

**NIAGARA FALLS WATER BOARD**

**Financial Statements As of  
December 31, 2022  
Together With Independent  
Auditor's Report**

**Bonadio & Co., LLP**  
Certified Public Accountants

# NIAGARA FALLS WATER BOARD

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## **INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT**

March 30, 2023

To the Board of Directors of  
Niagara Falls Water Board

### **Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements**

#### ***Opinion***

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the Niagara Falls Water Board (the Board) as of and for the year ended December 31, 2022, and the related notes to financial statements, which collectively comprise the Board's basic financial statements as listed in the table of contents.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Board, as of December 31, 2022, and the changes in financial position and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

#### ***Basis For Opinion***

We conducted our 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. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of our report. We are required to be independent of the Board and to meet our other ethical responsibilities, in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements relating to our audit. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

#### ***Change in Accounting Principle***

As described in Note 13 to the financial statements, in 2022, the Board adopted new accounting guidance, GASB Statement No. 87, *Leases*. Our opinion is not modified with respect to this matter.

#### ***Responsibilities of Management For the Financial Statements***

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, and 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.

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In preparing the financial statements, management is required to evaluate whether there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the Board's ability to continue as a going concern for twelve months beyond the financial statement date, including any currently known information that may raise substantial doubt shortly thereafter.

***Auditor's Responsibilities For the Audit of the Financial Statements***

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not absolute assurance and therefore is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards and *Government Auditing Standards* will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control. Misstatements are considered material if there is a substantial likelihood that, individually or in the aggregate, they would influence the judgment made by a reasonable user based on the financial statements.

In performing an audit in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards and *Government Auditing Standards*, we:

- Exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.
- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, and design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks. Such procedures include examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Board's internal control. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluate the overall presentation of the financial statements.
- Conclude whether, in our judgment, there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the Board's ability to continue as a going concern for a reasonable period of time.

We are required to communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit, significant audit findings, and certain internal control-related matters that we identified during the audit.

***Required Supplementary Information***

Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require that the management's discussion and analysis, schedule of changes in total other postemployment benefit (OPEB) liability and related ratios, schedule of proportionate share of net pension liability (asset), and schedule of contributions - pension plans, as listed in the table of contents, be presented to supplement the basic financial statements. Such information is the responsibility of management and, although not a part of the basic financial statements, is required by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board, who considers it to be an essential part of financial reporting for placing the basic financial statements in an appropriate operational, economic, or historical context. We have applied certain limited procedures to the required supplementary information in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, which consisted of inquiries of management about 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 do not express an opinion or provide any assurance on the information because the limited procedures do not provide us with sufficient evidence to express an opinion or provide any assurance.

***Supplementary Information***

Our audit was conducted for the purpose of forming an opinion on the financial statements that collectively comprise the Board's basic financial statements. The accompanying supplementary information as listed in the table of contents of the Niagara Falls Water Authority (a blended component unit of the Board) is presented for purposes of additional analysis and is not a required part of the basic financial statements. Such information is the responsibility of management and was derived from and relates directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the basic financial statements. The information has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the basic financial statements and certain additional procedures, including comparing and reconciling such information directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the basic financial statements or to the basic financial statements themselves, and other additional procedures in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. In our opinion, the supplementary information is fairly stated, in all material respects, in relation to the basic financial statements as a whole.

***Other Reporting Required by Government Auditing Standards***

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated March 30, 2023, on our consideration of the Board's internal control over financial reporting and on our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements and other matters. The purpose of that report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the Board's internal control over financial reporting or on compliance. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the Board's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.

## NIAGARA FALLS WATER BOARD

### Management's Discussion and Analysis (Unaudited) December 31, 2022

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As management of the Niagara Falls Water Board (the Board), we offer readers of the Board's financial statements this narrative and analysis of the financial activities of the Board for the year ended December 31, 2022.

Following this Management's Discussion and Analysis (MD&A) are the financial statements of the Board together with the notes thereto. Please read the MD&A in conjunction with the Board's financial statements and the accompanying notes in order to obtain a full understanding of the Board's financial position and results of operations.

The Board was created by an Act of the State of New York, as more fully described in Note 1 to the financial statements, and commenced operations on September 25, 2003. In accordance with an agreement with the City of Niagara Falls, New York (the City) the Board received all assets, liabilities and operating activities (including all personnel) of the City's former Water and Sewer Funds. In return, the Board issued debt, which was used to defease outstanding City bonded debt relating to its Water and Sewer Funds.

#### Financial Highlights

- The liabilities and deferred inflows of resources of the Board were exceeded by its assets and deferred outflows of resources by \$10,015,584 and \$111,787 (net position) at December 31, 2022 and December 31, 2021, respectively. At December 31, 2022 and 2021, (\$59,053,214) and (\$60,899,388) (unrestricted net position), respectively, may be used to meet the Board's ongoing obligations.
- The Board's operating income for the years ended December 31, 2022 and 2021 was \$11,927,377 and \$7,104,452, respectively.
- The Board had bond refunding of Series 2022A bonds issued for \$35,930,000. Total bond indebtedness decreased by \$2,709,498 during the current fiscal year as a result of principal payments made of \$4,729,242 and premium amortization of \$129,754.
- The Board reflected a liability for postemployment benefits of \$76,183,820 and \$95,228,340 at December 31, 2022 and 2021, respectively.

#### Overview of the Financial Statements

This discussion and analysis is intended to serve as an introduction to the Board's basic financial statements which include the financial activities of the Board, the Niagara Falls Public Water Authority (the Authority) (a blended component unit), and the notes to financial statements. The reasons for blending the financial activities are explained in Note 1 to the financial statements. An overview of the responsibilities of the Board and the Authority is presented as follows.

<u>Board</u>	<u>Authority</u>
* Owns the System	* Issues debt
* Operates and maintains the System	* Provides proceeds of debt for construction and improvements
* Responsible for System improvements	* Provides oversight regarding adequacy of revenues and System conditions
* Sets rates and collects revenues	
* Pays debt service on bonds	

## NIAGARA FALLS WATER BOARD

### Management's Discussion and Analysis (Unaudited)

December 31, 2022

The financial statements are designed to provide readers with a broad overview of the Board's finances in a manner similar to a private-sector business, and are organized as follows:

- The statement of net position presents information on all of the Board's assets, deferred outflows of resources, liabilities and deferred inflows of resources, with the difference between the four reported as net position. Over time, increases or decreases in net position may serve as a useful indicator of whether the financial position of the Board is improving or deteriorating.
- The statement of revenue, expenses and changes in net position presents information on how the Board's net position changed during each reporting period. All changes in net position are reported as soon as the underlying event giving rise to the change occurs, regardless of the timing of related cash flows. Thus, revenue and expenses are reported in this statement for some items that will result in cash flows for future fiscal periods (e.g., uncollected water and sewer rents, earned but unused vacation and postemployment benefits).
- The statement of cash flows presents information depicting the Board's cash flow activities for each reporting period and the effect that these activities had on the Board's cash and equivalent balances.
- The notes to the financial statements provide additional information that is essential to a full understanding of the data provided in the financial statements. The notes to the financial statements can be found on pages 15 through 36 of this report.

### Financial Analysis

As noted earlier, net position may serve over time as a useful indicator of the Board's financial position. Assets and deferred outflows exceeded liabilities and deferred inflows by \$10,015,584 at December 31, 2022, as compared to \$111,787 at December 31, 2021, as presented as follows:

	Niagara Falls Water Board's Net Position			
	December 31,		Increase/(Decrease)	
	2022	2021	Dollars	Percent
Current assets	\$ 26,832,221	\$ 27,745,805	\$ (913,584)	-3.3%
Noncurrent assets	161,850,009	157,906,675	3,943,334	2.5%
Total assets	188,682,230	185,652,480	3,029,750	1.6%
Deferred outflows	11,353,536	8,668,717	2,684,819	31.0%
Current liabilities	13,752,927	14,805,848	(1,052,921)	-7.1%
Noncurrent liabilities	149,221,515	171,072,687	(21,851,172)	-12.8%
Total liabilities	162,974,442	185,878,535	(22,904,093)	-12.3%
Deferred inflows	27,045,740	8,330,875	18,714,865	224.6%
Net investment in capital assets	48,223,089	40,935,506	7,287,583	17.8%
Restricted	20,845,709	20,075,669	770,040	3.8%
Unrestricted	(59,053,214)	(60,899,388)	1,846,174	-3.0%
Total net position	\$ 10,015,584	\$ 111,787	\$ 9,903,797	8859.5%

## NIAGARA FALLS WATER BOARD

### Management's Discussion and Analysis (Unaudited) December 31, 2022

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The Board's net investment in capital assets, is a surplus net position of \$48,223,089 and \$40,935,506 at December 31, 2022 and 2021, respectively. This results from the timing of the amortization of the Board's capital debt, as outstanding principal for most of the Board's serial bonds is not paid until late into the life of the debt, while depreciation occurs annually.

The Board's unrestricted net position (deficit) was \$(59,053,214) and \$(60,899,388) at December 31, 2022 and 2021, respectively. The restricted debt service portion of the Board's net position, \$7,736,729 and \$7,257,814 at December 31, 2022 and 2021, respectively, represents funds that are set aside to be used towards debt service. The restricted capital projects portion of the Board's net position, \$786,581 at December 31, 2022 and 2021, represents funds that were set aside for the reconstruction of the Falls Street Tunnel and capital projects. The restricted debt service reserve fund portion of the Board's net position, \$7,123,949 and \$6,832,824 at December 31, 2022 and 2021, respectively, represents funds for future debt service payments. The restricted operating and maintenance reserve fund portion of the Board's net position, \$5,198,450 at December 31, 2022 and 2021, represents funds to pay the cost of extraordinary repairs to and maintenance of the system.

The Board's unrestricted net position is the remainder of total net position after taking net investment in capital assets, restricted for capital projects, restricted for operations and maintenance and restricted for debt related reserves into account. Unrestricted net position (deficit) decreased in 2022 by \$1,846,174 because of an increase in net investment in capital assets of \$7,287,583, an increase of \$770,040 in restricted net position and net income of \$1,846,171.

A comparison of current assets to current liabilities of the Board at December 31, 2022 and 2021 follows:

	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>
Current assets	\$ 26,832,221	\$ 27,745,805
Current liabilities	<u>\$ 13,752,927</u>	<u>\$ 14,805,848</u>
Ratio of current assets to current liabilities	1.95	1.87

The Board's total net position increased by \$9,903,797 during the year ended December 31, 2022, as compared to an increase of \$5,120,847 for the year ended December 31, 2021. Key elements of the current year's increase in net position (deficit) are as follows:

#### Niagara Falls Water Board's Changes in Net Position

	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>	Increase/ (Decrease)
Total operating revenue	\$ 41,093,715	\$ 38,433,425	\$ 2,660,290
Total operating expenses	<u>(29,166,338)</u>	<u>(31,328,973)</u>	2,162,635
Operating income	11,927,377	7,104,452	4,822,925
Total non-operating revenue (expenses)	<u>(2,023,580)</u>	<u>(1,983,605)</u>	(39,975)
Change in net position, before restatement	<u>\$ 9,903,797</u>	<u>\$ 5,120,847</u>	<u>\$ 4,782,950</u>



## NIAGARA FALLS WATER BOARD

### Management's Discussion and Analysis (Unaudited) December 31, 2022

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The Board's major sources of operating revenue are charges for water and sewer services which comprise approximately 90% of total operating revenue. These revenues combined increased \$1,605,162 from 2021. These revenues are dependent upon rates charged for these services, with such rates being determined by the Board. Please see the section entitled "Economic Factors and Next Year's Rates" within this MD&A for a listing of the rates charged during 2022 and approved rates for 2023.

The Board's largest operating expense area relates to its employees. Together, personnel costs (salaries) and employee benefits approximate 43% of total operating expenses. In 2022, these costs totaled approximately \$15.1 million as compared to \$12.7 million in 2021, representing an approximate \$2.5 million increase in this area. This increase is due to an increase in the NYS Local Employees retirement system expense of \$3,125,254. This increase is the result of the Board's proportionate share of the New York State Net Pension Liability decreasing and becoming a net pension asset (see further information in footnote #8). In addition, the OPEB expense (as shown in footnote #8) decreased mainly due to a change in actuarial assumptions.

Within the non-operating revenue (expenses) category, interest expense is by far the largest expense item and represents the cost of carrying serial bonds, which totaled \$77,902,419 and \$80,482,163, at December 31, 2022 and 2021, respectively.

The following is a summary of the Board's cash flow activities for the years ended December 31, 2022 and 2021:

Cash flows provided by (used in):	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>
Operating activities	\$ 13,227,371	\$ 10,371,671
Capital and related financing activities	(14,046,325)	(11,168,031)
Investing activities	<u>362,606</u>	<u>4,690,071</u>
Change in cash and equivalents	(456,348)	3,893,711
Cash and equivalents at beginning of year	<u>13,509,633</u>	<u>9,615,922</u>
Cash and equivalents at end of year	<u>\$ 13,053,285</u>	<u>\$ 13,509,633</u>

The Board's available cash and equivalents decreased by \$456,348 during the year ended December 31, 2022, as compared to an increase of \$9,615,922 during the year ended December 31, 2021. Cash provided by operating activities reflected a positive balance of \$13,227,371 and \$10,371,671, respectively, for the years ended December 31, 2022 and 2021.

### Capital Assets and Debt Administration

**Capital Assets** - The Board's investment in capital assets (net of accumulated depreciation) as of December 31, 2022, amounted to \$128,113,105, as compared to \$125,181,745 at December 31, 2021. This includes land, plant and transmission (infrastructure type assets), machinery and equipment, and construction in progress. The Board's greatest investment in capital assets comes in the form of infrastructure. Significant factors affecting capital assets during the reporting period include:

- The Board recorded total additions to capital assets of \$9,586,680.
- Additions to construction in progress totaled \$9,202,627. Completed capital projects transferred to depreciable asset categories totaled \$2,933,662.
- The Board recorded total depreciation of \$6,777,057 and \$6,635,454 for the years ended December 31, 2022 and 2021, respectively.

## NIAGARA FALLS WATER BOARD

### Management's Discussion and Analysis (Unaudited) December 31, 2022

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A summary of capital assets, net of depreciation where applicable, is as follows:

	<u>2022</u>	(Restated) <u>2021</u>
Nondepreciable assets:		
Land	\$ 463,713	\$ 463,713
Construction in progress	16,172,883	9,903,918
Depreciable assets:		
Plant and transmission assets (water system)	37,319,932	40,202,634
Plant and transmission assets (wastewater system)	67,504,102	68,869,250
Machinery and equipment	6,389,726	5,742,230
Lease assets:		
Vehicle	260,478	280,418
Land	<u>2,271</u>	<u>3,707</u>
Total	<u>\$ 128,113,105</u>	<u>\$ 125,465,870</u>

Construction in progress represents ongoing capital construction which will be transferred to the appropriate asset category (and begin to be depreciated) upon completion.

More detailed information about the Board's capital assets is presented in the notes to financial statements.

**Long-Term Debt** - At December 31, 2022, the Board had outstanding bonds totaling \$77,902,419 as compared to \$80,482,163 at December 31, 2021. During the year ended December 31, 2022, the Board made principal payments of \$4,729,242 on these bonds. In 2022, Revenue Refunding Bonds were issued totaling \$35,930,000 which refunded \$34,120,000 of 2013 bonds.

The Board used bond debt to finance the original purchase of the assets (net of liabilities and including the water, sewer and storm water systems) from the City. The Board has and may do so in the future utilized bond debt issuances as a primary source of funds for construction, renovations and system improvements.

**Postemployment Benefits** - Upon retirement, the Board's employees are entitled to continuous health insurance coverage. At December 31, 2022 and 2021, the liability recorded for these benefits amounted to \$76,183,820 and \$95,228,340, respectively.

**Compensated Absences** - Upon separation, Board employees are entitled to payment of unused sick and vacation time. The total liability relating to these payments at December 31, 2022 is \$605,405, compared to December 31, 2021 is \$694,217. The timing of the payments relating to compensated absences is dependent upon many factors, including the retirement or separation from service, and is therefore difficult to predict; however, the Board estimates that \$30,271 of such liability is current at December 31, 2022.

## NIAGARA FALLS WATER BOARD

### Management's Discussion and Analysis (Unaudited) December 31, 2022

#### Economic Factors and Next Year's Rates

As noted earlier, the Board's largest sources of operating revenues are water and sewer rents from customers. These revenues result from rates charged based on water usage by the individual customer. Rates can be adjusted accordingly in order to help meet the expenses of the Board. When considering rate changes, the Board utilizes the services of a rate consultant to help forecast the magnitude and effects of potential changes. As required by law, the general public's opinions are also taken into consideration, through public hearings, when contemplating a change in rates charged for services.

Water rates charged for 2022 and approved rates to be charged for 2023 are as follows:

	<u>2023</u>		<u>2022</u>	
	Amount to Be Charged		Amount to Be Charged	
	(Per 100 Cubic Feet)		(Per 100 Cubic Feet)	
	Inside City	Outside City	Inside City	Outside City
<u>Amount Consumed</u>				
First 20,000 cubic feet per quarter	\$ 4.48	\$ 11.97	\$ 4.11	\$ 10.99
Next 60,000 cubic feet per quarter	\$ 3.88	\$ 10.45	\$ 3.56	\$ 9.60
Next 120,000 cubic feet per quarter	\$ 3.29	\$ 8.70	\$ 3.02	\$ 7.99
Over 200,000 cubic feet per quarter	\$ 2.75	\$ 7.33	\$ 2.50	\$ 6.73
Minimum charge for water consumption per quarter	\$ 58.24	\$ 155.61	\$ 53.45	\$ 138.73

In addition to the above schedule of rates for water consumed, a demand charge is assessed for each user's meter, as set forth below:

	<u>2023 Rate</u>	<u>2022 Rate</u>
	(Per Quarter)	(Per Quarter)
<u>Size and Type</u>		
Under 1" Disc	\$ 3.70	\$ 3.70
1" Disc	\$ 25.00	\$ 25.00
2" Disc	\$ 40.00	\$ 40.00
2" Compound	\$ 40.00	\$ 40.00
3" Compound	\$ 50.00	\$ 50.00
4" Compound	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00
6" Compound	\$ 220.00	\$ 220.00
8" Compound	\$ 250.00	\$ 250.00
10" Compound	\$ 275.00	\$ 275.00
12" Compound	\$ 400.00	\$ 400.00

In addition to charging for water consumption and services, the Board also charges users with respect to sewer and wastewater services provided. All users have been divided into two "user classes" - Commercial/Small Industrial/Residential Users (CSIRU) and Significant Industrial Users (SIU).

## NIAGARA FALLS WATER BOARD

### Management's Discussion and Analysis (Unaudited) December 31, 2022

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Sewer rates for the CSIRU class are determined by the total metered water consumption in each quarter. Rates charged for 2022 and rates to be charged during 2023 are as follows:

<u>Amount Consumed</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
Minimum charge per quarter (up to 1,300 cubic feet)	\$ 77.09	\$ 70.78
Additional usage in excess of 1,300 cubic feet (\$/cubic feet)	\$ 5.93	\$ 5.44

Sewer rates for the SIU class are determined each quarter based on the actual measured quantities and composition of wastewater flow. Such rates are determined by the Board and are based upon five representative 24-hour composite samples taken quarterly. Rates for the SIU class for the year ended December 31, 2022 were \$3,824.80 per million gallons for wastewater flow; \$1.23 per pound for all suspended solids discharged; and \$2.12 per pound for all soluble organic carbon compounds discharged. Rates approved for the SIU class for 2023 are \$4,165.21 per million gallons for wastewater flow; \$1.34 per pound for all suspended solids discharged; and \$2.31 per pound for all soluble organic carbon compounds discharged. In addition, SIU's are charged fees, as needed, for certain other "substances of concern" which are discharged in their wastewater.

### Contacting the Board's Financial Management

This financial report is designed to provide taxpayers, customers, and creditors with a general overview of the Board's finances and to show the Board's accountability for the money it receives. If you have questions about this report or need additional financial information, contact Mr. Brian Majchrowicz, Michael O'Laughlin Municipal Water Plan, 5815 Buffalo Avenue, Niagara Falls, New York 14304.

# **NIAGARA FALLS WATER BOARD**

## **Statement of Net Position December 31, 2022**

### **ASSETS**

#### **CURRENT ASSETS:**

Cash and cash equivalents, unrestricted	\$ 13,053,285
Accounts receivable, net of allowance for uncollectible accounts	9,869,836
Due from City of Niagara Falls, net of allowance for uncollectible accounts	2,500,569
Grants receivable	701,135
Current portion, lease receivable	184,790
Prepaid expenses	522,606
Total current assets	<u>26,832,221</u>

#### **NONCURRENT ASSETS:**

Investments, unrestricted	22,287,346
Investments, restricted	8,899,838
Lease receivable	902,406
Net pension asset	1,647,314
Capital assets, nondepreciable	16,636,596
Capital assets, net	<u>111,476,509</u>
Total noncurrent assets	<u>161,850,009</u>
Total assets	<u>188,682,230</u>

### **DEFERRED OUTFLOWS OF RESOURCES**

Loss on refunding	1,869,854
Pension related	3,494,251
Other postemployment benefits related	<u>5,989,431</u>
Total deferred outflows of resources	<u>11,353,536</u>

### **LIABILITIES**

#### **CURRENT LIABILITIES:**

Accounts payable	2,914,218
Accrued liabilities and other	1,977,901
EFC short-term financing	1,584,352
Current portion, lease liability	76,216
Current portion, compensated absences	30,271
Current portion, total other postemployment benefits obligation	2,629,512
Current portion, bonds payable	<u>4,540,457</u>
Total current liabilities	<u>13,752,927</u>

#### **NONCURRENT LIABILITIES:**

Lease liability	183,878
Compensated absences	575,134
Total other postemployment benefits obligation	73,554,308
Bonds payable	<u>74,908,195</u>
Total noncurrent liabilities	<u>149,221,515</u>
Total liabilities	<u>162,974,442</u>

### **DEFERRED INFLOWS OF RESOURCES**

Pension related	5,911,542
Other postemployment benefits related	19,340,387
Lease related	1,066,945
Gain on refunding	<u>726,866</u>
Total deferred inflows of resources	<u>27,045,740</u>

### **NET POSITION**

Net investment in capital assets	48,223,089
Restricted	20,845,709
Unrestricted	<u>(59,053,214)</u>
Total net position	<u>\$ 10,015,584</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these statements.

## NIAGARA FALLS WATER BOARD

### Statement of Revenues, Expenses, and Change in Net Position For the Year Ended December 31, 2022

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#### OPERATING REVENUES:

Water rents and charges	\$ 12,219,614
Sewer rents and charges	24,007,380
Licenses and permits	234,068
Grants	4,600,664
Other services	<u>31,989</u>

Total operating revenues	<u>41,093,715</u>
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#### OPERATING EXPENSES:

Personnel costs	6,551,398
Contractual expenses	12,847,649
Employee benefits	2,888,424
Depreciation expense	6,777,057
Amortization expense	<u>101,810</u>

Total operating expenses	<u>29,166,338</u>
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Total operating income	<u>11,927,377</u>
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#### NON-OPERATING REVENUES (EXPENSES):

Amortization of deferred gain and premium	190,750
Debt issuance costs	(353,518)
Use of money and property	357,879
Gain on sale of property and compensation for loss	47,582
Interest expense	<u>(2,266,273)</u>

Total non-operating revenues (expenses), net	<u>(2,023,580)</u>
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CHANGE IN NET POSITION	9,903,797
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NET POSITION - beginning of year	<u>111,787</u>
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NET POSITION - end of year	<u><u>\$ 10,015,584</u></u>
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The accompanying notes are an integral part of these statements.

## NIAGARA FALLS WATER BOARD

### Statement of Cash Flows

For the Year Ended December 31, 2022

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#### CASH FLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES:

Receipts from customers and users	\$ 36,714,635
Receipts from grants	5,031,812
Payments to suppliers	(16,293,046)
Payments to employees	<u>(12,226,030)</u>

Net cash flow from operating activities	<u>13,227,371</u>
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#### CASH FLOW FROM CAPITAL AND RELATED FINANCING ACTIVITIES:

Issuance of lease liability	80,435
Payments on lease liability	(104,465)
Purchases of capital assets	(7,297,180)
Proceeds from insurance recoveries	31,331
Proceeds on sale of capital assets	76,829
Repayments of capital debt	(38,509,744)
Issuance of capital debt	35,930,000
Deferred loss on refunding	(1,869,854)
Interest paid on capital debt	(2,030,159)
Payment of debt issuance costs	<u>(353,518)</u>

Net cash flow from capital and related financing activities	<u>(14,046,325)</u>
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#### CASH FLOW FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES:

Interest received	357,879
Net change in restricted cash and investments	<u>4,727</u>

Net cash flow from investing activities	<u>362,606</u>
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CHANGE IN CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS	(456,348)
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CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS - beginning of year	<u>13,509,633</u>
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CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS - end of year	<u><u>\$ 13,053,285</u></u>
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The accompanying notes are an integral part of these statements.

## NIAGARA FALLS WATER BOARD

### Statement of Cash Flows

For the Year Ended December 31, 2022

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#### RECONCILIATION OF OPERATING INCOME TO NET CASH FLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES:

Operating income	\$ 11,927,377
Adjustments to reconcile operating income to net cash flow from operating activities:	
Depreciation	6,777,057
Amortization	101,810
Change in allowance for doubtful accounts	809,798
Changes in:	
Accounts receivable	975,014
Due from City of Niagara Falls	(1,542,977)
Grants receivable	431,148
Lease receivable	161,699
Prepaid expenses	(30,957)
Net pension (asset) liability	(1,666,635)
Accounts payable	(3,414,440)
Accrued liabilities	(129,086)
Compensated absences	(88,812)
Total other postemployment benefits liability	(19,044,520)
Deferred outflows of resources - pension related	1,099,670
Deferred outflows of resources - total other postemployment benefits related	(1,914,635)
Deferred inflows of resources - total other postemployment benefits related	18,887,873
Deferred inflows of resources - leases related	(181,950)
Deferred inflows of resources - pension related	69,937
Net cash flow from operating activities	<u>\$ 13,227,371</u>

#### SUPPLEMENTAL SCHEDULE OF CASH FLOW INFORMATION:

Adjustment for capital assets financed by accounts payable	<u>\$ 2,289,500</u>
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The accompanying notes are an integral part of these statements.



# NIAGARA FALLS WATER BOARD

## Notes to Basic Financial Statements

December 31, 2022

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### 1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The financial statements of the Niagara Falls Water Board (the Board) have been prepared in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAP) as applied to governmental units. Included in the Board's reporting entity is a blended component unit, the Niagara Falls Public Water Authority (the Authority).

#### Reporting Entity

The Board was created by Chapter 325 of the Laws of 2002 of the State of New York (the State), codified as Sections 1231-a of Title 10-C of Article 5 of the Public Authorities Law of the State, as amended (the Board Act). The Authority was created by Chapter 275 of the Laws of 2002 of the State, constituting the Niagara Falls Public Water Authority Act, codified as Sections 1230-a through 1230-aa of Title 10-B of Article 5 of the Public Authorities Law of the State, as amended (the Authority Act).

The Board is a corporate municipal instrument of the State consisting of five members primarily responsible for the jurisdiction, control, possession, supervision and use of water, wastewater and storm water systems within the City of Niagara Falls, New York (the City).

The Authority is a public benefit corporation consisting of three members and is primarily responsible for obtaining financing for water, wastewater and storm water systems within the City.

Board members for both the Board and Authority are appointed pursuant to the enabling legislation.

Pursuant to the Board Act and the Authority Act, the Board, the Authority and the City executed an acquisition agreement effective September 25, 2003 whereby the Authority issued bonds enabling the Board to purchase all of the assets, net of liabilities, of the City's public water, wastewater and storm water systems. The Board began operations of these systems on that date.

Currently there are approximately 19,538 residential, 348 commercial and 21 large industrial type customers. Total population served by the water system is 48,360. The average daily demand is 21.24 million gallons per day. The Board's wastewater system generally covers the same service area and customer base as the water system. The wastewater treatment plant processes approximately 24.24 million gallons of wastewater per day.

Blended Presentation of Component Unit - Although they are legally separate entities, blended component units are, in substance, part of the government's operations. The following is a brief description of the blended component unit included in the primary government:

Niagara Falls Public Water Authority - Among the powers given to the Authority is the ability to borrow money and issue negotiable or non-negotiable notes, bonds or other obligations for the acquisition, renovation and improvement to the regional water system.

The Authority may also apply for licenses, permits and approve of plans associated with the acquisition, renovation and improvement of the regional water system. In the process of borrowing funds to improve facilities, professional consultants may be retained to offer technical services and advice for the purpose and benefit of acquiring or improving the systems.

## **NIAGARA FALLS WATER BOARD**

### **Notes to Basic Financial Statements**

**December 31, 2022**

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The Authority has entered into an agreement with the Board which requires the Board to make payments for the debt service required by these bonds. The Board is also required to make payments for Authority expenses. The obligation to make debt service payments is a general obligation to which its full faith and credit are pledged.

The Authority is considered a component unit since the Board is obligated to pay debt service and fund other accounts of the Authority. Thus, the Authority is “fiscally dependent” upon the Board to establish rates and collect fees necessary to pay these debts. Further, the Authority is “blended” with the Board in the financial statements because the Authority exists solely to provide services that predominantly benefit the Board. The Authority has no employees of its own.

#### **Measurement Focus and Basis of Accounting**

The financial statements of the Board have been prepared in accordance with GAAP as applied to governmental units. The Government Accounting Standards Board (GASB) is the accepted standard-setting body for establishing government accounting and financial reporting principles.

The activities of the Board are accounted for similar to those often found in the private sector using the flow of economic resources measurement focus and the accrual basis of accounting. All assets, liabilities, deferred outflows of resources, deferred inflows of resources, net position, revenues, and expenses are accounted for through a single enterprise fund with revenues recorded when earned and expenses recorded at the time liabilities are incurred.

Revenues from providing water and sanitary sewer services are reported as operating revenues and are recognized at the time of service delivery based on actual or estimated meter readings. Transactions which are capital, financing or investing related are reported as non-operating revenues. All expenses related to operating systems are reported as operating expenses. Interest expense and financing costs are reported as non-operating expenses.

#### **Budgets**

The annual budget is the financial plan for the effective operation of the Board and the Authority. The Board uses the budget as a management tool for internal control purposes and to assist in setting of appropriate user charges.

#### **Assets, Deferred Outflows of Resources, Liabilities, Deferred Inflows of Resources and Net Position**

- Cash and Equivalents - The Board’s cash and equivalents represent cash on hand, demand deposits, and short-term investments with original maturities of three months or less from the date of acquisition.
- Restricted Cash and Investments - Debt Service Fund - As a result of the purchase of the water and sewer systems from the City, certain bond covenants, as disclosed in Note 5, were established requiring resources (consisting of cash and investments) to be maintained for specific purposes necessary to operate the water and sewer systems. At December 31, 2022, the total amount restricted for debt service fund amounted to \$7,736,729.

## NIAGARA FALLS WATER BOARD

### Notes to Basic Financial Statements

December 31, 2022

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- Restricted Cash and Investments - Debt Service Reserve Fund - This fund was established to fulfill the debt service reserve requirements on the outstanding bonds as, and when, they become due. At December 31, 2022, the total amount restricted for debt service reserve fund amounted to \$7,123,949.
- Restricted Cash and Investments - Operating and Maintenance - This fund is restricted to pay the cost of extraordinary repairs to, and maintenance of, the system. At December 31, 2022, the total amount restricted for operating and maintenance amounted to \$5,198,450.

Cash has been deposited into various trust funds with a fiscal agent to satisfy certain covenants. Further, the amounts have been invested into various short-term investments in compliance with the Board's investment policy. Certain funds were used for their intended purposes and are no longer available for investment.

- Fair Value Measurements and Disclosures

A framework has been established for measuring fair value. That framework provides a fair value hierarchy that prioritizes the inputs to valuation techniques used to measure fair value. The hierarchy gives the highest priority to unadjusted quoted prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities (Level 1 measurements) and the lowest priority to unobservable inputs (Level 3 measurements). The three levels of the fair value hierarchy are described below:

- Level 1 - Inputs to the valuation methodology are unadjusted quoted prices for identical assets or liabilities in active markets that the Board has the ability to access.
- Level 2 - Inputs to the valuation methodology include:
  - Quoted prices for similar assets or liabilities in active markets;
  - Quoted prices for identical or similar assets or liabilities in inactive markets;
  - Inputs other than quoted prices that are observable for the assets or liabilities; and
  - Inputs that are derived principally from or corroborated by observable market data by correlation or other means.
- Level 3 - Inputs to the valuation methodology are unobservable and significant to the fair value measurement.

An asset's or liability's fair value measurement level within the fair value hierarchy is based on the lowest level of any input that is significant to the fair value measurement. Valuation techniques used need to maximize the use of observable inputs and minimize the use of unobservable inputs. There have been no changes in the methodologies used at December 31, 2022.

The following is a description of the valuation methodologies used for assets measured at fair value:

Certificates of deposit - Valued at the closing price reported on the active markets in which the individual securities are traded.

## NIAGARA FALLS WATER BOARD

### Notes to Basic Financial Statements

December 31, 2022

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Corporate securities (commercial paper and bonds) - Valued at the closing price reported on the active markets in which the individual securities are traded.

U.S. Government securities and bonds - Valued at the closing price reported on the active markets in which the individual securities are traded.

The Board assesses the levels of the investments at each measurement date, and transfers between levels are recognized on the actual date of the event or change in circumstances that caused the transfer in accordance with its accounting policy regarding the recognition of transfers between levels of the fair value hierarchy.

- Accounts and Lease Receivable - All receivables, including accrued unbilled revenues, are reported at their gross values and, where appropriate, are reduced by the estimated portion that is expected to be uncollectible. The Board has adopted a policy of recognizing water and sewer revenues in the period in which the services are provided. Billings to customers generally consist of revenues earned from the prior three months for quarterly billed customers, and revenues earned from the prior month for monthly billed customers.

The collection of current water and sewer charges is performed by the Board. The City, acting as collecting agent for the Board, collects delinquent water and sewer charges, which become a lien upon the premises collected with City taxes.

- Prepaid Expenses - Prepaid expenses reflect costs applicable to future accounting periods and are recorded as prepaid items in the financial statements.
- Capital Assets - Capital assets acquired by the Board as part of the September 25, 2003 acquisition agreement with the City were reported at fair value on the acquisition date. Capital assets acquired by the Board subsequent to the initial acquisition are stated at cost. Costs include material, direct labor and other items such as supervision, payroll taxes, employee benefits, transportation, and certain preliminary legal, engineering and survey costs. The costs of repairs and maintenance are expensed as incurred. Contributed fixed assets are recorded at fair market value at the date received.

Construction projects are conducted on a continuing basis in order to maintain or enhance the systems. Preliminary legal, engineering and survey costs include studies conducted prior to the actual construction period that directly result in specific construction projects. While capital projects are in process, all associated costs are recorded as construction in progress. Once completed, all costs, including legal, engineering, survey and construction costs, are reclassified to their respective asset categories and depreciated according to their useful lives.

## NIAGARA FALLS WATER BOARD

### Notes to Basic Financial Statements

December 31, 2022

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Depreciation has been recorded using the straight-line method of depreciation. The estimated useful lives of the Board's major classes of depreciable assets are based on the utility of the respective assets. The estimated useful lives of depreciable fixed assets are as follows:

	<u>Life</u>	<u>Threshold</u>
Land	N/A	N/A
Water and wastewater systems	20 - 50	\$20,000 - \$100,000
Machinery and equipment	3 - 15	\$15,000 - \$30,000

Capital assets also include lease assets with a term greater than one year. The Board does not implement a capitalization threshold for lease assets. Lease assets are amortized on a straight-line basis over the term of the lease.

- **Compensated Absences** - Board employees are granted vacation and sick leave and earn compensatory absences in varying amounts. In the event of termination or upon retirement, all union employees are entitled to payment for accumulated vacation and compensatory time limited to amounts defined under their respective collectively bargained agreements. All non-union employees are entitled to similar benefits.

Payments of vacation and sick leave and compensatory time are dependent upon many factors; therefore, the timing of future payments is not readily determinable. However, management believes that sufficient resources will be available for the payments of vacation leave and compensatory time when such payments become due.

In addition to providing pension benefits, the Board provides postemployment health insurance coverage and survivor benefits to retired employees and their survivors in accordance with the provisions of various employment contracts in effect at the time of retirement. Substantially all of the Board's employees may become eligible for these benefits if they reach normal retirement age while working for the Board. Health care benefits are provided through the Board's self-insurance plan. The Board pays 100% of the cost for current retiree's health care insurance, excluding co-pays which are the sole responsibility of the retirees. Survivors of retirees hired prior to December 31, 2007 continue to receive healthcare coverage. Future retirees hired after December 31, 2007 will pay 20% of the premiums for their insurance coverage. They will be enrolled in a "Medicare Advantage Plan" at age 65. The Board recognizes the cost of providing health insurance by recording its share of insurance premiums as an expenditure.

- **Bond and Note Discounts/Premiums** - Discounts and premiums are presented as components of bonds or notes payable. The discounts/premiums are amortized over the life of the bonds and notes on a straight-line interest method.
- **Long-term Obligations** - Long-term debt obligations are reported as liabilities in the accompanying statement of net position.

## NIAGARA FALLS WATER BOARD

### Notes to Basic Financial Statements

December 31, 2022

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- Pension Plan - The Board provides retirement benefits for substantially all of its regular, full-time employees through contributions to the New York State Employees' and Local Employees' Retirement System (ERS). The ERS provides various plans and options, some of which require employee contributions, as described in Note 9.
- Deferred Outflows of Resources and Deferred Inflows of Resources - Deferred outflows of resources represents a consumption of net position that applies to a future period and so will not be recognized as an outflow of resources (expense/expenditure) until then. Deferred inflows of resources represents an acquisition of net position that applies to future period(s) and so will not be recognized as an inflow of resources (revenue) until that time.
- Net Position - The Board's financial statements utilize a net position presentation. Net position is categorized as net investment in capital assets, restricted and unrestricted.

Net Investment in Capital Assets - This category groups all capital assets into one component of net position. Accumulated depreciation and the outstanding balances of debt that are attributable to the acquisition, construction or improvement of these assets reduce the balance in this category.

Restricted Net Position - This category represents external restrictions imposed by creditors, grantors, contributors, or laws and regulations of other governments and restrictions imposed by law through constitutional provisions or enabling legislation. Restricted Net Position totaled \$20,845,709 as of December 31, 2022.

Restricted for Capital Projects:

Amounts restricted for capital projects is \$786,581 at December 31, 2022. In 2007, the Board received \$19,000,000 from the Power Authority under a "Relicensing Settlement Agreement." The Agreement provided for the creation of a "Niagara Falls Water Board Capital Improvement Fund." These funds are restricted for future use related to capital improvements of the Board including but not limited to any specific project including the Falls Street Tunnel project.

Restricted for Debt Service Fund:

Board restrictions for debt service were \$7,736,729 at December 31, 2022.

Restricted for Debt Service Reserve Fund:

Amounts restricted for the debt service reserve fund were \$7,123,949 at December 31, 2022. These funds are controlled by bond trustee. The required minimum balance is the lesser of the maximum future annual debt service requirement or 125% of the average future annual debt service requirements for all outstanding bonds. The required minimum balance was \$6,407,934 at December 31, 2022. This resulted in excess reserves of \$716,015 at December 31, 2022.

## **NIAGARA FALLS WATER BOARD**

### **Notes to Basic Financial Statements**

**December 31, 2022**

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#### **Restricted for Operations and Maintenance:**

Amounts restricted for operations and maintenance were \$5,198,450 at December 31, 2022. These reserves may be used to pay the cost of extraordinary repairs to, and replacements of, the system. Surplus amounts on deposit at the end of the fiscal year may be used for any purpose determined by the Board to be beneficial for the system unless the Authority notifies the Board that it does not concur with such application of surplus and expenditures. The required minimum balance is 1/6th of the fiscal years' budgeted operating expenses which equates to \$4,900,942. At December 31, 2022, there was excess reserves of \$297,508.

Unrestricted Net Position - This category of net position consists of net position that does not meet the definition of "restricted" or "net investment in capital assets".

When both restricted and unrestricted resources are available for use, it is the Board's policy to use restricted resources first, and then unrestricted resources as they are needed.

#### **Use of Estimates**

The preparation of the financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America 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 the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the reporting period. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

#### **Income Taxes**

The Board is a public benefit corporation of the State of New York. As such, income earned in the exercise of its essential government functions is exempt from State and Federal income taxes.

#### **Reclassifications**

Certain amounts in 2021 have been reclassified to conform with the 2022 presentation.

## **2. CASH AND EQUIVALENTS AND INVESTMENTS**

The Board's investment policies are governed by State statute. Board monies must be deposited in Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) insured commercial banks or trust companies located within the State. The Board is authorized to use demand accounts and certificates of deposit. Permissible investments include obligations of the U.S. Treasury and U.S. agencies, repurchase agreements, and obligations of the State or its localities.

Collateral is required for demand deposits and certificates of deposit in an amount equal to or greater than the amount of all deposits not covered by FDIC insurance coverage. Obligations that may be pledged as collateral are outlined in Chapter 623 of the laws of the State.

## NIAGARA FALLS WATER BOARD

### Notes to Basic Financial Statements

December 31, 2022

Custodial Credit Risk - Deposits - In the case of deposits, this is the risk that, in the event of a bank failure, the Board's deposits may not be returned to it. As noted above, by State statute, all deposits in excess of FDIC insurance coverage must be collateralized. As of December 31, 2022, all uninsured bank deposits were fully collateralized with securities held by the pledging financial institution's trust department or agent in the Board's name.

The Board's collateral related to the above is as follows for the year ended December 31, 2022:

	Carrying Amount	Bank Balance
Demand deposits	\$ 13,053,285	\$ 13,689,617
Total cash	\$ 13,053,285	\$ 13,689,617
Insured cash - FDIC		\$ 500,000
Uninsured - collateralized with securities held by pledging financial institution		14,266,588
Total insured and collateralized cash and cash equivalents		\$ 14,766,588

Custodial Credit Risk - Investments - For investments, this is the risk that, in the event of the failure of the counterparty, the Board will not be able to recover the value of its investments that are in the possession of an outside party. At December 31, 2022, all of the Board's restricted cash in the form of investments was registered in the Board's name and was invested in certificates of deposit and U.S. Government backed securities.

The Board's investments at December 31, 2022, consist of the following:

Investments	Maturity	Fair Value
Cash and cash equivalents	N/A	\$ 7,335,361
Federal Home Mortgage Corp.	2/2023 - 6/2025	13,145,041
U.S. Treasury Notes & Bonds	1/2023 - 7/2024	7,063,140
Taxable Money Market Funds	1/2023 - 6/2023	2,243,770
Certificates of Deposit	2/2024 - 7/2024	1,237,350
Income	N/A	162,522
Total investments		\$ 31,187,184

These investments are classified as Level 1.

#### Maturity Schedule

Less than one year	\$ 21,432,245
More than one year	9,754,939
	\$ 31,187,184



## NIAGARA FALLS WATER BOARD

### Notes to Basic Financial Statements

December 31, 2022

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Concentration Credit Risk - For investments, this is the risk of loss attributable to the quantity of the government's investment in a single issuer. Investments in single issuers that equal or exceed 5% of total investments have a reportable concentration of credit risk. At December 31, 2022, the Board held 24% in Cash and Cash Equivalents, 42% in Federal Home Mortgage Corp., 23% in U.S. Treasury Notes & Bonds, and 7% in Taxable Commercial Paper.

### 3. RECEIVABLES

Major revenues accrued by the Board at December 31, 2022 include the following:

#### **Accounts Receivable**

Accounts receivable primarily represents amounts due from customers for current and delinquent water and wastewater services provided, including penalties, unpaid bill charges, collection fees and shut-off charges.

Customers are billed either on a monthly or quarterly basis depending on the type of user (industrial or residential), and the level of water and sewer usage. Customers may make payments without penalty on current charges up until 20 days after receiving their bill. Any unpaid balances remaining after these 20 days are subject to a penalty of 6%, and those customers receive an unpaid bill notice. If balances still remain unpaid after 30 additional days, final unpaid notices are mailed. The customers are then given 10 days to remit payment, after which the property is tagged, and shut-off procedures begin.

During the first week of December of every year, unpaid balances are transferred to the City tax roll for collections through the subsequent year's tax levy or in-rem property sales. Any amounts relating to unpaid water and wastewater balances collected by the City through these means are delivered to the Board.

As of December 31, 2022, \$1,274,304 was included in allowance for uncollectible accounts to account for receivable balances that may not be collected.

#### **Due from City of Niagara Falls**

Due from City of Niagara Falls represents amounts due from the City for the tax transfer. The amount accrued at December 31, 2022, net of an allowance for uncollectible amounts, was \$2,500,569.

The tax transfer represents uncollected water and sewer charges that have been turned over to the City for collection in conjunction with the City's property tax levy. The City remits amounts to the Board each January and July for collections it receives for the previous six-month period. The due from City of Niagara Falls amount includes any collected but not yet remitted collections at year-end. Charges from all previous years' water and sewer operations transferred to the City that are not collected totaled \$9,021,120 at December 31, 2022. Management has recorded an allowance for uncollectible accounts with respect to these balances of \$6,520,551 at December 31, 2022.

# **NIAGARA FALLS WATER BOARD**

## **Notes to Basic Financial Statements** **December 31, 2022**

### **4. CAPITAL ASSETS**

The Board's capital asset activity for the years ended December 31, 2022 is summarized as follows:

	(Restated) Balance 1/1/2022	Increases	Decreases	Balance 12/31/2022
Capital assets, not being depreciated:				
Land	\$ 463,713	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 463,713
Construction in progress	9,903,918	9,202,627	(2,933,662)	16,172,883
Total capital assets not being depreciated	10,367,631	9,202,627	(2,933,662)	16,636,596
Capital assets, being depreciated:				
Plant and transmission assets:				
Water system	92,041,188	142,690	-	92,183,878
Wastewater system	102,493,699	1,464,977	-	103,958,676
Machinery and equipment	12,876,530	1,629,613	(520,853)	13,985,290
Total capital assets being depreciated	207,411,417	3,237,280	(520,853)	210,127,844
Less accumulated depreciation:				
Plant and transmission assets:				
Water system	(51,838,554)	(3,025,392)	-	(54,863,946)
Wastewater system	(33,624,449)	(2,830,125)	-	(36,454,574)
Machinery and equipment	(7,134,300)	(921,540)	460,276	(7,595,564)
Total accumulated depreciation	(92,597,303)	(6,777,057)	460,276	(98,914,084)
Total being depreciated, net	114,814,114	(3,539,777)	(60,577)	111,213,760
Lease assets:				
Vehicle	280,418	80,435	-	360,853
Equipment	3,706	-	-	3,706
Total lease assets	284,124	80,435	-	364,559
Less accumulated amortization:				
Vehicle	-	(100,375)	-	(100,375)
Equipment	-	(1,435)	-	(1,435)
Total accumulated amortization	-	(101,810)	-	(101,810)
Total lease assets, net	284,124	(21,375)	-	262,749
Capital assets, net	\$ 125,465,869	\$ 5,641,475	\$ (2,994,239)	\$ 128,113,105

## NIAGARA FALLS WATER BOARD

### Notes to Basic Financial Statements

December 31, 2022

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#### 5. INDEBTEDNESS

The Authority issues debt to provide for the acquisition of the water and sewer systems and for the initial funding of operating and maintenance and debt reserves.

In 2012, the proceeds (\$6,607,122) of the Series 2012B Clean Water Bonds issuance were used to payoff the Environmental Facilities Corporation (EFC) Note used to fund North Gorge Interceptor Capacity Restoration Project. These bonds are due in 2041 and bear interest at rates between 0.26-4.27%.

In 2013, the Authority issued \$74,240,000 in general obligation bonds with an average interest rate of 4.72% and received an additional premium of \$142,002. The bonds were used for an advanced refunding of \$63,535,000 of the 2003 Bonds with an average interest rate of 3.79%. The net proceeds of approximately \$64 million were deposited in a trust to provide for future debt service payments on the bonds. As a result, the bonds are considered defeased and the liability for those bonds has been removed from the Board's financial statements. The economic gain on the transaction (the difference between the present values of the debt service payments on the old and new debt) was approximately \$1.7 million.

During 2014, net proceeds of the Series B bonds were used to entirely refund the Series 2004 Serial Bonds of \$4,095,000, specifically reducing the interest to be paid by approximately \$610,000.

During 2015, net proceeds of the Series D bonds were used to entirely advance refund the Series 2005 A&B Serial Bonds of \$4,380,000 specifically reducing the interest to be paid by approximately \$550,000. As a result, the bonds are considered defeased and the liability for these bonds has been removed from the Board's financial statements. The economic gain on the transaction (the difference between the present values of the debt service payments on the old and new debt) was approximately \$450,000.

During 2016, net proceeds of the Series A bonds were used to entirely advance refund the Series 2005 bonds of \$23,115,000 specifically reducing the interest to be paid by approximately \$4,100,000. As a result, the bonds are considered defeased and the liability for these bonds has been removed from the Board's financial statements. The economic gain on the transaction (the difference between the present values of the debt service payments on the old and new debt) was approximately \$4.1 million. The accounting gain on this refunding was originally \$1,097,923 which is being amortized through 2034. The unamortized gain on refunding amounted to \$726,866 at December 31, 2022.

During 2019, the Authority received proceeds of \$2,189,993 from the New York State Power Authority Mortgage Loan for the Energy Efficiency Program at an interest rate of 2.79%.

During 2022, net proceeds of the Water and Sewer System Revenue Refunding Bonds Series 2022A totaling \$35,930,000 were used to entirely refund the Series 2013A Serial Bonds of \$34,120,000. The discount on this refunding was \$1,869,854 which is being amortized beginning in 2024 through 2034. The Series 2022A bond will be repaid over 10 years beginning in 2024 with interest rates ranging from 2.00% - 3.375%.

# **NIAGARA FALLS WATER BOARD**

## **Notes to Basic Financial Statements**

**December 31, 2022**

Indebtedness activity for the year ended December 31, 2022 is as follows:

	Principal Outstanding 1/1/2022	Issued	Paid	Principal Outstanding 12/31/2022	Due Within One Year
New York State Environmental Facilities Corporation Water Revolving Funds Revenue Bonds - Direct Borrowings:					
Series 2012B - Clean Water bond issued in 2012 for \$6,607,122 and maturing in 2041 bearing interest paid semi-annually at 0.26% to 4.27%	\$ 4,840,000	\$ -	\$ (180,000)	\$ 4,660,000	\$ 185,000
Series 2013B - Clean Water bond issued in 2013 for \$14,030,000 and maturing in 2033 bearing interest paid semi-annually at 3.88% to 5.05%	9,455,000	-	(650,000)	8,805,000	670,000
Series 2013B - Drinking Water bond issued in 2013 for \$5,580,000 and maturing in 2023 bearing interest paid semi-annually at 4.75% to 4.91%	4,660,000	-	(2,290,000)	2,370,000	2,370,000
Series 2015D - Drinking Water bond issued in 2015 for \$4,380,000 and maturing in 2034 bearing interest paid semi-annually at 3.81% to 4.57%	3,355,000	-	(185,000)	3,170,000	190,000
Total NYS EFC Water Revolving Funds Revenue Bonds - Direct Borrowings	<u>22,310,000</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(3,305,000)</u>	<u>19,005,000</u>	<u>3,415,000</u>
Serial Bonds:					
Series 2013A bonds issued in 2013 for \$36,060,000 and maturing in 2034 bearing interest paid semi-annually at 3.0% to 5.0%	\$ 34,120,000	\$ -	\$ (34,120,000)	\$ -	\$ -
Series 2013B bonds issued in 2013 for \$8,415,000 and maturing in 2024 bearing interest paid semi-annually at 4.309%	2,350,000	-	(875,000)	1,475,000	925,000
Series 2016A bonds issued in 2016 for \$20,130,000 and maturing in 2034 bearing interest paid annually at 3.13% to 5.0%	20,130,000	-	-	20,130,000	-
Series 2022A bonds issued in 2022 for \$35,930,000 and maturing in 2034 bearing interest paid semi-annually at 2.0% to 3.375%	-	35,930,000	-	35,930,000	-
Unamortized premium on bonds issued in 2016 for \$2,335,569 and maturing in 2034	1,675,987	-	(129,754)	1,546,233	-
Total Serial Bonds	<u>58,275,987</u>	<u>35,930,000</u>	<u>(35,124,754)</u>	<u>59,081,233</u>	<u>925,000</u>
New York State Power Authority - Direct Borrowing:					
Series 2019 Mortgage Loan issued in 2019 for \$2,189,993 and maturing in 2028 bearing interest paid semi-annually at 2.79%	\$ 1,572,163	\$ -	\$ (209,744)	\$ 1,362,419	\$ 200,457
Total NYS Power Authority - Direct Borrowing	<u>1,572,163</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(209,744)</u>	<u>1,362,419</u>	<u>200,457</u>
Total	<u>\$ 82,158,150</u>	<u>\$ 35,930,000</u>	<u>\$ (38,639,498)</u>	<u>\$ 79,448,652</u>	<u>\$ 4,540,457</u>

# NIAGARA FALLS WATER BOARD

## Notes to Basic Financial Statements

December 31, 2022

The annual maturities of long-term debt as of December 31, 2022 are as follows:

### Serial Bonds

Year	Premium on Bonds	Principal	Interest	Total
2023	\$ 129,754	\$ 925,000	\$ 2,431,887	\$ 3,486,641
2024	129,754	3,875,000	2,026,192	6,030,946
2025	129,754	4,435,000	1,853,492	6,418,246
2026	129,754	4,620,000	1,659,517	6,409,271
2027	129,754	4,820,000	1,455,427	6,405,181
2028-2032	648,768	26,620,000	4,644,145	31,912,913
2033-2037	248,695	12,240,000	665,544	13,154,239
	<u>\$ 1,546,233</u>	<u>\$ 57,535,000</u>	<u>\$ 14,736,204</u>	<u>\$ 73,817,437</u>

### NYS EFC State Revolving Fund Revenue Bonds - Direct Borrowings

Year	Principal	Interest	Total
2023	\$ 3,415,000	\$ 874,774	\$ 4,289,774
2024	1,080,000	712,085	1,792,085
2025	1,110,000	663,618	1,773,618
2026	1,145,000	613,235	1,758,235
2027	1,180,000	560,702	1,740,702
2028-2032	6,500,000	1,938,513	8,438,513
2033-2037	3,080,000	571,071	3,651,071
2038-2042	1,495,000	190,397	1,685,397
Total	<u>\$ 19,005,000</u>	<u>\$ 6,124,395</u>	<u>\$ 25,129,395</u>

The Board's direct borrowings with NYS EFC contain a provision that in the event of default, NYS EFC may take whatever action at law or in equity may appear necessary or desirable to remedy such default. These remedies include, but are not limited to, mandatory redemption, acceleration, or requiring the Board to immediately redeem the bonds in whole together with all other sums due to NYS EFC. The Board may also owe to NYS EFC interest accrued on the overdue balance.

### New York State Power Authority - Direct Borrowing

Year	Principal	Interest	Total
2023	\$ 200,457	\$ 69,675	\$ 270,132
2024	211,723	58,410	270,133
2025	223,621	46,512	270,133
2026	236,188	33,945	270,133
2027	249,461	20,672	270,133
2028	240,969	6,653	247,622
Total	<u>\$ 1,362,419</u>	<u>\$ 235,867</u>	<u>\$ 1,598,286</u>

## NIAGARA FALLS WATER BOARD

### Notes to Basic Financial Statements

December 31, 2022

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Interest on long-term debt for the year was composed of:

Interest paid	\$	2,030,159
Plus: Interest accrued in the current year		1,399,963
Less: Interest accrued in the prior year		<u>(1,163,849)</u>
Total interest expense	\$	<u>2,266,273</u>

#### Financing Agreement Covenants

The financing agreement between the Authority and the Board relating to all current and future bonding contain various covenants pertaining to the use and maintenance of the trust funds established from the proceeds of each bond. At December 31, 2022, the Board was in compliance with the following loan covenants:

The Board is required to establish and collect rates, fees and charges sufficient in each fiscal year at least equal to the sum of:

- (1) 115% of the estimated aggregate debt service and projected debt service payable in such fiscal year;
- (2) 100% of Board operating expenses and Authority expenses payable in such fiscal year; and
- (3) 100% of the amount necessary to pay the required deposits for such fiscal year.

The Board shall review the adequacy of fees, rates and charges at least semi-annually.

The Board shall enforce the payment of any and all amounts owed for the use of the systems.

The Board shall (unless required by law) not furnish or supply, or cause to be furnished or supplied, any product, use or service of the systems, free of charge.

The debt service fund, beginning with the first day of each calendar month, shall receive all revenues until the balance in the debt service fund equals the minimum monthly balance. The minimum monthly balance is defined as an amount equal to the sum of the aggregate amounts of debt service that have accrued with respect to all series of bonds, calculating the debt service that has accrued as an amount equal to the sum of:

- (1) The interest on the bonds that has accrued and is unpaid and that will have accrued by the end of the then calendar month; and
- (2) The portion of the next due principal installment for the bonds that would have accrued (as deemed to accrue in the manner interest accrues) by the end of the then calendar month.

## NIAGARA FALLS WATER BOARD

### Notes to Basic Financial Statements

December 31, 2022

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#### Remedies for Default

In the event that the Board shall default in the payment of principal of, or interest on, any issue of bonds after the same shall become due, whether at maturity or upon call for redemption, and such default shall continue for a period of thirty days, or in the event that the Board shall fail or refuse to comply with the provisions of this title or shall default in any agreement made with the holders of any issue of bonds, the holders of twenty-five percent in aggregate principal amount of the bonds of such issue then outstanding, by instrument or instruments filed in the offices of the clerk of the City, secretary of the Board and the Authority and proved or acknowledged in the same manner as a deed to be recorded, may appoint a trustee to represent the holders of such bonds for the purpose herein provided.

On April 1, 2021, the Authority issued a Bond Anticipation Note (BAN) Series 2021 through the Environmental Facilities Corporation (EFC) for a maximum amount of \$27,000,000 for the planning, design and construction of improvements to the wastewater treatment plant (WWTP) and Gorge Pump Station. This BAN included \$13,500,000 of interest-free financing and \$13,500,000 of market-rate sum financing. The initial interest rate is 0.00% per annum for the interest-free portion and 0.00% per annum for the market-rate portion under a NYS EFC short-term financing program, which is considered a direct borrowing. This BAN has a maturity date of April 1, 2026. For 2022, there were no principal payments required based on the actual total draws made on the BAN, and since payments commence 2 years after the first draw (which was done on July 15, 2021).

On January 12, 2023, the Authority drew down \$8,806,458, which will increase the total BAN outstanding as of year end 2023.

The following is a summary of changes in short-term debt for the year ended December 31, 2022:

Balance - January 1	\$1,584,352
Borrowings	-
Repayments	-
Conversion to long-term debt	-
Balance - December 31	<u>\$1,584,352</u>

## 6. LEASES

#### **Lessor Agreements**

The Board's leasing operations consist of the leasing of land for cellular towers to telecommunication companies. All leases are subject to public procurement requirements, and each has a different mechanism for determining rates and charges. The lease receivables were discounted to a net present value at December 31, 2022 using a 2.05% interest rate.

Activity of lease inflows for the year ending December 31, 2022 is summarized as follows:

Lease revenue	\$ 181,950
Interest revenue	<u>23,792</u>
Total lease related revenue	<u>\$ 205,742</u>

## NIAGARA FALLS WATER BOARD

### Notes to Basic Financial Statements

December 31, 2022

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Future minimum lease payments due to the Board as of December 31, 2022 were as follows:

	Principal	Interest	Total
2023	\$ 164,038	\$ 20,752	\$ 184,790
2024	168,634	17,346	185,980
2025	144,614	14,134	158,748
2026	151,550	11,084	162,634
2027	71,746	8,725	80,471
2028-2032	284,956	23,346	308,302
2033-2037	101,658	2,449	104,107
Total	<u>\$ 1,087,196</u>	<u>\$ 97,836</u>	<u>\$ 1,185,032</u>

#### Lessee Agreements

The Board leases equipment and vehicles for use in operations. The leases have various inception dates with remaining terms of 14 - 61 months and interest rates of 2.05%.

Activity of lease liability for the year ended December 31, 2022 is summarized as follows:

Beginning Balance (Restated)	Additions	Deductions	Ending Balance	Amount Due Within One Year
<u>\$ 284,124</u>	<u>\$ 80,435</u>	<u>\$ (104,465)</u>	<u>\$ 260,094</u>	<u>\$ 76,216</u>

Annual requirements to amortize long-term obligations and related interest are as follows:

	Principal	Interest	Total
2023	\$ 76,216	\$ 4,532	\$ 80,748
2024	64,868	3,158	68,026
2025	59,881	1,856	61,737
2026	46,533	697	47,230
2027	12,596	108	12,704
	<u>\$ 260,094</u>	<u>\$ 10,351</u>	<u>\$ 270,445</u>



## NIAGARA FALLS WATER BOARD

### Notes to Basic Financial Statements December 31, 2022

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#### 7. COMPENSATED ABSENCES

The Board reports the value of compensated absences as a liability. The annual budgets of the operating funds provide funding for these benefits as they become payable. The payment of compensated absences is dependent on many factors; therefore, the timing of future payments is not readily determinable.

	Balance 12/31/2021	Additions	Deletions	Balance 12/31/2022	Current	Long-Term
Compensated absences	\$ 694,217	\$ -	\$ (88,812)	\$ 605,405	\$ 30,271	\$ 575,134

#### 8. OTHER POSTEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS (OPEB)

##### Plan Description and Benefits

The Board provides continuation of medical, prescription drug, dental, vision and chiropractic coverage for employees who retire and are at least age 50 and have an age, plus years of service, of at least 70. All retirees and future retirees hired prior to December 31, 2007 have no contribution requirements for both individual and family coverage. All future retirees hired after December 31, 2007 are required to pay 20% of the individual and family premiums. The Board currently pays for postemployment health care benefits on a pay-as-you-go basis. These financial statements assume that pay-as-you-go funding will continue.

The Board provides certain health care benefits for retired employees. Substantially all of the employees may become eligible for these benefits if they reach the normal retirement age and have the required minimum age plus years of service working for the Board. At December 31, 2022, the current portion of the postemployment benefits liability was \$2,629,512. The noncurrent portion of the postemployment benefits liability amounted to \$73,554,308 at December 31, 2022.

##### Employees covered by benefit terms

At December 31, 2022, the following employees were covered by the benefit terms:

Retirees	110
Actives	113
Total participants	223

##### Total OPEB Liability

The Board's total OPEB liability of \$76,183,820 was measured as of December 31, 2022, and was determined by an actuarial valuation as of January 1, 2022.

## NIAGARA FALLS WATER BOARD

### Notes to Basic Financial Statements

December 31, 2022

#### Actuarial Assumptions and Other Inputs

The total OPEB liability in the January 1, 2022 actuarial valuation was determined using the following actuarial assumptions and other inputs, applied to all periods included in the measurement, unless otherwise specified:

Salary increases	3.00%
Discount rate	4.18%
Healthcare cost trend rates	7.0% for 2022, decreasing to an ultimate rate of 4.5% for 2033

Mortality rates were based on the Society of Actuaries Mortality Improvement Scale MP-2021.

#### Changes in the Total OPEB Liability

Total OPEB liability as of beginning of year	\$ 95,228,340
Changes for the year:	
Service cost	1,103,028
Interest	3,924,785
Changes in assumptions	(21,404,432)
Benefit payments	(2,667,901)
Total changes	(19,044,520)
Total OPEB liability as of end of year	<u>\$ 76,183,820</u>

#### Sensitivity of the Total OPEB Liability to Changes in the Discount Rate

The following presents the total OPEB liability of the Board, as well as what the Board's total OPEB liability would be if it were calculated using a discount rate that is 1-percentage point lower (3.18%) or 1-percentage-point higher (5.18%) than the current discount rate at December 31, 2022:

	Current Discount	
	1% Decrease (3.18%)	1% Increase (5.18%)
Total OPEB liability	<u>\$ 89,265,970</u>	<u>\$ 65,984,332</u>

#### Sensitivity of the Total OPEB Liability to Changes in the Healthcare Cost Trend Rates

The following presents the total OPEB liability of the Board, as well as what the Board's total OPEB liability would be if it were calculated using a discount rate that is 1-percentage point lower (6.0%) or 1-percentage point higher (8.0%) than the current discount rate at December 31, 2022:

	1% Decrease (6.0%)	Current Trend Rate (7.0%)	1% Increase (8.0%)
Total OPEB liability	<u>\$ 65,241,788</u>	<u>\$ 76,183,820</u>	<u>\$ 90,253,912</u>

## NIAGARA FALLS WATER BOARD

### Notes to Basic Financial Statements

December 31, 2022

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#### OPEB Expense and Deferred Outflows of Resources and Deferred Inflows of Resources Related to OPEB

For the year ended December 31, 2022 the Board recognized OPEB expense of \$3,226,131. At December 31, the Board reported deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to OPEB from the following sources:

	Deferred Outflows of Resources	Deferred Inflows of Resources
Differences between expected and actual experience	\$ -	\$ -
Changes of assumptions	3,359,919	19,340,387
Contributions subsequent to measurement date	<u>2,629,512</u>	<u>-</u>
Total	<u>\$ 5,989,431</u>	<u>\$ 19,340,387</u>

Amounts reported as deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to OPEB will be recognized in OPEB expense as follows:

<u>Fiscal Year Ending December</u>	<u>Amount</u>
2023	\$ (1,801,682)
2024	(1,801,682)
2025	(1,801,682)
2026	(1,801,682)
2027	(2,016,148)
Thereafter	<u>(6,757,592)</u>
	<u>\$ (15,980,468)</u>

## NIAGARA FALLS WATER BOARD

### Notes to Basic Financial Statements December 31, 2022

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#### 9. PENSION PLANS

##### **New York State and Local Employees' Retirement System Plan Description**

The Board participates in the New York State Employees' Retirement System (NYSERS) also referred to as New York State and Local Retirement System (the System). This is a cost-sharing, multiple employer public employee retirement system, providing retirement benefits as well as death and disability benefits. The net position of the System is held in the New York State Common Retirement Fund (the Fund), established to hold all net position and record changes in plan net position allocated to the System. System benefits are established under the provisions of the New York State Retirement and Social Security Law (NYS RSSL). Once an employer elects to participate in the System, the election is irrevocable. The New York State Constitution provides that pension membership is a contractual relationship and plan benefits cannot be diminished or impaired. Benefits can be changed for future members only by enactment of a State statute. The Board also participates in the Public Employees' Group Life Insurance Plan (GLIP), which provides death benefits in the form of life insurance. The System is included in the State's financial report as a pension trust fund. That report, including information with regard to benefits provided, may be found at [www.osc.state.ny.us/retire/publications/index.php](http://www.osc.state.ny.us/retire/publications/index.php) or obtained by writing to the New York State and Local Retirement System, 110 State Street, Albany, New York 12244.

The System is noncontributory for the employees who joined prior to July 27, 1976. For employees who joined the System after July 27, 1976, and prior to January 1, 2010, employees contribute 3% of their salary. Employees in the System more than ten years are no longer required to contribute. For employees who joined after January 1, 2010 and prior to April 1, 2012, employees in NYERS contribute 3% of their salary throughout their active membership. For employees who joined after April 1, 2012, employees contribute 3% of their salary until April 1, 2013 and then contribute 3% to 6% of their salary throughout their active membership. The Comptroller annually certifies the actuarially determined rates expressly used in computing the employers' contributions based on salaries paid during the System's fiscal year ending March 31. Contributions for the current year and two preceding years were equal to 100 percent of contributions required, and were as follows:

	<u>NYSERS</u>
2022	\$ 534,448
2021	\$ 640,535
2020	\$ 566,475

##### **Pension Liability, Pension Expense, and Deferred Outflows of Resources and Deferred Inflows of**

At December 31, 2022, the Board reported a net pension asset of \$1,647,314 for its proportionate share of the net pension asset for ERS. The net pension asset was measured as of March 31, 2022. The total pension liability used to calculate the net pension asset was determined by an actuarial valuation. The Board's proportionate share of the net pension asset was based on a projection of the Board's long-term share of contributions to the System relative to the projected contributions of all participating members, actuarially determined. This information was provided by ERS in reports provided to the Board. At December 31, 2022, the Board's proportion was 0.0201517%, which was an increase of 0.0007478% from its proportion measured as of March 31, 2021.

## NIAGARA FALLS WATER BOARD

### Notes to Basic Financial Statements

December 31, 2022

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For the year ended December 31, 2022, the Board recognized pension expense of \$79,274 for ERS. At December 31, 2022 the Board reported deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to pensions from the following sources:

	Deferred Outflows of Resources	Deferred Inflows of Resources
Differences between expected and actual experience	\$ 124,753	\$ 161,812
Changes of assumptions	2,749,183	46,389
Net difference between projected and actual earnings on pension plan	-	5,394,265
Changes in proportion and differences between the Board's contributions and proportionate share of contributions	219,479	309,076
Contributions subsequent to the measurement date	<u>400,836</u>	<u>-</u>
Total	<u>\$3,494,251</u>	<u>\$5,911,542</u>

Board contributions subsequent to the measurement date will be recognized as a reduction of the net pension liability in the subsequent year. Other amounts reported as deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to pensions will be recognized in pension expense as follows:

Plan's Year Ended March 31:

2023	\$ (441,314)
2024	(633,741)
2025	(1,425,324)
2026	<u>(317,748)</u>
	<u><u>\$(2,818,127)</u></u>

### Actuarial Assumptions

The total pension liability at March 31, 2022 was determined by using an actuarial valuation as of April 1, 2021, with update procedures used to roll forward the total pension liability to March 31, 2022.

The actuarial valuation used the following actuarial assumptions:

Inflation	2.70%
Salary scale	4.4% indexed by service
Projected COLAs	1.4% compounded annually
Decrement	Based on Plan's experience from April 1, 2015 through March 31,
Mortality improvement	Society of Actuaries Scale MP-2020
Investment Rate of Return	5.9% compounded annually, net of investment expenses

## NIAGARA FALLS WATER BOARD

### Notes to Basic Financial Statements

December 31, 2022

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The long-term expected rate of return on pension plan investments was determined using a building-block method in which best-estimate ranges of expected future real rates of return (expected return, net of investment expenses and inflation) are developed for each major asset class. These ranges are combined to produce the long-term expected rate of return by weighting the expected future real rates of return by the target asset allocation percentage and by adding expected inflation.

The target allocation and best estimates of arithmetic real rates of return for each major asset class are summarized below:

Asset Type	Target	
	Allocations	Long-Term Expected Real
	In %	Rate of Return in %
Domestic equity	32	3.30
International equity	15	5.85
Private equity	10	6.50
Real estate	9	5.00
Opportunistic/ARS portfolio	3	4.10
Credit	4	3.78
Real assets	3	5.58
Fixed income	23	0.00
Cash	1	(1.00)
	<u>100%</u>	

#### Discount Rate

The discount rate used to calculate the total pension liability was 5.9%. The projection of cash flows used to determine the discount rate assumes that contributions from plan members will be made at the current contribution rates and that contributions from employers will be made at statutorily required rates, actuarially determined. Based upon those assumptions, the Plan's fiduciary net position was projected to be available to make all projected future benefit payments of current plan members. Therefore, the long-term expected rate of return on pension plan investments was applied to all periods of projected benefit payments to determine the total pension liability.

## NIAGARA FALLS WATER BOARD

### Notes to Basic Financial Statements

December 31, 2022

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#### Sensitivity of the Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability to the Discount Rate

The following presents the Board's proportionate share of the net pension asset calculated using the discount rate, as well as what the Board's proportionate share of the net pension asset would be if it were calculated using a discount rate that is 1-percentage point lower or 1-percentage point higher than the current rate:

	1% Decrease (4.9%)	Current Assumption (5.9%)	1% Increase (6.9%)
Proportionate Share of Net Pension liability (asset)	\$ 4,240,169	\$ (1,647,314)	\$ (6,571,911)

#### Pension Plan Fiduciary Net Position

The components of the current year net pension liability of all participating employers as of the respective measurement dates, were as follows:

	(Dollars in Millions)
Measurement date	3/31/2022
Employers' total pension liability	\$223,874,888
Plan fiduciary net position	232,049,473
Employers' net pension liability (asset)	\$ (8,174,585)
Ratio of plan fiduciary net position to the employers' total pension liability	103.65%

## 10. LABOR RELATIONS

The majority of the Board's employees are represented by various unions under four collective bargaining unit agreements, with the balance governed by Board policies. Contracts for all of the bargaining units are covered with a seven-year term which expires on May 31, 2024.

## 11. RISK MANAGEMENT AND CONTINGENT LIABILITIES

Risk management and contingent liabilities at December 31, 2022 are detailed as follows:

#### Insurance

The Board is exposed to various risks of losses related to torts; theft of, damage to and destruction of assets; injuries to employees; and natural disasters, for which the Board carries commercial insurance. There were no settlements that significantly exceeded insurance coverage for the year ended December 31, 2022.

## NIAGARA FALLS WATER BOARD

### Notes to Basic Financial Statements

December 31, 2022

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#### Litigation

The Board is a defendant in a number of lawsuits that have arisen in the normal course of business. While substantial damages are alleged in some of these actions, their outcome cannot be predicted with certainty. In the opinion of the Board, these actions when finally adjudicated will not have a material adverse effect on the financial position of the Board.

## 12. SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

As a result of alleged discharges from the waste water treatment plant during the summer of 2017, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) and the Board entered into a Consent Order on December 19, 2017 (R9-20170906-129). This Consent Order required the Board to pay a civil penalty in the amount of \$50,000 and to implement a schedule of enumerated actions over the following fifteen (15) months and then construct various capital improvements in the following years. The Board is now in the process of implementing these actions under the supervision of the NYSDEC.

## 13. PRIOR PERIOD ADJUSTMENT

#### Change in Accounting Principle

During the year ended December 31, 2022, the Board implemented Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) Statement No. 87, *Leases*. GASB Statement No. 87 enhances the relevance and consistency of information of the government's leasing activities. It establishes requirements for lease accounting based on the principle that leases are financings of the right to use an underlying asset. A lessee is required to recognize a lease liability and an intangible right to use lease asset. A lessor is required to recognize a lease receivable and a deferred inflow of resources. This adjustment had no effect on the beginning net position since the deferred inflows equal the amount of the lease receivable and the right to use lease asset equals the liability.

The implementation of GASB Statement No. 87 had the following effect on net position:

Beginning net position, as previously reported	\$ 111,787
Adjustments:	
Right to use asset	284,124
Lease liability	(284,124)
Lease receivable	1,248,895
Deferred inflows of resources - leases	<u>(1,248,895)</u>
Beginning net position, as restated	<u>\$ 111,787</u>



**REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION  
(UNAUDITED)**

# **NIAGARA FALLS WATER BOARD**

## **Schedule of Changes in Total OPEB Liability and Related Ratios (Unaudited)**

**For the year ended December 31:**

	Last 10 Fiscal Years (Dollar amounts displayed in thousands)									
	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013
Total OPEB Liability										
Service cost	\$ 1,103,028	\$ 1,377,099	\$ 1,349,028	\$ 556,876	\$ 540,656					
Interest	3,924,785	1,921,160	1,769,731	3,280,087	3,234,085					
Changes of benefit terms	-	-	-	-	-					
Differences between expected and actual experience	-	-	-	-	-					
Changes in assumptions	(21,404,432)	(520,053)	5,504,550	-	-					
Benefit payments	(2,667,901)	(2,530,010)	(2,507,223)	(2,581,965)	(2,546,361)					
Total change in total OPEB liability	(19,044,520)	248,196	6,116,086	1,254,998	1,228,380					
Total OPEB liability - beginning	95,228,340	94,980,144	88,864,058	87,609,060	86,380,680					
Total OPEB liability - ending	<u>\$ 76,183,820</u>	<u>\$ 95,228,340</u>	<u>\$ 94,980,144</u>	<u>\$ 88,864,058</u>	<u>\$ 87,609,060</u>					
Covered-employee payroll	\$ 5,433,874	\$ 4,310,662	\$ 4,310,662	\$ 3,900,691	\$ 3,900,691					
Total OPEB liability as a percentage of covered-employee payroll	1402.0%	2209.1%	2203.4%	2278.2%	2246.0%					

### Notes to schedule:

*Changes of assumptions. Changes in assumptions and other inputs reflect the effects of changes in the discount rate each period. The following reflects the discount rate used each period:*

Discount rate	4.18%	2.05%	2.02%	3.80%	3.80%
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Information for the periods prior to implementation of GASB 75 is unavailable and will be completed for each year going forward as they become available.

Information for the periods prior to implementation of GASB 75 is unavailable and will be completed for each year going forward as they become available.

**Plan Assets.** No assets are accumulated in a trust that meets the criteria in GASB 75, paragraph 4, to pay related benefits:

- Contributions from the employer and any nonemployer contributing entities, and earnings thereon, must be irrevocable.
- Plan assets must be dedicated to providing OPEB to Plan members in accordance with the benefit terms.
- Plan assets must be legally protected from the creditors of the employer, nonemployer contributing entities, the Plan administrator, and Plan members.

# **NIAGARA FALLS WATER BOARD**

## **Schedule of Proportionate Share of Net Pension Liability (Asset) - (Unaudited)**

**For the year ended December 31:**

NEW YORK STATE EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT	Last 10 Fiscal Years (Dollar amounts displayed in thousands)							
	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
Proportion of the net pension liability (asset)	0.0201517%	0.0194039%	0.0178786%	0.0160886%	0.0147209%	0.0137476%	0.0134405%	0.0141606%
Proportionate share of the net pension liability (asset)	\$ (1,647,314)	\$ 19,321	\$ 4,734,365	\$ 1,139,930	\$ 475,108	\$ 1,291,751	\$ 2,157,242	\$ 478,381
Covered-employee payroll	\$ 5,609,483	\$ 5,609,604	\$ 5,463,366	\$ 4,917,159	\$ 4,374,241	\$ 4,719,361	\$ 4,397,005	\$ 4,082,614
Proportionate share of the net pension liability (asset) as a percentage of its covered-employee payroll	-29.37%	0.34%	86.66%	23.18%	10.86%	27.37%	49.06%	11.72%
Plan fiduciary net position as a percentage of the total pension liability (asset)	103.65%	99.95%	86.39%	96.27%	98.29%	94.70%	90.70%	97.95%

Information for the periods prior to implementation of GASB 68 is unavailable and will be completed for each year going forward as they become available.

# **NIAGARA FALLS WATER BOARD**

## **Schedule of Contributions - Pension Plans (Unaudited)**

**For the year ended December 31:**

NEW YORK STATE EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT	Last 10 Fiscal Years (Dollar amounts displayed in thousands)									
	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013
Contractually required contribution	\$ 534,448	\$ 725,652	\$ 640,535	\$ 566,475	\$ 583,405	\$ 659,383	\$ 646,238	\$ 725,071	\$ 864,054	\$ 900,289
Contributions in relation to the contractually required contribution	<u>534,448</u>	<u>725,652</u>	<u>640,535</u>	<u>566,475</u>	<u>583,405</u>	<u>659,383</u>	<u>646,238</u>	<u>725,071</u>	<u>864,054</u>	<u>900,289</u>
Contribution deficiency (excess)	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>
Covered-employee payroll	<u>\$ 5,609,483</u>	<u>\$ 5,609,604</u>	<u>\$ 5,463,366</u>	<u>\$ 4,917,159</u>	<u>\$ 4,374,241</u>	<u>\$ 4,719,361</u>	<u>\$ 4,397,005</u>	<u>\$ 4,082,614</u>	<u>\$ 4,483,962</u>	<u>\$ 4,442,277</u>
Contributions as a percentage of covered-employee payroll	9.53%	12.94%	11.72%	11.52%	13.34%	13.97%	14.70%	17.76%	19.27%	20.27%

## **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**

## Supplementary Information

## Niagara Falls Public Water Authority (a Blended Component Unit of the Niagara Falls Water Board)

## Statement of Net Position

December 31, 2022

**ASSETS**

## CURRENT ASSETS:

Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 196,329
Total current assets	196,329

## NONCURRENT ASSETS:

Due from Water Board	75,626,198
Total noncurrent assets	75,626,198
Total assets	75,822,527

**DEFERRED OUTFLOWS OF RESOURCES**

Loss on refunding	1,869,854
Total deferred outflows of resources	1,869,854

**LIABILITIES**

## CURRENT LIABILITIES:

EFC Short-term financing	1,584,352
Current portion, bonds payable	4,540,457
Total current liabilities	6,124,809

## NONCURRENT LIABILITIES:

Bonds payable	74,908,195
Total noncurrent liabilities	74,908,195
Total liabilities	81,033,004

**DEFERRED INFLOWS OF RESOURCES**

Gain on refunding	726,866
Total deferred inflows of resources	726,866

**NET POSITION**

Unrestricted	(4,067,489)
Total net position	\$ (4,067,489)

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these statements.

Supplementary Information

Niagara Falls Public Water Authority (a Blended Component Unit of the Niagara Falls Water Board)

Statement of Revenue, Expenses, and Change in Net Position

For the Year Ended December 31, 2022

OPERATING REVENUE:

Operating transfers in	\$ 463,371
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Total operating revenue	463,371
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Total operating income	463,371
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NON-OPERATING REVENUE (EXPENSES):

Amortization of deferred gain and premium	190,750
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Debt issuance costs	(353,518)
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Interest expense	(2,261,162)
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Total non-operating expenses, net	(2,423,930)
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CHANGE IN NET POSITION	(1,960,559)
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NET POSITION - beginning of year	(2,106,930)
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NET POSITION - end of year	\$ (4,067,489)
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The accompanying notes are an integral part of these statements.

**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S 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**

March 30, 2023

To the Board of Directors of  
Niagara Falls Water Board

We have audited, in accordance with the auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards* issued by the Comptroller General of the United States, the financial statements of the Niagara Falls Water Board (the Board), as of and for the year ended December 31, 2022, and the related notes to financial statements, which collectively comprise the Board's basic financial statements, and have issued our report thereon dated March 30, 2023.

**Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting**

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

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

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

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**Report on Compliance and Other Matters**

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

**Purpose of This Report**

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