

Great Lakes Water Authority

Report on Federal Awards

June 30, 2024

Great Lakes Water Authority

Table of Contents

June 30, 2024

	<u>Page</u>
Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting and on Compliance and Other Matters Based on an Audit of Financial Statements Performed in Accordance With <i>Government Auditing Standards</i>	1
Report on Compliance for the Major Federal Program; Report on Internal Control Over Compliance; and Report on the Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards Required by the Uniform Guidance	3
Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards	6
Notes to the Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards	7
Schedule of Findings and Questioned Costs	8

**Report on Internal Control
Over Financial Reporting and on Compliance
and Other Matters Based on an Audit of
Financial Statements Performed in Accordance
With *Government Auditing Standards***

Independent Auditors' Report

To the Board of Directors of
Great Lakes Water Authority

We have audited, in accordance with the auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards* issued by the Comptroller General of the United States (*Government Auditing Standards*), the financial statements of the business-type activities, and the major fund of the Great Lakes Water Authority (the Authority), as of and for the year ended June 30, 2024, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the Authority's basic financial statements, and have issued our report thereon dated December 11, 2024.

Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

In planning and performing our audit of the financial statements, we considered the Authority's internal control over financial reporting (internal control) as a basis for designing audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances for the purpose of expressing our opinions on the financial statements, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Authority's internal control. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the Authority's internal control.

A deficiency in internal control exists when the design or operation of a control does not allow management or employees, in the normal course of performing their assigned functions, to prevent, or detect and correct, misstatements on a timely basis. A *material weakness* is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control, such that there is a reasonable possibility that a material misstatement of the entity's financial statements will not be prevented, or detected and corrected, on a timely basis. A *significant deficiency* is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control that is less severe than a material weakness, yet important enough to merit attention by those charged with governance.

Our consideration of internal control was for the limited purpose described in the first paragraph of this section and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control that might be material weaknesses or significant deficiencies. Given these limitations, during our audit we did not identify any deficiencies in internal control that we consider to be material weaknesses. However, material weaknesses or significant deficiencies may exist that were not identified.

Report on Compliance and Other Matters

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the Authority's financial statements are free from material misstatement, we performed tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements, noncompliance with which could have a direct and material effect on the financial statements. However, providing an opinion on compliance with those provisions was not an objective of our audit, and accordingly, we do not express such an opinion. The results of our tests disclosed no instances of noncompliance or other matters that are required to be reported under *Government Auditing Standards*.

Purpose of This Report

The purpose of this report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control or on compliance. This report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the entity's internal control and compliance. Accordingly, this communication is not suitable for any other purpose.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Baker Tilly US, LLP". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Madison, Wisconsin
December 11, 2024

**Report on Compliance
for the Major Federal Program;
Report on Internal Control Over Compliance; and
Report on the Schedule of Expenditures of
Federal Awards Required by the Uniform Guidance**

Independent Auditors' Report

To the Board of Directors of
Great Lakes Water Authority

Report on Compliance for the Major Federal Program

Opinion on the Major Federal Program

We have audited the Great Lakes Water Authority's (the Authority) compliance with the types of compliance requirements identified as subject to audit in the OMB *Compliance Supplement* that could have a direct and material effect on the Authority's major federal program for the year ended June 30, 2024. The Authority's major federal program is identified in the summary of auditors' results section of the accompanying schedule of findings and questioned costs.

In our opinion, the Authority complied, in all material respects, with the compliance requirements referred to above that could have a direct and material effect on its major federal program for the year ended June 30, 2024.

Basis for Opinion on the Major Federal Program

We conducted our audit of compliance in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAS); the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards* issued by the Comptroller General of the United States (*Government Auditing Standards*); and the audit requirements of Title 2 U.S. *Code of Federal Regulations* Part 200, *Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards* (Uniform Guidance). Our responsibilities under those standards and the Uniform Guidance are further described in the Auditors' Responsibilities for the Audit of Compliance section of our report.

We are required to be independent of the Authority and to meet our other ethical responsibilities, in accordance with 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 opinion on compliance for the major federal program. Our audit does not provide a legal determination of the Authority's compliance with the compliance requirements referred to above.

Responsibilities of Management for Compliance

Management is responsible for compliance with the requirements referred to above and for the design, implementation, and maintenance of effective internal control over compliance with the requirements of laws, statutes, regulations, rules and provisions of contracts or grant agreements applicable to the Authority's federal programs.

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Auditors' Responsibilities for the Audit of Compliance

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether material noncompliance with the compliance requirements referred to above occurred, whether due to fraud or error, and express an opinion on the Authority's compliance based on our audit. 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, *Government Auditing Standards*, and the Uniform Guidance will always detect material noncompliance when it exists. The risk of not detecting material noncompliance resulting from fraud is higher than for that resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control. Noncompliance with the compliance requirements referred to above is considered material, if there is a substantial likelihood that, individually or in the aggregate, it would influence the judgment made by a reasonable user of the report on compliance about the Authority's compliance with the requirements of the major federal program as a whole.

In performing an audit in accordance with GAAS, *Government Auditing Standards*, and the Uniform Guidance, we:

- exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.
- identify and assess the risks of material noncompliance, 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 Authority's compliance with the compliance requirements referred to above and performing such other procedures as we considered necessary in the circumstances.
- obtain an understanding of the Authority's internal control over compliance relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances and to test and report on internal control over compliance in accordance with the Uniform Guidance, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Authority's internal control over compliance. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.

We are required to communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and any significant deficiencies and material weaknesses in internal control over compliance that we identified during the audit.

Report on Internal Control Over Compliance

A deficiency in internal control over compliance exists when the design or operation of a control over compliance does not allow management or employees, in the normal course of performing their assigned functions, to prevent, or detect and correct, noncompliance with a type of compliance requirement of a federal program on a timely basis. *A material weakness in internal control over compliance* is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control over compliance, such that there is a reasonable possibility that material noncompliance with a type of compliance requirement of a federal program will not be prevented, or detected and corrected, on a timely basis. *A significant deficiency in internal control over compliance* is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control over compliance with a type of compliance requirement of a federal program that is less severe than a material weakness in internal control over compliance, yet important enough to merit attention by those charged with governance.

Our consideration of internal control over compliance was for the limited purpose described in the Auditors' Responsibilities for the Audit of Compliance section above and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control over compliance that might be material weaknesses or significant deficiencies in internal control over compliance. Given these limitations, during our audit we did not identify any deficiencies in internal control over compliance that we consider to be material weaknesses, as defined above. However, material weaknesses or significant deficiencies in internal control over compliance may exist that were not identified.

Our audit was not designed for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of internal control over compliance. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.

The purpose of this report on internal control over compliance is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over compliance and the results of that testing based on the requirements of the Uniform Guidance. Accordingly, this report is not suitable for any other purpose.

Report on Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards Required by the Uniform Guidance

We have audited the financial statements of the business-type activities, and the major fund of the Authority as of and for the year ended June 30, 2024, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the Authority's basic financial statements. We issued our report thereon dated December 11, 2024, which contained unmodified opinions on those financial statements. Our audit was conducted for the purpose of forming opinions on the financial statements that collectively comprise the basic financial statements. The accompanying schedule of expenditures of federal awards is presented for purposes of additional analysis as required by the Uniform Guidance and is not a required part of the basic financial statements. Such information is the responsibility of management and was derived from and relates directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the basic financial statements. The information has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the basic financial statements and certain additional procedures, including comparing and reconciling such information directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the basic financial statements or to the basic financial statements themselves, and other additional procedures in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. In our opinion, the schedule of expenditures of federal awards is fairly stated in all material respects in relation to the basic financial statements as a whole.

Baker Tilly US, LLP

Madison, Wisconsin
December 11, 2024

Great Lakes Water Authority

Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards
 Year Ended June 30, 2024

Federal Grantor/Pass-Through Agency Program Title	Assistance Listing Number	Grant/Contract Number	Pass-Through Agency Grant Number	Payments Made to Subrecipients	Federal Expenditures
Federal Programs					
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TREASURY					
Passed-Through the Michigan Department of Environment Great Lakes and Energy					
COVID-19 Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds					
Infrastructure Grants					
5.1 Clean Water: Centralized Wastewater Treatment	21.027		5836-01	\$ -	\$ 2,342,280
5.11 Drinking Water: Transmission & Distribution	21.027		7532-02	-	5,313,987
5.11 Drinking Water: Transmission & Distribution	21.027		FRF2969-GLWA02	-	5,000,000
5.2 Clean Water: Centralized Wastewater Collection and Conveyance	21.027		PA53-2024-001	-	25,000,000
Total U.S. Department of Treasury				-	37,656,267
U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY					
Passed-Through the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy					
Clean Water State Revolving Fund					
State Revolving Fund Loan	66.458		5673-01	-	990,250
State Revolving Fund Loan	66.458		5706-01	206,226	206,226
State Revolving Fund Loan	66.458		5741-01	-	807,694
State Revolving Fund Loan	66.458		5742-01	-	1,051,826
State Revolving Fund Loan	66.458		5836-01	-	2,953,032
Total Clean Water State Revolving Fund				206,226	6,009,028
Passed-Through the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy					
Drinking Water State Revolving Fund					
State Revolving Fund Loan	66.468		7461-02	-	2,473,126
Total Drinking Water State Revolving Fund				-	2,473,126
Total U.S. Environmental Protection Agency				206,226	8,482,154
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY					
Direct Programs					
Hydrothermal Liquefaction to Convert Organic Wet Wastes to Transportation Fuels					
	81.087	DE-EE0010307		53,605	102,804
Total U.S. Department of Energy				53,605	102,804
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY					
Passed-Through the Michigan State Police					
COVID-19 Emergency Protective Measures Covid-19 Public Assistance	97.036		4494DR-MI / PW-70	-	1,858,713
COVID-19 Emergency Protective Measures Covid-19 Public Assistance	97.036		4494DR-MI / PW-117	-	19,348
COVID-19 Emergency Protective Measures Covid-19 Public Assistance	97.036		4494DR-MI / PW-403	-	102,850
COVID-19 Emergency Protective Measures Covid-19 Public Assistance	97.036		4494DR-MI / PW-418	-	470,475
COVID-19 Emergency Protective Measures Covid-19 Public Assistance	97.036		4494DR-MI / PW-469	-	334,193
COVID-19 Emergency Protective Measures Covid-19 Public Assistance	97.036		4494DR-MI / PW-544	-	73,494
Disaster Severe Storm Utilities Public Assistance	97.036		4607DR-MI / PW-17	-	80,129
Disaster Severe Storm Utilities Public Assistance	97.036		4607DR-MI / PW-67	-	180,000
Disaster Severe Storm Utilities Public Assistance	97.036		4607DR-MI / PW-75	-	1,910,621
Disaster Severe Storm Utilities Public Assistance	97.036		4607DR-MI / PW-88	-	319,911
Disaster Severe Storm Utilities Public Assistance	97.036		4607DR-MI / PW-100	-	247,651
Total U.S. Department of Homeland Security				-	5,597,385
Total Federal Programs				\$ 259,831	\$ 51,838,610

See notes to schedule of expenditures of federal awards

Great Lakes Water Authority

Notes to the Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards

June 30, 2024

1. Basis of Presentation

The accompanying schedule of expenditures of federal awards (the Schedule) includes the federal award activity of the Great Lakes Water Authority (the Authority) under programs of the federal government for the year ended June 30, 2024. The information in this Schedule is presented in accordance with the requirements of Title 2 U.S. *Code of Federal Regulations* Part 200, *Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards* (Uniform Guidance). Because the Schedule presents only a selected portion of the operations of the Authority, it is not intended to and does not present the financial position, changes in net position or cash flows of the Authority.

2. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

Expenditures reported on the Schedule are reported on the modified cash basis of accounting, which is described as follows:

Basis of Accounting for U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Programs

In general, expenditures are reported in the Schedule when the Authority remits payment to a vendor or contractor, rather than when an expense is incurred by the Authority in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP). Additionally, any amounts paid to subrecipients are included when paid or transferred instead of when incurred. The Authority reports its expenditures using this method based on guidance it received from the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE), which serves as the pass-through entity for all of the Authority's federally funded loan programs.

Pre-Award Costs for U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Programs

In addition to the above, awarding agencies may approve reimbursement of costs related to projects undertaken (and paid to vendors) in prior periods. In those cases, as the payments were not previously reported as federal expenditures, they are reported on the Schedule in the period reimbursement is approved by the awarding agency. Such expenditures are recognized following the cost principles contained in the Uniform Guidance, wherein certain types of expenditures are not allowable or are limited as to reimbursement. Passthrough entity identifying numbers are presented where available.

Basis of Accounting for All Other Federal Grants

In general, the Authority reports expenditures in the Schedule when expenditures have been incurred and when the funds have been obligated. Additionally, any amounts paid to subrecipients are included when paid or transferred instead of when incurred.

The Authority incurred eligible expenses of \$3,068,613 in fiscal year ended June 30, 2021, \$14,525,104 in fiscal year ended June 30, 2022 and \$9,925,365 in fiscal year ended June 30, 2023 which were approved by EGLE. The Authority incurred eligible expenses of \$1,878,061 in fiscal year ended June 30, 2020, \$102,850 in fiscal year ended June 30, 2021, \$1,592,319 in fiscal year ended June 30, 2022, and \$113,534 in fiscal year ended June 30, 2023 which were approved by Michigan State Police in fiscal year ended June 30, 2024.

3. Indirect Cost Rate

The Authority has not elected to use the 10% de minimis indirect cost rate.

Great Lakes Water Authority

Schedule of Findings and Questioned Costs
Year Ended June 30, 2024

Section I - Summary of Auditors' Results

Financial Statements

Type of report the auditor issued on whether the financial statements audited were prepared in accordance with GAAP:

Unmodified

Internal control over financial reporting:

Material weakness(es) identified?

_____ yes X no

Significant deficiency(ies) identified?

_____ yes X none reported

Noncompliance material to financial statements noted?

_____ yes X no

Federal Awards

Internal control over major programs:

Material weakness(es) identified?

_____ yes X no

Significant deficiency(ies) identified?

_____ yes X none reported

Type of auditor's report issued on compliance for major programs:

Unmodified

Any audit findings disclosed that are required to be reported in accordance with section 2 CFR 200.516(a)?

_____ yes X no

Auditee qualified as low-risk auditee?

 X yes _____ no

Dollar threshold used to distinguish between type A and type B programs:

 \$1,555,158

Identification of major federal programs:

Assistance Listing Number(s)

Name of Federal Program or Cluster

21.027

COVID-19 Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds – Infrastructure Grants

Great Lakes Water Authority

Schedule of Findings and Questioned Costs
Year Ended June 30, 2024

Section II - Financial Statement Findings

None Reported

Section III - Federal Awards Findings and Questioned Costs

None Reported