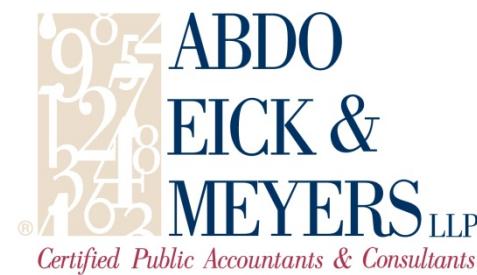


PRIOR LAKE-SPRING LAKE  
WATERSHED DISTRICT  
PRIOR LAKE, MINNESOTA

MANAGEMENT LETTER

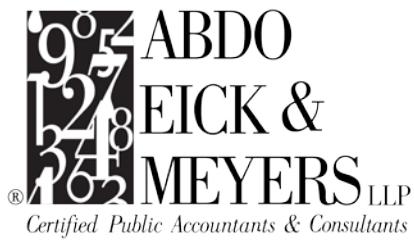
FOR THE YEAR ENDED  
DECEMBER 31, 2013



PRIOR LAKE-SPRING LAKE  
WATERSHED DISTRICT  
PRIOR LAKE, MINNESOTA

MANAGEMENT LETTER

FOR THE YEAR ENDED  
DECEMBER 31, 2013



April 21, 2014

Board of Managers  
Prior Lake-Spring Lake Watershed District  
Prior Lake, Minnesota

We have audited the financial statements of the governmental activities, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of the Prior Lake-Spring Lake Watershed District (the District), Prior Lake, Minnesota, for the year ended December 31, 2013. 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 December 2, 2013. Professional standards also require that we communicate to you the following information related to our audit.

#### **Our Responsibility under Auditing Standards Generally Accepted in the United States of America**

As stated in our engagement letter, our responsibility, as described by professional standards, is to express opinions about whether the financial statements prepared by management with your oversight are fairly presented, in all material respects, in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. Our audit of the financial statements does not relieve you or management of your responsibilities.

Our responsibility is to plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable, but not absolute, assurance that the financial statements are free of material misstatement. As part of our audit, we considered the internal control of the District. Such considerations were solely for the purpose of determining our audit procedures and not to provide any assurance concerning such internal control. We are responsible for communicating significant matters related to the audit that are, in our professional judgment, relevant to your responsibilities in overseeing the financial reporting process. However, we are not required to design procedures specifically to identify such matters.

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

Our consideration of internal control over financial reporting was for the limited purposes described in the second paragraph of this section and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control over financial reporting that might be significant deficiencies or material weaknesses and therefore, there can be no assurance that all such deficiencies have been identified. We did not identify any deficiencies in internal control that we consider to be material weaknesses.

#### **Compliance**

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement, we performed tests of compliance with certain provisions of Minnesota statutes. However, the objective of our tests was not to provide an opinion on compliance with such provisions. We noted no instances of noncompliance with Minnesota statutes.

#### **Planned Scope and Timing of the Audit**

We performed the audit according to the planned scope and timing.

## **Qualitative Aspects of Accounting Practices**

Management is responsible for the selection and use of appropriate accounting policies. The significant accounting policies used by the City are described in Note 1 to the financial statements. The requirements of GASB statement No. 61 was adopted for the year ended December 31, 2013. We noted no transactions entered into by the City 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 financial statements were capital asset basis and depreciation.

Management's estimate of these accounting estimates is based on estimated or actual historical cost and the estimated useful lives of capital assets. We evaluated the key factors and assumptions used to develop these accounting estimates in determining that it is reasonable in relation to the financial statements taken as a whole.

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

## **Difficulties Encountered in Performing the Audit**

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

## **Corrected and Uncorrected Misstatements**

Professional standards require us to accumulate all known and likely misstatements identified during the audit, other than those that are trivial, and communicate them to the appropriate level of management. Management has corrected all such misstatements. In addition, none of the adjustments 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.

## **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 April 21, 2014.

## **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 the District'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 the District's auditors. However, these discussions occurred in the normal course of our professional relationship and our responses were not a condition to our retention.

## **Approval of Invoices**

While auditing the District's financial statements, we noticed that a number of the invoices paid during the year did not have proper approval documented. We recommend that the District ensure all invoices are approved with proper documentation including initials and account(s) to which the invoice should be coded. This will serve as a control to reduce the risk of payment of false or duplicate invoices.

## **Financial Position and Results of Operations**

Our principal observations and recommendations are summarized on the following pages. These recommendations resulted from our observations made in connection with our audit of the District's financial statements for the year ended December 31, 2013.

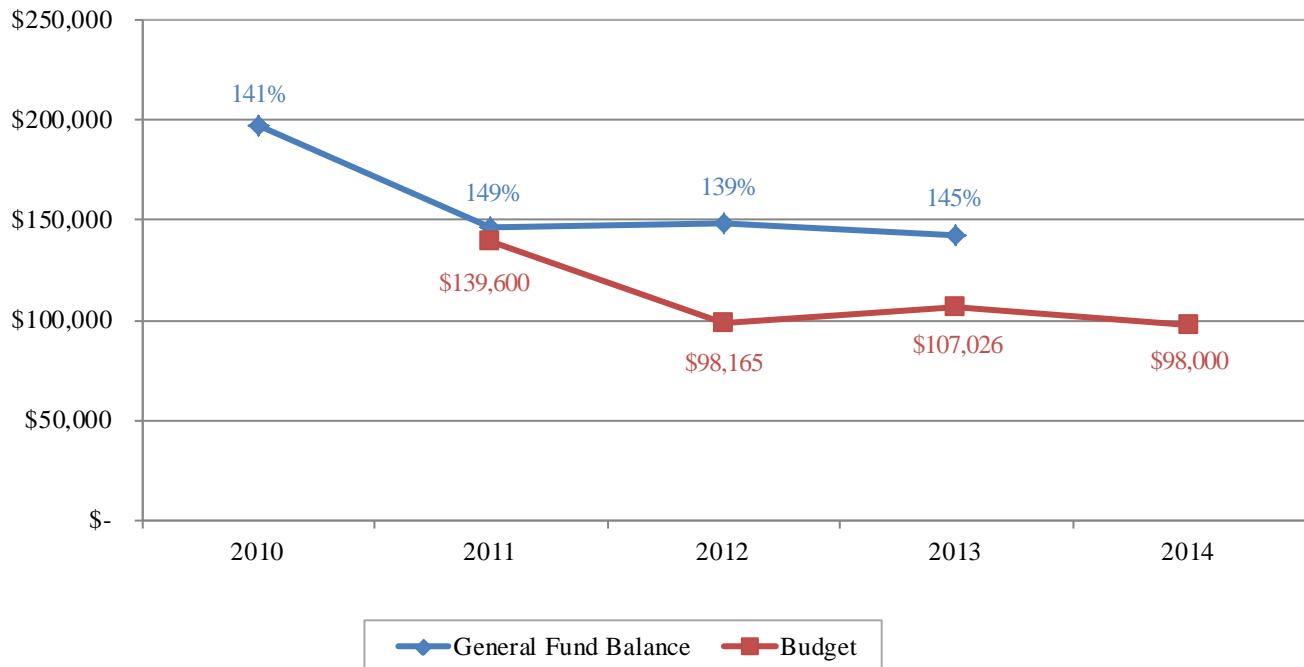
### **General Fund**

The fund balance at December 31, 2013 was \$142,108, a decrease of \$6,802 in comparison with the prior year. The total fund balance represents 145 percent of the 2014 General fund budget.

A table summarizing the General fund balance in relation to budget follows:

Year	General Fund Balance December 31	Budget Year	General Fund Budget	Percent of Fund Balance to Budget
2010	\$ 196,973	2011	\$ 139,600	141 %
2011	146,747	2012	98,165	149
2012	148,910	2013	107,026	139
2013	142,108	2014	98,000	145

### **Fund Balance as a Percent of Next Year's Budget**



The purposes and benefits of a General fund balance are as follows:

- Expenditures are incurred somewhat evenly throughout the year. However revenues are not received evenly. An adequate fund balance will provide the cash flow required to finance the General fund expenditures.
- Expenditures not anticipated at the time the annual budget was adopted may need immediate Board action. These would include capital outlay replacement, legal costs and other items. An adequate fund balance will provide the financing needed for such expenditures.

The 2013 General fund operations are summarized as follows:

	Budgeted Amounts	Actual Amounts	Variance with Final Budget
Revenues	\$ 125,000	\$ 127,061	\$ 2,061
Expenditures	<u>107,026</u>	<u>133,863</u>	<u>(26,837)</u>
Net change in fund balances	17,974	(6,802)	(24,776)
Fund balances, January 1	<u>148,910</u>	<u>148,910</u>	-
Fund balances, December 31	<u>\$ 166,884</u>	<u>\$ 142,108</u>	<u>\$ (24,776)</u>

Revenue exceeded budget due to property taxes. Expenditures were over budget. Following are some of the larger expenditure variances:

- Legal was over budget by \$14,402
- Miscellaneous was over budget by \$9,393
- Contracted services were over budget by \$9,010

## Special Revenue Funds

Special revenue funds include funds used to account for revenue derived from specific revenue sources that are restricted or committed to expenditures for specified purposes.

The 2013 Implementation fund operations are summarized as follows:

	Final Budgeted Amounts	Actual Amounts	Variance with Final Budget
Revenues	\$ 406,968	\$ 446,946	\$ 39,978
Expenditures	<u>1,528,517</u>	<u>1,531,812</u>	<u>(3,295)</u>
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over (under) expenditures	<u>(1,121,549)</u>	<u>(1,084,866)</u>	<u>36,683</u>
Other financing sources			
Transfers in	-	135,439	135,439
Transfers out	<u>(70,517)</u>	<u>(36,013)</u>	<u>34,504</u>
Total other financing sources (uses)	<u>(70,517)</u>	<u>99,426</u>	<u>169,943</u>
Net change in fund balances	(1,192,066)	(985,440)	206,626
Fund balances, January 1	<u>1,712,715</u>	<u>1,712,715</u>	<u>-</u>
Fund balances, December 31	<u>\$ 520,649</u>	<u>\$ 727,275</u>	<u>\$ 206,626</u>

Revenues exceeded budget by \$39,978 primarily due to intergovernmental revenues.

Expenditures were over budget by \$3,295. Following are the largest expenditure variances:

- Salaries and per diems were over budget by \$36,929
- Accounting was over budget by \$5,048
- Miscellaneous was under budget by \$8,284
- Program costs were under budget by \$24,256

## **Debt Service Funds**

Debt Service funds are a type of governmental fund to account for the accumulation of resources for the payment of interest and principal on debt.

Debt Service funds may have one or a combination of revenue sources pledged to retire debt. Currently the District debt service is being funded by property taxes.

In addition to the above pledged revenues, other funding sources may be received by Debt Service funds as follows:

- Residual project proceeds from the related capital projects fund
- Investment earnings
- State or Federal grants
- Transfers from other funds

The following is a summary of the assets accumulated in the Debt Service fund and the related long-term debt at year end.

Fund	Cash and Temporary Investments	Total Assets	Bonds Outstanding	Maturity
Bond Debt Service	\$ 12,770	\$ 14,536	\$ 1,205,000	2021
Total remaining interest payments			\$ 116,315	

In 2012, the District issued crossover refunding bonds, which refunded the 2006A bonds on December 15, 2013. The District should continue to monitor sources of payment for their debt obligations and ensure that there are sufficient resources to meet the debt obligations.

## **Capital Projects Funds**

This group of funds includes most of the development activities in the District. A summary of the status of each fund follows:

Fund	Fund Balances December 31,			Increase (Decrease)
	2013	2012		
<b>Major</b>				
JPA/MOA Operations	129,533	153,524		(23,991)
JPA/MOA Emergency	288,316	294,181		(5,865)
<b>Nonmajor</b>				
JPA/MOA Construction	\$ -	\$ 115,592	\$ (115,592)	
Bond Construction	-	20,525	(20,525)	
Total	<u>\$ 417,849</u>	<u>\$ 583,822</u>	<u>\$ (165,973)</u>	

Following are some specifics on the above funds:

### JPA/MOA Operations fund

- There was \$77,580 of revenues during the year
- There was \$140,994 of expenditures during the year
- There were transfers in of \$39,423 during the year

### JPA/MOA Emergency fund

- The only activity during the year was interest on investments and a transfer to the JPA/MOA Operations fund

### JPA/MOA Construction fund

- The fund was closed in 2013 by transferring the remaining fund balance into the Implementation fund

Bond Construction fund - This District fund was created in conjunction with the bond issuance.

- The fund was closed in 2013 by transferring the remaining fund balance into the Implementation fund

## **Future Accounting Standard Changes**

The following Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) Statements have been issued and may have an impact on future City financial statements: <sup>(1)</sup>

### **GASB Statement No. 67 - *The Financial Reporting for Pension Plans- an Amendment to GASB Statement No. 25***

#### **Summary**

The objective of this Statement is to improve financial reporting by state and local governmental pension plans. This Statement results from a comprehensive review of the effectiveness of existing standards of accounting and financial reporting for pensions with regard to providing decision-useful information, supporting assessments of accountability and interperiod equity, and creating additional transparency.

This Statement replaces the requirements of Statements No. 25, *Financial Reporting for Defined Benefit Pension Plans and Note Disclosures for Defined Contribution Plans*, and No. 50, *Pension Disclosures*, as they relate to pension plans that are administered through trusts or equivalent arrangements (hereafter jointly referred to as trusts) that meet certain criteria.

The requirements of Statements No. 25 and No. 50 remain applicable to pension plans that are not administered through trusts covered by the scope of this Statement and to defined contribution plans that provide postemployment benefits other than pensions.

This Statement is effective for financial statements for fiscal years beginning after June 15, 2013. Earlier application is encouraged.

#### **How the Changes in This Statement Will Improve Financial Reporting**

The requirements of this Statement will improve financial reporting primarily through enhanced note disclosures and schedules of required supplementary information that will be presented by the pension plans that are within its scope. The new information will enhance the decision-usefulness of the financial reports of these pension plans, their value for assessing accountability, and their transparency by providing information about measures of net pension liabilities and explanations of how and why those liabilities changed from year to year. The net pension liability information, including ratios, will offer an up-to-date indication of the extent to which the total pension liability is covered by the fiduciary net position of the pension plan. The comparability of the reported information for similar types of pension plans will be improved by the changes related to the attribution method used to determine the total pension liability. The contribution schedule will provide measures to evaluate decisions related to the assessment of contribution rates in comparison to actuarially determined rates, when such rates are determined. In that circumstance, it also will provide information about whether employers and nonemployer contributing entities, if applicable, are keeping pace with actuarially determined contribution measures. In addition, new information about rates of return on pension plan investments will inform financial report users about the effects of market conditions on the pension plan's assets over time and provide information for users to assess the relative success of the pension plan's investment strategy and the relative contribution that investment earnings provide to the pension plan's ability to pay benefits to plan members when they come due.

## **Future Accounting Standard Changes - Continued**

### **GASB Statement No. 68 - *The Accounting and Financial Reporting of Pensions- an Amendment of GASB Statement No. 27***

The primary objective of this Statement is to improve accounting and financial reporting by state and local governments for pensions. It also improves information provided by state and local governmental employers about financial support for pensions that is provided by other entities. This Statement results from a comprehensive review of the effectiveness of existing standards of accounting and financial reporting for pensions with regard to providing decision-useful information, supporting assessments of accountability and interperiod equity, and creating additional transparency.

This Statement replaces the requirements of Statement No. 27, Accounting for Pensions by State and Local Governmental Employers, as well as the requirements of Statement No. 50, Pension Disclosures, as they relate to pensions that are provided through pension plans administered as trusts or equivalent arrangements (hereafter jointly referred to as trusts) that meet certain criteria. The requirements of Statements 27 and 50 remain applicable for pensions that are not covered by the scope of this Statement.

This Statement is effective for fiscal years beginning after June 15, 2014. Earlier application is encouraged.

### **How the Changes in This Statement Will Improve Financial Reporting**

The requirements of this Statement will improve the decision-usefulness of information in employer and governmental nonemployer contributing entity financial reports and will enhance its value for assessing accountability and interperiod equity by requiring recognition of the entire net pension liability and a more comprehensive measure of pension expense. Decision-usefulness and accountability also will be enhanced through new note disclosures and required supplementary information.

### **GASB Statement No. 69 - *Government Combinations and Disposals of Government Operations***

#### **Summary**

This Statement establishes accounting and financial reporting standards related to government combinations and disposals of government operations. As used in this Statement, the term government combinations include a variety of transactions referred to as mergers, acquisitions, and transfers of operations.

The distinction between a government merger and a government acquisition is based upon whether an exchange of significant consideration is present within the combination transaction. Government mergers include combinations of legally separate entities without the exchange of significant consideration. This Statement requires the use of carrying values to measure the assets and liabilities in a government merger. Conversely, government acquisitions are transactions in which a government acquires another entity, or its operations, in exchange for significant consideration. This Statement requires measurements of assets acquired and liabilities assumed generally to be based upon their acquisition values. This Statement also provides guidance for transfers of operations that do not constitute entire legally separate entities and in which no significant consideration is exchanged. This Statement defines the term operations for purposes of determining the applicability of this Statement and requires the use of carrying values to measure the assets and liabilities in a transfer of operations.

A disposal of a government's operations results in the removal of specific activities of a government. This Statement provides accounting and financial reporting guidance for disposals of government operations that have been transferred or sold. This Statement requires disclosures to be made about government combinations and disposals of government operations to enable financial statement users to evaluate the nature and financial effects of those transactions.

The requirements of this Statement are effective for government combinations and disposals of government operations occurring in financial reporting periods beginning after December 15, 2013, and should be applied on a prospective basis. Earlier application is encouraged.

### **How the Changes in This Statement Will Improve Financial Reporting**

Until now, governments have accounted for mergers, acquisitions, and transfers of operations by analogizing to accounting and financial reporting guidance intended for the business environment, generally APB Opinion No. 16, Business Combinations. This Statement provides specific accounting and financial reporting guidance for combinations in the governmental environment. This Statement also improves the decision usefulness of financial reporting by requiring that disclosures be made by governments about combination arrangements in which they engage and for disposals of government operations.

## **Future Accounting Standard Changes - Continued**

### **GASB Statement No. 70 - Accounting and Financial Reporting for Nonexchange Financial Guarantees**

#### **Summary**

Some governments extend financial guarantees for the obligations of another government, a not-for-profit organization, a private entity, or individual without directly receiving equal or approximately equal value in exchange (a nonexchange transaction). As a part of this nonexchange financial guarantee, a government commits to indemnify the holder of the obligation if the entity or individual that issued the obligation does not fulfill its payment requirements. Also, some governments issue obligations that are guaranteed by other entities in a nonexchange transaction. The objective of this Statement is to improve accounting and financial reporting by state and local governments that extend and receive nonexchange financial guarantees.

This Statement requires a government that extends a nonexchange financial guarantee to recognize a liability when qualitative factors and historical data, if any, indicate that it is more likely than not that the government will be required to make a payment on the guarantee. The amount of the liability to be recognized should be the discounted present value of the best estimate of the future outflows expected to be incurred as a result of the guarantee. When there is no best estimate but a range of the estimated future outflows can be established, the amount of the liability to be recognized should be the discounted present value of the minimum amount within the range.

This Statement requires a government that has issued an obligation guaranteed in a nonexchange transaction to report the obligation until legally released as an obligor. This Statement also requires a government that is required to repay a guarantor for making a payment on a guaranteed obligation or legally assuming the guaranteed obligation to continue to recognize a liability until legally released as an obligor. When a government is released as an obligor, the government should recognize revenue as a result of being relieved of the obligation. This Statement also provides additional guidance for intra-entity nonexchange financial guarantees involving blended component units.

This Statement specifies the information required to be disclosed by governments that extend nonexchange financial guarantees. In addition, this Statement requires new information to be disclosed by governments that receive nonexchange financial guarantees.

The provisions of this Statement are effective for reporting periods beginning after June 15, 2013. Earlier application is encouraged. Except for disclosures related to cumulative amounts paid or received in relation to a nonexchange financial guarantee, the provisions of this Statement are required to be applied retroactively. Disclosures related to cumulative amounts paid or received in relation to a nonexchange financial guarantee may be applied prospectively.

#### **How the Changes in This Statement Will Improve Financial Reporting**

The requirements of this Statement will enhance comparability of financial statements among governments by requiring consistent reporting by those governments that extend nonexchange financial guarantees and by those governments that receive nonexchange financial guarantees. This Statement also will enhance the information disclosed about a government's obligations and risk exposure from extending nonexchange financial guarantees. This Statement also will augment the ability of financial statement users to assess the probability that governments will repay obligation holders by requiring disclosures about obligations that are issued with this type of financial guarantee.

### **GASB Statement No. 71 - Pension Transition for Contributions Made Subsequent to the Measure Date - an Amendment of GASB Statement No. 68**

#### **Summary**

The objective of this Statement is to address an issue regarding application of the transition provisions of Statement No. 68, Accounting and Financial Reporting for Pensions. The issue relates to amounts associated with contributions, if any, made by a state or local government employer or nonemployer contributing entity to a defined benefit pension plan after the measurement date of the government's beginning net pension liability.

## **Future Accounting Standard Changes - Continued**

Statement No. 68 requires a state or local government employer (or nonemployer contributing entity in a special funding situation) to recognize a net pension liability measured as of a date (the measurement date) no earlier than the end of its prior fiscal year. If a state or local government employer or nonemployer contributing entity makes a contribution to a defined benefit pension plan between the measurement date of the reported net pension liability and the end of the government's reporting period, Statement No. 68 requires that the government recognize its contribution as a deferred outflow of resources. In addition, Statement No. 68 requires recognition of deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources for changes in the net pension liability of a state or local government employer or nonemployer contributing entity that arise from other types of events. At transition to Statement No. 68, if it is not practical for an employer or nonemployer contributing entity to determine the amounts of all deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to pensions, paragraph 137 of Statement No. 68 required that beginning balances for deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources not be reported.

Consequently, if it is not practical to determine the amounts of all deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to pensions, contributions made after the measurement date of the beginning net pension liability could not have been reported as deferred outflows of resources at transition. This could have resulted in a significant understatement of an employer or nonemployer contributing entity's beginning net position and expense in the initial period of implementation.

This Statement amends paragraph 137 of Statement No. 68 to require that, at transition, a government recognize a beginning deferred outflow of resources for its pension contributions, if any, made subsequent to the measurement date of the beginning net pension liability. Statement No. 68, as amended, continues to require that beginning balances for other deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to pensions be reported at transition only if it is practical to determine all such amounts.

The provisions of this Statement are required to be applied simultaneously with the provisions of Statement No. 68.

### **How the Changes in This Statement Will Improve Financial Reporting**

The requirements of this Statement will eliminate the source of a potential significant understatement of restated beginning net position and expense in the first year of implementation of Statement No. 68 in the accrual-basis financial statements of employers and nonemployer contributing entities. This benefit will be achieved without the imposition of significant additional costs.

<sup>1</sup> Note. From GASB Pronouncements Summaries. Copyright 2014 by the Financial Accounting Foundation, 401 Merritt 7, Norwalk, CT 06856, USA, and is reproduced with permission.

\* \* \* \* \*

This communication is intended solely for the information and use of Board of Managers, management and the Minnesota Office of the State Auditor, and is not intended to be and should not be used by anyone other than these specified parties.

Our audit would not necessarily disclose all weaknesses in the system because it was based on selected tests of the accounting records and related data. The comments and recommendations in the report are purely constructive in nature, and should be read in this context.

If you have any questions or wish to discuss any of the items contained in this letter, please feel free to contact us at your convenience. We wish to thank you for the opportunity to be of service and for the courtesy and cooperation extended to us by your staff.

*Abdo Eick & Meyers, LLP*

ABDO, EICK & MEYERS, LLP

Minneapolis, Minnesota

April 21, 2014

People  
+ Process  

---

Going  
Beyond the  
Numbers