



County Board  
Lincoln County, Wisconsin  
Merrill, 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 as of and for the year ended December 31, 2022, and have issued our report thereon dated July 21, 2023. We have previously communicated to you information about our responsibilities under auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and *Government Auditing Standards*, as well as certain information related to the planned scope and timing of our audit in our engagement letter dated January 25, 2023. Professional standards also require that we communicate to you the following information related to our audit.

### **Significant audit findings or issues**

#### ***Qualitative aspects of accounting practices***

##### *Accounting policies*

Management is responsible for the selection and use of appropriate accounting policies. The significant accounting policies used by Lincoln County, Wisconsin 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 the year ended December 31, 2022.

We noted no transactions entered into by the entity 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*

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. There were no accounting estimates affecting the financial statements which were particularly sensitive or required substantial judgments by management. Most sensitive estimates affecting the financial statements were:

- 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 fair value of the investments is based on ending market values as of December 31, 2022 as reported by the investment managers. We evaluated the key factors and assumptions used in valuing the investments in determining that they are 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 net pension liability (asset) and related deferred outflows/inflows of resources is based on information received from the Wisconsin Retirement System. We evaluated the key factors and assumptions used to develop the net pension liability (asset) and related deferred outflows/inflows of resources in determining that they are reasonable in relation to the financial statements taken as a whole.
- Management's estimate of the allowance for uncollectible accounts for accounts receivable outstanding. These estimates are based upon management's knowledge of and past experience with the outstanding balances. We evaluated the key factors and assumptions used to develop this estimate in determining that is reasonable in relation to the financial statements taken as a whole.
- Management's estimate of the liability for long-term care of the solid waste landfill is based upon the analysis of estimated costs determined by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and estimated landfill capacity used as of year-end. We evaluated the key factors and assumptions used as of year-end. We evaluated the key factors and assumptions used to develop the liabilities in determining that it is reasonable in relation to the financial statements taken as a whole.
- 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 other postemployment benefits is based on an actuarial report. We evaluated the key factors and assumptions used to develop the other postemployment benefits in determining that it is reasonable in relation to the financial statements taken as a whole.

#### Financial statement disclosures

Certain financial statement disclosures are particularly sensitive because of their significance to financial statement users. There were no particularly sensitive financial statement disclosures.

The financial statement disclosures are neutral, consistent, and clear.

#### **Difficulties encountered in performing the audit**

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

#### **Uncorrected misstatements**

Professional standards require us to accumulate all misstatements identified during the audit, other than those that are clearly trivial, and communicate them to the appropriate level of management. Management did not identify and we did not notify them of any uncorrected financial statement misstatements.

***Corrected misstatements***

None of the misstatements detected as a result of audit procedures and corrected by management were material, either individually or in the aggregate, to the financial statements taken as a whole.

***Disagreements with management***

For purposes of this communication, a disagreement with management is a disagreement on 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 our audit.

***Management representations***

We have requested certain representations from management that are included in the attached management representation letter dated July 21, 2023.

***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 entity'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.

***Significant issues discussed with management prior to engagement***

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

***Significant findings or issues that were discussed, or the subject of correspondence, with management***

We generally discuss a variety of matters, including the application of accounting principles and auditing standards, with management each year. The following summarizes the significant findings or issues arising from the audit that were discussed, or the subject of correspondence, with management:

- Preparation of Financial Statements

**Supplementary information in relation to the financial statements as a whole**

With respect to the required supplementary information (RSI) accompanying the financial statements, we made certain inquiries of management about the methods of preparing the RSI, including whether the RSI has been measured and presented in accordance with prescribed guidelines, whether the methods of measurement and preparation have been changed from the prior period and the reasons for any such changes, and whether there were any significant assumptions or interpretations underlying the measurement or presentation of the RSI. We compared the RSI for consistency with management's responses to the foregoing inquiries, the basic financial statements, and other knowledge obtained during the audit of the basic financial statements. Because these limited procedures do not provide sufficient evidence, we did not express an opinion or provide any assurance on the RSI.

With respect to the combining fund financial statements (collectively, the supplementary information) accompanying the financial statements, on which we were engaged to report in relation to the financial statements as a whole, 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 or the reasons for such changes, 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. We have issued our report thereon dated July 21, 2023.

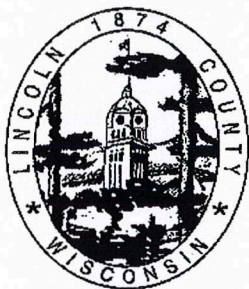
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This communication is intended solely for the information and use of the County Board and management of Lincoln County, Wisconsin and is not intended to be, and should not be, used by anyone other than these specified parties.



**CliftonLarsonAllen LLP**

Wausau, Wisconsin  
July 21, 2023



## LINCOLN COUNTY FINANCE DEPARTMENT SERVICE CENTER

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Deana Jankowsky, County Accountant  
Heather Marheine, County Accountant

Elayne Fischer, Payroll Clerk  
Amy Kohnhorst, Accounts  
Payable Clerk

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July 21, 2023

CliftonLarsonAllen LLP  
311 Financial Way, Suite 100  
Wausau, WI 54401

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, 2022, and the respective changes in 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 on 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 misstatements that are material. Misstatements, including omissions, are considered material if there is a substantial likelihood that, individually or in the aggregate, they would influence the judgment made by a reasonable user based on the financial statements.

We confirm, to the best of our knowledge and belief, as of July 21, 2023, the following representations made to you during your audit of the financial statements as of and for the year ended December 31, 2022.

### Financial Statements

1. We have fulfilled our responsibilities, as set out in the terms of the audit engagement agreement dated January 25, 2023, for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with U.S. GAAP. The financial statements include all properly classified funds and other financial information of the primary government and all component units required by generally accepted accounting principles to be included in the financial reporting entity.
2. We acknowledge and have fulfilled 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.
3. We acknowledge our responsibility for the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control to prevent and detect fraud.

4. Significant assumptions used by us in making accounting estimates, including those measured at fair value, are reasonable.

We have identified all accounting estimates that could be material to the financial statements, including the key factors and significant assumptions used in making those estimates, and we believe the estimates (including those measured at fair value) and the significant assumptions used in making those accounting estimates are reasonable.

5. Significant estimates have been appropriately accounted for and disclosed in accordance with the requirements of U.S. GAAP. Significant estimates are estimates at the financial statement date that could change materially within the next year.
6. Related party relationships and transactions, including, but not limited to, 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 the requirements of U.S. GAAP.
7. All events occurring subsequent to the date of the financial statements and for which U.S. GAAP requires adjustment or disclosure have been adjusted or disclosed. No events, including instances of noncompliance, have occurred subsequent to the financial statement date and through the date of this letter that would require adjustment to, or disclosure in, the financial statements.
8. You have proposed adjusting journal entries that have been posted to the entity's accounts, including adjusting journal entries to convert our cash basis records to the accrual basis. We have reviewed and approved those adjusting journal entries and understand the nature of the changes and their impact on the financial statements. We are in agreement with those adjustments and accept responsibility for them.

We have not identified or been notified of any uncorrected financial statement misstatements.

9. The effects of all known actual or possible litigation, claims, and assessments have been accounted for and disclosed in accordance with U.S. GAAP.
10. Receivables recorded in the financial statements represent valid claims against debtors for transactions arising on or before the financial statement date and have been reduced to their estimated net realizable value.
11. We have analyzed all lease contracts and have considered and recorded material embedded leases contained within other contracts in accordance with U.S. GAAP.
12. We have implemented GASB Statement No. 87, *Leases*, during the audit period. We have implemented the new accounting standard in accordance with the transition guidance prescribed in the standard. We have sufficient and appropriate documentation supporting all estimates and judgments underlying the amounts recorded and disclosed in the financial statements.

13. We have no plans or intentions that may materially affect the carrying value or classification of assets, liabilities, or equity.
14. We believe that the actuarial assumptions and methods used to measure pension and other postemployment benefits (OPEB) liabilities and costs for financial accounting purposes are appropriate in the circumstances.
15. We are unable to determine the possibility of a withdrawal liability in a multiple-employer benefit plan.
16. We do not intend to compensate for the elimination of postretirement benefits by granting an increase in pension benefits.
17. We do not plan to make frequent amendments to our pension or other postretirement benefit plans.

#### **Information Provided**

1. 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 (including information obtained from within and outside of the general and subsidiary ledgers), documentation, and other matters.
  - b. Additional information that you have requested from us for the purpose of the audit.
  - c. Unrestricted access to persons within the entity from whom you determined it necessary to obtain audit evidence.
  - d. Complete minutes of the meetings of the governing board and related committees, or summaries of actions of recent meetings for which minutes have not yet been prepared.
  - e. All communications from regulatory agencies, grantors, lenders, and other funding sources concerning noncompliance with, or deficiencies in, financial reporting practices.
  - f. All communications from regulatory agencies, grantors, lenders, and other funding sources concerning noncompliance with the provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements.
2. All material transactions have been recorded in the accounting records and are reflected in the financial statements.
3. We have disclosed to you the results of our assessment of the risk that the financial statements may be materially misstated as a result of fraud.
4. We have no knowledge of any fraud or suspected fraud that affects the entity and involves:
  - a. Management;


- b. Employees who have significant roles in internal control; or
  - c. Others when the fraud could have a material effect on the financial statements.
5. We have no knowledge of any allegations of fraud, or suspected fraud, affecting the entity's financial statements communicated by employees, former employees, grantors, regulators, or others.
  6. We have no knowledge of any instances of noncompliance or suspected noncompliance with laws and regulations and provisions of contracts and grant agreements, or waste or abuse whose effects should be considered when preparing financial statements.
  7. We have disclosed to you all known actual or possible litigation, claims, and assessments whose effects should be considered when preparing the financial statements.
  8. There are no other material liabilities or gain or loss contingencies that are required to be accrued or disclosed in accordance with U.S. GAAP.
  9. We have disclosed to you the identity of all the entity's related parties and all the related party relationships and transactions of which we are aware, including any side agreements.
  10. The entity 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, except as made known to you and disclosed in the financial statements.
  11. We have a process to track the status of audit findings and recommendations.
  12. 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.
  13. We have provided our views on reported findings, conclusions, and recommendations, as well as our planned corrective actions, for the report.
  14. We are responsible for compliance with the laws, regulations, and provisions of contracts and grant agreements applicable to Lincoln County, Wisconsin, including tax or debt limits and debt contracts; and we have identified and disclosed to you all laws, regulations, and provisions of contracts and grant agreements that we believe have a direct and material effect on the determination of financial statement amounts or other financial data significant to the audit objectives, including legal and contractual provisions for reporting specific activities in separate funds.
  15. 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.

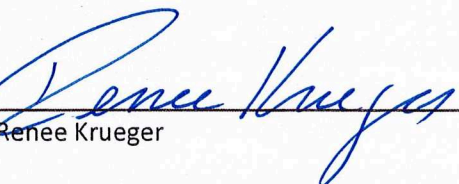


16. The entity has complied with all aspects of contractual or grant agreements that would have a material effect on the financial statements in the event of noncompliance.
17. We have complied with all restrictions on resources (including donor restrictions) and all aspects of contractual and grant agreements that would have a material effect on the financial statements in the event of noncompliance. This includes complying with donor requirements to maintain a specific asset composition necessary to satisfy their restrictions.
18. We have followed all applicable laws and regulations in adopting, approving, and amending budgets.
19. The financial statements include all component units as well as joint ventures with an equity interest, and properly disclose all other joint ventures, jointly governed organizations, and other related organizations.
20. The financial statements properly classify all funds and activities.
21. 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.
22. Components of net position (net investment in capital assets; restricted; and unrestricted) and equity amounts are properly classified and, if applicable, approved.
23. Investments, derivative instruments, and land and other real estate held by endowments are properly valued.
24. Provisions for uncollectible receivables have been properly identified and recorded.
25. 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.
26. Revenues are appropriately classified in the statement of activities within program revenues, general revenues, contributions to term or permanent endowments, or contributions to permanent fund principal.
27. Interfund, internal, and intra-entity activity and balances have been appropriately classified and reported.
28. Deposits and investment securities and derivative instruments are properly classified as to risk and are properly valued and disclosed.
29. Capital assets, including infrastructure and intangible assets, are properly capitalized, reported, and, if applicable, depreciated.
30. We have appropriately disclosed the entity'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.

31. 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.
32. We acknowledge our responsibility for presenting the combining fund statements (the supplementary information) in accordance with U.S. GAAP, and we believe the supplementary information, including its form and content, is fairly presented in accordance with U.S. GAAP. 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. If the supplementary information is not presented with the audited financial statements, we will make the audited financial statements readily available to the intended users of the supplementary information no later than the date we issue the supplementary information and the auditors' report thereon.
33. As part of your audit, you prepared the draft financial statements, related notes, and supplementary information. We have designated an individual who possesses suitable skill, knowledge, and/or experience to understand and oversee your services; have made all management judgments and decisions; and have assumed all management responsibilities. We have evaluated the adequacy and results of the service. We have reviewed, approved, and accepted responsibility for those financial statements, related notes, and supplementary information. We have also ensured that the entity's data and records are complete and received sufficient information to oversee the service.
34. We have evaluated the adequacy and results of the lease accounting services performed and accept responsibility for the results. We acknowledge our responsibility for our lease asset and lease liability (lease schedule) based on the lease information provided by us. We have reviewed our lease contracts and related lease schedule and have determined and accept responsibility for all inputs, outputs, assumptions and estimates included in the lease schedule, including specific review of underlying contracts for accuracy of data input. We have designated an individual who possesses suitable skill, knowledge, and/or experience to understand and oversee your lease services; have made all significant management judgments and decisions; and have assumed all management responsibilities. We have also ensured that the entity's data and records are complete and received sufficient information to oversee the service.

Signature:  Title: Finance Director  
Samantha Fenske

Signature:  Title: Administrative Coordinator  
Renee Krueger