



To the Honorable Members of the Board of Directors
Frederick Water
Winchester, Virginia

During the audit of the financial statements of Frederick Water (the “Authority”) for the year ended June 30, 2024, we did not detect any matters that warranted issuance of an internal control or management letter. However, in our communications to those charged with governance, we commonly include information on accounting and other matters that we believe is important enough to merit consideration by management and those charged with governance. In this document, we would like to make you aware of certain confirmed and potential changes on the horizon that may affect your financial reporting and audit in future years. Should you have any questions on these matters, please contact our firm.

Brown, Edwards & Company, L.L.P.

CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

Harrisonburg, Virginia
October 22, 2024

FREDERICK WATER
ACCOUNTING AND OTHER MATTERS
June 30, 2024

NEW GASB PRONOUNCEMENTS

In this section, we would like to make you aware of certain confirmed and potential changes that are on the horizon that may affect your financial reporting and audit.

The GASB issued **Statement No. 101, *Compensated Absences*** in June 2022. The objective of this Statement is to better meet the information needs of financial statement users by updating the recognition and measurement guidance for compensated absences. That objective is achieved by aligning the recognition and measurement guidance under a unified model and by amending certain previously required disclosures. This Statement requires that liabilities for compensated absences be recognized for (1) leave that has not been used and (2) leave that has been used but not yet paid in cash or settled through noncash means. A liability should be recognized for leave that has not been used if (a) the leave is attributable to services already rendered, (b) the leave accumulates, and (c) the leave is more likely than not to be used for time off or otherwise paid in cash or settled through noncash means. Leave is attributable to services already rendered when an employee has performed the services required to earn the leave. Leave that accumulates is carried forward from the reporting period in which it is earned to a future reporting period during which it may be used for time off or otherwise paid or settled. In estimating the leave that is more likely than not to be used or otherwise paid or settled, a government should consider relevant factors such as employment policies related to compensated absences and historical information about the use or payment of compensated absences. However, leave that is more likely than not to be settled through conversion to defined benefit postemployment benefits should not be included in a liability for compensated absences.

This Statement requires that a liability for certain types of compensated absences—including parental leave, military leave, and jury duty leave—not be recognized until the leave commences. This Statement also requires that a liability for specific types of compensated absences not be recognized until the leave is used.

This Statement also establishes guidance for measuring a liability for leave that has not been used, generally using an employee's pay rate as of the date of the financial statements. A liability for leave that has been used but not yet paid or settled should be measured at the amount of the cash payment or noncash settlement to be made. Certain salary-related payments that are directly and incrementally associated with payments for leave also should be included in the measurement of the liabilities.

With respect to financial statements prepared using the current financial resources measurement focus, this Statement requires that expenditures be recognized for the amount that normally would be liquidated with expendable available financial resources.

The requirements of this Statement are effective for fiscal years beginning after December 15, 2023, and all reporting periods thereafter. Earlier application is encouraged.

The GASB issued **Statement No. 102, *Certain Risk Disclosures*** in December 2023. State and local governments face a variety of risks that could negatively affect the level of service they provide or their ability to meet obligations as they come due. Although governments are required to disclose information about their exposure to some of those risks, essential information about other risks that are prevalent among state and local governments is not routinely disclosed because it is not explicitly required. The objective of this Statement is to provide users of government financial statements with essential information about risks related to a government's vulnerabilities due to certain concentrations or constraints.

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NEW GASB PRONOUNCEMENTS (Continued)

This Statement defines a concentration as a lack of diversity related to an aspect of a significant inflow of resources or outflow of resources. A constraint is a limitation imposed on a government by an external party or by formal action of the government's highest level of decision-making authority. Concentrations and constraints may limit a government's ability to acquire resources or control spending.

This Statement requires a government to assess whether a concentration or constraint makes the primary government reporting unit or other reporting units that report a liability for revenue debt vulnerable to the risk of a substantial impact. Additionally, this Statement requires a government to assess whether an event or events associated with a concentration or constraint that could cause the substantial impact have occurred, have begun to occur, or are more likely than not to begin to occur within 12 months of the date the financial statements are issued.

If a government determines that those criteria for disclosure have been met for a concentration or constraint, it should disclose information in notes to financial statements in sufficient detail to enable users of financial statements to understand the nature of the circumstances disclosed and the government's vulnerability to the risk of a substantial impact. The disclosure should include descriptions of the following:

- The concentration or constraint
- Each event associated with the concentration or constraint that could cause a substantial impact if the event had occurred or had begun to occur prior to the issuance of the financial statements
- Actions taken by the government prior to the issuance of the financial statements to mitigate the risk.

The requirements of this Statement are effective for fiscal years beginning after June 15, 2024, and all reporting periods thereafter. Earlier application is encouraged.

The GASB issued **Statement No. 103, *Financial Reporting Model Improvements*** in April 2024. The objective of this Statement is to improve key components of the financial reporting model to enhance its effectiveness in providing information that is essential for decision making and assessing a government's accountability. This Statement also addresses certain application issues.

Management's Discussion and Analysis: This Statement continues the requirement that the basic financial statements be preceded by management's discussion and analysis (MD&A), which is presented as required supplementary information (RSI). MD&A provides an objective and easily readable analysis of the government's financial activities based on currently known facts, decisions, or conditions and presents comparisons between the current year and the prior year. This Statement requires that the information presented in MD&A be limited to the related topics discussed in five sections: (1) Overview of the Financial Statements, (2) Financial Summary, (3) Detailed Analyses, (4) Significant Capital Asset and Long-Term Financing Activity, and (5) Currently Known Facts, Decisions, or Conditions. Furthermore, this Statement stresses that the detailed analyses should explain why balances and results of operations changed rather than simply presenting the amounts or percentages by which they changed. This Statement emphasizes that the analysis provided in MD&A should avoid unnecessary duplication by not repeating explanations that may be relevant to multiple sections and that "boilerplate" discussions should be avoided by presenting only the most relevant information, focused on the primary government. In addition, this Statement continues the requirement that information included in MD&A distinguish between that of the primary government and its discretely presented component units.

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NEW GASB PRONOUNCEMENTS (Continued)

Unusual or Infrequent Items: This Statement describes unusual or infrequent items as transactions and other events that are either unusual in nature or infrequent in occurrence. Furthermore, governments are required to display the inflows and outflows related to each unusual or infrequent item separately as the last presented flow(s) of resources prior to the net change in resource flows in the government-wide, governmental fund, and proprietary fund statements of resource flows.

Presentation of the Proprietary Fund Statement of Revenues, Expenses, and Changes in Fund Net Position: This Statement requires that the proprietary fund statement of revenues, expenses, and changes in fund net position continue to distinguish between operating and nonoperating revenues and expenses. Operating revenues and expenses are defined as revenues and expenses other than nonoperating revenues and expenses. Nonoperating revenues and expenses are defined as (1) subsidies received and provided, (2) contributions to permanent and term endowments, (3) revenues and expenses related to financing, (4) resources from the disposal of capital assets and inventory, and (5) investment income and expenses.

In addition to the subtotals currently required in a proprietary fund statement of revenues, expenses, and changes in fund net position, this Statement requires that a subtotal for operating income (loss) and noncapital subsidies be presented before reporting other nonoperating revenues and expenses. Subsidies are defined as (1) resources received from another party or fund (a) for which the proprietary fund does not provide goods and services to the other party or fund and (b) that directly or indirectly keep the proprietary fund's current or future fees and charges lower than they would be otherwise, (2) resources provided to another party or fund (a) for which the other party or fund does not provide goods and services to the proprietary fund and (b) that are recoverable through the proprietary fund's current or future pricing policies, and (3) all other transfers.

Major Component Unit Information: This Statement requires governments to present each major component unit separately in the reporting entity's statement of net position and statement of activities if it does not reduce the readability of the statements. If the readability of those statements would be reduced, combining statements of major component units should be presented after the fund financial statements.

Budgetary Comparison Information: This Statement requires governments to present budgetary comparison information using a single method of communication—RSI. Governments also are required to present (1) variances between original and final budget amounts and (2) variances between final budget and actual amounts. An explanation of significant variances is required to be presented in notes to RSI.

The requirements of this Statement are effective for fiscal years beginning after June 15, 2025, and all reporting periods thereafter. Earlier application is encouraged.

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CURRENT GASB PROJECTS

GASB currently has a variety of projects in process. Some of these projects discussed below.

Classification of Nonfinancial Assets. The objective of this project would be to reconsider the existing classification of nonfinancial assets and other related sub-classifications (for example, capital assets or intangible assets) to ensure that (1) assets are classified in a way that provides the most relevant financial information and (2) the definitions of the classifications are understandable and appropriate to meeting financial reporting objectives. The project also will consider how any classification changes would affect financial statement presentation and disclosure of nonfinancial assets. The project will not, however, reexamine recognition or measurement of nonfinancial assets. This project is in the exposure draft re-deliberations period.

Going Concern Uncertainties and Severe Financial Stress. The objective of this project is to address issues related to disclosures regarding going concern uncertainties and severe financial stress. The project will consider (1) improvements to existing guidance for going concern considerations to address diversity in practice and clarify the circumstances under which disclosure is appropriate, (2) developing a definition of severe financial stress and criteria for identifying when governments should disclose their exposure to severe financial stress, and (3) what information about a government's exposure to severe financial stress is necessary to disclose. This project is currently in the initial deliberations period.

Implementation Guidance Update - 2025. The objective of this project is to update implementation guidance for additional issues that come to the attention of the staff. This project will result in the issuance of an Implementation Guide when sufficient need exists for new or improved guidance and the Board does not object to its issuance. All updates are incorporated into the Codification of Governmental Accounting and Financial Reporting Standards and the Comprehensive Implementation Guide, as appropriate. This project is currently in the initial proposals period.

Infrastructure Assets. The objective of this project is to address issues related to accounting and financial reporting for infrastructure assets. The project would evaluate standards-setting options related to reporting infrastructure assets to make information (1) more comparable across governments and more consistent over time, (2) more useful for making decisions and assessing government accountability, (3) more relevant to assessments of a government's economic condition, and (4) better reflect the capacity of those assets to provide service and how that capacity may change over time. This project is currently in the initial deliberations period.

Revenue and Expense Recognition. The objective of this project is to develop a comprehensive application model for the classification, recognition, and measurement of revenues and expenses. The purpose for developing a comprehensive model is (1) to improve the information regarding revenues and expenses that users need to make decisions and assess accountability, (2) to provide guidance regarding exchange and exchange-like transactions that have not been specifically addressed, (3) to evaluate revenue and expense recognition in the context of the conceptual framework, and (4) to address application issues identified in practice, based upon the results of the pre-agenda research on revenue for exchange and exchange-like transactions. This project is currently in the preliminary views re-deliberations period.

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CURRENT GASB PROJECTS (Continued)

Subsequent Events. The objective of this project is to improve the accounting and financial reporting for subsequent events. The project will reexamine existing requirements related to subsequent events in Statement No. 56, *Codification of Accounting and Financial Reporting Guidance Contained in the AICPA Statements on Auditing Standards*, to address issues related to (1) confusion about and challenges associated with applying the existing standards, (2) inconsistency in practice in the information provided about subsequent events, and (3) the usefulness of the information provided about subsequent events. This project is currently in the initial deliberations period toward an Exposure Draft.