

# City of Hamilton, Ohio – Water System

Financial Statements

Years Ended December 31, 2014 and 2013

With Independent Auditor's Report





# Dave Yost • Auditor of State

Members of Council  
City of Hamilton  
345 High Street  
Hamilton, Ohio 45011

We have reviewed the *Independent Auditors' Report* of the City of Hamilton – Water System, Butler County, prepared by Clark, Schaefer, Hackett & Co., for the audit period January 1, 2014 through December 31, 2014. Based upon this review, we have accepted these reports in lieu of the audit required by Section 117.11, Revised Code. The Auditor of State did not audit the accompanying financial statements and, accordingly, we are unable to express, and do not express an opinion on them.

Our review was made in reference to the applicable sections of legislative criteria, as reflected by the Ohio Constitution, and the Revised Code, policies, procedures and guidelines of the Auditor of State, regulations and grant requirements. The City of Hamilton - Water System is responsible for compliance with these laws and regulations.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dave Yost".

Dave Yost  
Auditor of State

August 11, 2015

**This page intentionally left blank.**

**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

Independent Auditor’s Report ..... 1 - 2

Management’s Discussion and Analysis ..... 3 - 7

Financial Statements:

    Statements of Net Position ..... 8

    Statements of Revenues, Expenses and Changes in Net Position ..... 9

    Statements of Cash Flows ..... 10

    Notes to Financial Statements ..... 11 - 21

**This page intentionally left blank.**

## **INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT**

To the Honorable Mayor and Members of Council  
City of Hamilton, Ohio:

### **Report on the Financial Statements**

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the City of Hamilton, Ohio - Water System, an enterprise fund of the City of Hamilton, Ohio (the Water System), as of and for the years ended December 31, 2014 and 2013 and the related notes to the financial statements, as listed in the table of contents.

### ***Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements***

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

### ***Auditors' Responsibility***

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audits. We conducted our audits in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditors' judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements 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 entity's internal control. Accordingly, we express no such opinion. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

one east fourth street, ste. 1200  
cincinnati, oh 45202

www.cshco.com  
p. 513.241.3111  
f. 513.241.1212

## **Opinion**

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to previously present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the City of Hamilton, Ohio - Water System as of December 31, 2014 and 2013, and the changes in financial position and cash flows thereof for the years then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

## **Emphasis of Matters**

As described in Note 1, the financial statements present only the Water System and do not purport to, and do not present fairly the financial position of the City of Hamilton, Ohio as of December 31, 2014 and 2013, and the changes in its financial position and cash flows for the years then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. Our opinion is not modified with respect to this matter.

## **Other Matters**

### *Required Supplementary Information*

Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require that the management's discussion and analysis on pages 3 through 7 be presented to supplement the basic financial statements. Such information, 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.

*Clark, Schaefer, Hackett & Co.*

Cincinnati, Ohio  
June 15, 2015

# City of Hamilton, Ohio

## Water System

Management's Discussion and Analysis  
For the Years Ended December 31, 2014 and 2013  
Unaudited

The discussion and analysis of the City of Hamilton, Ohio's Water System's financial performance provide an overall review of that System's financial activities for the years ended December 31, 2014 and 2013. While the intent of this discussion and analysis is to look at the system's financial performance, readers should also review the Statements of Net Position; Revenues, Expenses and Changes in Net Position; and Cash Flows to enhance their understanding of the system's fiscal performance.

### Financial Highlights

Key highlights for 2014 and 2013 are as follows:

- ❑ The assets and deferred outflow of resources of the Hamilton Water System exceeded its liabilities at the close of 2014 and 2013, respectively, by \$83,025,944 and \$81,794,889 (net position). Of this amount, \$10,245,629 and \$8,427,695 (unrestricted net position) may be used to meet the system's ongoing obligations to customers and creditors.
- ❑ The system's total net position increased by \$1,231,055 between 2014 and 2013, representing a 1.51% increase.
- ❑ In 2014, the Water System's long-term debt, net of discounts, decreased by \$1,081,092.

### Water System Summary

The Water System is a fully integrated water supply, treatment, transmission and distribution system. Over the last decade, the City has implemented a number of improvements to the Water System, providing increased system capabilities and enhanced reliability. The System has two water treatment facilities and two well fields that draw water from the Great Miami Buried Valley Aquifer. The transmission and distribution system consists of more than 289 miles of various size main piping, storage facilities and pumping stations.

The Water System currently provides water service to approximately 24,200 customers who represent a diverse mixture of residential, as well as small and large commercial and industrial customers. The City Water Service Area is comprised of virtually all customers within the City's corporate boundaries and a small number of customers in some areas in the immediate surrounding environs. Butler County is the largest customer of the Water System and for the last several years has accounted for in excess of fifty percent of the Water System's revenue. The Water System provides water service to an area within the City limits and areas in the immediate surrounding environs. No water utility other than the Water System can serve new customers in the City without a franchise, and, under the City Charter, only the City Council has the authority to grant utility franchises. City Council has not granted any franchises.

This annual report consists only of the Statement of Net Position, the Statement of Revenues, Expenses and Changes in Net Position, and the Statement of Cash Flows as well as Notes to the Financial Statements for the City of Hamilton, Ohio's Water System for the years ended December 31, 2014 and 2013.

# City of Hamilton, Ohio

## Water System

Management's Discussion and Analysis  
For the Years Ended December 31, 2014 and 2013  
Unaudited

### Reporting Hamilton's Water System (Whole and Significant Fund)

The financial statements contained within this report include the City of Hamilton, Ohio's Water System *only*. Readers desiring to view city-wide financial statements, as well as the impact that the Water System has on the City's overall financial position and operating results, should refer to the City's Basic Financial Statements appearing in the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report for 2014 and 2013. The City of Hamilton's Water System is reported as a business-type, proprietary, enterprise fund and is considered a major fund for purposes of individual fund reporting. Payments made from the Water Fund are restricted to Water System purposes by municipal ordinance, Ohio Revised Code and indentures issued pursuant to long-term financing.

In the Statement of Net Position and the Statement of Revenues, Expenses and Changes in Net Position, the view of the system looks at all financial transactions of the Water Fund and asks the question, "How did we do financially during 2014 and 2013?" These statements provide answers to that question. The statements include all assets, deferred outflow of resources, and liabilities of the System using the accrual basis of accounting similar to the accounting used by private sector companies. This basis of accounting considers all of the current year's revenues and expenses regardless of when the cash is received or paid. These two statements report the System's net position and the change in net position. The change in net position is important because it tells the reader whether, for the system, the financial position of the City has improved or diminished. However, in evaluating this position, non-financial information including the condition of capital assets will also need to be evaluated. The Notes to the Water System's Financial Statements provide additional information that is essential to a full understanding of the data provided.

The System provides services that have a charge based upon the amount of usage. The City's Water System charges fees to recoup the cost of the entire operation of the Water System as well as all capital expenses associated with these facilities.

### Financial Analysis

As noted earlier, net assets may serve over time as a useful indicator of financial position. In the case of the Water Fund, assets and deferred outflow of resources exceeded liabilities by \$83,025,944 and \$81,794,889 as of December 31, 2014 and 2013, respectively. By far, the largest portion of the net position of the Water System reflect its investment in capital assets (e.g. land, buildings, improvements, construction in progress, machinery and equipment) less any related debt used to acquire those assets that are still outstanding. The ratios of net investment in capital assets to total net position are as follows: 85.82% for 2014, 88.31% for 2013, and 87.76% for 2012. The System employs these assets in the treatment and distribution of water to customers; consequently, these assets are not readily available for future spending. The System's investment in its capital assets is reported net of related debt and it should be noted that the resources needed to repay these debts must be provided from other sources, primarily the revenues of the system, since the capital assets themselves cannot be used to liquidate the liabilities. Table 1 provides a summary of the Water System's Statement of Net Position for the Years Ended December 31, 2014, 2013 and 2012.

# City of Hamilton, Ohio

## Water System

Management's Discussion and Analysis  
For the Years Ended December 31, 2014 and 2013  
Unaudited

	2014	2013	2012
Current and Other Assets	\$13,627,365	\$12,803,970	\$15,472,330
Capital Assets	99,636,189	100,621,620	98,931,800
Total Assets	<u>113,263,554</u>	<u>113,425,590</u>	<u>114,404,130</u>
Deferred Outflow of Resources	<u>489,403</u>	<u>620,458</u>	<u>763,068</u>
Long-term Liabilities	21,651,448	22,889,193	24,020,655
Other Liabilities	9,075,565	9,361,966	9,403,273
Total Liabilities	<u>30,727,013</u>	<u>32,251,159</u>	<u>33,423,928</u>
Net investment on capital assets	71,248,969	72,236,420	71,739,620
Restricted	1,531,349	1,130,774	959,006
Unrestricted	10,245,629	8,427,695	9,044,644
Total Net Position	<u>\$83,025,944</u>	<u>\$81,794,889</u>	<u>\$81,743,270</u>

The Water System reported positive changes in net position of \$1,231,055 in 2014, \$51,619 in 2013 and \$167,582 in 2012. For the years ended December 31, 2014, 2013 and 2012, there were net operating income of \$2,366,672, \$1,279,961 and \$1,131,797, respectively. The net operating income for 2014 of \$2,366,672 was an increase of \$1,086,711 over 2013 that can be attributable to a decrease in wages. Seven Water System employees retired in 2014, and were not replaced.

Net non-operating expenses of \$1,142,375 decreased by \$85,967 due to an increase in investment earnings due to certificates of deposit, with a five-year term, maturing in 2014.

# City of Hamilton, Ohio

## Water System

Management's Discussion and Analysis  
For the Years Ended December 31, 2014 and 2013  
Unaudited

### *Statement of Revenues, Expenses and Changes in Net Position*

	2014	2013	2012
Operating Revenues	\$14,865,682	\$14,656,538	\$14,749,579
Operating Expenses:			
Depreciation	3,021,181	2,870,911	2,748,808
Other Operating Expenses	9,477,829	10,505,666	10,868,974
Total Operating Expenses	<u>12,499,010</u>	<u>13,376,577</u>	<u>13,617,782</u>
Operating income	2,366,672	1,279,961	1,131,797
Non-Operating revenues (expenses)			
Interest and fiscal charges	(1,226,623)	(1,226,568)	(1,284,051)
Other non-operating revenues (exp)	84,248	(1,774)	41,141
Total non-operating revenues (expenses)	<u>(1,142,375)</u>	<u>(1,228,342)</u>	<u>(1,242,910)</u>
Transfers in	-	-	278,695
Contributions	6,758	-	-
Change in Net Position	1,231,055	51,619	167,582
Beginning Net Position	81,794,889	81,743,270	81,575,688
Ending Net Position	<u>\$83,025,944</u>	<u>\$81,794,889</u>	<u>\$81,743,270</u>

### **Capital Assets and Debt Administration**

*Capital Assets:* The City's net investment in capital assets of the Water System as of December 31, 2014, 2013 and 2012 amounted to \$71.2 million, \$72.2 million and \$71.7 million, respectively, (net of accumulated depreciation and related debt). This investment in capital assets includes land, buildings, improvements, construction in progress, and machinery and equipment.

Note 5 (Capital Assets) provides Water System asset activity during 2014 and 2013.

*Debt Administration:* At the end of 2014, the City had two outstanding long-term revenue bond issues, the 2002 Water System Revenue Refunding Bonds totaling \$5,950,000 and the 2009 Water System Revenue Bonds totaling \$16,755,000. The City also issued \$6,690,000 in bond anticipation notes during 2014 that mature in October 2015.

See Notes 6 and 7 for a discussion of outstanding Water System bonds, notes and related activity.

# City of Hamilton, Ohio

## Water System

Management's Discussion and Analysis  
For the Years Ended December 31, 2014 and 2013  
Unaudited

### **Economic Factors and Future Trends**

The City's Water System is continually monitoring its costs and seeking ways to maintain its rates. However, the cost of providing water continues to escalate with rising chemical costs and environmental regulation. These costs are required by both ordinance and indentures to be passed along to its customers. The number of customers has remained steady, but per capita usage is dropping. The City implemented a series of five rate increases of 6% each, effective on February 1, 2008; January 1, 2009; January 1, 2010; January 1, 2011 and January 1, 2012. In 2014 the City adopted a five year cost of service rate plan to be implemented annually from 2015 through 2018.

The annual budget of the City Water System is adopted in accordance with ten-year projections developed by a rate consultant, and these projections are reviewed and updated in the spring and fall of each year, or more often as deemed necessary by City Management.

While the transmission and distribution system has been well-maintained, the age of the infrastructure has led to increases in the number of water main breaks and leaks over the last decade or so. For example, the average water main age in the City is approximately seventy years. In 2010, City Council adopted an ordinance which created the Water Main Replacement Program Rider (WMRPR). The WMRPR program is designed to renew and replace the City's water mains based upon an average 75-year useful life. Debt is expected to be issued, approximately every three years, to provide funding for the program until 2020. At that time, the Rider will fully fund the WMRPR. The WMRPR is being assessed on all City water customers, beginning in 2013. All funds collected through the WMRPR will be dedicated to meeting the capital expenditure and debt service requirements of the Water Main Replacement Program.

While the U.S. EPA establishes water quality and testing guidelines, the Ohio EPA enforces these guidelines, by using Primary and Secondary Drinking Water Standards. The Primary Drinking Water Standards focus on health concerns, by placing restrictions on water content of certain chemicals, such as lead, arsenic, mercury, fluoride and nitrates. Secondary Drinking Water Standards focus on the aesthetic quality of water, such as color, odor, iron and pH. Based on its tests and monitoring program, the City is currently in compliance with all U.S. EPA and Ohio EPA requirements. The City's treated water meets or exceeds applicable standards and is generally regarded as high quality, which is confirmed by consumer surveys. To further support this label of "high quality," the City of Hamilton won the award of "Best of the Best" in the Ohio Section of the American Water Works Association Water Tasting Contest in 2010, 2012, and 2013.

The City maintains an Aa3 bond rating with a stable outlook for its Water System.

### **Requests for Information**

This financial report is designed to provide our citizens, customers, taxpayers, creditors, investors and elected officials with an overview of the City of Hamilton, Ohio's Water System's finances and to show accountability for the money the system receives. If you have any questions about this report or need additional information, contact the City of Hamilton Finance Department, 345 High Street, Hamilton, Ohio 45011, (513) 785-7170, or visit the City website at [www.hamilton-city.org](http://www.hamilton-city.org).

**CITY OF HAMILTON, OHIO – WATER SYSTEM**  
**STATEMENTS OF NET POSITION**  
**DECEMBER 31, 2014 AND 2013**

	<u>2014</u>	<u>2013</u>
<b>ASSETS</b>		
Current assets:		
Cash and investments	\$ 9,123,890	9,481,081
Accounts receivable (less allowance for uncollectible accounts of \$651,415 and \$618,655, respectively)	2,400,723	1,527,992
Interest receivable	13,026	5,412
Interfund receivable	200,000	400,000
Inventory of supplies at cost	221,854	185,818
Prepaid expenses	<u>136,526</u>	<u>72,893</u>
Total current assets	<u>12,096,019</u>	<u>11,673,196</u>
Restricted assets:		
Cash and investments	<u>1,531,346</u>	<u>1,130,774</u>
Capital assets:		
Property, plant and equipment	148,066,405	145,554,452
Construction in progress	7,214,265	7,878,940
Accumulated depreciation	<u>(55,644,481)</u>	<u>(52,811,772)</u>
Total capital assets	<u>99,636,189</u>	<u>100,621,620</u>
Total assets	<u>113,263,554</u>	<u>113,425,590</u>
<b>DEFERRED OUTFLOW OF RESOURCES</b>		
Deferred charge on debt refunding	<u>489,403</u>	<u>620,458</u>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>		
Current liabilities:		
Accounts payable	462,453	695,531
Accrued wages and benefits	133,171	146,362
Intergovernmental payable	29,000	37,411
Accrued interest payable	261,099	274,182
Customer deposits payable	187,119	170,821
Compensated absences payable-current	177,723	252,659
General obligation notes payable	6,690,000	6,690,000
Revenue bonds payable - current portion	<u>1,135,000</u>	<u>1,095,000</u>
Total current liabilities	<u>9,075,565</u>	<u>9,361,966</u>
Non-current liabilities:		
Compensated absences payable	211,629	328,282
Revenue bonds payable	<u>21,439,819</u>	<u>22,560,911</u>
Total noncurrent liabilities	<u>21,651,448</u>	<u>22,889,193</u>
Total liabilities	<u>30,727,013</u>	<u>32,251,159</u>
<b>NET POSITION</b>		
Net investment in capital assets	71,248,969	72,236,420
Restricted for debt service	531,346	530,774
Restricted for rate stabilization	1,000,000	600,000
Unrestricted	<u>10,245,629</u>	<u>8,427,695</u>
Total net position	<u>\$ 83,025,944</u>	<u>81,794,889</u>

See notes to financial statements.

**CITY OF HAMILTON, OHIO - WATER SYSTEM**  
**STATEMENTS OF REVENUES, EXPENSES AND CHANGES IN NET POSITION**  
**YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2014 AND 2013**

---

	<u>2014</u>	<u>2013</u>
<b>Operating revenues:</b>		
Charges for services	\$ 14,701,267	14,499,014
Other operating revenues	<u>164,415</u>	<u>157,524</u>
Total operating revenues	<u>14,865,682</u>	<u>14,656,538</u>
<b>Operating expenses:</b>		
Personal services	2,892,219	3,346,842
Materials and supplies	1,332,299	1,233,457
Contractual services	3,226,699	3,880,256
Depreciation	3,021,181	2,870,911
Other operating expenses	<u>2,026,612</u>	<u>2,045,111</u>
Total operating expenses	<u>12,499,010</u>	<u>13,376,577</u>
Operating income	2,366,672	1,279,961
<b>Non-operating revenues (expenses):</b>		
Investment earnings	99,944	377
Loss on disposal of capital assets	(15,696)	(2,151)
Interest and fiscal charges	<u>(1,226,623)</u>	<u>(1,226,568)</u>
Total non-operating revenues (expenses)	<u>(1,142,375)</u>	<u>(1,228,342)</u>
Income (loss) before contributions	1,224,297	51,619
Contributions	<u>6,758</u>	<u>-</u>
Change in net position	1,231,055	51,619
Net position - beginning of year	<u>81,794,889</u>	<u>81,743,270</u>
Net position - end of year	<u>\$ 83,025,944</u>	<u>81,794,889</u>

See notes to financial statements.

**CITY OF HAMILTON, OHIO - WATER SYSTEM**  
**STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS**  
**YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2014 AND 2013**

	<u>2014</u>	<u>2013</u>
<b>Cash flows from operating activities:</b>		
Cash received from customers	\$ 14,009,249	14,589,870
Cash paid for employee services and benefits	(3,105,763)	(3,416,749)
Cash paid to suppliers for goods and services	<u>(6,853,593)</u>	<u>(7,007,258)</u>
Net cash provided by operating activities	<u>4,049,893</u>	<u>4,165,863</u>
<b>Cash Flows from noncapital financing activities:</b>		
Advances in from other funds	<u>200,000</u>	<u>200,000</u>
Net cash provided by noncapital financing activities	<u>200,000</u>	<u>200,000</u>
<b>Cash flows from capital and related financing activities:</b>		
Capital contributions	6,758	-
Payment for capital acquisitions	(2,115,857)	(4,715,226)
Proceeds from the sale of notes	6,690,000	6,690,000
Premiums from debt issuance	-	26,492
Debt principal payments	(7,785,000)	(7,755,000)
Debt interest payments	<u>(1,094,743)</u>	<u>(1,132,970)</u>
Net cash used by capital and related financing activities	<u>(4,298,842)</u>	<u>(6,886,704)</u>
<b>Cash flows from investing activities:</b>		
Interest from investments	<u>92,330</u>	<u>(3,139)</u>
Net change in cash and cash equivalents	43,381	(2,523,980)
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year	<u>10,611,855</u>	<u>13,135,835</u>
Cash and cash equivalents at end of year	\$ <u><u>10,655,236</u></u>	<u><u>10,611,855</u></u>
Reconciliation of operating income to net cash providing by operating activities:		
Operating income	\$ 2,366,672	1,279,961
Adjustments to reconcile operating income to net cash provided by operating activities:		
Depreciation	3,021,181	2,870,911
Changes in assets and liabilities:		
(Increase) decrease in receivables	(872,731)	(79,439)
(Increase) decrease in inventory	(36,036)	32,848
(Increase) decrease in prepaid items	(63,633)	(5,513)
Increase (decrease) in customer deposits payable	16,298	12,771
Increase (decrease) in payables	(168,667)	123,849
Increase (decrease) in accrued liabilities	(204,780)	(69,436)
Increase (decrease) in intergovernmental payables	<u>(8,411)</u>	<u>(89)</u>
Net cash provided by operating activities	\$ <u><u>4,049,893</u></u>	<u><u>4,165,863</u></u>
Schedule of noncash activities:		
Outstanding liabilities for purchase of certain capital assets	\$ 240,619	305,030
Change in fair value of investments	4,584	40,960

See notes to financial statements.

# CITY OF HAMILTON, OHIO – WATER SYSTEM

## Notes to Financial Statements

Years Ended December 31, 2014 and 2013

---

### 1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

**Financial Reporting Entity** – The City of Hamilton, Ohio – Water System (Water System) is a utility operating as a separate enterprise fund of the City of Hamilton, Ohio (City). The Water System is controlled by and is dependent on the City’s executive and legislative branches. Control by or dependence on the City is determined on the basis of outstanding debt secured by revenues or general obligations of the City, obligation of the City to finance any deficits that may occur, or receipt of subsidies from the City.

**Measurement Focus, Basis of Accounting and Basis of Presentation** – The financial statements are prepared in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America as applied to government units. The Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) is the accepted standard-setting body for establishing governmental accounting and financial reporting principles. The financial statements are reported using the economic resources measurement focus and the accrual basis of accounting. Revenues are recorded when earned and expenses are recorded when a liability is incurred, regardless of the timing of cash flows.

Operating revenues and expenses generally result from providing services and producing and delivering goods in connection with the Water System’s principal ongoing operations. The principal operating revenues are charges to customers for sales and services. Operating expenses include the cost of sales and services, administrative expenses, and depreciation on capital assets. All revenues and expenses not meeting these definitions are reported as non-operating revenues and expenses.

**Income Taxes** – The Water System, which is owned and operated by the City, is exempt from income taxes since it is a division of a municipality.

**Cash and Investments** – Certain Water System cash and investments are held in the City Treasury and pooled for investment management purposes. The portion of these pooled funds owned by the Water System is reported as cash and investments. The Water System’s investments are stated at fair value. Interest earned on funds invested is distributed on the basis of the relationship of the average monthly balance of all funds, including the Water System.

**Inventories** – Inventories are stated at the lower of cost or market based on a moving-average cost method.

**Capital Assets** – Expenditures that increase values or extend the useful life of the respective assets are capitalized while the costs of maintenance and repairs are charged to operating expenses. Interest costs related to the construction of property, plant and equipment are capitalized. Depreciation is calculated on a straight-line basis over the estimated useful life of the various classes of assets. The range of useful lives for computing depreciation is 3 to 75 years.

**Bond Discounts** – Unamortized bond discounts are amortized on the interest method over the term of the related bonds. Amortization of bond discounts was \$13,908 and \$14,451 in 2014 and 2013, respectively.

**Compensated Absences** - The Water System follows the provisions of GASB Statement No. 16, “Accounting for Compensated Absences”. Vacation and compensatory time benefits are accrued as a liability as the benefits are earned if the employees' rights to receive compensation are attributable to services already rendered and it is probable that the Water System will compensate the employees for the benefits through paid time off or some other means. Sick leave termination benefits are accrued using the vesting method. The liability includes the employees who are currently eligible to receive termination benefits and those employees for whom it is probable that they will become eligible to receive payment in the future. The amount is based on accumulated sick leave and employees' wage rates at year-end.

**Deferred Outflows of Resources** – In addition to assets, the statement of financial position will sometimes report a separate section for deferred outflows of resources. This separate financial statement reporting element, *deferred outflows of resources*, represents a consumption of net position that applies to a future period(s) and so will *not* be recognized as an outflow of resources (expense) until then. The Water System only has one item that qualifies for reporting in this category. It is the deferred charge on refunding reported in the statements of net position. A deferred charge on refunding results from the difference in the carrying value of refunded debt and its reacquisition price. This amount is deferred and amortized over the shorter of the life of the refunded or refunding debt.

**Net Position** – Net position represents the difference between assets, liabilities, and deferred outflows of resources. Net position invested in capital assets, net of related debt consists of capital assets, net of accumulated depreciation, reduced by the outstanding balances of any borrowings used for the acquisition, construction, or improvement of those assets. Net position is reported as restricted when there are limitations imposed on their use either through the enabling legislation adopted by the City or through external restrictions imposed by creditors, grantors or laws or regulations of other governments. The Water System applies restricted resources when an expense is incurred for purposes for which both restricted and unrestricted net position is available.

**Use of Estimates** – The preparation of the financial statements in conformity 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.

## 2. CASH AND INVESTMENTS

The Water System follows the practice of pooling cash and investments with the City Treasurer except for the cash and investments of certain accounts maintained by trustees. Pooled cash and investments of the Water System totaled \$10,123,890 and \$10,081,081 at December 31, 2014 and 2013, respectively and consisted of demand deposits, money market funds, U.S. government agency securities and STAR Ohio. Cash and investments held by trustees were \$531,346 and \$530,774 at December 31, 2014 and 2013, respectively.

Star Ohio is an investment pool managed by the State Treasurer’s Office, which allows governments within the State to pool their funds for investment purposes. STAR Ohio is not registered with the SEC as an investment company, but does operate in a manner consistent with Rule 2a7 of the Investment Company Act of 1940. Investments in STAR Ohio are valued at STAR Ohio’s share price, which is the price the investment could be sold for on December 31, 2014.

**Deposits** – Custodial credit risk is the risk that in the event of a bank failure, the City’s deposits may not be returned to it. The City does not have a custodial risk policy. As of December 31, 2014 and 2013, approximately 98% of the City’s deposits with financial institutions, including the amount of pooled deposits related to the Water System, were exposed to custodial credit risk because they are considered uninsured and uncollateralized. However, the State of Ohio has established by statute a collateral pooling system for financial institutions acting as public depositories. Public depositories must pledge qualified securities with fair values greater than the total amount of all public deposits to be secured by the collateral pool. This pooled collateral covers the Water System’s uninsured and uncollateralized deposits.

**Investments** – The State of Ohio statutes, Water Revenue Bond indentures, and the City Charter authorize the City to invest in obligations of the U.S. Treasury, agencies, instrumentalities, and repurchase agreements. Custodial credit risk in regards to investments is the risk that, in the event of a failure of a counter party, the City will not be able to recover the value of its investments or collateral securities that are in possession of an outside party. The City employs the use of “safekeeping” accounts to hold and maintain custody of its investments as identified within this policy and as means of mitigating this risk.

Interest rate risk is the risk that the City will incur fair value losses arising from rising interest rates. Such risk is mitigated by the investment policy by limiting investments to certain maximum maturities. As a rule, unless specified otherwise within the policy, investments are to have a maximum maturity of five years unless the investment is matched to a specific expenditure. The context of a specific investment purchase must be weighed in proportion to the remainder of the existing investment portfolio and the “prudent investor” rule to attempt to limit such risk.

The City’s pooled investments, as well as the investments held by trustees specifically for the Water System, are invested primarily in U.S. governmental agency securities with a credit rating of AA+ and an average maximum maturity of 4.19 years and STAR Ohio which has a credit rating of AAAM.

**3. ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE**

Receivables at December 31, 2014 and 2013 consist of the following:

	<u>2014</u>	<u>2013</u>
Earned and unbilled consumer accounts	\$ 1,999,265	1,082,494
Earned and billed consumer accounts	1,044,062	1,056,116
Other	8,811	8,037
Less allowance for uncollectible accounts	<u>(651,415)</u>	<u>(618,655)</u>
Total	\$ <u>2,400,723</u>	<u>1,527,992</u>

#### 4. RESTRICTED ASSETS

Restricted assets consist of assets whose use has been restricted by bond indenture for debt service and rate stabilization. Restricted assets were \$1,531,346 and \$1,130,774 at December 31, 2014 and 2013, respectively.

#### 5. CAPITAL ASSETS

Capital asset activity for the years ended December 31, 2014 and 2013 was as follows:

	Balance			Balance
	1/1/14	Increases	Decreases	12/31/14
<i>Nondepreciable capital assets:</i>				
Land	\$ 2,617,142	-	-	2,617,142
Construction in progress	7,878,940	1,823,171	(2,487,846)	7,214,265
Subtotal	<u>10,496,082</u>	<u>1,823,171</u>	<u>(2,487,846)</u>	<u>9,831,407</u>
<i>Capital assets being depreciated:</i>				
Buildings and improvements	24,886,805	760,005	-	25,646,810
Machinery and equipment	118,050,505	1,956,116	(204,168)	119,802,453
Subtotal	<u>142,937,310</u>	<u>2,716,121</u>	<u>(204,168)</u>	<u>145,449,263</u>
Totals at historical cost	<u>153,433,392</u>	<u>4,539,292</u>	<u>(2,692,014)</u>	<u>155,280,670</u>
Less accumulated depreciation:				
Buildings and improvements	14,607,255	683,849	-	15,291,104
Machinery and equipment	38,204,517	2,337,332	(188,472)	40,353,377
Total accumulated depreciation	<u>52,811,772</u>	<u>3,021,181</u>	<u>(188,472)</u>	<u>55,644,481</u>
Capital assets, net	\$ <u>100,621,620</u>	<u>1,518,111</u>	<u>(2,503,542)</u>	<u>99,636,189</u>

	Balance			Balance
	1/1/13	Increases	Decreases	12/31/13
<i>Nondepreciable capital assets:</i>				
Land	\$ 2,617,142	-	-	2,617,142
Construction in progress	<u>10,343,994</u>	<u>2,572,693</u>	<u>(5,037,747)</u>	<u>7,878,940</u>
Subtotal	<u>12,961,136</u>	<u>2,572,693</u>	<u>(5,037,747)</u>	<u>10,496,082</u>
<i>Capital assets being depreciated:</i>				
Buildings and improvements	22,287,793	2,599,012	-	24,886,805
Machinery and equipment	<u>113,757,752</u>	<u>4,428,924</u>	<u>(136,171)</u>	<u>118,050,505</u>
Subtotal	<u>136,045,545</u>	<u>7,027,936</u>	<u>(136,171)</u>	<u>142,937,310</u>
Totals at historical cost	<u>149,006,681</u>	<u>9,600,629</u>	<u>(5,173,918)</u>	<u>153,433,392</u>
Less accumulated depreciation:				
Buildings and improvements	13,987,906	619,349	-	14,607,255
Machinery and equipment	<u>36,086,975</u>	<u>2,251,562</u>	<u>(134,020)</u>	<u>38,204,517</u>
Total accumulated depreciation	<u>50,074,881</u>	<u>2,870,911</u>	<u>(134,020)</u>	<u>52,811,772</u>
Capital assets, net	\$ <u>98,931,800</u>	<u>6,729,718</u>	<u>(5,039,898)</u>	<u>100,621,620</u>

## 6. LONG TERM DEBT

In 2002, the Water System issued \$12,940,000 of water revenue refunding bonds to refund outstanding mortgage revenue bonds of the Water System. The 2002 refunding bonds are due serially through 2021 with an interest rate of 4.0 – 5.0%.

On September 9, 2009, the City issued \$9,675,000 in Series 2009A Water System Revenue Bonds and \$8,915,000 in Series 2009B Taxable Water System Build America Revenue Bonds to currently refund bond anticipation notes and provide funding for Water System production and distribution improvements. With the issuance of the Build America Bonds, the City will be entitled to receive an interest subsidy payment of 35% from the U.S. Treasury on any interest payment date. The Series 2009A revenue bonds fully mature in 2029 with interest from 2.25% to 4.63% per annum. The Series 2009B Build America Bonds fully mature in 2039 with interest of 6.62% per annum.

Debt activity for the year ended December 31, 2014 was as follows:

	Balance 1/1/14	Additions	Reductions	Balance 12/31/14	Due Within One Year
Series 2002 Refunding Bonds	\$ 6,650,000	-	(700,000)	5,950,000	730,000
Series 2009A Revenue Bonds	8,235,000	-	(395,000)	7,840,000	405,000
Series 2009B Revenue BABs	8,915,000	-	-	8,915,000	-
Less deferred amount: for issuance discounts	<u>(144,089)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>13,908</u>	<u>(130,181)</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u>\$ 23,655,911</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(1,081,092)</u>	<u>22,574,819</u>	<u>1,135,000</u>

Debt activity for the year ended December 31, 2013 was as follows:

	Balance 1/1/13	Additions	Reductions	Balance 12/31/13	Due Within One Year
Series 2002 Refunding Bonds	\$ 7,325,000	-	(675,000)	6,650,000	700,000
Series 2009A Revenue Bonds	8,625,000	-	(390,000)	8,235,000	395,000
Series 2009B Revenue BABs	8,915,000	-	-	8,915,000	-
Less deferred amount: for issuance discounts	<u>(158,540)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>14,451</u>	<u>(144,089)</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u>\$ 24,706,460</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(1,050,549)</u>	<u>23,655,911</u>	<u>1,095,000</u>

Under the terms of the revenue bond indenture, the City has agreed to certain covenants including, among other things, maintaining revenue levels and providing for operating expenses and debt service. The revenue bonds are insured under a municipal bond insurance policy. Under the terms of this policy, the payments of principal and interest are guaranteed by the insurer.

Maturities of revenue bonds at December 31, 2014 are as follows:

	Principal	Interest	Total
2015	\$ 1,135,000	1,181,842	2,316,842
2016	1,185,000	1,134,204	2,319,204
2017	1,235,000	1,083,254	2,318,254
2018	1,290,000	1,029,029	2,319,029
2019	1,340,000	976,486	2,316,486
2020-2024	4,475,000	4,100,517	8,575,517
2025-2029	3,130,000	3,386,428	6,516,428
2030-2034	3,975,000	2,447,745	6,422,745
2035-2039	<u>4,940,000</u>	<u>1,009,881</u>	<u>5,949,881</u>
Total	<u>\$ 22,705,000</u>	<u>16,349,386</u>	<u>39,054,386</u>

**7. NOTES PAYABLE**

The Ohio Revised Code provides that notes including renewal notes issued in anticipation of the issuance of general obligation bonds may be issued and outstanding from time to time up to a maximum period of 20 years from the date of issuance of the original notes. The maximum maturity for notes anticipating general obligation bonds payable from special assessments is 5 years. Any period in excess of 5 years must be deducted from the permitted maximum maturity of the bonds anticipated, and portions of the principal amount of notes outstanding for more than five years must be retired in amounts at least equal to and payable no later than those principal maturities that would have been required if the bonds had been issued at the expiration of the initial five year period. Bond anticipation notes may be retired at maturity from the proceeds of the sale of renewal notes or of the bonds anticipated by the notes, or from available funds of the Water System or a combination of these sources.

	Balance 1/1/14	Additions	Reductions	Balance 12/31/14
2013 Water System Imp. 1.00%	\$ 6,690,000	-	(6,690,000)	-
2014 Water System Imp. 0.51%	-	6,690,000	-	6,690,000
	\$ -	6,690,000	-	6,690,000

**8. DEFINED BENEFIT PENSION PLANS AND OTHER POSTEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS**

The Water System contributes to the Ohio Public Employees Retirement System, the City of Hamilton Metropolitan Pension Plan, and post-employment life insurance.

**Ohio Public Employees Retirement System (OPERS)**

The OPERS administers three separate pension plans:

- The Traditional Pension Plan – a cost-sharing multiple-employer defined benefit pension plan.
- The Member-Directed Plan – a defined contribution plan in which the member invests both member and employer contributions (employer contributions vest over five years at 20% per year). Under the Member-Directed Plan, members accumulate retirement assets equal to the value of member and vested employer contributions plus any investment earnings thereon.
- The Combined Plan – a cost sharing multiple-employer defined benefit pension plan. Under the Combined Plan, employer contributions are invested by the retirement system to provide a formula retirement benefit similar in nature to the Traditional Plan benefit. Member contributions, the investment of which is self-directed by the members, accumulate retirement assets in a manner similar to the Member-Directed Plan.

OPERS provides retirement, disability, survivor and death benefits, and annual cost of living adjustments to members and of the Traditional Plan and Combined Plan. Members of the Member-Directed Plan do not qualify for ancillary benefits. The authority to establish and amend benefits is provided by state statute per Chapter 145 of the Ohio Revised Code. OPERS issues a stand-alone financial report that may be obtained by writing to the OPERS, 277 East Town Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215-4642.

Plan members are required to contribute 10.0% of their annual covered salary. The City was required to contribute 14.0% of covered payroll for employees. The Water System's required contributions to OPERS for the years ended December 31, 2014, 2013, and 2012 were approximately \$307,000, \$341,000, and \$387,000 respectively, equal to the required contributions for each year.

OPERS maintains a cost-sharing multiple employer defined benefit post-employment healthcare plan, which includes a medical plan, prescription drug program and Medicare Part B premium reimbursement, to qualifying members of both the Traditional Pension and the Combined Plans. Members of the Member-Directed Plan do not qualify for ancillary benefits, including post-employment health care coverage.

In order to qualify for post-employment health care coverage, age-and-service retirees under the Traditional Pension and Combined Plans must have 10 or more years of qualifying Ohio service credit. Health care coverage for disability benefit recipients and qualified survivor benefit recipients is available. The health care coverage provided by OPERS meets the definition of an Other Post Employment Benefit (OPEB) as described in GASB Statement 45.

The Ohio Revised Code permits, but does not mandate, OPERS to provide OPEB benefits to its eligible members and beneficiaries. Authority to establish and amend benefits is provided in Chapter 145 of the Ohio Revised Code.

The Ohio Revised Code provides the statutory authority requiring public employers to fund post retirement health care coverage through their contributions to OPERS. A portion of each employer's contribution to OPERS is set aside for the funding of post retirement health care benefits. Employer contribution rates are expressed as a percentage of the covered payroll of active members. In 2014, the City contributed 14.0% of covered payroll. The Ohio Revised Code currently limits the employer contribution to a rate not to exceed 14.0% of covered payroll. Active members do not make contributions to the OPEB Plan.

The OPERS' Post Employment Health Care plan was established under, and is administrated in accordance with, Internal Revenue Code 401(h). Each year, the OPERS Retirement Board determines the portion of the employer contribution rate that will be set aside for funding of postemployment health care benefits. The portion of employer contributions allocated to health care for members in the Traditional and Combined Plans was 2.0% during calendar year 2014. The OPERS Retirement Board is also authorized to establish rules for the retiree, or their surviving beneficiaries, to pay a portion of the health care benefits provided. Payments amounts vary depending on the number of covered dependents and the coverage selected. The portion of the Water System's contributions that were used to fund post employment benefits was approximately \$44,000, \$24,000 and \$111,000 for 2014, 2013, and 2012, respectively.

Changes to the health care plan were adopted by the OPERS Retirement Board on September 19, 2012, with a transition plan commencing January 1, 2014. With the recent passage of pension legislation under SB 343 and the approved health care changes, OPERS expects to be able to consistently allocate 4% of the employer contributions toward the health care fund after the end of the transition period.

## Metropolitan Pension Plan

Employees of the City who were not included under the Ohio Public Employees Retirement System (OPERS) prior to May 15, 1962 and who were included under a Group Annuity Contract of the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company participate in the City of Hamilton Metropolitan Pension Plan, a single-employer defined benefit pension plan.

Upon retirement, plan participants are entitled to a supplemental retirement benefit paid by the City, equal to the difference between OPERS benefits that would have been payable to such employee had the employee been covered by OPERS during the full period of employment and actual OPERS benefits received. Benefit provisions of the plan are established and may be amended by the City Council through ordinance. All current participants in the Metropolitan Pension Plan are retired from service with the City.

The Water System's annual pension cost (APC) and net pension obligation (NPO) for the Metropolitan Pension Plan December 31, 2014, 2013, and 2012 are as follows:

	<u>2014</u>	<u>2013</u>	<u>2012</u>
Annual required contribution (ARC)	\$ 49,498	\$ 51,164	\$ 55,781
Interest on NPO	795	369	-
Adjustments to ARC	<u>(3,719)</u>	<u>(1,505)</u>	<u>-</u>
Annual pension cost (APC)	46,574	50,028	55,781
Contributions made	<u>36,227</u>	<u>39,361</u>	<u>46,568</u>
Increase in net pension obligation	10,347	10,667	9,213
Net pension obligation, beginning of year	<u>19,880</u>	<u>9,213</u>	<u>-</u>
Net pension obligation, end of year	<u>\$ 30,227</u>	<u>\$ 19,880</u>	<u>\$ 9,213</u>

The Water System's APC, percentage of APC contributed, NPO, and unfunded actuarial accrued liabilities for years ended December 31, 2014, 2013, and 2012 are as follows:

Years Ended	Annual Pension Cost (APC)	Percentage of APC Contributed	Net Pension Obligation	Unfunded Actuarial Accrued Liability
2014	\$ 46,574	77.8%	\$ 30,227	\$ 248,264
2013	50,028	78.7%	19,880	264,613
2012	55,781	83.5%	9,213	313,174

The actuarial valuation date was December 31, 2014 and the accrued liability was calculated using the entry age normal cost method. The Metropolitan Pension Plan currently has no assets. The amortization method used was level dollar and the amortization period was 7 years.

**Retiree Life Insurance**

The City provides post-employment life insurance coverage through the Hartford Insurance Company. The insurance coverage provided is considered an other post-employment benefit (OPEB) as described in GASB Statement No. 45.

Eligible employees are grouped into two classes. Employees who retired prior to March 1, 1977 are eligible to receive \$2,000 in life insurance benefits. Employees who retired after March 1, 1977 are eligible to receive \$4,000 in life insurance benefits. Benefit provisions of the plan are established and may be amended by City Council through ordinance.

The Water System’s annual OPEB cost and net OPEB for the Retiree Life Insurance Plan for the years ended December 31, 2014, 2013, and 2012 are as follows:

	<u>2014</u>	<u>2013</u>	<u>2012</u>
Annual required contribution (ARC)	\$ 11,711	\$ 11,621	\$ 11,346
Interest on Net OPEB	125	65	-
Adjustments to ARC	<u>(182)</u>	<u>(87)</u>	<u>-</u>
Annual OPEB cost	11,654	11,599	11,346
Contributions made	<u>10,195</u>	<u>10,093</u>	<u>9,736</u>
Increase in Net OPEB	1,459	1,506	1,610
Net OPEB, beginning of year	<u>3,116</u>	<u>1,610</u>	<u>-</u>
Net OPEB, end of year	<u>\$ 4,575</u>	<u>\$ 3,116</u>	<u>\$ 1,610</u>

The Water System’s annual OPEB cost, percentage of OPEB contributed, net OPEB, and unfunded actuarial accrued liabilities for years ended December 31, 2014, 2013, and 2012 are as follows:

<u>Years Ended</u>	<u>Annual OPEB Cost</u>	<u>Percentage of OPEB Contributed</u>	<u>Net OPEB Obligation</u>	<u>Unfunded Actuarial Accrued Liability</u>
2014	\$ 11,654	87.5%	\$ 4,575	\$ 250,418
2013	11,599	87.1%	3,116	164,032
2012	11,346	85.8%	1,610	164,697

The actuarial valuation date was December 31, 2014 and the accrued liability was calculated using the entry age normal cost method. The City’s post-employment life-insurance plan currently has no assets.

**9. CONTINGENT LIABILITIES**

Various claims and lawsuits are pending against the City involving the Water System. The City believes that the ultimate disposition of such claims and lawsuits will not have a material adverse effect on the financial position of the Water System.

**10. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS**

The Water System purchases electricity from the City's Electric System. Purchases of \$734,064 and \$790,465 from the Electric System are included in operating expenses in 2014 and 2013, respectively.

The City allocates the cost of certain administrative services. In addition, the City established internal service funds which provide services to various City departments. Charges to the Water System for these services were approximately \$2,272,000 and \$2,378,000 in 2014 and 2013, respectively, and are included in other operating expenses.

**11. RISK MANAGEMENT**

The City is exposed to various risks of loss related to torts and liability, damage to and theft of or destruction of assets; errors and omissions; injuries to employees; and natural disasters. The City maintains comprehensive insurance coverage, for all City departments including the Water System, with private carriers for real property, building contents, vehicle, property and general liability insurance, police professional liability, and public officials errors and omissions insurance. Vehicle policies include liability coverage for bodily injury and property damage. Claim payments have not exceeded coverage in the past three years. There was no decline in the level of coverage from the prior year.

**12. CONTRACTUAL COMMITMENTS**

At December 31, 2014, the Water System had contractual commitments in the amounts of approximately \$753,000 related to property, plant and equipment improvements and additions, as well as various other contract and agreements to provide or receive services related to the Water System operations.

**This page intentionally left blank.**



# Dave Yost • Auditor of State

**CITY OF HAMILTON- WATER SYSTEM**

**BUTLER COUNTY**

**CLERK'S CERTIFICATION**

**This is a true and correct copy of the report which is required to be filed in the Office of the Auditor of State pursuant to Section 117.26, Revised Code, and which is filed in Columbus, Ohio.**

*Susan Babbitt*

**CLERK OF THE BUREAU**

**CERTIFIED  
AUGUST 25, 2015**