

**SOUTH SAINT LOUIS SOIL AND WATER
CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

December 31, 2007

TABLE OF CONTENTS

FINANCIAL SECTION	Page
Independent Auditor's Report	1-2
Management's Discussion and Analysis	3-5
BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS	
Statement of Net Assets and Governmental Fund Balance Sheet	6
Statement of Activities and Governmental Fund Revenues, Expenditures And Changes In Fund Balance	7
Budgetary Comparison Statement, Budget and Actual, General Fund	8
Notes to Financial Statements	9-13
ADDITIONAL REPORTS	
Report on Legal Compliance	14
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>	15-16

JAMES MAISER
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANT & CONSULTANT

44 West First Street, Waconia, MN 55387 Office: 952-442-4807 Fax: 952-442-6888

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

Board of Supervisors
South Saint Louis Soil and Water Conservation District
Duluth, Minnesota

I have audited the accompanying financial statements of the governmental activities and the General fund of the South Saint Louis Soil and Water Conservation District, Duluth, Minnesota as of and for the year ended December 31, 2007 which collectively comprise the District's basic financial statements as listed in the table of contents. These financial statements are the responsibility of District management. My responsibility is to express opinions on these financial statements based on the audit.

I conducted the audit in accordance with 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. Those standards require that I plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. I believe that my audit provides a reasonable basis for my opinions.

In my opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the respective financial position of the governmental activities and the General fund of the South Saint Louis Soil and Water Conservation District, Duluth, Minnesota as of December 31, 2007, and the results of operations and the respective budgetary comparison for the General fund for the year then ended in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

The management's discussion and analysis information is not a required part of the basic financial statements but it is supplementary information required by accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. I have applied certain limited procedures, which consisted principally of inquiries of management regarding the methods of measurement and presentation of the required supplementary information. However, I did not audit the information and express no opinion on it.

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, I have also issued a report dated October 24, 2008 on my consideration of the District's internal control over financial reporting and on my tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations,

contracts and grant agreements and other matters. The purpose of that report is to describe the scope of my testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the internal control over financial reporting or on compliance. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Governmental Auditing Standards* and should be read in conjunction with this report in considering the results of my audit.



JAMES MAISER
Certified Public Accountant and Consultant

October 24, 2008
Waconia, Minnesota

MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS

The South St. Louis Soil & Water Conservation District's discussion and analysis provides an overview of the SWCD's financial activities for the fiscal year ended 2007. Since this information is designed to focus on the current years activities, resulting changes, and currently known facts, it should be read in conjunction with the SWCD's financial statements and the notes to the financial statements.

USING THIS ANNUAL REPORT

This annual report consists of two parts: management's discussion and analysis and the basic financial statements. The basic financial statements include a series of financial statements. The Statement of Net Assets and the Statement of Activities provide information about the activities of the SWCD as a whole and present a longer-term view of the SWCD's finances. Fund financial statements for governmental activities, these statements tell how services were financed in the short term as well as what remains for future spending. Fund financial statements also report the SWCD's operations in more detail than the government-wide statements by providing information about the SWCD's most significant funds. Since SWCD's are single-purpose special purpose governments they are generally able to combine the government-wide and fund financial statements into single presentations. South St. Louis Soil & Water Conservation District has elected to present in this format.

The Statement of Net Assets and the Statement of Activities

One of the most important questions asked about the SWCD's finances is, "Is the SWCD as a whole better or worse off as a result of the year's activities?" The Statement of Net Assets and the Statement of Activities report information about the SWCD as a whole and about its activities in a way that helps answer this question. These statements include all assets and liabilities using accrual basis of accounting, which is similar to the accounting used by the most private-sector companies. All of the current year's revenues and expenses are taken into account regardless of when cash is received or paid.

These two statements report the SWCD's net assets and changes in them. You can think of the SWCD's net assets — the difference between assets and liabilities—as one way to measure the SWCD's financial health, or financial position. Over time, increases or decreases in the SWCD's net assets are one indicator of whether its financial health is improving or deteriorating.

Reporting the SWCD's General Fund - Fund Financial Statements

The fund financial statements provide detailed information about the general fund—not the SWCD as a whole. The SWCD presents only a general fund, which is a governmental fund. All of the SWCD's basic services are reported in the general fund, which focuses on how money flows into and out of those funds and the balances left at year-end that are available for spending. The fund is reported using an accounting method called modified accrual accounting. This method measures cash and all other financial assets that can be readily converted to cash. The general fund statements provide a detailed short-term view of the SWCD's general government operations and the basic services it provides. Governmental fund information helps you determine whether there are more or fewer financial resources that can be spent in the near future to finance the SWCD's programs. We describe the relationship (or

differences) between governmental activities (reported in the Statement of Net Assets and the Statement of Activities) and governmental funds in a reconciliation included with the financial statements.

THE SWCD AS A WHOLE

The SWCD's combined net assets for 2007 were (\$21,010). In contrast, last year net assets were \$4,153. The analysis below focuses on the net assets (Table 1) and changes in net assets (Table 2) of the SWCD's Governmental and business-type activities.

Table 1, Net Assets

	<u>2006</u>	<u>2007</u>
Current and other assets	\$152,622	\$244,894
Capital assets	<u>1,546</u>	<u>2,198</u>
Total Assets	\$154,168	\$247,092
Long-term debt outstanding	7,308	8,640
Other Liabilities	<u>142,707</u>	<u>259,462</u>
Total Liabilities	\$150,015	\$268,102
Net Assets		
Invested in capital assets, net of debt	1,546	2,198
Unrestricted	<u>2,607</u>	<u>(23,208)</u>
Total Net Assets	\$4,153	(\$21,010)

Net assets for the SWCD governmental activities decreased by \$25,163. Unrestricted net assets—the part of net assets that can be used to finance day-to-day operations without constraints established by debt covenants, enabling legislation or other legal requirements—changed from \$2,607 at the end of 2006 to (23,208) at the end of 2007

Deferred revenue funds in the amount of \$251,660 for 2007 are dedicated for cost share projects and cannot be used to finance day-to-day operations.

Table 2, Changes in Net Assets

	<u>2006</u>	<u>2007</u>
Revenues		
Program revenues:		
County	\$85,567	\$89,966
State	51,730	87,192
Charges for services	76,655	71,836
General Revenue		
Interest	1,799	2,535
Other	<u>110,571</u>	<u>16,671</u>
Total Revenues	\$326,322	\$268,200
Program expenses		
Conservation	\$337,348	\$293,363
Increase/Decrease in net assets	(\$11,026)	(\$25,163)

The SWCD's total revenues decreased by \$58,122 and total expenses decreased by \$43,985.

Governmental Activities

Revenues from the sale of trees decreased by \$4,819 and expenses for this service program increased by \$4,034.

More than 50 percent of the SWCD funding was tax based. \$89,966 was received from the county, \$87,192 from the state. Other income decreased from 2006 to 2007 by \$93,900 because of a one time local grant received in 2006. The remaining funds are generated from the SWCD tree program, interest and miscellaneous funds.

The cost of all state projects this year was \$19,875 compared to \$30,688 last year. Taxpayers financed some of these expenses through county, state and local grants. In addition to the cost share funds that are spent, the landowner also contributes to projects. The SWCD also partners with NRCS, PCA, DNR, North St. Louis and Carlton SWCD's, St. Louis County and the cities of Duluth, Proctor and Hermantown.

THE SWCD's FUNDS

As the SWCD completed the year, its general fund reported a combined fund balance of (14,568), which is less than last year's total of \$9,915.

CAPITAL ASSET AND DEBT ADMINISTRATION

Capital Assets - The SWCD's capital assets consist mainly of computers and field equipment used to perform work.

CONTACTING THE SWCD'S FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

This financial report is designed to provide our citizens, taxpayers, and customers with a general overview of the SWCD's finances and to show the SWCD's accountability for the money it receives. If you have questions about this report or need additional financial information, contact the SWCD's office

South St. Louis Soil and Water Conservation District
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SOUTH SAINT LOUIS SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
DULUTH, MINNESOTA

STATEMENT OF NET ASSETS AND
GOVERNMENTAL FUND BALANCE SHEET
DECEMBER 31, 2007

	General Fund	Adjustments	Statement of Net Assets
<u>Assets</u>			
Cash and investments	\$ 243,184	\$ -	\$ 243,184
Prepaid Items	1,710	-	1,710
Capital Assets:			
Equipment (net of accumulated depreciation)	-	2,198	2,198
Total Assets	<u>\$ 244,894</u>	<u>\$ 2,198</u>	<u>\$ 247,092</u>
<u>Liabilities</u>			
Current liabilities:			
Accounts payable	\$ 1,396	\$ -	\$ 1,396
Accrued Payroll	6,406	-	6,406
Deferred Revenue	251,660	-	251,660
Long-term liabilities:			
Due within one year	-	-	-
Due after one year	-	8,640	8,640
Total Liabilities	<u>\$ 259,462</u>	<u>\$ 8,640</u>	<u>\$ 268,102</u>
<u>Fund Balance/Net Assets</u>			
Fund Balance/Net Assets			
Unreserved			
Designated, Future Projects	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Undesignated	(14,568)	14,568	-
Total Fund Balance	<u>\$ (14,568)</u>	<u>\$ 14,568</u>	<u>\$ -</u>
Net Assets			
Invested in capital assets		\$ 2,198	\$ 2,198
Unrestricted		(23,208)	(23,208)
Total Net Assets		<u>\$ (21,010)</u>	<u>\$ (21,010)</u>

Notes are an integral part of the basic financial statements.

SOUTH SAINT LOUIS SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
DULUTH, MINNESOTA

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES AND
GOVERNMENTAL FUND REVENUES, EXPENDITURES AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCE
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2007

	General Fund	Adjustments	Statement of Activities
Revenues			
Intergovernmental	\$ 177,158	\$ -	\$ 177,158
Charges for services	71,836	-	71,836
Investment earnings	2,535	-	2,535
Miscellaneous	16,671	-	16,671
Total Revenues	<u>\$ 268,200</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 268,200</u>
Expenditures/Expenses			
Conservation			
Current	\$ 291,094	\$ 2,269	\$ 293,363
Capital outlay	1,589	(1,589)	-
Total Expenditures/Expenses	<u>\$ 292,683</u>	<u>\$ 680</u>	<u>\$ 293,363</u>
Excess of Revenues Over (Under) Expenditures/Expenses	<u>\$ (24,483)</u>	<u>\$ (680)</u>	<u>\$ (25,163)</u>
Fund Balance/Net Assets January 1	<u>\$ 9,915</u>	<u>\$ (5,762)</u>	<u>\$ 4,153</u>
Fund Balance/Net Assets December 31	<u>\$ (14,568)</u>	<u>\$ (6,442)</u>	<u>\$ (21,010)</u>

Notes are an integral part of the basic financial statements.

SOUTH SAINT LOUIS SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
DULUTH, MINNESOTA

BUDGETARY COMPARISON STATEMENT
BUDGET AND ACTUAL
GENERAL FUND
YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2007

	Original/Final <u>Budget</u>	Actual	Variance with Final Budget Positive (Neg)
Revenues			
Intergovernmental			
County	\$ 80,237	\$ 89,966	\$ 9,729
State Grant	240,041	87,192	(152,849)
Total intergovernmental	<u>\$ 320,278</u>	<u>\$ 177,158</u>	<u>\$ (143,120)</u>
Charges for services	<u>\$ 65,100</u>	<u>\$ 71,836</u>	<u>\$ 6,736</u>
Miscellaneous			
Interest earnings	\$ 642	\$ 2,535	\$ 1,893
Other	4,134	16,671	12,537
Total miscellaneous	<u>\$ 4,776</u>	<u>\$ 19,206</u>	<u>\$ 14,430</u>
Total Revenues	<u>\$ 390,154</u>	<u>\$ 268,200</u>	<u>\$ (121,954)</u>
Expenditures			
District operations			
Personnel services	\$ 190,071	\$ 186,891	\$ 3,180
Other services and charges	42,292	33,279	9,013
Supplies	3,500	2,740	760
Capital outlay	4,000	1,589	2,411
Total district operations	<u>\$ 239,863</u>	<u>\$ 224,499</u>	<u>\$ 15,364</u>
Project expenditures			
District	\$ 105,595	\$ 48,309	\$ 57,286
State	44,696	19,875	24,821
Total project expenditures	<u>\$ 150,291</u>	<u>\$ 68,184</u>	<u>\$ 82,107</u>
Total Expenditures	<u>\$ 390,154</u>	<u>\$ 292,683</u>	<u>\$ 97,471</u>
Excess of Revenues Over (Under) Expenditures	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ (24,483)</u>	<u>\$ (24,483)</u>
Fund Balance - January 1	<u>\$ 9,915</u>	<u>\$ 9,915</u>	<u>\$ -</u>
Fund Balance - December 31	<u>\$ 9,915</u>	<u>\$ (14,568)</u>	<u>\$ (24,483)</u>

Notes are an integral part of the basic financial statements.

SOUTH SAINT LOUIS SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
December 31, 2007

Note 1 - Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

Financial Reporting Entity

The South Saint Louis Soil and Water Conservation District is organized under the provisions of Minnesota Statutes Chapter 103C. The District is governed by a Board of Supervisors composed of five members nominated by voters of the District and elected to four-year terms by the voters of the County.

The purpose of the District is to assist land occupiers in applying practices for the conservation of soil and water resources. These practices are intended to control wind and water erosion, pollution of lakes and streams, and damage to wetlands and wildlife habitats.

The South Saint Louis Soil and Water Conservation District, in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service and other agencies, provides technical and financial assistance to individuals, groups, organizations, and governments in reducing costly waste of soil and water resulting from soil erosion, sedimentation, pollution and improper land use.

Each fiscal year the District develops a work plan which is used as a guide in using resources effectively to provide maximum conservation of all lands within its boundaries. The work plan includes guidelines for employees and technicians to follow in order to achieve the District's objectives.

The District is not considered a part of South Saint Louis County because, even though the County provides a significant amount of the District's revenues in the form of an appropriation, it does not retain any control over the operations of the district.

Generally accepted accounting principles require that the financial reporting entity include the primary government and component units for which the primary government is financially accountable. Under these principles the District does not have any component units.

Government-Wide Financial Statements

The government-wide financial statements (ie., the Statement of Net Assets and The Statement of Activities) report information on all of the nonfiduciary activities of the District.

The Statement of Activities demonstrates the degree to which the direct expenses of a given function or segment are offset by program revenues. Direct expenses are those that are clearly identifiable with a specific function.

The government-wide financial statements are reported using the economic resources measurement focus and the accrual basis of accounting. Revenues are recorded when earned and expenses are recorded when a liability is incurred, regardless of the timing of cash flows. Grants and similar items are recognized as revenues as soon as all eligibility requirements imposed by the provider have been met.

Fund Financial Statements

The government reports the general fund as its only major governmental fund. The general fund accounts for all financial resources of the government.

The District's financial statements (general fund) are presented on the modified accrual basis of accounting. Under the modified accrual basis of accounting, revenues are recognized when they become susceptible to accrual, that is, both measurable and available. Available means collectible within the current period or soon enough thereafter to be used to pay liabilities of the current period. Revenue sources susceptible to accrual include intergovernmental revenues, charges, and interest. Expenditures are recorded when the corresponding liabilities are incurred.

Intergovernmental revenues are reported in conformity with the legal and contractual requirements of the individual programs. Generally, grant revenues is recognized when the corresponding expenditures are

**SOUTH SAINT LOUIS SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
December 31, 2007**

incurred. The District also receives an annual appropriation from the County, which is recognized as revenue when received, unless it is received prior to the period to which it applies. In that case, revenue recognition is then deferred until the appropriate period.

Investment earnings and revenue from sale of trees are recognized when earned. Agricultural conservation fees and other revenue are recognized when they are received in cash because they usually are not measurable until then.

Project expenditures represent costs that are funded from federal, state, or district revenues. State project expenditures consist of grants to participants of the Cost-Share Program and other state programs. District project expenditures are costs of materials and supplies in District projects.

In accordance with Governmental Accounting Standards Board Statement No. 33, *Accounting and Financial Reporting for Nonexchange Transactions*, revenues for nonexchange transactions are recognized based on the principal characteristics of the revenue. Exchange transactions are recognized as revenue when the exchange occurs.

Budget Information

The District adopts an estimated revenue and expenditure budget for the General Fund. Comparisons of estimated revenues and budgeted expenditures to actual are presented in the financial statements in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles. Amendments to the original budget require board approval. Appropriations lapse at year-end. The District does not use encumbrance accounting.

Use of Estimates

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and reported amounts of revenues and expenditures during the reporting period. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

Assets, Liabilities and Fund Equity Accounts

Assets

Investments are stated at fair value, except for non-negotiable certificates of deposits, which are on a cost basis, and short-term money market investments, which are stated at amortized cost.

Capital assets are reported on a net (depreciated) basis. General capital assets are still valued at historical or estimated historical cost.

Liabilities

Long-term liabilities, such as compensated absences, are accounted for as an adjustment to Net Assets.

Equity

Reserved fund balance indicates the portion of fund equity, which has been legally segregated for specific purposes or is not appropriate for spending.

Unreserved, designated account indicates the portion of fund equity that the District has set aside for planned future expenditures.

Unreserved, undesignated fund balance account indicates the portion of fund balance that is available for budgeting and spending in future periods.

**SOUTH SAINT LOUIS SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
December 31, 2007**

Vacation and Sick Leave

Under the District's personnel policies, employees are granted vacation leave in varying amounts based on their length of service. Vacation leave accrual varies from 8 to 16 hours per month. Sick leave accrual is 13 days per year. The limit on the accumulation of annual leave is 240 hours and there is no limit on sick leave. Upon termination of employment from the district, employees are paid accumulated annual leave and up to 20 hours of accrued sick leave.

Risk Management

The District is exposed to various risks of loss related to tort; theft of, damage to, and destruction of assets; errors and omissions; injuries to employees; worker's compensation claims; and natural disasters. Property and casualty liabilities and workers' compensation are insured through Minnesota Counties Insurance Trust. The District retains risk for the deductible portion of the insurance. The amounts of these deductibles are considered immaterial to the financial statements.

The Minnesota Counties Insurance Trust is a public entity risk pool currently operated as a common risk management and insurance program for its members. The District pays an annual premium based on its annual payroll. There were no significant increases or reductions in insurance from the previous year or settlements in excess of insurance coverage for any of the past three fiscal years.

Note 2 – Detailed Notes on All Funds and Account Groups

Capital Assets

Changes in Capital Assets, Asset Capitalization and Depreciation.

	Beginning	Addition	Deletion	Ending
Equipment	\$4,510	\$1,589	(\$1,724)	\$4,375
Less: Accumulated Depreciation	<u>2,964</u>	937	(\$1,724)	<u>2,177</u>
Net Capital Assets	<u>\$1,546</u>			<u>\$2,198</u>

The cost of property, plant and equipment is depreciated over the estimated useful lives of the related assets. Leasehold improvements are depreciated over the lesser of the term of the related lease or the estimated useful lives of the assets. Depreciation is computed on the straight-line method. The useful lives of property, plant and equipment for the purpose of computing depreciation are Machinery and equipment 5 to 10 years. Current year depreciation is \$937.

Deferred Revenue

Deferred revenue represents unearned advances from the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) for administrative service grants and for the cost-share program. Revenues will be recognized when the related program expenditures are recorded. Deferred revenue for the year ended December 31, 2007, consists of the following: BWSR Cost Share Programs \$35,147; Knife River Forest Stewardship, \$607; Knife River TMDL Study, \$13,811; PCA Storm water Project, \$107,194; Miller Creek TMDL Study, \$32,072; CWP Miller Creek Program, \$18,747, RSPT Funds, \$16,559; Joint Powers Board Forestry Program, \$27,523; Total, \$251,660.

Long-Term Liabilities - Compensated Absences Payable

Changes in long-term liabilities for the period ended December 31, 2007 are:

Balance January 1, 2007	\$7,308
Net Change in Compensated Absences	<u>1,332</u>
Balance December 31, 2007	<u>\$8,640</u>

**SOUTH SAINT LOUIS SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
December 31, 2007**

Deposits

Minn. Statutes 118A.02 and 118A.04 authorize the District to designate a depository for public funds and to invest in certificates of deposit. Minnesota Statute 118A.03 requires that all district deposits be protected by insurance, surety bond, or collateral. The market value of collateral pledged shall be at least ten percent more than the amount on deposit plus accrued interest at the close of the financial institution's banking day, not covered by insurance or bonds.

Authorized collateral includes treasury bills, notes and bonds; issues of U.S. government agencies; general obligations rated "A" or better, revenue obligations rated "AA" or better; irrevocable standard letters of credit issued by the Federal Home Loan Bank; and certificates of deposit. Minnesota Statutes require that securities pledged as collateral be held in safekeeping in a restricted account at the Federal Reserve Bank or in an account at a trust department of a commercial bank or other financial institution that is not owned or controlled by the financial institution furnishing the collateral.

Custodial Credit Risk Deposits

At December 31, 2007, the District's deposits totaled \$243,184, of which \$172,938 were cash deposits and \$70,246 was invested in bank certificate of deposits. Custodial credit risk is the risk that in the event of a financial institution failure, the District's deposits may not be returned to it. The District does not have a deposit policy for custodial credit risk. As of December 31, 2007, the District's deposits were not exposed to custodial credit risk.

Note 3 - Defined Benefit Pension Plans – Statewide

Plan Description - Public Employees Retirement Association

The district contributes to a cost-sharing multiple-employer defined pension plan administered by the Public Employee Retirement Association of Minnesota (PERA). The PERA provides retirement benefits as well as disability to members, and benefits to survivors upon death of eligible members. The plan and its benefits are established and administered in accordance with Minn. Statute Chapters 353 and 356. PERA issues a publicly available financial report that includes financial statements and required supplementary information. That report may be obtained by writing to the Public Employees Retirement Association, 60 Empire Drive, Suite 200, St. Paul, Minnesota, 55103-1855.

Funding Policy

Minnesota Statutes Chapter 353 sets the rates for employer and employee contributions. These statutes are established and amended by the state legislature. The District makes annual contributions to the pension plans equal to the amount required by state statutes. Coordinated Plan members were required to contribute 5.75% of their annual covered salary. The District is required to contribute 6.25% of annual covered payroll. The District's contributions to the Public Employees Retirement Fund for the years ending December 31, 2007, 2006 and 2005 were \$9,043, \$7,995, and \$7,255 respectively. The District's contributions were equal to the contractually required contributions for each year as set by Minnesota statute.

Note 4 – Operating Leases

The District office lease runs through June 30, 2012. Under the lease agreement, total costs for 2007 were \$10,207. Basic rent for years 2008 through 2012 of the lease are: \$10,056, \$10,307, \$10,565, and \$10,829.

**SOUTH SAINT LOUIS SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
December 31, 2007**

Note 5 – Reconciliation of Fund Balance to Net Assets

Governmental Fund Balance, January 1	\$9,915
Plus: Excess of Revenue Over Expenditures	<u>(24,483)</u>
Governmental Fund Balance, December 31	<u>(\$14,568)</u>
Adjustments from Fund Balance to Net Assets:	
Add: Capital Assets, net of depreciation	\$2,198
Less: Long Term Liabilities	<u>(\$8,640)</u>
Net Assets	<u>(\$21,010)</u>

Note 6 – Reconciliation of Change in Fund Balance to Change in Net Assets

Change in fund balance	(\$24,483)
Purchase of capital assets	1,589
The cost of capital assets are allocated over the capital asset's useful lives at the government-wide level.	(937)
In the statement of activities certain operating expenses including compensated absences are measured by the amounts earned.	<u>(1,332)</u>
Net change in net assets	<u>(\$25,163)</u>

JAMES MAISER
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANT & CONSULTANT

44 West First Street, Waconia, MN 55387 Office: 952-442-4807 Fax: 952-442-6888

REPORT ON LEGAL COMPLIANCE

Board of Supervisors
South Saint Louis Soil and Water Conservation District
Duluth, Minnesota

I have audited the accompanying financial statements of the governmental activities, and the General fund of the South Saint Louis Soil and Water Conservation District, Duluth, Minnesota, as of and for the year ended December 31, 2007, which collectively comprise the District's basic financial statements and have issued my report thereon dated October 24, 2008.

My audit was made in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and provisions of the Minnesota Legal Compliance Audit Guide for Local Government, promulgated by the State Auditor pursuant to Minnesota Statutes Sec. 6.65. Accordingly, the audit included such tests of the accounting records and such other auditing procedures, as I considered necessary in the circumstances.

The Legal Compliance Audit Guide for Local Government covers five main categories of compliance to be tested: contracting and bidding, deposits and investments, conflicts of interest, public indebtedness, and claims and disbursements. My study included all of the listed categories except public indebtedness. The public indebtedness category was not tested because the District is not allowed to issue debt.

The results of my test indicate that for the items tested, the District complied with the material terms and conditions of applicable legal provisions.

This report is intended solely for the information and use of the District and is not intended to be, and should not be, used by anyone other than these specified parties.



JAMES MAISER
Certified Public Accountant and Consultant

October 24, 2008
Waconia, Minnesota

**JAMES MAISER
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANT & CONSULTANT**

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**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**

Board of Supervisors
South Saint Louis Soil and Water Conservation District
Duluth, Minnesota

I have audited the financial statements of the governmental activities, and the General fund of the South Saint Louis Soil and Water Conservation District as of and for the year ended December 31, 2007, and have issued my report thereon dated October 24, 2008. I conducted my audit in accordance with 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.

In planning and performing my audit of the financial statements of the governmental activities, and the General fund of the South Saint Louis Soil and Water Conservation District, Duluth, Minnesota as of and for the year ended December 31, 2007, in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, I considered the District's internal control over financial reporting as a basis for designing my auditing procedures for the purpose of expressing my opinion on the financial statements, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the District's internal control over financial reporting. Accordingly, I do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the District's internal control over financial reporting.

Internal Control

A control deficiency 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 misstatements on a timely basis. A significant deficiency is a control deficiency, or combination of control deficiencies, that adversely affects the entity's ability to initiate, authorize, record, process, or report financial data reliably in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles such that there is more than a remote likelihood that a misstatement of the entity's financial statements that is more than inconsequential will not be prevented or detected by the entity's internal control.

A material weakness is a significant deficiency, or combination of significant deficiencies, that results in more than a remote likelihood that a material misstatement of the financial statements will not be prevented or detected by the entity's internal control.

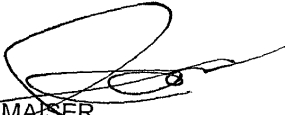
My consideration of internal control over financial reporting was for the limited purpose described in the first paragraph of this section and would not necessarily identify all deficiencies in internal control that might be significant deficiencies or material weaknesses. I identified the following deficiency in internal control over financial reporting that I consider to be a material weakness, as defined above.

The limited number of office personnel prevents a proper segregation of accounting functions necessary to assure adequate internal control. This is not unusual in organizations of your size, but management should constantly be aware of this condition and realize that the concentration of duties and responsibilities in a limited number of individuals is not desirable from a control point of view. Under this condition, the most effective control lies in management's knowledge of matters relating to the District's operations.

Compliance and Other Matters

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether South Saint Louis Soil and Water Conservation District's financial statements are free of material misstatement, I 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 determination of financial statement amounts. However, providing an opinion on compliance with those provisions was not an objective of my audit and, accordingly, I do not express such an opinion. The results of my tests disclosed no instances of noncompliance or other matters that are required to be reported under *Government Auditing Standards*.

This report is intended solely for the information and use of management and others within the organization and the Board of Supervisors, and is not intended to be and should not be used by anyone other than these specified parties.



JAMES MASER
Certified Public Accountant and Consultant

October 24, 2008
Waconia, Minnesota