

MARATHON COUNTY

Wausau, Wisconsin

COMMUNICATION TO THOSE CHARGED
WITH GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

As of and for the Year Ended December 31, 2015

MARATHON COUNTY

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**REQUIRED COMMUNICATION OF INTERNAL CONTROL RELATED MATTERS
IDENTIFIED IN THE AUDIT TO THOSE CHARGED WITH GOVERNANCE**

To the Marathon County Board of Supervisors and the
Finance and Property Committee and Management
Marathon County
Wausau, Wisconsin

In planning and performing our audit of the financial statements of Marathon County as of and for the year ended December 31, 2015, in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, we considered its internal control over financial reporting (internal control) as a basis for designing our 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 its internal control. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of its internal control.

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 certain deficiencies in internal control that we consider to be significant deficiencies.

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 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. We did not identify any deficiencies in internal control that we consider to be material weaknesses.

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. We consider the following deficiencies in the County's internal control to be significant deficiencies.

- > Internal Control Over Financial Reporting
- > Decentralized Activities – Central Wisconsin Airport
- > Treasurer's Office
- > Information Technology

Marathon County's written response to the significant deficiencies identified in our audit has not been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the financial statements and, accordingly, we express no opinion on it.

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

Baker Tilly Virchow Krause, LLP

Madison, Wisconsin
June 27, 2016

Auditing standards require that we perform procedures to obtain an understanding of your government and its internal control environment as part of the annual audit. This includes an analysis of significant transaction cycles and an analysis of the year-end financial reporting process and preparation of your financial statements.

INTERNAL CONTROL OVER FINANCIAL REPORTING

Properly designed systems of internal control provide your organization with the ability to process and record monthly and year-end transactions and annual financial reports.

Our audit includes a review and evaluation of the County's internal controls relating to financial reporting. Common attributes of a properly designed system of internal control for financial reporting are as follows:

- > There is adequate staffing to prepare financial reports throughout the year and at year-end.
- > Misstatements are identified and corrected during the normal course of duties.
- > Complete and accurate financial statements including footnotes are prepared.
- > Complete and accurate schedule of expenditures of federal and state awards is prepared.
- > Financial reports are reviewed for completeness and accuracy.

Our evaluation of the internal controls over financial reporting has identified control deficiencies that are considered significant deficiencies surrounding the preparation of financial statements and footnotes (including the schedule of expenditures of federal and state awards), adjusting journal entries identified by the auditors, and an independent review of financial reports.

Management has not prepared financial statements that are in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles and misstatements in the general ledger and the schedule of expenditures of federal and state awards were identified during the audit.

This level of internal control over financial reporting can be a difficult task for governments that operate with only enough staff to process monthly transactions and reports, and often engage their auditors to propose certain year-end audit entries and prepare the financial statements.

Management's Response

The County has implemented procedures for county personnel that prepare the financial statements to review transactions and accounts so that the financial statements would be free of any material errors. The County reviewed transactions and accounts that met transaction dollar limits, reviewed transactions during the year and completed additional pre-audit work to verify all transactions were appropriate. The County takes the accuracy of its financial reporting very seriously and will continue to strive to create financial statements that are free of material misstatement.

The Finance Department staff does attend GFOA and other governmental accounting training and maintains the knowledge and ability to complete the financial statements in house. If in the future additional resources become available, the County will review the final financial transactions and entries and develop the comprehensive annual financial report in house.

DECENTRALIZED ACTIVITIES – CENTRAL WISCONSIN AIRPORT

The Central Wisconsin Airport (CWA) invoices throughout the year for items such as terminal space leasing, fuel sales, hangar lease, and other items. Payments are sent directly to CWA and deposited by CWA staff once per month. Deposited amounts are in excess of \$100,000 per month. We recommend the County and CWA determine if payments could be sent directly to the County Treasurer's office for daily deposit. If this is not possible the collections at CWA should be deposited on a more frequent basis.

Current Year Status

This comment was still valid for a majority of 2015. In December 2015, the Airport updated their invoices to direct the payee to send checks to the Treasurer's department for the January 2016 billing and beyond.

Management's Response

The County changed its Accounts Receivable billing practices and as of the end of 2015, the Central Wisconsin Airport has had its invoiced payments sent directly to the County Treasurer's office. The County Treasurer and Finance Director will continue to work with CWA to verify that monthly invoice payments are sent directly to the Treasurer's office.

TREASURER'S OFFICE

The County Treasurer's office has multiple financial responsibilities as defined within Wisconsin State Statutes. Amongst those responsibilities is the collection of delinquent property or real estate taxes as well as performing settlements with the other taxing jurisdictions that collect currently owed taxes. With the significant amount of funds being collected for taxes as well as the importance of correctly settling with the other jurisdictions, it is critical that good internal controls exist throughout the year regarding these responsibilities. We reviewed the procedures and controls in the Treasurer's office and noted the following areas where controls should be improved:

- > During the month of August, the County Treasurer's office "settles" with other governments that collect taxes throughout the year until this settlement date. As required by statute, the County then makes the other governments whole by paying them the full amount levied, less previous collections. Any remaining uncollected taxes are then assumed by the County and collection efforts are pursued. During this settlement process, the County underpaid two cities the amount they were owed. While it was subsequently discovered by the County, controls should be in place to prevent these types of errors from occurring. All settlements should be prepared by someone with a strong knowledge of this process and independently reviewed prior to settlement.
- > The County utilizes a tax collection software system called Land Records. This system accounts for all of the delinquent taxes owed to the County, as well as penalties and interest accrued. Each day, amounts collected by the Treasurer's office for the various categories are posted to accounts. The subsequent day, the financial activity is provided to the Finance department for posting to Cayenta, the County's general ledger system. We noted several control deficiencies related to this process, including:
 - The amounts reported for tax certificates by tax year in the Land Records system did not agree or reconcile to the amounts reported in Cayenta for several of the years reported. The most significant difference was a \$250,549 amount when analyzing the 2013 tax year. Amounts reported in the Land Records system should agree to those reported in Cayenta at all times during the year. Any differences should be investigated in a timely manner and resolved. This control should be established between the County Treasurer's office as the collecting agent, and the Finance Department since they are responsible for reporting.

TREASURER'S OFFICE (cont.)

- The Land Records system is not able to produce historical reports, jeopardizing the County's ability to go back in time to resolve differences. We recommend the County work with its software vendor to determine if there is a way for these reports to be generated.
- Transactions posted to the Land Records system are not interfaced with Cayenta so the previous day's activity must be posted into Cayenta by manual journal entries. The need to manually post entries compared to interfacing systems results in weakened controls over the ability to accurately report and safeguard county tax collections. We recommend the County work with its vendor to determine if interfacing these two system is possible.
- Users of the Land Records system periodically encounter the need to adjust (change) amounts previously posted. These adjustments are not being independently reviewed. We recommend that the County work with the vendor to determine if a report can be generated whereby a review of all adjustments could be performed by someone independent of posting journal entries.

We are available to assist the County with any of these recommendations.

Management's Response

The Finance Department will work with the Treasurer's office to develop a set of procedures to balance the Land Records system with Cayenta. The two systems balanced in past years. The land records application cannot rerun reports from prior dates to verify ending balances, so we will complete the current reconciliation and maintain monthly reconciliations of the two systems.

Two items to note on the process of recording receipts from the land records system to Cayenta. Each day amounts collected by the Treasurer's office for various categories are posted to the accounts (land records). The subsequent day, the financial activity is posted through Cayenta cash receipts by the County treasurer's office not through the Finance Department. Also transactions posted to the Land Records system are not interfaced with Cayenta so the previous day's activity must be posted by cash receipt at the Treasurer's office not through manual journal entries.

Lastly, the current Land Records system is old and many of the requested improvements that you suggested are not possible on the system without major programming changes. In 2016, the County is going out for RFP to purchase a new Land Records system and hopefully many of the suggestions that you have listed will be functioning in the new system.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

As part of our 2015 audit, we evaluated information technology controls as they relate to financially significant applications. Our procedures primarily focused on documenting and evaluating general computer controls, including:

- > Logical access to data and applications
- > Change and incident management
- > System development and deployment
- > Data backup and recovery

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (cont.)

From our review, we have identified the following areas where we recommend controls be reviewed and potentially strengthened.

LOGICAL AND PHYSICAL ACCESS SECURITY

During our audit we noted that there were several shared system accounts with access to the Cayenta application. There is a risk that accountability cannot be established within Cayenta and that unauthorized users may have access to the financial application. Marathon County should perform a review of accounts with access to Cayenta and ensure that all users have a unique ID. Any generic, shared, temporary, and system accounts should be removed or disabled.

We also noted during our testing that there is access to make changes to transactions in Cayenta outside of the application interface. These changes are not logged, and therefore, provide an opportunity for unauthorized changes to be made to the system. We recommend that the County either remove this access, or create a method to log and review these changes.

The County should consider implementing a policy to require user account terminations to be handled within a maximum of three business days from last working day. In some cases, terminations in the system should happen within 24 hours. We noted during testing that there was an 8-10 month lag before access was terminated in the system.

The County should consider requiring password settings for all applications to be consistent. We noted that passwords for social service and land records applications do not require updating or complex characters. The County should also consider changing settings related to lockouts to three valid attempts for both network and all applications to be in line with best practice standards.

There should be a periodic review of application access rights for social services. This should be done at least annually to ensure all user access is necessary and rights are appropriately limited.

Management's Response

The County has generic IDs for Cayenta for CPZ, Sheriff and the Clerk. These logins are only used for cash receipting and reporting. The logins have no additional access to Cayenta. We cannot have logins for each person to receipt each transaction; that process would be extremely cumbersome. There are mitigating controls such as the drawers are balanced daily and the deposit is verified in the Treasurer's office.

We have contacted our accounting software vendor to look at how to provide better control over the access to Cayenta outside of the application interface. The proposed procedures that are required for the Finance Department to make changes are quite lengthy and we will look at having Cayenta complete the change or approve the required changes prior to Finance completing the change. Also many of the instances in which the Finance Department has had to make changes outside of the applications, dealt with issues that were problems/bugs in the software applications and CCITC has applied fixes and patches to the Cayenta applications affected which has greatly reduced the need for this type of access.

We will need to work with the Employee Resources Department so that they can get termination notices to CCITC and the terminated employee can be removed from the active directory in a timelier manner. At this time, the Finance Department does verify terminations on a quarterly basis to so that employees can be removed from the Cayenta system.

Periodic review of access levels for the social services application will be reviewed as Social Services moves to the new system. The Social Services management team can review the permissions and set up a schedule for periodical review.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (cont.)

DATA BACKUP AND RECOVERY

The County performs backups for Cayenta and Social Services applications on a regular basis but these backups are not being tested on a proactive basis. We recommend a formal process be put in place to complete backup restores on a periodic basis to ensure that the backups are functioning as intended.

Backups are maintained offsite for two years after either a four or six week period. The County is, therefore, exposed to a higher risk of lost data related to County data during the four to six week period prior to storage and after the two year period of offsite storage is completed. There are a variety of options available for backing up data offsite. This could include cloud technologies or backups to alternate locations that are real-time (rather than backing up to a disk and moving the disk). We recommend that the County reduce the amount of time backups are kept onsite.

We noted during our current year testing that a process for monitoring network access and escalating certain security events exists. This point has been resolved since our communication to you last year.

Management's Response

Our strategy for testing Cayenta restores is using the same type of back up process as we do for a routine backup to restore test environments. We will look to formalize this process and do an annual test.

For Cayenta, there are two nightly disk to disk copies. One is on-site and the other is off-site at the Courthouse. Both of these have a 28 day rotation. In addition, there is a backup to tape that happens nightly and the tape is sent off-site each month. We have 2 years of month end tapes off site. An additional 5 years are in the vault at City Hall.

The Active Directory system has complex passwords and the two applications mentioned (Social Services and Land records) are being replaced and the mitigating control is that you cannot log in to access those two applications without first accessing Active Directory.

OTHER COMMUNICATIONS TO THOSE CHARGED WITH GOVERNANCE

TWO WAY COMMUNICATION REGARDING YOUR AUDIT

As part of our audit of your financial statements, we are providing communications to you throughout the audit process. Auditing requirements provide for two-way communication and are important in assisting the auditor and you with more information relevant to the audit.

As this past audit is concluded, we use what we have learned to begin the planning process for next year's audit. It is important that you understand the following points about the scope and timing of our next audit:

- a. We address the significant risks of material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, through our detailed audit procedures.
- b. We will obtain an understanding of the five components of internal control sufficient to assess the risk of material misstatement of the financial statements whether due to error or fraud, and to design the nature, timing, and extent of further audit procedures. We will obtain a sufficient understanding by performing risk assessment procedures to evaluate the design of controls relevant to an audit of financial statements and to determine whether they have been implemented. We will use such knowledge to:
 - > Identify types of potential misstatements.
 - > Consider factors that affect the risks of material misstatement.
 - > Design tests of controls, when applicable, and substantive procedures.

We will not express an opinion on the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting or compliance with laws, regulations, and provisions of contracts or grant programs. For audits done in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, our report will include a paragraph that states that the purpose of the report is solely to describe the scope of testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance and the result of that testing and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting or on compliance and that the report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering internal control over financial reporting and compliance. The paragraph will also state that the report is not suitable for any other purpose.

- c. The concept of materiality recognizes that some matters, either individually or in the aggregate, are important for fair presentation of financial statements in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles while other matters are not important. In performing the audit, we are concerned with matters that, either individually or in the aggregate, could be material to the financial statements. Our responsibility is to plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance that material misstatements, whether caused by errors or fraud, are detected.
- d. We address the significant risks or material noncompliance, whether due to fraud or error, through our detailed audit procedures.
- e. We will obtain an understanding of the five components of internal control sufficient to assess the risk of material noncompliance related to the federal and state awards whether due to error or fraud, and to design the nature, timing, and extent of further audit procedures. We will obtain a sufficient understanding by performing risk assessment procedures to evaluate the design of controls relevant to an audit of the federal and state awards and to determine whether they have been implemented. We will use such knowledge to:
 - > Identify types of potential noncompliance.
 - > Consider factors that affect the risks of material noncompliance.
 - > Design tests of controls, when applicable, and other audit procedures.

TWO WAY COMMUNICATION REGARDING YOUR AUDIT (cont.)

e. (cont.)

Our audit will be performed in accordance with U.S. generally accepted auditing standards, *Government Auditing Standards*, OMB's *Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards* (Uniform Guidance), and the *State Single Audit Guidelines*.

We will not express an opinion on the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting or compliance with laws, regulations, and provisions of contracts or grant programs. For audits done in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, the Uniform Guidance and the *State Single Audit Guidelines*, our report will include a paragraph that states that the purpose of the report is solely to describe (a) the scope of testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance and the result of that testing and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting or on compliance, (b) the scope of testing internal control over compliance for major programs and major program compliance and the result of that testing and to provide an opinion on compliance but not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of internal control over compliance and, (c) that the report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering internal control over financial reporting and compliance and the Uniform Guidance and the *State Single Audit Guidelines* in considering internal control over compliance and major program compliance. The paragraph will also state that the report is not suitable for any other purpose.

- f. The concept of materiality recognizes that some matters, either individually or in the aggregate, are important for reporting material noncompliance while other matters are not important. In performing the audit, we are concerned with matters that, either individually or in the aggregate, could be material to the entity's federal and state awards. Our responsibility is to plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance that material noncompliance, whether caused by error or fraud, is detected.
- g. Your financial statements contain components, as defined by auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, certain components which we also audit.
- h. In connection with our audit, we intend to place reliance on the audit of the financial statements of the North Central Health Care, a component unit of Marathon County, as of December 31, 2015 and for the year then ended completed by WIPFLI, LLP as well as in future years. All necessary conditions have been met to allow us to make reference to the component auditor.

We are very interested in your views regarding certain matters. Those matters are listed here:

- a. We typically will communicate with your top level of management unless you tell us otherwise.
- b. We understand that the county board has the responsibility to oversee the strategic direction of your organization, as well as the overall accountability of the entity. Management has the responsibility for achieving the objectives of the entity.
- c. We need to know your views about your organization's objectives and strategies, and the related business risks that may result in material misstatements.
- d. Which matters do you consider warrant particular attention during the audit, and are there any areas where you request additional procedures to be undertaken?
- e. Have you had any significant communications with regulators or grantor agencies?
- f. Are there other matters that you believe are relevant to the audit of the financial statements or the federal or state awards?

TWO WAY COMMUNICATION REGARDING YOUR AUDIT (cont.)

Also, is there anything that we need to know about the attitudes, awareness, and actions of the County concerning:

- a. The County's internal control and its importance in the entity, including how those charged with governance oversee the effectiveness of internal control?
- b. The detection or the possibility of fraud?

We also need to know if you have taken actions in response to developments in financial reporting, laws, accounting standards, governance practices, or other related matters, or in response to previous communications with us.

With regard to the timing of our audit, here is some general information. We usually perform preliminary audit work during the months of October-December. Our final fieldwork is scheduled during April and May to best coincide with your readiness and report deadlines. After fieldwork, we wrap up our audit procedures at our office and issue drafts of our reports for your review. Final copies of your report and other communications are issued after approval by your staff. This is typically 6-12 weeks after final fieldwork, but may vary depending on a number of factors.

Keep in mind that while this communication may assist us with planning the scope and timing of the audit, it does not change the auditor's sole responsibility to determine the overall audit strategy and the audit plan, including the nature, timing, and extent of procedures necessary to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence.

We realize that you may have questions on what this all means, or wish to provide other feedback. We welcome the opportunity to hear from you.

**COMMUNICATION OF OTHER CONTROL DEFICIENCIES, RECOMMENDATIONS
AND INFORMATIONAL POINTS TO MANAGEMENT THAT ARE NOT
MATERIAL WEAKNESSES OR SIGNIFICANT DEFICIENCIES**

PRIOR YEAR POINTS

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

We noted during our audit that the County does not currently have a formal process in place to monitor potential conflicts of interest. To reduce the risk of potential conflicts of interest for those associated with decision-making authority within the County, we recommend the County determine if additional procedures and requirements should be implemented.

Current Year Status

The County has reviewed existing policies and state statutes and determined that they are in compliance with statutory requirements and County policies. This comment is resolved.

Management's Response

The County's Finance Committee reviewed the recommendation by Baker Tilly. It has been determined at this time, the County will use its County Ordinance on Ethics as its guide to monitor conflict of interest.

INTERNAL SERVICE FUNDS

The purpose of Internal Service Funds is to account for operations being managed on a cost reimbursement basis. Because the intent of these funds is to facilitate cost allocation, accumulation of resources or deficits over the long term is considered inappropriate. Theoretically, internal service funds would come close to breaking even each year.

The County has two Internal Service Funds, the Property Casualty Insurance fund, and the Employee Benefits Insurance fund. Each of these funds has accumulated significant retained earnings. When we first reported this to you in 2010, the Employee Benefits Insurance fund had \$10,034,985 of retained earnings at year end, which was about 10 months of expenses. Considering that the County is no longer self-insured for health insurance, the County may want to consider options for these accumulated resources. The Property Casualty Insurance fund had retained earnings in the amount of \$6,259,471 at December 31, 2010. This represented approximately ten years' worth of what the average (\$606,735) expenses were for this fund over the previous five years. Based on the significant retained earnings balances at that time, we recommended the County determine if the rates being charged to other funds was appropriate or if they should be adjusted to more accurately represent the cost of providing these services.

Current Year Status

The Property Casualty Insurance fund had an increase in its net position of \$265,187 for 2015 and the net position is now \$8,210,013. The Employee Benefits Insurance fund had an increase in its net position of \$170,549 and the net position is now \$ 4,876,014. This comment is still valid.

Management's Response

Even though the County has chosen to use Group Health Trust to pool its health insurance risk, the County still has the option to self-insure its health insurance in future years. Over the years' the County has applied over \$1.6 Million of its Employee Benefits Retained Earning to offset health insurance premium and fully fund the County's HRA for the health plan. The Employee Benefit fund net position has gone down substantially since 2010 and the County has a managed plan for using excess net position in the Employee Benefit Fund.

PRIOR YEAR POINTS (cont.)

INTERNAL SERVICE FUNDS (cont.)***Management's Response (cont.)***

The County continues to use accumulated retained earnings to offset premiums or reserve for liabilities. In the Property Casualty Fund the County does have several claims that may need to have increased reserve allocated in 2016 and we are monitoring these claims and will look at financing any additional accrued liability in this fund with the net position available to offset the liability instead of increasing premiums in future years.

For 2015, the County allocated reserves to cover a portion of the increase in property and casualty insurance and will continue to use reserves when appropriate to offset increases in premiums in the future.

DECENTRALIZED CASH COLLECTIONS

Many governments collect cash at numerous decentralized locations that are separate from the primary system of accounting procedures and controls. The opportunity for theft is often higher at those locations because one person is frequently involved in most, if not all, aspects of a transaction (i.e. lack of segregation of duties).

Examples in your government that fit this situation include:

Clerk of Courts	Solid Waste
Parks Department	Airport
Register of Deeds	Health Department
Sheriff's Department	Highway

Management is responsible for designing and implementing controls and procedures to detect and prevent fraud. As a result, we recommend that management review its decentralized cash collection procedures and controls on a periodic basis and make changes as necessary to strengthen the internal control environment. Reviewing the adequacy of the controls is a responsibility of the governing body.

Below are example procedures and controls to help mitigate the risk of loss at decentralized cash collection points:

- > Implement a centralized receipting process with adequate segregation of duties
- > For cash collections, ensure pre-numbered receipts are being used and all receipts in the sequence are being reviewed by someone other than the person receipting the cash and receipts tie to deposits
- > Perform surprise procedures at decentralized locations (cash counts, walkthrough of processes, etc.)
- > Require regular cash deposits to minimize collections on-hand
- > Limit the number of separate bank accounts
- > Segregate duties as much as possible – the person receipting cash should be separate from the person preparing deposits and the person reconciling bank accounts should be separate from the cash collection activity

PRIOR YEAR POINTS (cont.)

DECENTRALIZED CASH COLLECTIONS (cont.)

- > Perform month-to-month or year-to-year comparisons to look for unusual changes in collections
- > If collecting from a drop box site, consider sending two people to collect the funds, especially during peak times

As always, the cost of controls and staffing must be weighed against the benefits of safeguarding your assets.

Current Year Status

These comments are still valid.

Management's Response

The County will look at ways to develop internal controls over cash collections. In many of the departments that you listed, there are separate accounting, case management, or cash receipting systems that function specifically for the departments individual requirements. The County's main cash collection system will not meet the needs of those specific departments. In the rest of the departments the departments, balance the drawers on a daily basis, send their invoice payment to the Treasurer's office and make timely deposits. We will continue to review the procedures associated with cash collections to strengthen internal controls.

INFORMATIONAL POINTS

CYBER RISK ASSESSMENT

Cybersecurity is a growing challenge for many governments as threats and vulnerabilities constantly evolve. Information security is a significant issue for many organizations and is no longer considered to be strictly an Information Technology (IT) issue. The potential impacts of a security breach can be financial, operational, and reputational. Cyber risk should be a high priority and evaluated on a regular basis.

Security breaches can come in a number of forms, which are continually evolving with advances in and increased use of technology. It is important for governments to assess what types of information they have that are vulnerable to cyber-attack. Items to consider include processing, collecting, and/or storing personal information about employees, taxpayers, and/or customers. Social security numbers, bank accounts, addresses, medical information, birth dates, and credit cards are all common examples of information existing in systems of governmental entities. In addition, general ledger data and other supporting files can be compromised. Several instances of ransomware have been reported in governmental entities like yours during the last year. Ransomware restricts access to your files and demands a ransom to the malware operator in order to release the restriction. It is important to take inventory of all the information that flows through your systems in order to properly secure your data.

We recommend performing a cyber risk assessment to align the internal controls and processes with the organizational objectives, initiatives, resources, and risk appetites with regards to cyber risk. We have cybersecurity experts on staff that are available to assist with this assessment.

Management's Response

Our IT group, CCITC, did a penetration test in early 2015. The Marathon County Employee Credit Union has one done on their portion of the network on a quarterly basis and additionally we have our test environment tested with the Nessus product. For each of these tests, we have addressed any outstanding critical and high importance issues.

INFORMATIONAL POINTS (cont.)

HIPAA RISK ASSESSMENT

With data breaches on the rise, the US Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Office of Civil Rights (OCR) has ramped up auditing and enforcement of Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) compliance in recent years. What they have found is that many organizations are not doing enough to protect Electronic Protected Health Information (ePHI).

One of the most common findings identified by HHS OCR is the lack of a thorough and documented risk assessment. The HIPAA Security Rule requires that organizations in accordance with the Code of Federal Regulations 45 §164.308(a)(1)(ii)(A) "Conduct an accurate and thorough assessment of the potential risks and vulnerabilities to the confidentiality, integrity, and availability of electronic protected health information ...". HHS OCR has indicated this risk assessment should be documented and performed at least annually.

Breach notification to HHS OCR is required when ePHI is exposed. When HHS OCR investigates such breaches, the documentation for the organization's latest risk assessment is often one of the first requests by HHS OCR for their review.

We recommend you perform and document the required HIPAA risk assessment. We are available to assist you with this process.

Management's Response

CCITC participated in a HIPAA audit for NCHC in 2014 that audit reviewed our key enterprise systems such as Active Director and our remote access technology.

We are evaluating the risks and merits of a County-wide HIPAA audit and County leadership will make a determination by September 30, 2016, if we wish to pursue a HIPAA Risk audit or not.

GOVERNMENT FRAUD PREVENTION AND DETECTION: NOW IS THE TIME TO ACT

When it comes to preventing and detecting fraud in government, being proactive is critical. In fact, government is the second most likely industry to be impacted by fraud. According to the audit standards, the primary responsibility for the prevention and detection of fraud rests with both those charged with governance of the entity and management. To get started, your government should conduct a fraud risk assessment to identify where and how fraud might occur and what individuals may be in a position to commit fraud. Once you've identified your entity's fraud risk areas, the next step is to develop a fraud risk assessment and investigation policy.

As you begin your fraud risk assessment or develop tools to prevent and detect fraud, it is important to keep in mind the following information provided by the Association of Certified fraud Examiners:

- > Misappropriation of assets accounts for 80 percent of fraud
- > The primary internal control weaknesses observed are lack of internal controls, lack of management review, override of existing internal controls and poor tone at the top
- > A tip is the most effective tool to catch a fraudster followed by management review
- > The professional requirements and objectives of a financial audit are different than a forensic audit. Due to the nature of a financial audit, less than 10 percent of frauds have been discovered as a result of a financial audit conducted by an independent accounting firm.

If your government has not gone through a fraud risk assessment or does not have a plan to prevent and detect fraud, we recommend that this be done and then updated on a regular basis. We are available to assist you with this process.

INFORMATIONAL POINTS (cont.)

GOVERNMENT FRAUD PREVENTION AND DETECTION: NOW IS THE TIME TO ACT (cont.)

Management's Response

In 2014, the County approved the Finance Committee as the County's Risk Assessment Committee and we will review your suggestions and look at strengthen our Fraud Risk Assessment plan in 2016.

NEW RESOURCES FOR STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARDS

In recent years, our clients have told us that the roles of their board members have become increasingly demanding. Expectations and accountability are at all-time high and the knowledge required to be an effective board member is substantial. For these reasons, we have compiled a number of resources dedicated to educating state and local government board members. Go to our website www.bakertilly.com and click on the State and Local Government page.

Included in the "insights" section at the bottom of the State and Local Government page are four quick-hitting, informative videos:

1. Government financial statements 101
2. Understanding your government's fraud risk
3. Financial ratios and benchmarks
4. Fund balance and other financial policies

Also included are links to other videos, case studies and news / events that you might find of interest.

We encourage you to subscribe to our complimentary newsletter "Government Connection" to stay abreast of the latest issues impacting state and local governments. You can do so by clicking on the "subscribe" button and indicating "State and Local Government" as an area of interest on the subscription form. Also, if you or your board members have suggested topics to feature on our Board Governance webpage or Government Connection newsletter, we invite you to submit your ideas in person or online.

INTERPRETING YOUR FINANCIAL STATEMENTS POST-GASB No. 68

Now that your financial statements reflect the new pension requirements of GASB Statement No. 68, what has changed and how do you interpret this new information? In summary, GASB Statement No. 68 required governmental entities participating in the Wisconsin Retirement System (WRS) to report their proportionate share of the plan's activity and net pension asset.

As of the December 31, 2014 measurement date used for your 2015 financial statements, WRS reported total resources available to provide pension benefits of \$92.1 billion. They also reported a total liability for pensions of \$89.7 billion. This resulted in a net pension asset of \$2.4 billion. Your government's proportionate share of the asset is \$6,165,255 and is reported as a restricted asset. There are also pension-related deferred outflows or inflows due to timing of contributions and smoothing of activity.

Pension activity under GASB Statement No. 68 is report in the government-wide financial statements and proprietary fund financial statements, similar to long-term debt. The implementation of this new standard does not affect how you fund or pay for your pension contributions to the WRS.

The accounting and reporting of pensions has become more complex with the implementation of GASB Statement No. 68. We are available to answer any questions on how this new accounting standard affects your financial statements.

INFORMATIONAL POINTS (cont.)

GASB UPDATES

The following is a schedule of GASB projects:

Task or Event	Effective Date	Impact
GASB 72 – Fair Value Measurement and Application	For financial statements for periods beginning after June 15, 2015	Items that are now subject to fair value measurement that weren't before: private equity/hedge funds, real estate investments, many investments that were previously carried at cost or under the equity method, derivatives will now be measured using exit price, donated long term assets. Does not affect money markets, investments in 2a7-like pools, or assets held by the government that enhance the ability to provide services.
GASB 73 – Accounting and Financial Reporting for Pensions and Related Assets That Are Not within the Scope of GASB 68, and Amendments to Certain Provisions of GASB Statements 67 and 68	For fiscal years beginning after June 15, 2016 for pensions that are not within the scope of GASB 68. For fiscal years beginning after June 15, 2015 for pensions within the scope of GASB 67 and 68.	Part I extends the approach of GASB 68 to all pensions (with some modifications). Part II clarifies certain requirements of GASB 67 and 68.
GASB 74 – Financial Reporting for Postemployment Benefit Plans Other Than Pension Plans and GASB 75 – Accounting and Financial Reporting for Postemployment Benefits Other Than Pensions	GASB 74: For fiscal years beginning after June 15, 2016 GASB 75: For fiscal years beginning after June 15, 2017	These standards have similarities to the previous OPEB standards, most notably the definition of an OPEB and the option of the alternative measurement method for small governments. However, the calculation and reporting of the OPEB liability and various required disclosures will change under the new standards, becoming similar to the pension standards.
GASB 76 – The Hierarchy of Generally Accepted Accounting Principles for State and Local Governments	For reporting periods beginning after June 15, 2015	Officially established accounting principles – GASB statements (Category A) and GASB Technical Bulletins, implementation guides and literature of the AICPA cleared by the GASB (Category B)

INFORMATIONAL POINTS (cont.)

GASB UPDATES (cont.)

Task or Event	Effective Date	Impact
GASB 77 – Tax Abatement Disclosures	For financial statements for periods beginning after December 15, 2015	<p>Tax abatements are a reduction in tax revenue that has the following characteristics: (1) An agreement between one or more governments and an individual or entity in which: (a) one or more governments promise to forgo tax revenues to which they are otherwise entitled and; (b) the individual or entity promises to take specific action after the agreement has been entered into that contributes to economic development or otherwise benefits the governments or the citizens of those governments.</p> <p>This definition is limited and excludes many incentive and other programs because they do not meet one or more of the requirements.</p>
GASB 78 – Pensions Provided through Certain Multiple-Employer Defined Benefit Pension Plans	For reporting periods beginning after December 15, 2015	This addresses a specific issue regarding the ability of state and local governmental employers to obtain necessary information related to pensions that are provided through certain multiple-employer benefit pension plans that are not a state or local governmental pension plan.
GASB 79 – Certain External Investment Pools and Pool Participants	For reporting periods beginning after June 15, 2015, except for certain provisions on portfolio quality, custodial credit risk, and shadow pricing, which are effective for reporting periods beginning after December 15, 2015	It establishes criteria for an external investment pool to qualify for making the election to measure all its investments at amortized costs for financial reporting purposes.
Current Agenda Project: Blending Requirements for Certain Component Units	Proposed effective date – June 30, 2017 (Exposure Draft issued in June 2015)	The objective of this project is to improve financial reporting by addressing issues related to inconsistent presentation of certain component units in financial reporting of governments.
Current Agenda Project: Pension Issues	Proposed effective date – June 30, 2017 (Exposure Draft issued in December 2015)	The object of this project is to consider the need for revisions to certain of the requirements in GASB 67 and 68, as a result of issues raised by stakeholders.

INFORMATIONAL POINTS (cont.)

GASB UPDATES (cont.)

Task or Event	Effective Date	Impact
Current Agenda Project: Irrevocable Split-Interest Agreements	Proposed effective date – December 31, 2017 (Exposure Draft issued in June 2015)	The objective of this project is to determine what accounting and financial reporting guidance, if any, should be established for irrevocable split-interest agreements held for the benefit of governmental entities.
Current Agenda Project: Fiduciary Activities	Proposed effective date – December 31, 2018 (Exposure draft issued December 2015)	This project is to develop guidance regarding whether and how governments should report fiduciary activities in their general purpose external financial reports.
Current Agenda Project: Asset Retirement Obligations	Proposed effective date – December 31, 2018 (Exposure Draft issued in December 2015)	The objective of this project is to improve financial reporting by developing requirements on recognition and measurement for asset retirement obligations, other than landfills.
Current Agenda Project: Leases	The GASB Board is scheduled to issue an Exposure Draft in January 2016	The objective of this project is to reexamine issues associated with lease accounting, considering improvements to existing guidance.
Current Agenda Project: Certain Extinguishments Using Existing Resources	The GASB Board is scheduled to issue an Exposure Draft in August 2016	The project will consider improvements to the existing guidance related to debt extinguishments using existing resources. Debt extinguishments connected with troubled debt restructurings and bankruptcy, which are addressed in other pronouncements, are not included.

The GASB has a project on hold (conceptual framework for recognition) pending the reexamination of the financial reporting model.

The GASB revisits GASB standards ten (10) years after issuance. The GASB is currently revisiting GASB Statement No. 34, *Basic Financial Statements – and Management’s Discussion and Analysis for State and Local Governments*, as well as reporting model-related pronouncements including Statements Nos. 37, 41, and No. 46 and Interpretation No. 6, *Recognition and Measurement of Certain Liabilities and Expenditures in Governmental Fund Financial Statements*. The GASB has indicated that they are revisiting the following major provisions of these standards: management’s discussion and analysis, government-wide financial statements, fund financial statements, capital asset reporting, budgetary comparisons, special purpose government reporting, and related notes to financial statements. In addition, the GASB is revisiting debt extinguishments, which includes a reexamination of GASB Statement Nos. 7, 23, and 62. We will share updates with you as they become available.

Full lists of projects, as well as many resources, are available on GASB’s website which is located at www.gasb.org.

REQUIRED COMMUNICATIONS BY THE AUDITOR TO THOSE CHARGED WITH GOVERNANCE

To the Marathon County Board of Supervisors and the
Finance and Property Committee and Management
Marathon County
Wausau, Wisconsin

Thank you for using Baker Tilly Virchow Krause, LLP as your auditor.

We have completed our audit of the financial statements of Marathon County for the year ended December 31, 2015 and have issued our report thereon dated June 27, 2016. This letter presents communications required by our professional standards.

OUR RESPONSIBILITY UNDER AUDITING STANDARDS GENERALLY ACCEPTED IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, GOVERNMENT AUDITING STANDARDS, THE UNIFORM GUIDANCE, AND THE STATE SINGLE AUDIT GUIDELINES

The objective of a financial statement audit is the expression of an opinion on the financial statements. We conducted the audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, *Government Auditing Standards*, OMB's *Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards* (Uniform Guidance), and the State Single Audit Guidelines. These standards require that we plan and perform our audit to obtain reasonable, rather than absolute, assurance about whether the financial statements prepared by management with your oversight are free of material misstatement, whether caused by error or fraud. Our audit included examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements, assessing accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, and evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. Our audit does not relieve management or those charged with governance of their responsibilities.

We considered the Marathon County's internal control over financial reporting to determine the 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 Marathon County's internal control over financial reporting. We will consider the internal control over compliance with types of requirements that could have a direct and material effect on a major federal and major state program to determine the audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances for the purpose of expressing an opinion on compliance for a major federal and state program and to test and report on internal control over compliance in accordance with the Uniform Guidance and the *State Single Audit Guidelines*, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of internal control over compliance.

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether Marathon County's financial statements are free of 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 determination of financial statement amounts. However, providing an opinion on compliance with those provisions is not an objective of our audit. Also, in accordance with the Uniform Guidance and the *State Single Audit Guidelines*, we will examine, on a test basis, evidence about Marathon County's compliance with the types of compliance requirements described in the *OMB Compliance Supplement* and the *State Single Audit Guidelines* that could have a direct and material effect on each of its major federal and state programs for the purpose of expressing an opinion on Marathon County's compliance with those requirements. While our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion on compliance, it does not provide a legal determination on Marathon County's compliance with those requirements.

We will issue a separate document which contains the results of our audit procedures to comply with the Uniform Guidance and the *State Single Audit Guidelines*.

To the Marathon County Board of Supervisors and the
Finance and Property Committee and Management
Marathon County

OTHER INFORMATION IN DOCUMENTS CONTAINING AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Our responsibility does not extend beyond the audited financial statements identified in this report. We do not have any obligation to and have not performed any procedures to corroborate other information contained in client prepared documents, such as official statements related to debt issues.

PLANNED SCOPE AND TIMING OF THE AUDIT

We performed the audit according to the planned scope and timing previously communicated to our letter about planning matters dated June 23, 2015 and our meeting with you on July 20, 2015.

QUALITATIVE ASPECTS OF THE ENTITY'S SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING PRACTICES

Accounting Policies

Management has the responsibility for 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 Marathon County are described in Note I to the financial statements. As described in Note I to the financial statements, Marathon County changed accounting policies related to financial reporting for pensions by adopting Statement of Governmental Accounting Standards (GASB) Statement No. 68, *Accounting and Financial Reporting for Pensions – an Amendment of GASB Statement No. 27* and GASB Statement No. 71, *Pension Transition for Contributions Made Subsequent to the Measurement Date – an Amendment of GASB Statement No. 68* in 2015. Accordingly, the accounting change has been retrospectively applied to prior periods presented as if the policy has always been used. We noted no transactions entered into by Marathon County during the year that were both significant and unusual, and of which, under professional standards, we are required to inform you, or transactions for which there is a lack of authoritative guidance or consensus.

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. The most sensitive estimates affecting the financial statements were:

1. Management's estimate of the landfill closure and long-term care liabilities are engineering estimates of closure and post closure costs.
2. Management's estimate of the self insurance claims liability is based upon information provided to the County by its actuaries.
3. The estimate of the net pension asset and the deferred outflows and deferred inflows related to pensions, which impact the reported pension expense, are based upon information provided by the Wisconsin Retirement System.
4. Management's estimate of depreciation expense is based upon estimated useful lives of the related capital asset.

We evaluated the key factors and assumptions used to develop all of these estimates in determining that they are reasonable in relation to the financial statements taken as a whole.

Financial Statement Disclosures

The disclosures in the notes to the financial statements are neutral, consistent, and clear.

To the Marathon County Board of Supervisors and the
Finance and Property Committee and Management
Marathon County

DIFFICULTIES ENCOUNTERED IN PERFORMING THE AUDIT

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

CORRECTED AND UNCORRECTED MISSTATEMENTS

Professional standards require us to accumulate all known and likely misstatement identified during the audit, other than those that are trivial, and communicate them to the appropriate level of management.

In the prior year, \$615,518 was not allocated to the business-type activities from the GASB No. 34 conversion entries eliminating the internal service funds. For the current year, \$74,234 was not eliminated. This causes the governmental activities change in net position to be understated and the business-type activities change in net position to be overstated by \$74,234 for the current year. The governmental activities expenses are overstated by \$74,234 and the business-type activities are understated by the same amount. In addition, there is an unreconciled balance between the County's general ledger and the County's highway system of \$102,958 for capital equipment. This results in the highway enterprise fund and the business-type activities assets and net position being understated by the same amount.

An invoice for the landfill fund was underestimated at year end. The actual invoice was not received until late May by the County. This caused the liabilities and expenses to be understated by \$197,102 for the landfill enterprise fund and the business-type activities.

Management has determined that the effect of these items is immaterial to the financial statements taken as a whole.

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.

In addition, we prepared GASB No. 34 conversion entries which are summarized in the "Reconciliation of the Balance Sheet of Governmental Funds to the Statement of Net Position" and the "Reconciliation of the Statement of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balances of Governmental Funds to the Statement of Activities" in the financial statements

DISAGREEMENTS WITH MANAGEMENT

For purposes of this letter, professional standards define a disagreement with management as a matter, whether or not resolved to our satisfaction, concerning a financial accounting, reporting, or auditing matter that could be significant to the financial statements or the auditors' report. We are pleased to report that no such disagreements arose during the course of our audit.

CONSULTATIONS WITH OTHER INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANTS

In some cases, management may decide to consult with other accountants about auditing and accounting matters. If a consultation involves application of an accounting principle to the governmental unit'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.

MANAGEMENT REPRESENTATIONS

We have requested certain representations from management that are included in the management representation letter. This letter follows this required communication.

To the Marathon County Board of Supervisors and the
Finance and Property Committee and Management
Marathon County

INDEPENDENCE

We are not aware of any relationships between Baker Tilly Virchow Krause, LLP and Marathon County that, in our professional judgment, may reasonably be thought to bear on our independence.

Relating to our audit of the financial statements of Marathon County for the year ended December 31, 2015, Baker Tilly Virchow Krause, LLP hereby confirms that we are, in our professional judgment, independent with respect to the County in accordance with the Code of Professional Conduct issued by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants, and provided no services to the County other than audit services provided in connection with the audit of the current year's financial statements and nonaudit services which in our judgment do not impair our independence.

- > Financial statement preparation
- > Adjusting journal entries
- > Tax 16 preparation

None of these nonaudit services constitute an audit under generally accepted auditing standards, including *Government Auditing Standards*.

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 Marathon County's auditors. However, these discussions occurred in the normal course of our professional relationship and our responses were not a condition to our retention.

OTHER MATTERS

We applied certain limited procedures to the 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 the supplementary information which accompanies the financial statements but is not RSI. With respect to the 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.

We were not engaged to report on the other information, which accompanies the financial statements but are not RSI. We did not audit or perform other procedures on this other information and we do not express an opinion or provide any assurance on it.

To the Marathon County Board of Supervisors and the
Finance and Property Committee and Management
Marathon County

RESTRICTIONS ON USE

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

We welcome the opportunity to discuss the information included in this letter and any other matters. Thank you for allowing us to serve you.

Baker Tilly Virchow/Kauffman & Gossett, LLP

Madison, Wisconsin
June 27, 2016

MANAGEMENT REPRESENTATIONS

June 27, 2016



Baker Tilly Virchow Krause, LLP
Ten Terrace Court
P.O. Box 7398
Madison, WI 53707-7398

Dear Baker Tilly Virchow Krause, LLP:

We are providing this letter in connection with your audit of the financial statements of Marathon County as of December 31, 2015 and for the year then ended for the purpose of expressing opinions as to whether the financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the respective financial position of the governmental activities, the business-type activities, the aggregate discretely presented component units, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of Marathon County and the respective changes in financial position and cash flows, where applicable, in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. We confirm that we are responsible for the fair presentation of the previously mentioned financial statements in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. We are also responsible for adopting sound accounting policies, establishing and maintaining internal control over financial reporting, and preventing and detecting fraud.

Certain representations in this letter are described as being limited to matters that are material. Items are considered material, regardless of size, if they involve an omission or misstatement of accounting information that, in the 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, 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.
2. The financial statements referred to above are fairly presented in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. We have engaged you to advise us in fulfilling that responsibility. The financial statements include all properly classified funds of the primary government and all component units required by accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America to be included in the financial reporting entity.
3. 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.
4. We acknowledge our responsibility for the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control to prevent and detect fraud.
5. Significant assumptions we used in making accounting estimates, if any, are reasonable.

Finance Department

500 Forest Street • Wausau, Wisconsin 54403-5568
Phone 715-261-1170 • Marathon County Web Page: <http://www.co.marathon.wi.us>

6. All events subsequent to the date of the financial statements and for which accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require adjustment or disclosure have been adjusted or disclosed. No other 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.
7. All material transactions have been recorded in the accounting records and are reflected in the financial statements and the schedule of expenditures of federal and state awards.
8. We believe the effects of the uncorrected financial statement misstatements listed here are immaterial, both individually and in the aggregate, to the basic financial statements as a whole. In the prior year, \$615,518 was not allocated to the business-type activities from the GASB No. 34 conversion entries eliminating the internal service funds. For the current year, \$74,234 was not eliminated. This causes the governmental activities change in net position to be understated and the business-type activities change in net position to be overstated by \$74,234 for the current year. The governmental activities expenses are overstated by \$74,234 and the business-type activities are understated by the same amount. In addition, there is an unreconciled balance between the County's general ledger and the County's highway system of \$102,958 for capital equipment. This results in the highway enterprise fund and the business-type activities assets and net position being understated by the same amount. An invoice for the landfill fund was underestimated at year end. The actual invoice was not received until late May by the County. This caused the liabilities and expenses to be understated by \$197,102 for the landfill enterprise fund and the business-type activities. In addition, you have recommended adjusting journal entries, and we are in agreement with those adjustments.
9. There are no known or possible litigation, claims, and assessments whose effects should be considered when preparing the financial statements. There are no unasserted claims or assessments that our lawyer has advised us are probable of assertion and must be disclosed in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.
10. Guarantees, whether written or oral, under which the County is contingently liable, if any, have been properly recorded or disclosed.

Information Provided

11. 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 financial records and related data, documentation, and other matters and all audit or relevant monitoring reports, if any, received from funding sources.
 - 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. Minutes of the meetings of County Board or summaries of actions of recent meetings for which minutes have not yet been prepared.
12. We have not completed an assessment of the risk that the financial statements may be materially misstated as a result of fraud.
13. 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 where the fraud could have a material effect on the financial statements.
14. We have no knowledge of any allegations of fraud or suspected fraud affecting the entity received in communications from employees, former employees, regulators, or others.

15. We have no knowledge of known 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. There are no known related parties or related party relationships and transactions of which we are aware.

Other

17. There have been no communications from regulatory agencies concerning noncompliance with, or deficiencies in, financial reporting practices.

18. We have a process to track the status of audit findings and recommendations.

19. We have identified to you any previous financial audits, attestation engagements, and other studies related to the audit objectives and whether related recommendations have been implemented.

20. We have provided our views on reported findings, conclusions, and recommendations, as well as our planned corrective actions, for our report.

21. The County has no plans or intentions that may materially affect the carrying value or classification of assets, liabilities, or equity.

22. We are responsible for compliance with federal, state, and local laws, regulations, and provisions of contracts and grant agreements applicable to us, including tax or debt limits, debt contracts, and IRS arbitrage regulations; and we have identified and disclosed to you all federal, state, and local 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.

23. There are no:

- a. Violations or possible violations of budget ordinances, federal, state, and local laws or 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, except those already disclosed in the financial statement, if any.
- b. Other liabilities or gain or loss contingencies that are required to be accrued or disclosed by accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.
- c. Nonspendable, restricted, committed, or assigned fund balances that were not properly authorized and approved.
- d. Rates being charged to customers other than the rates as authorized by the applicable authoritative body.
- e. Violations of restrictions placed on revenues as a result of bond resolution covenants such as revenue distribution or debt service funding.

24. In regards to the nonattest services performed by you listed below, we have 1) accepted all management responsibility; 2) designated an individual with suitable skill, knowledge, or experience to oversee the services; 3) evaluated the adequacy and results of the services performed, and 4) accepted responsibility for the results of the services.
- a. Financial statement preparation
 - b. Adjusting journal entries
 - c. Tax 16 preparation

None of these nonattest services constitute an audit under generally accepted auditing standards, including *Government Auditing Standards*.

25. Marathon 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.
26. Marathon County has complied with all aspects of contractual agreements that would have a material effect on the financial statement in the event of noncompliance.
27. 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, if any.
28. The financial statements properly classify all funds and activities.
29. All funds that meet the quantitative criteria in GASB Statement No. 34 and No. 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.
30. 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.
31. Marathon County has no derivative financial instruments such as contracts that could be assigned to someone else or net settled, interest rate swaps, collars or caps.
32. Provisions for uncollectible receivables, if any, have been properly identified and recorded.
33. 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.
34. Revenues are appropriately classified in the statement of activities within program revenues and general revenues.
35. Interfund, internal, and intra-entity activity and balances have been appropriately classified and reported.
36. Deposits and investment securities are properly classified as to risk, and investments are properly valued. Collateralization agreements with financial institutions, if any, have been properly disclosed.
37. Provision, when material, has been made to reduce excess or obsolete inventories to their estimated net realizable value.
38. Capital assets, including infrastructure and intangible assets, are properly capitalized, reported, and, if applicable, depreciated/amortized. Any known impairments have been recorded and disclosed.

39. Tax-exempt bonds issued have retained their tax-exempt status.
40. We have appropriately disclosed Marathon 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 are available and have determined that net position were properly recognized under the policy. We have also disclosed our 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.
41. 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.
42. With respect to the supplementary information, (SI):
- a. We acknowledge our responsibility for presenting the SI in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, and we believe the SI, 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 SI 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.
 - a. If the SI 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 auditor's report thereon.
43. We assume responsibility for, and agree with, the findings of specialists in evaluating the incurred but not reported liability and the closure and post-closure liability and have adequately considered the qualifications of the specialists in determining the amounts and disclosures used in the financial statements and underlying accounting records. We did not give or cause any instructions to be given to specialists with respect to the values or amounts derived in an attempt to bias their work, and we are not otherwise aware of any matters that have had impact on the independence or objectivity of the specialists.
44. We agree with the restatement presented in the current year's financial statements.
45. We assume responsibility for, and agree with, the information provided by the Wisconsin Retirement System as audited by the Legislative Audit Bureau relating to the net pension asset/liability and related deferred outflows and deferred inflows and have adequately considered the reasonableness of the amounts and disclosures used in the financial statements and underlying accounting records. We also assume responsibility for the census data that has been reported to the plan.
46. We are responsible for understanding and complying with the Wisconsin Administrative Code with respect to landfill studies.
47. With respect to federal and state award programs:
- a. We are responsible for understanding and complying with and have complied with the requirements of the Single Audit Act Amendments of 1996, *OMB's Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards* (Uniform Guidance), *State Single Audit Guidelines*, including requirements relating to preparation of the schedule of expenditures of federal and state awards (SEFSA).

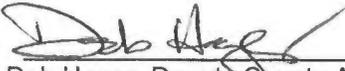
- b. We acknowledge our responsibility for presenting the SEFSA in accordance with the requirements of the Uniform Guidance and the *State Single Audit Guidelines*, and we believe the SEFSA, including its form and content, is fairly presented in accordance with the Uniform Guidance and the *State Single Audit Guidelines*. The methods of measurement and presentation of the SEFSA 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 SEFSA.
- c. If the SEFSA is not presented with the audited financial statements, we will make the audited financial statements readily available to the intended users of the SEFSA no later than the date we issue the SEFSA and the auditors' report thereon.
- d. We have identified and disclosed to you all of our government programs and related activities subject to the Uniform Guidance and the *State Single Audit Guidelines* and included in the SEFSA, expenditures made during the audit period for all awards provided by federal 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 administering 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. Also, no changes have been made in the internal control over compliance or other factors to the date of this letter that might significantly affect internal control, including any corrective action taken with regard to control deficiencies reported in the schedule of findings and questioned costs.
- g. We have made available to you all contracts and grant agreements (including amendments, if any) and any other correspondence with federal or state agencies or pass-through entities relevant to the 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 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 any known noncompliance with the direct and material compliance 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 agreements, and internal or external monitoring that directly relate to the objectives of the compliance audit, if any, 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.

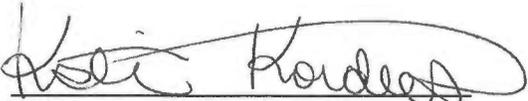
- l. Amounts claimed or used for matching were determined in accordance with relevant guidelines in the Uniform Guidance.
- m. We have disclosed to you our interpretation of compliance requirements that may have varying interpretations.
- n. We have made available to you all documentation related to the 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. We are not aware of any 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 monitored subrecipients to determine that they have expended pass-through assistance in accordance with applicable laws and regulations and have met the requirements of the Uniform Guidance and the *State Single Audit Guidelines*.
- u. We have taken appropriate action, including issuing management decisions, on a timely basis after receipt of subrecipients' auditors' reports that identified noncompliance with laws, regulations, or the provisions of contracts or grant agreements to ensure that subrecipients have taken the appropriate and timely corrective action on findings.
- v. We have considered the results of subrecipient audits and made any necessary adjustments to our books and records.
- w. We have charged costs to federal and state awards in accordance with applicable cost principles.
- x. We are responsible for and have accurately prepared the summary schedule of prior audit findings to include all findings required to be included by the Uniform Guidance 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.
- y. We are responsible for and have accurately prepared the auditee section of the Data Collection Form as required by the Uniform Guidance.
- z. We are responsible for preparing and implementing a corrective action plan for each audit finding.

aa. We have disclosed to you all contracts or other agreements with our service organizations, and we have disclosed to you all communications from the service organization relating to noncompliance at the service organizations.

Sincerely,

Marathon County

Signed: 
Deb Hager, Deputy County Administrator

Signed: 
Kristi Kordus, Finance Director