

MANAGEMENT COMMUNICATIONS

LINCOLN COUNTY, WISCONSIN

DECEMBER 31, 2014



Schenck_{SC}

CPAs AND SO MUCH MORE.

LINCOLN COUNTY, WISCONSIN

December 31, 2014

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To the County Board
Lincoln County, Wisconsin

We have audited the financial statements of the governmental activities, the business-type activities, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of Lincoln County, Wisconsin (the "County") for the year ended December 31, 2014. The County's financial statements, including our report thereon dated July 31, 2015 are presented in a separate audit report document. Professional standards require that we provide you with the following information related to our audit.

Our Responsibilities Under U.S. Generally Accepted Auditing Standards, OMB Circular A-133 and the State Single Audit Guidelines

As stated in our engagement letter, our responsibility, as described by professional standards, is to express opinions about whether the financial statements 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.

In planning and performing our audit, we considered the County's internal control over financial reporting in order to determine our auditing procedures for the purpose of expressing our opinions on the financial statements and not to provide assurance on the internal control over financial reporting. We also considered internal control over compliance with requirements that could have a direct and material effect on major federal and state programs in order to determine our auditing procedures for the purpose of expressing our opinion on compliance and to test and report on internal control over compliance in accordance with OMB Circular A-133 and the *State Single Audit Guidelines*.

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the County's financial statements are free of material misstatement, we performed tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grants. Also in accordance with OMB Circular A-133 and the *State Single Audit Guidelines*, we examined, on a test basis, evidence about the County's compliance with the types of compliance requirements described in the "U.S. Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Circular A-133 Compliance Supplement" and the *State Single Audit Guidelines* applicable to each of its major federal and state programs for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the County's compliance with those requirements. While our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion, it does not provide a legal determination on the County's compliance with those requirements.

Planned Scope and Timing of the Audit

We performed the audit according to the planned scope and timing previously communicated to you in our correspondence about planning matters.



Significant Audit Findings

Consideration of Internal Control

In planning and performing our audit of the financial statements of the governmental activities, the business-type activities, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of the County as of and for the year ended December 31, 2014, in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, we considered the County's internal control over financial reporting (internal control) as a basis for designing auditing procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances for the purpose of expressing our opinions on the financial statements, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the County's internal control. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the County's internal control. Our report on internal control over financial reporting and on compliance and other matters is presented in the report on Federal and State Awards.

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 a certain deficiency in internal control that we consider to be a significant deficiency.

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 County's financial statements will not be prevented, or detected and corrected, on a timely basis. We did not identify any deficiencies in internal control over financial reporting that we consider to be material weaknesses.

Qualitative Aspects of Accounting Practices

Management is responsible for the selection and use of appropriate accounting policies. In accordance with the terms of our engagement letter, we will advise management about the appropriateness of accounting policies and their application. The significant accounting policies used by the County are described in Note 1 to the financial statements. No new accounting policies were adopted and the application of existing policies was not changed during 2014. We noted no transactions entered into by the County during the year for which there is a lack of authoritative guidance or consensus. Other than the prior period adjustment relating to infrastructure, to the best of our knowledge, 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 included in the financial statements were:

Management's estimate of accumulated sick leave is based upon analysis of the employees sick leave balance. We evaluated the key factors and assumptions and the consistency in these factors and assumptions used to develop the accumulated sick leave in determining that it is reasonable in relation to the financial statements taken as a whole.

Management's estimate of the depreciable life of the capital assets is based upon analysis of the expected useful life of the capital assets. We evaluated the key factors and assumptions and the consistency in these factors and assumptions used to develop the depreciable life in determining that it is reasonable in relation to the financial statements taken as a whole.

Management's estimate of the incurred, but not reported (IBNR) insurance reserves are based on actuarial projections of the expected cost of the ultimate settlement and administration of claims. We evaluated the key factors and assumptions used to develop the reserves in determining that it is reasonable in relation to the financial statements taken as a whole.

Management's estimate of the liability for closure and post closure care costs is based on landfill capacity and anticipated costs to be incurred during and after closing of the landfill. We evaluated the key factors and assumptions and the consistency in these factors and assumptions used to develop the liability in determining that it is reasonable in relation to the financial statements taken as a whole.

Difficulties Encountered in Performing the Audit

We encountered no significant difficulties in dealing with management in performing and completing 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 clearly trivial, and communicate them to the appropriate level of management. The financial statements reflect all accounting adjustments proposed during our audit. The adjustments included various end of year payable, receivable and reclassification entries. These entries are considered routine in nature and normally do not vary significantly from year to year. Copies of the audit adjustments are available from management.

Disagreements with Management

For purposes of this letter, a disagreement with management is a financial accounting, reporting, or auditing matter, whether or not resolved to our satisfaction, that could be significant to the financial statements or the auditors' report. 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 July 31, 2015. The management representation letter follows this communication.

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 County's financial statements or a determination of the type of auditors' 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 County's auditors. However, these discussions occurred in the normal course of our professional relationship and, to the best of our knowledge, our responses were not a condition to our retention.

In addition, during our audit, we noted certain other matters that are presented for your consideration. We will review the status of these comments during our next audit engagement. Our comments and recommendations are intended to improve the internal control or result in other operating efficiencies. We will be pleased to discuss these matters in further detail at your convenience, to perform any additional study of these matters, or to assist you in implementing the recommendations. Our comments are summarized in the comments and observations section of this report.

Other Matters

We applied certain limited procedures to the Budgetary Comparison Schedules and the Management Discussion and Analysis, which are required supplementary information (RSI) that supplements the basic financial statements. Our procedures consisted of inquiries of management regarding the methods of preparing the information and comparing the information for consistency with management's responses to our inquiries, the basic financial statements, and other knowledge we obtained during our audit of the basic financial statements. We did not audit the RSI and do not express an opinion or provide any assurance on the RSI.

We were engaged to report on nonmajor fund combining statements, 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.

Restriction on Use

This information is intended solely for the use of the county board, and management of Lincoln County and is not intended to be, and should not be, used by anyone other than these specified parties.

Sincerely,



Certified Public Accountants
Green Bay, Wisconsin
July 31, 2015

SUMMARY FINANCIAL INFORMATION

1. Governmental Fund Balances

Presented below is a summary of the County's governmental fund balances on December 31, 2014, including a comparison to the prior year. This information is provided for assisting management in assessing financial results for 2014 and for indicating financial resources available at the start of the 2015 budget year.

| | 12/31/14 | 12/31/13 |
|---------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| General Fund | | |
| Nonspendable: | | |
| Property Taxes | \$ 1,807,116 | \$ 1,763,114 |
| Prepaid | 207,161 | 312,271 |
| Advances | 64,458 | 120,652 |
| Inventory | 19,616 | 4,017 |
| Restricted: | | |
| Insurance Deposits | 24,144 | 48,161 |
| Veterans | 8,648 | 9,619 |
| Land Records | 296,240 | 243,646 |
| Emergency Management | 9,727 | - |
| Zoning | - | 2,417 |
| Register of Deeds | 69,616 | 49,822 |
| UW Extension | 2,250 | 3,144 |
| Sheriff | 105,687 | 94,555 |
| Committed: | | |
| Roads Fund | 250,000 | 250,000 |
| Family Care | 498,829 | 707,810 |
| Sheriff's Office CIP | 141,530 | 198,000 |
| IT CIP | 6,035 | 88,615 |
| Maintenance | 304,300 | 134,000 |
| EMS | 160,000 | - |
| Assigned | | |
| Veterans | 2,000 | 2,000 |
| Family Court Comm. | 1,614 | |
| Fairgrounds | 1,220,687 | 1,270,467 |
| Zoning | 18,356 | 25,856 |
| UW Extension | 14,202 | 19,086 |
| Sheriff | 210 | 210 |
| CIP not committed | 1,235,722 | 1,764,560 |
| Unassigned | 6,409,038 | 5,366,610 |
| Total General Fund | 12,877,186 | 12,478,632 |

1. **Governmental Fund Balances (Continued)**

| | 12/31/14 | 12/31/13 |
|----------------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| County roads and bridges | | |
| Assigned | 493,871 | 916,066 |
| Social services | | |
| Restricted | 7,289 | 7,695 |
| Assigned | 379,832 | 661,399 |
| County health | | |
| Restricted | 366,195 | 366,455 |
| Assigned | 147,864 | 180,750 |
| Dog license | | |
| Restricted | 1,000 | - |
| Assigned | - | 1,000 |
| Community development | | |
| Assigned | 2 | 2 |
| Emergency medical | | |
| Nonspendable | 1,680 | 383 |
| Restricted | - | 60,000 |
| Committed | - | 128,618 |
| Assigned | - | 194,645 |
| Unassigned | (139,608) | - |
| Jail assessment | | |
| Restricted | 39,655 | 32,408 |
| Total Special Revenue Funds | <u>1,297,780</u> | <u>2,549,421</u> |
| Debt Service Fund | | |
| Assigned | <u>6,984</u> | <u>8,119</u> |
| Total Governmental Fund Balances | <u>\$ 14,181,950</u> | <u>\$ 15,036,172</u> |

Unassigned General Fund

The unassigned general fund balance represents the County's available and unappropriated cash available for any County purpose. The County's unassigned fund balance totals \$6,409,038. Of this balance, the County considers \$3,902,262 required for cash flow needs leaving a balance of \$2,506,776, or 16.63% of general fund expenditures during 2014, unassigned.

Special Revenue Funds

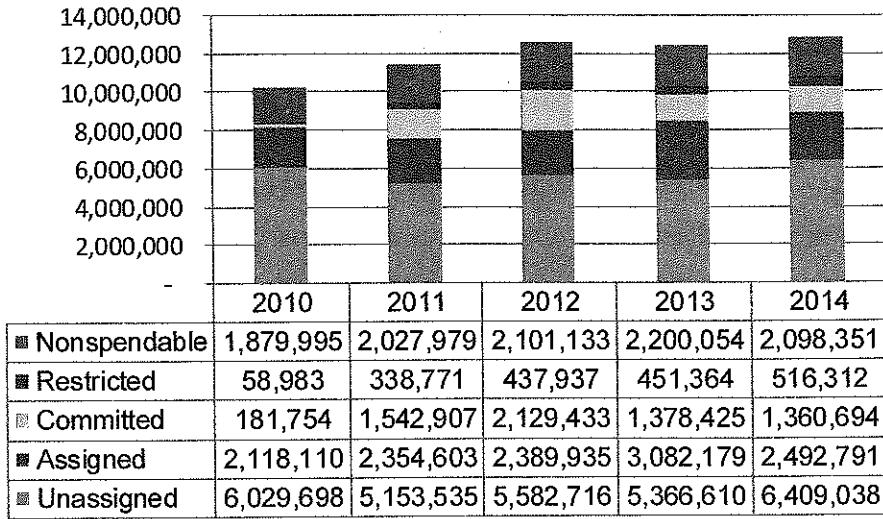
The County's special revenue funds total \$1,297,780 as of December 31, 2014 compared to \$2,549,421 for the prior year.

1. Governmental Fund Balances (Continued)

General Fund Analysis

Presented below is a fund balance analysis of the General Fund for fiscal years 2010-2014. This information is presented to assist Village management in assessing fund balance levels at the end of fiscal year 2014 and the trend over the past five years.

General Fund Balance



2. Health Self-Insurance Fund

The County has established a self-insurance internal service fund to provide health insurance coverage to County employees and retirees. A summary of 2014 transactions, including a comparison to 2013, is presented below:

| | 2014 | 2013 |
|--|---------------------|-------------------|
| Operating Revenues | | |
| Charges to county departments and retirees | \$ 5,515,132 | \$ 5,249,939 |
| Operating Expenses | | |
| Insurance payments and claims | 4,488,841 | 4,473,088 |
| Administrative and fiscal services | 860,544 | 751,489 |
| Total Operating Expenses | <u>5,349,385</u> | <u>5,224,577</u> |
| Operating Income | <u>165,747</u> | <u>25,362</u> |
| Nonoperating Revenues | | |
| Interest revenue | <u>10,229</u> | <u>3,310</u> |
| Net Income Before Transfers | <u>175,976</u> | <u>28,672</u> |
| Transfers | | |
| Transfers in | <u>-</u> | <u>500,000</u> |
| Change in net position | 175,976 | 528,672 |
| Net Position - January 1 | <u>867,157</u> | <u>338,485</u> |
| Net Position - December 31 | <u>\$ 1,043,133</u> | <u>\$ 867,157</u> |

The self-insurance fund reported an operating income of \$165,747 compared operating income of \$25,362 for the prior year. At year end, based on 2014 claims paid, the net position balance represents approximately 23.2% of its annual claims expenses compared to 19.6% for the prior year.

In addition to its net position balance, the County has accrued a claims liability of \$1,210,660 as of December 31, 2014 for claims related to services provided but not paid as of December 31, 2014.

3. County Highway Internal Service Fund

The County's highway department operates as an internal service fund, with County road maintenance and construction costs financed by a special revenue fund. A summary of 2014 transactions, including a comparison to 2013, is presented below:

| | 2014 | 2013 |
|---|---------------------|---------------------|
| Operating Revenues | | |
| Interdepartmental charges for services | \$ 4,317,788 | \$ 4,830,809 |
| Intergovernmental charges for services | 2,520,214 | 2,616,480 |
| Other operating revenue | 30,575 | 27,736 |
| Total Operating Revenues | 6,868,577 | 7,475,025 |
| Operating Expenses | | |
| General services | 5,545,559 | 6,066,200 |
| Administrative and fiscal services | 331,129 | 374,085 |
| Depreciation and amortization | 423,728 | 457,017 |
| Total Operating Expenses | 6,300,416 | 6,897,302 |
| Operating Income | 568,161 | 577,723 |
| Nonoperating Revenues | | |
| Gain (loss) on disposal of assets | 18,104 | (5,432) |
| Salvage revenue | 12,548 | 6,943 |
| Insurance recoveries | 14,461 | 17,537 |
| Donations and other nonoperating revenues | 3,315 | 877 |
| Total Nonoperating Revenues | 48,428 | 19,925 |
| Income before Transfers | 616,589 | 597,648 |
| Transfer in | 75,000 | - |
| Change in Net Position | 691,589 | 597,648 |
| Net Position - January 1 | 5,218,113 | 4,620,465 |
| Net Position - December 31 | \$ 5,909,702 | \$ 5,218,113 |

The highway department reported an operating income of \$568,161 compared to operating income of \$577,723 for the prior year. The County's machinery cost pool reported an income of \$190,402 in the current year.

4. Solid Waste Landfill

The County has a Solid Waste Landfill operating as a proprietary fund. A summary of 2014 transactions, including a comparison to 2013, is presented below:

| | 2014 | 2013 |
|--|---------------------|---------------------|
| Revenues | | |
| Public charges for services | \$ 4,306,645 | \$ 1,608,124 |
| Intergovernmental charges for services | 166,094 | 179,267 |
| Total Revenues | <u>4,472,739</u> | <u>1,787,391</u> |
| Expenses | | |
| General services | 3,340,530 | 1,065,470 |
| Future closing costs | 1,351,825 | 164,278 |
| Depreciation and amortization | 8,190 | 520,055 |
| Total Expenditures | <u>4,700,545</u> | <u>1,749,803</u> |
| Operating Income (Loss) | <u>(227,806)</u> | <u>37,588</u> |
| Nonoperating Revenues | | |
| Interest income | 57,877 | 22,419 |
| Gain (loss) on disposal of capital asset | 33,013 | - |
| Total Nonoperating Revenues | <u>90,890</u> | <u>22,419</u> |
| Income (Loss) before Transfers | (136,916) | 60,007 |
| Transfer out | <u>(200,000)</u> | <u>(200,000)</u> |
| Change in Net Position | (336,916) | (139,993) |
| Net Position - January 1 | <u>5,243,140</u> | <u>5,383,133</u> |
| Net Position - December 31 | <u>\$ 4,906,224</u> | <u>\$ 5,243,140</u> |

The Solid Waste Landfill reported an operating loss of \$227,806 compared to an operating income of \$37,588 for the prior year. Current assets and restricted cash total \$7.53 million while liabilities are \$6.52 million.

5. Forestry

The County's forestry operations are accounted for as a proprietary fund. A summary of 2014 transactions, including a comparison to 2013, is presented below:

| | 2014 | 2013 |
|--|---------------------|---------------------|
| Revenues | | |
| Public charges for services | \$ 1,096,516 | \$ 946,155 |
| Interdepartmental charges for services | 2,065 | 2,065 |
| Total Revenues | 1,098,581 | 948,220 |
| Expenses | | |
| General services | 785,799 | 849,405 |
| Depreciation and amortization | 60,154 | 56,691 |
| Total Expenditures | 845,953 | 906,096 |
| Operating Income | 252,628 | 42,124 |
| Nonoperating Revenues | | |
| Grant income | 259,772 | 344,716 |
| Donations | 8,278 | 288 |
| Gain on disposal of capital assets | 15,700 | 26,971 |
| Insurance recoveries | 158 | - |
| Total Nonoperating Revenues | 283,908 | 371,975 |
| Income before Transfers | 536,536 | 414,099 |
| Transfer out | (202,682) | (270,698) |
| Change in Net Position | 333,854 | 143,401 |
| Net Position - January 1 | 4,264,465 | 4,121,064 |
| Net Position - December 31 | \$ 4,598,319 | \$ 4,264,465 |

At December 31, 2014, the fund has cash and investments of \$2,785,447. In addition to the transfer of funds to the general fund, the general fund also retains interest earned on Forestry fund cash balances as part of its general fund budget.

COMMENTS AND OBSERVATIONS

GENERAL

1. GASB Statement No. 68, Accounting and Financial Reporting for Pensions

In June, 2012, the GASB issued Statement No. 68, *Accounting and Financial Reporting for Pensions*, revising and establishing new financial reporting requirements for governments that provide their employees with pension benefits. The new standard recognizes pension costs as employment services are provided, rather than when the pensions are funded. This change in the pension liability calculation could have a material impact on net position for many governments.

Other significant changes from previous reporting requirements (GASB 27) include:

- Coordination of the actuarial valuation date and the measurement date;
- Stricter guidance on the selection and calculation of the discount rate;
- Required use of the entry age normal actuarial cost method;
- Some changes in pension liabilities will be reported as deferred outflows/inflows of resources;
- Required supplementary information, with ten years of trend information developed over time;
- Expanded note disclosures

This new standard is also applicable to the Wisconsin Retirement System ("WRS"). It is our understanding that the WRS is well aware of the impact of this new standard and is planning to provide participants with detailed supplementary information that will be needed to complete the footnote disclosures in the County's audited financial statements.

COMMENTS AND OBSERVATIONS (Continued)

GENERAL

2. Uniform Grant Guidance for Federal Awards

Our prior year management letter included information on the Uniform Grant Guidance issued by the U.S. Office of Management and Budget ("OMB"). Because the County receives federal assistance, the requirements of the circular are applicable to the County and are effective for your 2015 fiscal year. The Circular superseded eight existing Circulars and combined into one place the administrative requirements, cost principles, and audit requirements for all organizations that receive Federal Awards. The new Circular was designed to strengthen oversight of federal awards and increase the efficiency and effectiveness of managing federal assistance programs.

We included detailed information in our prior year management letter summarizing key changes in administrative requirements, cost principles and audit requirements as set forth in the grant guidance. We also hosted a training seminar on implementing the Uniform Grant Guidance with representatives of the County attending. We recommended the County review the requirements of the Circular and begin to modify its existing policies and procedures to comply with the new guidance. Listed below are the areas of the Circular that, in our opinion, will most likely require changes to County policies and procedures:

Administrative requirements

- Monitoring Federal Awards Passed-through to Other Entities
- Policies on Procurement Using Federal Awards
- Establishment and Documentation of Internal Controls Over Federal Awards

Cost principles

- Guidelines for Reporting of Direct and Indirect Costs
- Alternatives to Time and Effort Reporting for Salaries and Wages
- Approval of the Cost Allowability of Federal Grant Expenditures

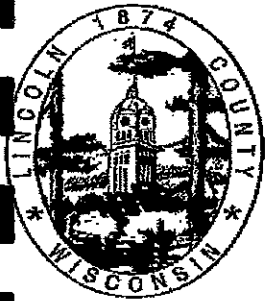
Audit requirements

- Preparation of the Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards
- Preparation of a Corrective Action Plan for any Audit Findings

Because federal and state funding sources are often comingled and the State of Wisconsin has generally used federal guidance in determining allowable costs, many of the policies and procedures should also consider the County's procedures over state awards.

Since the Circular is effective for federal awards received in 2015, we recommend the County continue to develop an implementation plan to assure compliance with the Uniform Grant Guidance. County personnel have been provided with a sample outline to use to develop a Uniform Grant Guidance Implementation Plan. We would be happy to further assist the County with its implementation plan.

APPENDIX



LINCOLN COUNTY FINANCE DEPARTMENT
Lincoln County Service Center
801 North Sales Street, Suite 211
MERRILL, WI 54452-1632
Phone: (715) 539-1030
FAX: (715) 539-8056

Dan Leydet, Finance Director
Heather Marheine, County Accountant
Dawn Bergs, County Accountant

Elayne Lang, Payroll Clerk
Amy Kohnhorst, Fiscal Clerk/
Accounts Payable

July 31, 2015

Schenck SC
2200 Riverside Drive
P.O. Box 23819
Green Bay, WI 54305-3819

This representation letter is provided in connection with your audit of the financial statements of Lincoln County, Wisconsin, which comprise the respective financial position of the governmental activities, the business-type activities, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information as of December 31, 2014, and the respective changes in the financial position and where applicable, cash flows for the year then ended, and the related notes to the financial statements for the purpose of expressing opinions as to whether the financial statements are presented fairly, in all material respects, in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (U.S. GAAP).

Certain representations in this letter are described as being limited to matters that are material. Items in No. 51 are considered material based on the materiality criteria specified in OMB Circular A-133 and the *State Single Audit Guidelines* issued by the Wisconsin Department of Administration. Items are considered material, regardless of size, if they involve an omission or misstatement of accounting information that, in light of surrounding circumstances, makes it probable that the judgment of a reasonable person relying on the information would be changed or influenced by the omission or misstatement. An omission or misstatement that is monetarily small in amount could be considered material as a result of qualitative factors.

We confirm, to the best of our knowledge and belief, as of July 31, 2015, the following representations made to you during your audit.

Financial Statements

1. We have fulfilled our responsibilities, as set out in the terms of the audit engagement letter dated October 1, 2014, including our responsibility for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with U.S. GAAP and for preparation of the supplementary information in accordance with the applicable criteria.
2. The financial statements referred to above are fairly presented in conformity with U.S. GAAP and include all properly classified funds and other financial information of the primary government required by generally accepted accounting principles to be included in the financial reporting entity.
3. In regards to accounting estimates:

- The measurement processes used by management in determining accounting estimates is appropriate and consistent.
 - The assumptions appropriately reflect management's intent and ability to carry out specific courses of action.
 - The disclosures related to accounting estimates are complete and appropriate.
 - No subsequent event has occurred that would require adjustment to the accounting estimates or disclosures included in the financial statements.
4. We acknowledge our responsibility for the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.
 5. We acknowledge our responsibility for the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control to prevent and detect fraud.
 6. Significant assumptions we used in making accounting estimates, including those measured at fair value, are reasonable.
 7. Related party relationships and transactions, including revenues, expenditures/expenses, loans, transfers, leasing arrangements, and guarantees, and amounts receivable from or payable to related parties have been appropriately accounted for and disclosed in accordance with U.S. GAAP.
 8. Adjustments or disclosures have been made for all events, including instances of noncompliance, subsequent to the date of the financial statements that would require adjustment to or disclosure in the financial statements or in the schedule of findings and questioned costs.
 9. We are in agreement with the adjusting journal entries you have proposed, and they have been posted to the County's accounts.
 10. The effects of all known actual or possible litigation, claims, and assessments have been accounted for and disclosed in accordance with U.S. GAAP.
 11. Guarantees, whether written or oral, under which the County is contingently liable, if any, have been properly recorded or disclosed.

Information Provided

12. We have provided you with:
 - a. Access to all information, of which we are aware, that is relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements, such as records, documentation, and other matters.
 - b. Additional information that you have requested from us for the purpose of the audit.
 - c. Unrestricted access to persons within the County from whom you determined it necessary to obtain audit evidence.
 - d. Minutes of the meetings of the County Board or summaries of actions of recent meetings for which minutes have not yet been prepared.
13. All material transactions have been recorded in the accounting records and are reflected in the financial statements and the schedules of expenditures of federal awards and state financial assistance.

14. We made an assessment of the risk that the financial statements may be materially misstated as a result of fraud. We have disclosed the results of our assessment as follows:
 - a. We have no knowledge of any fraud or suspected fraud that affects the entity and involves:
 - i. Management,
 - ii. Employees who have significant roles in internal control, or
 - iii. Others where the fraud could have a material effect on the financial statements.
 - b. We have no knowledge of any allegations of fraud or suspected fraud affecting the County's financial statements communicated by employees, former employees, regulators, or others.
15. We have no knowledge of instances of noncompliance or suspected noncompliance with provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, or grant agreements, or abuse, whose effects should be considered when preparing financial statements.
16. We have disclosed to you all known actual or possible litigation, claims, and assessments whose effects should be considered when preparing the financial statements.
17. We have disclosed to you the identity of the County's related parties and all the related party relationships and transactions of which we are aware.

Government - specific

18. There have been no communications from regulatory agencies concerning noncompliance with, or deficiencies in, financial reporting practices.
19. We have a process to track the status of audit findings and recommendations.
20. We have identified to you any previous audits, attestation engagements, and other studies related to the audit objectives and whether related recommendations have been implemented.
21. We have provided our views on reported findings, conclusions, and recommendations, as well as our planned corrective actions, for the report.
22. The County has no plans or intentions that may materially affect the carrying value or classification of assets, liabilities, deferred inflows/outflows of resources, or equity.
23. We are responsible for compliance with the laws, regulations, and provisions of contracts and grant agreements applicable to us, including tax or debt limits and debt contracts; and legal and contractual provisions for reporting specific activities in separate funds.
24. We have identified and disclosed to you all instances, which have occurred or are likely to have occurred, of fraud and noncompliance with provisions of laws and regulations that we believe have a material effect on the financial statements or other financial data significant to the audit objectives, and any other instances that warrant the attention of those charged with governance.
25. We have identified and disclosed to you all instances, which have occurred or are likely to have occurred, of noncompliance with provisions of contracts and grant agreements that we believe have a material effect on the determination of financial statement amounts or other financial data significant to the audit objectives.

26. We have identified and disclosed to you all instances that have occurred or are likely to have occurred, of abuse that could be quantitatively or qualitatively material to the financial statements or other financial data significant to the audit objectives.
27. There are no violations or possible violations of budget ordinances, laws and regulations (including those pertaining to adopting, approving, and amending budgets), provisions of contracts and grant agreements, tax or debt limits, and any related debt covenants whose effects should be considered for disclosure in the financial statements, or as a basis for recording a loss contingency, or for reporting on noncompliance.
28. The County has satisfactory title to all owned assets, and there are no liens or encumbrances on such assets nor has any asset been pledged as collateral.
29. The County has complied with all aspects of contractual agreements that would have a material effect on the financial statements in the event of noncompliance.
30. We have followed all applicable laws and regulations in adopting, approving, and amending budgets.
31. The financial statements include all component units as well as joint ventures with an equity interest, and properly disclose all other joint ventures and other related organizations.
32. The financial statements properly classify all funds and activities, in accordance with GASB Statement No. 34.
33. All funds that meet the quantitative criteria in GASB Statement Nos. 34 and 37 for presentation as major are identified and presented as such and all other funds that are presented as major are particularly important to financial statement users.
34. Components of net position (net investment in capital assets, restricted, and unrestricted) and components of fund balance (nonspendable, restricted, committed, assigned and unassigned) are properly classified and, if applicable, approved.
35. Provisions for uncollectible receivables have been properly identified and recorded.
36. Expenses have been appropriately classified in or allocated to functions and programs in the statement of activities, and allocations have been made on a reasonable basis.
37. Revenues are appropriately classified in the statement of activities within program revenues and general revenues.
38. Interfund, internal, and intra-entity activity and balances have been appropriately classified and reported.
39. Deposits and investment securities and derivative transactions are properly classified as to risk and are properly disclosed.
40. Capital assets, including infrastructure and intangible assets, are properly capitalized, reported, and, if applicable, depreciated.
41. Joint ventures, jointly governed organizations, and other related organizations have been properly disclosed in the financial statements.
42. We have appropriately disclosed the County's policy regarding whether to first apply restricted or unrestricted resources when an expense is incurred for purposes for which both restricted and unrestricted net position is available and have determined that net position is properly recognized under the policy.

43. We are following our established accounting policy regarding which resources (that is, restricted, committed, assigned, or unassigned) are considered to be spent first for expenditures for which more than one resource classification is available. That policy determines the fund balance classifications for financial reporting purposes.
44. We acknowledge our responsibility for the required supplementary information (RSI). The RSI is measured and presented within prescribed guidelines and the methods of measurement and presentation have not changed from those used in the prior period. We have disclosed to you any significant assumptions and interpretations underlying the measurement and presentation of the RSI.
45. We acknowledge our responsibility for presenting the nonmajor fund combining statements (the supplementary information) in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, and we believe the supplementary information, including its form and content, is fairly presented in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. The methods of measurement and presentation of the supplementary information have not changed from those used in the prior period, and we have disclosed to you any significant assumptions or interpretations underlying the measurement and presentation of the supplementary information.
46. Arrangements with financial institutions involving repurchase, reverse repurchase, or securities lending agreements, compensating balances, or other arrangements involving restrictions on cash balances and line-of-credit or similar arrangements, have been properly recorded or disclosed in the financial statements.
47. The methods and significant assumptions used to determine fair values of financial instruments are as follows: Fair value is the amount at which a financial instrument could be exchanged in a current transaction between willing parties, other than in a forced or liquidation sale. The methods and significant assumptions used result in a measure of fair value appropriate for financial statement measurement and disclosure purposes.
48. Receivables recorded in the financial statements represent valid claims against debtors for transactions arising on or before the balance sheet date and have been reduced to their estimated net realizable value.
49. Capital assets have been evaluated for impairment as a result of significant and unexpected decline in service utility.
50. Provision has been made for any material loss that is probable from environmental remediation liabilities associated with Lincoln County Landfill. We believe that such estimate is reasonable based on available information and that the liabilities and related loss contingencies and the expected outcome of uncertainties have been adequately described in the financial statements.
51. With respect to federal and state award programs:
 - a. We are responsible for understanding and complying with and have complied with the requirements of OMB Circular A-133, *Audits of States, Local Governments, and Non-Profit Organizations* and the *State Single Audit Guidelines* issued by the Wisconsin Department of Administration, including requirements relating to preparation of the schedule of federal awards and the schedule of state financial assistance.
 - b. We acknowledge our responsibility for presenting the schedule of expenditures of federal awards (SEFA) in accordance with the requirements of OMB Circular A-133 §310.b and the schedule of state financial assistance (SSFA) in accordance with the requirements of the *State Single Audit Guidelines* and we believe the SEFA and SSFA, including their form and content, are fairly presented in accordance with the Circular and the Guidelines. The methods of measurement or presentation of the SEFA and SSFA have not changed from those used in the prior period and we

have disclosed to you any significant assumptions and interpretations underlying the measurement and presentation of the SEFA and SSFA.

- c. If the SEFA and SSFA are not presented with the audited financial statements, we will make the audited financial statements readily available to the intended users of the SEFA and SSFA information no later than the date we issue the SEFA and SSFA and the auditors' report thereon.
- d. We have identified and disclosed to you all of our government programs and related activities subject to OMB Circular A-133 and the *State Single Audit Guidelines* and have included in the SEFA and SSFA expenditures made during the audit period for all awards provided by federal and state agencies in the form of grants, federal cost-reimbursement contracts, loans, loan guarantees, property (including donated surplus property), cooperative agreements, interest subsidies, insurance, food commodities, direct appropriations, and other direct assistance.
- e. We are responsible for understanding and complying with, and have complied with, the requirements of laws, regulations, and the provisions of contracts and grant agreements related to each of our federal and state programs and have identified and disclosed to you the requirements of laws, regulations, and the provisions of contracts and grant agreements that are considered to have a direct and material effect on each major federal and state program.
- f. We are responsible for establishing and maintaining, and have established and maintained, effective internal control over compliance for federal and state programs that provide reasonable assurance that we are managing our federal and state awards in compliance with laws, regulations, and the provisions of contracts and grant agreements that could have a material effect on our federal and state programs. We believe the internal control system is adequate and is functioning as intended.
- g. We have made available to you all contracts and grant agreements (including amendments, if any) and any other correspondence with federal and state agencies or pass-through entities relevant to federal and state programs and related activities.
- h. We have received no requests from a federal or state agency to audit one or more specific programs as a major program.
- i. We have complied with the direct and material compliance requirements, (except for noncompliance disclosed to you) including when applicable, those set forth in the *OMB Circular A-133 Compliance Supplement* and the *State Single Audit Guidelines*, relating to federal and state awards and have identified and disclosed to you all amounts questioned and all known noncompliance with the requirements of federal and state awards.
- j. We have disclosed any communications from grantors and pass-through entities concerning possible noncompliance with the direct and material compliance requirements, including communications received from the end of the period covered by the compliance audit to the date of the auditors' report.
- k. We have disclosed to you the findings received and related corrective actions taken for previous audits, attestation engagements, and internal or external monitoring that directly relate to the objectives of the compliance audit, including findings received and corrective actions taken from the end of the period covered by the compliance audit to the date of the auditors' report.
- l. Amounts claimed or used for matching were determined in accordance with relevant guidelines in OMB Circular A-87, *Cost Principles for State, Local, and Tribal Governments*, and OMB's *Uniform Administrative Requirements for Grants and Cooperative Agreements to State and Local Governments*.

- m. We have disclosed to you our interpretation of compliance requirements that may have varying interpretations.
 - n. We have made available to you all documentation related to compliance with the direct and material compliance requirements, including information related to federal and state program financial reports and claims for advances and reimbursements.
 - o. We have disclosed to you the nature of any subsequent events that provide additional evidence about conditions that existed at the end of the reporting period affecting noncompliance during the reporting period.
 - p. There are no such known instances of noncompliance with direct and material compliance requirements that occurred subsequent to the period covered by the auditors' report.
 - q. No changes have been made in internal control over compliance or other factors that might significantly affect internal control, including any corrective action we have taken regarding significant deficiencies or material weaknesses in internal control over compliance, subsequent to the date as of which compliance was audited.
 - r. Federal and state program financial reports and claims for advances and reimbursements are supported by the books and records from which the financial statements have been prepared.
 - s. The copies of federal and state program financial reports provided you are true copies of the reports submitted, or electronically transmitted, to the respective federal and state agency or pass-through entity, as applicable.
 - t. We have charged costs to federal and state awards in accordance with applicable cost principles.
 - u. We are responsible for and have accurately prepared the summary schedule of prior audit findings to include all findings required to be included by OMB Circular A-133 and the *State Single Audit Guidelines* and we have provided you with all information on the status of the follow-up on prior audit findings by federal and state awarding agencies and pass-through entities, including all management decisions.
 - v. We are responsible for and have accurately prepared the auditee section of the Data Collection Form as required by OMB Circular A-133.
 - w. We are responsible for preparing and implementing a corrective action plan for each audit finding.
52. We have evaluated and classified any subsequent events as recognized or nonrecognized through the date of this letter. No events, including instances of noncompliance, have occurred subsequent to the balance sheet date and through the date of this letter that would require adjustment to or disclosure in the aforementioned financial statements or in the schedule of findings and questioned costs.

Signed:



Dan Leydet, Finance Director