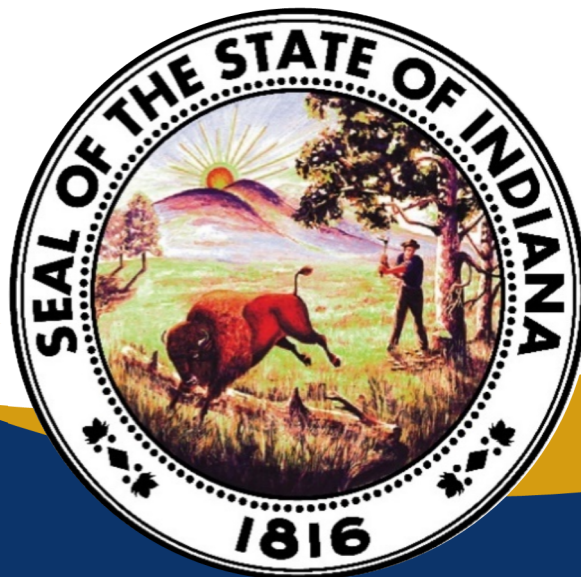


**STATE BOARD OF ACCOUNTS
302 West Washington Street
Room E418
INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA 46204-2769**

**Paul D. Joyce, CPA
State Examiner**

FINANCIAL STATEMENT AUDIT REPORT
OF
JENNINGS NORTHWEST REGIONAL UTILITIES DISTRICT
JENNINGS COUNTY, INDIANA
January 1, 2023 to December 31, 2023



FILED
07/03/2025

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SCHEDULE OF OFFICIALS

<u>Office</u>	<u>Official</u>	<u>Term</u>
Treasurer	Michael Gerth	01-01-23 to 12-31-25
Utility Manager	Andrew Klescht	01-01-23 to 12-31-25
President of the District Board	Brian Hatfield	01-01-23 to 12-31-25



Paul D. Joyce, CPA
State Examiner

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INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

TO: THE OFFICIALS OF THE JENNINGS NORTHWEST REGIONAL
UTILITIES DISTRICT, JENNINGS COUNTY, INDIANA

Adverse and Unmodified Opinions

We have audited the accompanying financial statement of the Jennings Northwest Regional Utilities District (District), which comprises the financial position and results of operations as of and for the year ended December 31, 2023, and the related notes to the financial statement as listed in the Table of Contents.

Adverse Opinion on U.S. Generally Accepted Accounting Principles

In our opinion, because of the significance of the matter discussed in the *Basis for Adverse and Unmodified Opinions* section of our report, the financial statement referred to above does not present fairly, the financial position and results of operations of the District as of and for the year ended December 31, 2023, in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Opinion on Regulatory Basis of Accounting

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statement referred to above presents fairly, in all material respects, the respective financial position and results of operations of the District, as of and for the year ended December 31, 2023, in accordance with the financial reporting provisions of the Indiana State Board of Accounts described in Note 1.

Basis for Adverse and Unmodified Opinions

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAS). Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statement* section of our report. We are required to be independent of the District, and to meet our other ethical responsibilities, in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements relating to our audit. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinions.

Matter Giving Rise to Adverse Opinion on U.S. Generally Accepted Accounting Principles

As discussed in Note 1 to the financial statement, the District prepares its financial statement on the prescribed basis of accounting that demonstrates compliance with the reporting requirements established by the Indiana State Board of Accounts as allowed by state statute (IC 5-11-1-6), which is a basis of accounting other than accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. The effects on the financial statement of the variances between the regulatory basis of accounting described in Note 1 and accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, although not reasonably determinable, are presumed to be material.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT (Continued)

Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statement

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statement in accordance with the financial reporting provisions of the Indiana State Board of Accounts as allowed by state statute (IC 5-11-1-6). Management is responsible for and has determined that the regulatory basis of accounting, as established by the Indiana State Board of Accounts, is an acceptable basis of presentation. Management is also responsible for the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statement that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statement

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statement as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinions. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not absolute assurance, and, therefore, is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with GAAS will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control. Misstatements are considered material if there is a substantial likelihood that, individually or in the aggregate, they would influence the judgment of a reasonable user based on the financial statement.

In performing an audit in accordance with GAAS, we:

- Exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.
- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statement, whether due to fraud or error, and design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks. Such procedures include examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the amounts and disclosures in the financial statement.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit 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 District's internal control. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management, as well as evaluate the overall presentation of the financial statement.
- Conclude whether, in our judgment, there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the District's ability to continue as a going concern for a reasonable period of time.

We are required to communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit, significant audit findings, and certain internal control-related matters that we identified during the audit.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT
(Continued)

Other Information

Management is responsible for the other information included in the Annual Financial Report. The other information comprises the Combining Schedule of Receipts, Disbursements, and Cash and Investment Balances - Regulatory Basis, Schedule of Payables and Receivables, and Schedule of Leases and Debt, as listed in the Table of Contents, but does not include the basic financial statement and our auditor's report thereon. Our opinions on the basic financial statement do not cover the other information, and we do not express an opinion or any form of assurance thereon.

In connection with our audit of the basic financial statement, our responsibility is to read the other information and consider whether a material inconsistency exists between the other information and the basic financial statement, or the other information otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If, based on the work performed, we concluded that an uncorrected material misstatement of the other information exists, we are required to describe it in our report.



Beth Kelley, CPA, CFE
Deputy State Examiner

June 17, 2025



FINANCIAL STATEMENT AND ACCOMPANYING NOTES AND OTHER INFORMATION

The financial statement and accompanying notes were approved by management of the District. The financial statement and notes are presented as intended by the District.

The District's Annual Financial Report information can be found on the Indiana Gateway for Government Units website: <https://gateway.ifionline.org/>.

Differences may be noted between the financial information presented in the financial statement contained in this report and the financial information presented in the District's Annual Financial Report referenced above. These differences, if any, are due to adjustments made to the financial information during the course of the audit. This is a common occurrence in any financial statement audit. The financial information presented in this report is audited information, and the accuracy of such information can be determined by reading the opinion given in the Independent Auditor's Report.

The other information presented was approved by management of the District. It is presented as intended by the District.

JENNINGS NORTHWEST REGIONAL UTILITIES DISTRICT
STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS, DISBURSEMENTS,
AND CASH AND INVESTMENT BALANCES -
REGULATORY BASIS
For the Year Ended December 31, 2023

Fund	Cash and Investments 01-01-23	Receipts	Disbursements	Cash and Investments 12-31-23
Rainy Day	\$ -	\$ 424,091	\$ 75,583	\$ 348,508
Water Operating	120,220	760,283	833,945	46,558
Wastewater Operating	(13,481)	1,037,651	910,175	113,995
Totals	<u>\$ 106,739</u>	<u>\$ 2,222,025</u>	<u>\$ 1,819,703</u>	<u>\$ 509,061</u>

The notes to the financial statement are an integral part of this statement.

JENNINGS NORTHWEST REGIONAL UTILITIES DISTRICT
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Note 1. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

A. Reporting Entity

The District was established under the laws of the State of Indiana. The District operates under a governing board.

The accompanying financial statement presents the financial information for the District.

B. Basis of Accounting

The financial statement is reported on a regulatory basis of accounting prescribed by the Indiana State Board of Accounts in accordance with state statute (IC 5-11-1-6), which is a comprehensive basis of accounting other than accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. The basis of accounting involves the reporting of only cash and investments and the changes therein resulting from cash inflows (receipts) and cash outflows (disbursements) reported in the period in which they occurred.

The regulatory basis of accounting differs from accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, in that receipts are recognized when received in cash, rather than when earned, and disbursements are recognized when paid, rather than when a liability is incurred.

C. Cash and Investments

Investments are stated at cost. Any changes in fair value of the investments are reported as receipts in the year of the sale of the investment.

D. Receipts

Receipts are presented in the aggregate on the face of the financial statement. The aggregate receipts include the following sources:

Utility fees. Amounts received from charges for current services.

Penalties. Amounts received from late payment fees.

Other receipts. Amounts received from various sources, including, but not limited to, the following: net proceeds from borrowings; interfund loan activity; transfers authorized by statute, ordinance, resolution, or court order; internal service receipts; and fiduciary receipts.

E. Disbursements

Disbursements are presented in the aggregate on the face of the financial statement. The aggregate disbursements include the following uses:

Personal services. Amounts disbursed for salaries, wages, and related employee benefits provided for all persons employed. In those units where sick leave, vacation leave, overtime compensation, and other such benefits are appropriated separately, such payments would also be included.

JENNINGS NORTHWEST REGIONAL UTILITIES DISTRICT
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENT
(Continued)

Other services and charges. Amounts disbursed for services including, but not limited to, the following: professional services, communication and transportation, printing and advertising, insurance, utility services, repairs and maintenance, and rental charges.

Debt service - principal and interest. Amounts disbursed for fixed obligations resulting from financial transactions previously entered into by the District. It includes all expenditures for the reduction of the principal and interest of the District's general obligation indebtedness.

Capital outlay. Amounts disbursed for land, infrastructure, buildings, improvements, and machinery and equipment having an appreciable and calculable period of usefulness.

Utility operating expenses. Amounts disbursed for operating the utilities.

Other disbursements. Amounts disbursed for various other purposes including, but not limited to, the following: interfund loan payments; loans made to other funds; internal service disbursements; and transfers out that are authorized by statute, ordinance, resolution, or court order.

F. Interfund Transfers

The District may, from time to time, make transfers from one fund to another. These transfers, if any, are included as a part of the receipts and disbursements of the affected funds and as a part of total receipts and disbursements. The transfers are used for cash flow purposes as provided by various statutory provisions.

G. Fund Accounting

Separate funds are established, maintained, and reported by the District. Each fund is used to account for amounts received from and used for specific sources and uses as determined by various regulations. Restrictions on some funds are set by statute while other funds are internally restricted by the District. The amounts accounted for in a specific fund may only be available for use for certain, legally-restricted purposes. Additionally, some funds are used to account for assets held by the District in a trustee capacity as an agent of individuals, private organizations, other funds, or other governmental units, and, therefore, the funds cannot be used for any expenditures of the unit itself.

Note 2. Deposits and Investments

Deposits, made in accordance with state statute (IC 5-13), with financial institutions in the State of Indiana, at year end, should be entirely insured by the Federal Depository Insurance Corporation or by the Indiana Public Deposit Insurance Fund. This includes any deposit accounts issued or offered by a qualifying financial institution.

State statutes authorize the District to invest in securities including, but not limited to, the following: federal government securities, repurchase agreements, and certain money market mutual funds. Certain other statutory restrictions apply to all investments made by local governmental units.

JENNINGS NORTHWEST REGIONAL UTILITIES DISTRICT
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENT
(Continued)

Note 3. Risk Management

The District may be exposed to various risks of loss related to torts; theft of, damage to, and destruction of assets; errors and omissions; job-related illnesses or injuries to employees; medical benefits to employees, retirees, and dependents; and natural disasters.

These risks can be mitigated through the purchase of insurance, establishment of a self-insurance fund, and/or participation in a risk pool. The purchase of insurance transfers the risk to an independent third-party. The establishment of a self-insurance fund allows the District to set aside money for claim settlements. The self-insurance fund would be included in the financial statement. The purpose of participation in a risk pool is to provide a medium for the funding and administration of the risks.

Note 4. Debt

In 2005, the District issued \$1,855,000 Waterworks Refunding Revenue Bonds of 2005. The Waterworks Refunding Revenue Bonds of 2005 should have matured on September 1, 2022, and had interest rates ranging from 3.00 percent to 4.70 percent with level debt service requirements averaging \$155,000 a year.

In May 2018, the District defaulted on the Waterworks Refunding Revenue Bonds of 2005. The District entered into a verbal agreement with the bondholder in 2023, agreeing to semiannual payments of \$60,000 toward the principal. The outstanding principal balance at December 31, 2023, is \$550,000, as presented in the Schedule of Leases and Debt.



OTHER INFORMATION

JENNINGS NORTHWEST REGIONAL UTILITIES DISTRICT
 COMBINING SCHEDULE OF RECEIPTS, DISBURSEMENTS,
 AND CASH AND INVESTMENT BALANCES -
 REGULATORY BASIS
 For the Year Ended December 31, 2023

	Rainy Day	Water Operating	Wastewater Operating	Totals
Cash and investments - beginning	\$ -	\$ 120,220	\$ (13,481)	\$ 106,739
Receipts:				
Utility fees	-	743,634	1,016,733	1,760,367
Penalties	-	16,649	20,918	37,567
Other receipts	424,091	-	-	424,091
Total receipts	424,091	760,283	1,037,651	2,222,025
Disbursements:				
Personal services	-	310,750	429,131	739,881
Other services and charges	-	23,382	32,289	55,671
Debt service - principal and interest	-	60,366	-	60,366
Capital outlay	55,450	-	-	55,450
Utility operating expenses	-	398,514	448,755	847,269
Other disbursements	20,133	40,933	-	61,066
Total disbursements	75,583	833,945	910,175	1,819,703
Excess (deficiency) of receipts over (under) disbursements	348,508	(73,662)	127,476	402,322
Cash and investments - ending	\$ 348,508	\$ 46,558	\$ 113,995	\$ 509,061

JENNINGS NORTHWEST REGIONAL UTILITIES DISTRICT
SCHEDULE OF PAYABLES AND RECEIVABLES
December 31, 2023

<u>Government or Enterprise</u>	<u>Accounts Payable</u>	<u>Accounts Receivable</u>
Governmental activities	\$ -	\$ -
Water Utility	-	96,541
Wastewater Utility	-	101,520
Totals	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 198,061</u>

JENNINGS NORTHWEST REGIONAL UTILITIES DISTRICT
SCHEDULE OF LEASES AND DEBT
December 31, 2023

Description of Debt		Ending	Principal Due
Type	Purpose	Principal	Within One
		Balance	Year
Water Utility:			
General obligation bonds	Water & Wastewater Bonds	\$ 550,000	\$ 120,000
Totals		<u>\$ 550,000</u>	<u>\$ 120,000</u>

OTHER REPORTS

In addition to this report, other reports may have been issued for the District. All reports can be found on the Indiana State Board of Accounts' website: <http://www.in.gov/sboa/>.