. The Authority has commenced a plan to implement rate increases of approximately 3.5% starting April 1, 2018 and each April 1st thereafter subject to annual review and updating of the Capital Improvement Plan.

The SAW Grant was a cost reimbursement grant. The Authority recognized revenues under the Grant as they were earned. Expenses were recognized when incurred. For the years ended March 31, 2018 and 2017, the Authority recognized revenue from the Grant of approximately \$71,500 and \$240,000, respectively.

During the year ended March 31, 2018, the Authority incurred approximately \$79,500 of costs performing services covered by the SAW grant. The Authority was reimbursed approximately \$71,500 under the Grant. Costs incurred were: contracted services - \$32,560; engineering - \$8,400; wages - \$15,800; camera - \$13,500, flow monitoring - \$4,300 and other - \$4,800.

15

# NOTE F - Storm and Wastewater Asset Management Plan Grant (Continued)

During the year ended March 31, 2017, the Authority incurred approximately \$266,000 of costs performing services covered by the SAW grant. The Authority was reimbursed approximately \$240,000 under the Grant. Costs incurred were: contracted services - \$185,500; engineering - \$2,600; wages - \$42,000; vactoring - \$30,900, and other - \$5,000. The charges include videoing sewer pipes. The costs of the vactor and pipeline video equipment assets are reimbursed under the grant through a usage rate of \$0.70 per foot of pipeline.

The Authority's SAW investigation into the condition of its infrastructure has identified several potential projects that will need to be funded in the next 5-10 years.

#### NOTE G - Retirement Plan

The Authority has a defined contribution retirement plan established under Section 401(a) of the Internal Revenue Code. The Gull Lake Sewer and Water Authority Group Retirement Plan covers all eligible employees. The Authority has the right to amend or terminate the Plan at any time. Contributions by the employer are fixed at the discretion of the Authority and individual accounts are maintained for each participant. Employees may contribute pre-tax contributions ranging from 2% to 10% of eligible wages. Employer contributions for the years ended March 31, 2018 and 2017 were approximately 9% of covered payroll. Total retirement expense was \$34,000 and \$28,700 in 2018 and 2017, respectively.

The Authority also has a 457 Supplemental Deferred Compensation plan. All employees of the Authority are eligible to participate. The Authority does not make any contributions.

# NOTE H – Concentrations and Business Activity

For the years ended March 31, 2018 and 2017, the Authority had two major customers that individually account for 10% or more of the Authority's total revenue for the year. The fees from these two customers were approximately 19% and 20% of the total revenue for the years ended March 31, 2018 and 2017, respectively.

# NOTE I - Look Back Treatment Charges

Treatment charges billing rates are set by the City of Kalamazoo based on their anticipated annual costs over anticipated treatment flow. After actual costs and treatment flows are compiled, the City adjusts the Authority's treatment charge rate and bills the Authority for past treatment flows for the difference between the estimated and actual rate. In fiscal 2018 and 2017, the Authority did not receive a "look back" treatment charge or credit. While the amount of the treatment rate adjustment cannot be predicted, management does not anticipate significant adjustments in future years.

## NOTE J - Commitments and Contingencies

The Authority, in the normal operation of its activities, has exposure for damage to residential and commercial property and personal injury resulting from the operation or construction of its sewer system. The Authority's board believes that commercial coverage and funds accumulated and designated for significant replacements, as disclosed in Note D, are adequate to cover the associated risk.

On occasion, the Authority works with municipalities and developers for potential utility projects. Should the Authority Board determine that it is in the best interest of the current and future users of the system, capital improvement funds may be invested in these projects.

In the Spring of 2014, the Authority agreed to be a Plaintiff in a lawsuit against the City of Kalamazoo over the methodologies by which Kalamazoo sets its rates for wastewater treatment and services. Management believes it necessary to preserve its rights to long-term treatment capacity and to better regulate how Kalamazoo charges its customers. The lawsuit was dismissed in June of 2015, with a tolling agreement (can be refiled at any time) and the Plaintiffs are working with the City of Kalamazoo on a proposed 40-year wastewater (and water) agreement. The Authority and other plaintiffs have borne the costs of the lawsuit and will bear additional costs during the contract negotiations. Management does not believe the costs will have a material impact on the Authority.

The Authority has signed a contract with a builder for the construction of a pole barn for approximately \$300,000. The project will be completed in 2018.

# NOTE K - Subsequent Events

Management has evaluated subsequent events through September 27, 2018, the date on which the financial statements were available to be issued.

# SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

# Gull Lake Sewer and Water Authority Schedule of Operating Expenses Compared to Budget For the Year Ended March 31, 2018 (Comparative Actual Amounts for the Year Ended March 31, 2017)

	2018 Budget Actual		Variance - Favorable (Unfavorable)	2017 Actual	
Salaries and wages	\$ 392,000	\$ 390,781	\$ 1,219	\$ 369,508	
Fringe benefits:					
Social security	28,764	29,022	(258)	27,341	
Hospitalization	52,000	47,643	4,357	43,507	
Life insurance	345	366	(21)	348	
Retirement	33,000	34,119	(1,119)	28,739	
Disability	2,400	2,347	53	2,164	
Dental, vision and fees	4,800	4,366	434	4,284	
	121,309	117,863	3,446	106,383	
Contracted services:	121,000	117,000	0,440	100,000	
Insurance/worker's					
compensation	17,000	16,117	883	15,513	
Contracted services	128,000	98,069	29,931	240,645	
Treatment charges	532,286	507,344	24,942	470,118	
Sump pump	3,000	Barrier Breek	3,000	a satth th	
Engineering	40,000	27,265	12,735	7,918	
Publications/printing	4,500	1,718	2,782	544	
Audit	7,700	7,300	400	7,100	
Legal	7,000	6,110	890	2,808	
Radio	3,000	663	2,337	2,466	
Dues/education/sales	4,000	3,236	764	406	
Mileage/travel/entertainment	7,000	7,895	(895)	3,987	
Authority meetings	3,150	2,925	225	2,475	
Regional Commission membership	16,104	16,104	race isomsul	16,104	
te to flegger we i be eviluate a few real	772,740	694,746	77,994	770,084	
Utilities:	,		77,001	770,004	
Fuel gasoline and diesel	11,000	11,215	(215)	9,711	
Electric and gas	65,000	65,479	(479)	61,923	
Telephone	10,000	9,941	59	9,233	
- 21 12 12 12 12 12 12 12 12 12 12 12 12	86,000	86,635	(635)	80,867	
Supplies:			(600)		
Postage	8,000	6,041	1,959	3,924	
Office	3,000	1,341	1,659	1,588	
Sinds	11,000	7,382	3,618	5,512	
Maintenance and repairs:	11,000	7,002	- 0,010	0,012	
General maintenance	25,000	22,474	2,526	18,353	
Field operations	25,000	15,193	9,807	17,885	
Repairs and maintenance	69,790	37,056	32,734	34,831	
Topano ana mamanano	119,790	74,723	45,067	71,069	
	. 10,700	17,120	40,001	71,009	
Totals, Excluding Depreciation	\$ 1,502,839	\$ 1,372,130	\$ 130,709	\$ 1,403,423	



September 27, 2018

To the Board of Supervisors and General Manager of Gull Lake Sewer & Water Authority

In planning and performing our audit of the financial statements Gull Lake Sewer & Water Authority for the year ended March 31, 2018, in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, we considered Gull Lake Sewer & Water Authority's internal control over financial reporting (internal control) as a basis for designing audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances for the purpose of expressing our opinion on the financial statements, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Authority's internal control. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the Authority's internal control.

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

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

A significant deficiency is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control that is less severe than a material weakness, yet important enough to merit attention by those charged with governance. We consider the following deficiency in the Authority's internal control to be a significant deficiency:

#### Separation of duties

Due to the small size of the Authority's office staff (three personnel), separation of duties is limited. The Executive Assistant has access to assets, records the asset transactions in the accounting system, and reconciles the accounting records. As a result, the risk of loss, error, or irregularities increases. We recommend that the Authority Supervisors review key financial reports and reconciliations periodically for unusual matters. In addition, fidelity bonding of all personnel with access to accounting records and assets of the Authority should be considered. This is a repeat finding from the prior year.

This communication is intended solely for the information and use of the Board of Supervisors and Management of Gull Lake Sewer & Water Authority and is not intended to be and should not be used by anyone other than these specified parties.

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September 27, 2018

To the Board of Supervisors and Director of Gull Lake Sewer & Water Authority

We have audited the financial statements (a single enterprise fund) of Gull Lake Sewer & Water Authority for the year ended March 31, 2018. Professional standards require that we provide you with information about our responsibilities under generally accepted auditing standards, as well as certain information related to the planned scope and timing of our audit. We have communicated such information in our letter to you dated November 11, 2015. Professional standards also require that we communicate to you the following information related to our audit.

# Significant Audit Findings

Qualitative Aspects of Accounting Practices

Management is responsible for the selection and use of appropriate accounting policies. The significant accounting policies used by Gull Lake Sewer & Water Authority are described in Note A to the financial statements. No new accounting policies were adopted and the application of existing policies was not changed during the year, however, certain changes were made to the reporting of restricted cash and cash equivalents in the Statement of Cash Flows. We noted no transactions entered into by Gull Lake Sewer & Water Authority during the year for which there is a lack of authoritative guidance or consensus. All significant transactions have been recognized in the financial statements in the proper period.

Accounting 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 and because of the possibility that future events affecting them may differ significantly from those expected. The most sensitive estimates affecting the Gull Lake Sewer & Water Authority's financial statements were:

Management's estimate of the depreciation based on the economic useful lives of the assets, the current portions of assessments and contracts receivable based on contractual terms and past history, the collections of assessments and user bills receivable based on past history, status of current accounts, and applicable lien laws. We evaluated the key factors and assumptions used to develop these estimates in determining that they are reasonable in relation to the financial statements taken as a whole.

Certain financial statement disclosures are particularly sensitive because of their significance to financial statement users. The financial statements disclosures are neutral, consistent, and clear.

Difficulties Encountered in Performing the Audit

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

To the Board of Supervisors and Director of Gull Lake Sewer & Water Authority Page 2

#### Corrected and Uncorrected Misstatements

Professional standards require us to accumulate all known and likely misstatements identified during the audit, other than those that are clearly trivial, and communicate them to the appropriate level of management. Management has corrected all misstatements. Adjustments proposed and made have been provided to you. Some of the misstatements detected as a result of audit procedures and corrected by management were material, either individually or in the aggregate, to the financial statements taken as a whole. Management prepares the financial statements primarily on the cash basis. The material adjustments made by management were to reflect accrual entries and to report the financial statements in the format required by *Government Accounting Standards*.

# Disagreements with Management

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

# Management Representations

We have requested certain representations from management that are included in the management representation letter dated September 27, 2018.

# Management Consultations with Other Independent Accountants

In some cases, management may decide to consult with other accountants about auditing and accounting matters, similar to obtaining a "second opinion" on certain situations. If a consultation involves application of an accounting principle to Gull Lake Sewer and Water Authority's financial statements or a determination of the type of auditor's opinion that may be expressed on those statements, our professional standards require the consulting accountant to check with us to determine that the consultant has all the relevant facts. To our knowledge, there were no such consultations with other accountants.

# Other Audit Findings or Issues

We generally discuss a variety of matters, including the application of accounting principles and auditing standards, with management each year prior to retention as Gull Lake Sewer and Water Authority'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 Matters

We were engaged to report on Operating Expenses Compared to Budget, which accompany the financial statements but are not RSI. With respect to this 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 financial statements. We compared and reconciled the supplementary information to the underlying accounting records used to prepare the financial statements or to the financial statements themselves.

To the Board of Supervisors and Director of Gull Lake Sewer & Water Authority Page 3

Selver Tans, PLC

This information is intended solely for the use of the Board of Supervisors, Director, and Management of Gull Lake Sewer & Water Authority and is not intended to be and should not be used by anyone other than these specified parties.

Very truly yours,

Seber Tans, PLC

# 29650:GULL LAKE SEWER AND WATER AUTHORITY

receivable-Dave Woodhouse.

Year End: March 31, 2018 Adjusting Journal Entries

3/31/2018

Number	Date	Name	Account No	Debit	Credit
1	3/31/2018	Dev.Rec. Contract to S/T	590-000-142.000	1,023.98	
1 3/31/2018	Connection Fees, Contract S/T	590-000-143.000		-1,023.98	
		To adjust short term receivables.			
2	3/31/2018	Fixed Assets	590-000-190.000	1,445.74	
- 2	3/31/2018	Fixed Assets	590-000-190.000	637.80	
2	3/31/2018	Fixed Assets	590-000-190.000	145.00	
2	3/31/2018	Building Renovation (Capital)	590-000-750.000		-1,445.74
2	3/31/2018	GLCS Admin Bldg	590-000-758.000		-637.80
2	3/31/2018	Gull Lake Condos Cons Power Easement	590-000-759.000		-145.00
		To reclassify costs to fixed			
		assets.			
	3/31/2018	Depreciation-Accum.	590-000-195.000		-548,082.75
3 3/31/2018	FUNDED DEPREC	590-000-770.000	548,082.75		
		To record depreciation expense for			
		the year.			
	3/31/2018	Contributed Capital User	590-000-300.000		-82,480.00
	3/31/2018	Connection Fees	590-000-415.000	82,480.00	
		To reclassify indirect connection			
		fees from revenue to contributed capital.			
10 E	3/31/2018	Contracts Receivable	590-000-149.000		-1,800.00
	3/31/2018	Bad Debt Expense	590-000-800.000	1,800.00	
		To write off uncollectible			
n		Bad Debt Expense			1,800.00