

Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation

*The Auditors' Communication with
Those Charged with Governance*

June 30, 2019





October 2, 2019

Oklahoma Wildlife Conservation Commission
Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation

We have audited the financial statements of the governmental activities, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation (the "Department") as of and for the year ended June 30, 2019. Professional standards require that we provide you with information about our responsibilities under generally accepted auditing standards, *Government Auditing Standards*, and the Uniform Guidance, as well as certain information related to the planned scope and timing of our audit. We have communicated such information in our engagement letter to you dated November 5, 2018. Professional standards also require that we communicate to you the following information related to our audit.

Significant Audit Matters

Qualitative Aspects of Accounting Practices

Management is responsible for the selection and use of appropriate accounting policies. The significant accounting policies used by the Department are described in Note 2 to the financial statements. No new accounting policies were adopted and the application of existing policies was not changed during fiscal year 2019. We noted no transactions entered into by the Department during the year for which there is a lack of authoritative guidance or consensus. All significant transactions have been recognized in the financial statements in the proper period.

In January 2017, the Governmental Accounting Standards Board issued Statement No. 84, *Fiduciary Activities* (GASB 84). GASB 84 improves guidance regarding the recognition and reporting of fiduciary activities. GASB 84 identifies four types of reportable fiduciary fund types, including 1) pension (and other employee benefit) trust funds, 2) investment trust funds, 3) private-purpose trust funds, and 4) custodial funds. GASB 84 outlines the accounting and disclosure requirements for operating structures that qualify as a fiduciary activity. The Department will adopt GASB 84 effective July 1, 2019, for the June 30, 2020, reporting year. The Department has not determined the impact of GASB 84 on the financial statements.

Significant Audit Matters, Continued

Qualitative Aspects of Accounting Practices, Continued

In June 2017, GASB issued Statement No. 87, *Leases* (GASB 87). GASB 87 defines a lease as a contract that conveys control of the right to use another entity's nonfinancial asset (the underlying asset) as specified in the contract for a period of time in an exchange or exchange-like transaction. GASB 87 improves accounting and financial reporting for leases by governments by requiring recognition of certain lease assets and liabilities for leases that previously were classified as operating leases and recognized as inflows of resources or outflows of resources based on the payment provisions of the contract. It establishes a single model for lease accounting based on the foundational principle that leases are financings of the right to use an underlying asset. Under GASB 87, a lessee is required to recognize a lease liability and an intangible right-to-use lease asset, and a lessor is required to recognize a lease receivable and a deferred inflow of resources, thereby enhancing the relevance and consistency of information about governments' leasing activities. The requirements of this Statement are effective for reporting periods beginning after December 15, 2019. Earlier application is encouraged. The Department has not determined the impact of GASB 87 on the financial statements.

In March 2018, GASB issued Statement No. 88, *Certain Disclosures Related to Debt, including Direct Borrowings and Direct Placements* (GASB 88). GASB 88 provides certain clarifications regarding debt as a liability and identifies additional required disclosures related to debt, including direct borrowings and direct placements of debt. The Department will adopt GASB 88 on July 1, 2019, for the June 30, 2020, reporting year. The Department does not expect GASB 88 to have a significant impact on the financial statements.

In June 2018, GASB issued Statement No. 89, *Accounting for Interest Cost Incurred before the End of a Construction Period* (GASB 89). GASB 89 directs that interest costs incurred during the construction period of an asset be expensed in the period incurred. GASB 89 changes previous guidance regarding capitalized construction costs where such costs were typically included in the capitalized cost of the asset constructed and depreciated over time. The Department will adopt GASB 89 on July 1, 2020, for the June 30, 2021, reporting year. The Department does not expect GASB 89 to significantly impact the financial statements.

Significant Audit Matters, Continued

Qualitative Aspects of Accounting Practices, Continued

In August 2018, GASB issued Statement No. 90, *Majority Equity Interests* (GASB 90), an amendment of GASB Statements No. 14 and No. 61. GASB 90 seeks to improve the consistency and comparability of financial reporting for majority equity interests, or situations where an entity would hold a majority share of equity or have a measurable right to resources of a legally separate entity. Under GASB 90, specific guidance is also provided for governments engaged in fiduciary activities when reporting equity interests. The Department will adopt GASB 90 on July 1, 2019, for the June 30, 2020, reporting year. The Department does not expect GASB 90 to significantly impact the financial statements.

In May 2019, GASB issued Statement No. 91, *Conduit Debt Obligations* (GASB 91). The objective of GASB 91 is to provide a single method of reporting for conduit debt obligations issued and eliminate diversity in practice regarding 1) commitments extended by issuers, 2) arrangements associated with conduit debt obligations, and 3) related note disclosures. The Department will adopt GASB 91 on July 1, 2021, for the June 30, 2022, reporting year. The Department does not expect GASB 91 to have a significant impact the financial statements.

Accounting estimates are an integral part of the financial statements prepared by management and are based on management's knowledge and experience about past and current events and assumptions about future events. Certain accounting estimates are particularly sensitive because of their significance to the financial statements and because of the possibility that future events affecting them may differ significantly from those expected. The most sensitive estimate affecting the estimate of the fair value of investments was:

Management's estimate of the fair value of investments is based on the investment custodian. We evaluated the key factors and assumptions used to develop the estimate of the fair value of the investments in determining that it is reasonable in relation to the financial statements taken as a whole.

In addition, the computation of total and net pension liability and total and net OPEB liability also required significant estimates by management. We reviewed the actuarial information used to compute the pension and OPEB liabilities.

The financial statement disclosures are neutral, consistent, and clear.

Significant Audit Matters, Continued

Difficulties Encountered in Performing the Audit

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

Corrected and Uncorrected Misstatements

Professional standards require us to accumulate all known and likely misstatements identified during the audit, other than those that are clearly trivial, and communicate them to the appropriate level of management. Management has corrected all such misstatements. In addition, none of the misstatements detected as a result of audit procedures and corrected by management were material, either individually or in the aggregate, to each opinion unit's financial statements taken as a whole.

Disagreements with Management

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

Management Representations

We have requested certain representations from management that are included in the management representation letter dated October 2, 2019.

Management Consultations with Other Independent Accountants

In some cases, management may decide to consult with other accountants about auditing and accounting matters, similar to obtaining a "second opinion" on certain situations. If a consultation involves application of an accounting principle to the Department's financial statements or a determination of the type of auditors' opinion that may be expressed on those statements, our professional standards require the consulting accountant to check with us to determine that the consultant has all the relevant facts. To our knowledge, there were no such consultations with other accountants.

Significant Audit Matters, Continued

Other Audit Matters or Issues

We generally discuss a variety of matters, including the application of accounting principles and auditing standards, with management each year prior to retention as the Department's auditors. However, these discussions occurred in the normal course of our professional relationship and our responses were not a condition to our retention.

Other Matters

We applied certain limited procedures to the management's discussion and analysis, the schedule of changes in net pension liability, the schedule of changes in net pension liability—defined benefit pension plan, the schedule of net pension liability—defined benefit pension plan, the schedule of contributions from employer—defined benefit pension plan, the schedule of investment returns—defined benefit pension plan, the schedule of changes in total OPEB liability—health insurance allowance, the schedule of changes in net OPEB liability—implicit rate subsidy of health insurance OPEB liability, which are required supplementary information (RSI) that supplements the basic financial statements. Our procedures consisted of inquiries of management regarding the methods of preparing the information and comparing the information for consistency with management's responses to our inquiries, the basic financial statements, and other knowledge we obtained during our audit of the basic financial statements. We did not audit the RSI and do not express an opinion or provide any assurance on the RSI.

We were engaged to report on the schedule of expenditures of federal awards, which accompanies the financial statements but is not RSI. With respect to this supplementary information, we made certain inquiries of management and evaluated the form, content, and methods of preparing the information to determine that the information complies with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States, the method of preparing it has not changed from the prior period, and the information is appropriate and complete in relation to our audit of the financial statements. We compared and reconciled the supplementary information to the underlying accounting records used to prepare the financial statements or to the financial statements themselves.

Other Required Communications

We as independent auditors are required to:

- a. Communicate significant deficiencies and material weaknesses in internal control to the audit committee or its equivalent.
- b. Report directly to the audit committee (or equivalent) any fraud that causes a material misstatement of the financial statements and any fraud involving senior management. Fraud perpetrated by lower-level employees is also reported if it resulted in an individually significant misstatement.
- c. Report illegal acts that come to our attention (except those that are clearly inconsequential).

We have nothing to report.

Restrictions on Use

This information is intended solely for the use of the Commission, management of the Department, and the State of Oklahoma and is not intended to be and should not be used by anyone other than these specified parties.

Sincerely,

Finley + Cook, PLLC