

Reporting and insights from 2020 audit:

Gainesville Regional Utilities

September 30, 2020

Executive summary

February 19, 2021

To the Honorable Mayor and City Commission
Gainesville Regional Utilities
Gainesville, Florida

We have completed our audit of the financial statements of Gainesville Regional Utilities for the year ended September 30, 2020, and have issued our report thereon dated February 19, 2021. This letter presents communications required by our professional standards.

Your audit should provide you with confidence in your financial statements. The audit was performed based on information obtained from meetings with management, data from your systems, knowledge of your Utilities operating environment and our risk assessment procedures. We strive to provide you clear, concise communication throughout the audit process and of the final results of our audit.

Additionally, we have included information on key risk areas Gainesville Regional Utilities should be aware of in your strategic planning. We are available to discuss these risks as they relate to your organization's financial stability and future planning.

If you have questions at any point, please connect with us:

- Bethany Ryers, Firm Director: Bethany.Ryers@bakertilly.com or +1 (608) 240 2382
- Dan La Haye, Senior Manager: Dan.LaHaye@bakertilly.com or +1 (608) 240 2534

Sincerely,

Baker Tilly US, LLP



Bethany Ryers, CPA

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THIS COMMUNICATION IS INTENDED SOLELY FOR THE INFORMATION AND USE OF THOSE CHARGED WITH GOVERNANCE, AND, IF APPROPRIATE, MANAGEMENT, AND IS NOT INTENDED TO BE AND SHOULD NOT BE USED BY ANYONE OTHER THAN THESE SPECIFIED PARTIES.

Responsibilities



Responsibilities

Our responsibilities




As your independent auditor, our responsibilities include:

- Planning and performing the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance.
- Assessing the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. Included in that assessment is a consideration of the Gainesville Regional Utilities' internal control over financial reporting.
- Performing appropriate procedures based upon our risk assessment.
- Evaluating the appropriateness of the accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management.
- Forming and expressing an opinion based on our audit about whether the financial statements prepared by management, with the oversight of those charged with governance:
 - Are free from material misstatement
 - Present fairly, in all material respects, and in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America
- Performing tests related to compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts and grants, as required by *Government Auditing Standards*

We are also required to communicate significant matters related to our audit that are relevant to the responsibilities of those charged with governance, including:

- Qualitative aspects of Gainesville Regional Utilities' accounting practice including policies, accounting estimates and financial statement disclosures
- Significant difficulties encountered
- Disagreements with management
- Corrected and uncorrected misstatements
- Internal control matters
- Significant estimates
- Other findings or issues arising from the audit

Management's responsibilities

Management		Auditor
	Prepare and fairly present the financial statements	Our audit does not relieve management or those charged with governance of their responsibilities
	Establish and maintain effective internal control over financial reporting and compliance with laws, regulations, contracts and grants	An audit includes consideration of internal control over financial reporting, but not an expression of an opinion on those controls
	Provide us with written representations at the conclusion of the audit	See Appendix B for a copy of management's representations

Audit status



Audit status

Significant changes to the audit plan

There were no significant changes made to either our planned audit strategy or to the significant risks and other areas of emphasis identified during the performance of our risk assessment procedures.

Audit approach and results



Audit approach and results

Planned scope and timing

Audit focus

Based on our understanding of the Gainesville Regional Utilities and environment in which you operate, we focused our audit on the following key areas:

- Key transaction cycles
- Areas with significant estimates
- Implementation of new accounting standards

Our areas of audit focus were informed by, among other things, our assessment of materiality. Materiality in the context of our audit was determined based on specific qualitative and quantitative factors combined with our expectations about the Gainesville Regional Utilities' current year results.

Key areas of focus and significant findings

Significant risks of material misstatement

A significant risk is an identified and assessed risk of material misstatement that, in the auditor's professional judgment, requires special audit consideration. Within our audit, we focused on the following areas below.

Significant risk areas	Testing approach	Conclusion
Management override of controls	Incorporate unpredictability into audit procedures, emphasize professional skepticism and utilize audit team with industry expertise	Procedures identified provided sufficient evidence for our audit opinion
Improper revenue recognition due to fraud	Confirmation or validation of certain revenues supplemented with detailed predictive analytics based on non-financial data and substantive testing of related receivables	Procedures identified provided sufficient evidence for our audit opinion

Other key areas of emphasis

We also focused on other areas that did not meet the definition of a significant risk, but were determined to require specific awareness and a unique audit response.

Other key areas of emphasis		
Cash and investments	Revenues and receivables	General disbursements
Regulatory accounting	Inventory and fuel	Long-term debt
Payroll	Pension and OPEB liabilities	Capital assets including infrastructure
Net position calculations	Financial reporting and required disclosures	

Internal control matters

We considered the Gainesville Regional Utilities' internal control over financial reporting as a basis for designing our audit procedures for the purpose of expressing our opinions on the financial statements. We are not expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Gainesville Regional Utilities' internal control.

Our consideration of internal control was for the limited purpose described in the preceding paragraph and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control that might be material weaknesses or significant deficiencies and, therefore, material weaknesses or significant deficiencies may exist that were not identified.

A deficiency in internal control exists when the design or operation of a control does not allow management or employees, in the normal course of performing their assigned functions, to prevent, or detect and correct misstatements on a timely basis.

A material weakness is a deficiency or combination of deficiencies in internal control such that there is a reasonable possibility that a material misstatement of the entity's financial statements will not be prevented, or detected and corrected, on a timely basis. We did not identify any deficiencies in internal control that we consider to be material weaknesses.

Required communications

Qualitative aspect of accounting practices

- Accounting policies: Management is responsible for the selection and use of appropriate accounting policies. In accordance with the terms of our engagement letter, we have advised management about the appropriateness of accounting policies and their application. The significant accounting policies used by Gainesville Regional Utilities are described in Note 1 to the financial statements. No new accounting policies were adopted and the application of existing accounting policies was not changed during 2020. As described in Note 16 to the financial statements, the pension regulatory asset and due to other funds as of September 30, 2019 have been restated to correct a material misstatement related to recognizing Gainesville Regional Utilities' share of the Taxable Pension Obligation Bonds, Series 2003A, issued by the City of Gainesville. We noted no transactions entered into by the Gainesville Regional Utilities during the year for which accounting policies are controversial or for which there is a lack of authoritative guidance or consensus or diversity in practice.

Management's Discussion of the Restatement

GRU initiated the prior year's restatement presented in the current year's financial statements. During the process of evaluating the effects of and the recording of the 2020 Pension Obligation Bonds issued by General Government, GRU Accounting staff proactively noted that the 2003A Pension Obligation Bonds would need to be recorded in the same manner as the 2020 Pension Obligation Bonds. GRU immediately notified Baker Tilly and General Government finance staff that the 2003A Pension Obligation Bonds would be recorded in the same manner as the 2020 Pension Obligation Bonds. The 2003A Pension Obligation Bonds had been recorded in the same manner for all audited financial statements since 2003. The correcting entry was due to a change in accounting standards in 2015 well after the 2003A Pension Obligation Bonds were issued and reported on for many years. In addition, GRU would like to note there is a regulatory item that was recorded to offset the impacts of the liability which results in a zero impact to the balance sheet other than increases in both assets and liabilities concurrently.

Managements' additional description of the restatement here has not been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the financial statements and, accordingly, we express no opinion on it.

- Accounting estimates: Accounting estimates, including fair value 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, the degree of subjectivity involved in their development and because of the possibility that future events affecting them may differ significantly from those expected. The following estimates are of most significance to the financial statements:

Estimate	Management's process to determine	Baker Tilly's conclusions regarding reasonableness
Net pension liability and related deferrals	Evaluation of information provided by the City based on the Utilities' retirement contributions made and the actuarial studies performed by a qualified actuary retained by the City.	Reasonable in relation to the financial statements as a whole
Allowance for doubtful accounts	Evaluation of historical revenues and loss levels with the analysis on collectability of individual amounts	Reasonable in relation to the financial statements as a whole
Mark-to-market derivative instruments	Based on third party valuations	Reasonable in relation to the financial statements as a whole
Unbilled revenues	Based on actual cycle billings that are billed subsequent to year-end for consumption prior to September 30, 2019, multiplied by the average daily usage for the meter read period	Reasonable in relation to the financial statements as a whole
Net OPEB liability and related deferrals	Evaluation of information provided by the City based on the Utilities' participating employee count and retirees and the actuarial studies performed by a qualified actuary retained by the City	Reasonable in relation to the financial statements as a whole
Coal pile	Evaluation on information based on coal density testing and an aerial survey performed by third parties, in addition to the average cost of coal purchased.	Reasonable in relation to the financial statements as a whole

There have been no significant changes made by management to either the processes used to develop the particularly sensitive accounting estimates, or to the significant assumptions used to develop the estimates, noted above.

- Financial statement disclosures: The disclosures in the financial statements are neutral, consistent and clear.

Significant difficulties encountered during the audit

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

Other audit findings or issues

We encountered no other audit findings or issues that require communication at this time.

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

Disagreements with management

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

Uncorrected misstatements and corrected misstatements

Professional standards require us to accumulate all known and likely misstatements identified during the audit, other than those that are trivial, and communicate them to the appropriate level of management. There were no misstatements identified.

Significant unusual transactions

There have been no significant transactions that are outside the normal course of business for the Gainesville Regional Utilities or that otherwise appear to be unusual due to their timing, size or nature.

Management's consultations with other accountants

In some cases, management may decide to consult with other accountants about auditing and accounting matters. Management informed us that, and to our knowledge, there were no consultations with other accountants regarding auditing or accounting matters.

Written communications between management and Baker Tilly

The Appendix includes copies of other material written communications, including a copy of the management representation letter.

Compliance with laws and regulations

We did not identify any non-compliance with laws and regulations during our audit.

Fraud

We did not identify any known or suspected fraud during our audit.

Going concern

Pursuant to professional standards, we are required to communicate to you, when applicable, certain matters relating to our evaluation of the Gainesville Regional Utilities' ability to continue as a going concern for a reasonable period of time but no less than 12 months from the date the financial statements are issued or available to be issued, including the effects on the financial statements and the adequacy of the related disclosures, and the effects on the auditor's report. No such matters or conditions have come to our attention during our engagement.

Independence

We are not aware of any relationships between Baker Tilly and the Gainesville Regional Utilities that, in our professional judgment, may reasonably be thought to bear on our independence.

Related parties

We did not have any significant findings or issues arise during the audit in connection with the Gainesville Regional Utilities related parties.

Other matters

We applied certain limited procedures to the required supplementary information (RSI) that supplements the basic financial statements. Our procedures consisted of inquiries of management regarding the methods of preparing the information and comparing the information for consistency with management's responses to our inquiries, the basic financial statements, and other knowledge we obtained during our audit of the basic financial statements. We did not audit the RSI and do not express an opinion or provide any assurance on the RSI.

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

Nonattest services

The following nonattest service was provided by Baker Tilly:

- Executive Search for City Auditor

This nonattest service does not constitute an audit under generally accepted auditing standards, including *Government Auditing Standards*.

An aerial photograph of a winding asphalt road with white dashed lane markings, curving through a dense green forest. A small stream is visible in the upper right corner.

Accounting changes relevant to Gainesville Regional Utilities

Accounting changes relevant to Gainesville Regional Utilities

Future accounting standards updates

GASB Statement Number	Description	Potentially Impacts you	Effective Date
84	Fiduciary Activities	✓	9/30/21*
87	Leases	✓	9/30/22*
89	Accounting for Interest Incurred before the End of a Construction Period	✓	9/30/22*
90	Majority Equity Interests and amendment of GASB Statements No. 14 and No. 61		9/30/21*
91	Conduit Debt		9/30/22*
92	Omnibus 2020		9/30/22*
93	Replacement of Interfund Bank Offered Rates	✓	9/30/22*
94	Public-Private and Public-Public Partnerships and Availability Payment Arrangements	✓	9/30/23
96	Subscription-based Information Technology Arrangements	✓	9/30/23
97	Certain Component Unit Criteria, and Accounting and Financial Reporting for Internal Revenue Code Section 457 Deferred Compensation Plans		9/30/22

*The statements listed above through Statement No. 93 had their required effective dates postponed by one year with the issuance of Statement No. 95, *Postponement of Effective Dates of Certain Authoritative Guidance*, with the exception of Statement No. 87 which was postponed by one and a half years. The effective date reflected above is the required revised implementation date.

Further information on upcoming [GASB pronouncements](#)

Preparing for the new lease standard

GASB's new single model for lease accounting will be effective for the upcoming year. This standard will require governments to identify and evaluate contracts that convey control of the right to use another entity's nonfinancial asset as specified in the contract for a period of time in an exchange or exchange-like transaction. Contracts meeting the criteria for control, term and other items within the standard will result in recognizing a right to use asset and lease liability or a receivable and deferred inflow of resources.

We recommend Gainesville Regional Utilities review this standard and start planning now as to how this will affect your financial reporting. We recommend that you begin by completing an inventory of all contracts that might meet the definition of a lease. The contract listing should include key terms of the contracts such as:

- Description of contract
- Underlying asset
- Contract term
- Options for extensions and terminations
- Service components, if any
- Dollar amount of lease

In addition, Gainesville Regional Utilities should begin to establish a lease policy to address the treatment of common lease types, including a dollar threshold for each lease. We are available to discuss this further and help you develop an action plan.

Learn more about [GASB 87](#).

Trending challenges for organizations

Trending challenges and opportunities for organizations

Management and governing bodies must keep the future in mind as they evaluate strategies to achieve future growth. Keeping a balance between risk and sustainability is key, and organizations need to think beyond their immediate needs to their long-term goals. Economic uncertainty, coupled with key risk areas and fast-paced technology change, make strategic planning complex. Begin the discussion with your management team to find your path to your future.

Turning toward recovery and growth

Many organizations are focusing on the strategic restart and ramp up of their operations.

With great uncertainty about what recovery will look like—or how long it will take—it is essential for your organization to understand the scenarios you may face and plan your path back to growth.

We can help you chart a way forward that will enhance and maximize your value, minimize further disruption and keep your workforce safe.

Recommendation

Follow our [road map](#) to reopen, recover and reset.



Compliance with federal awards



Challenge

The COVID-19 crisis has had a significant effect on the nation, including recipients of federal awards resulting from various congressional acts. Federal funding adds an increased level of scrutiny and brings new challenges around compliance, reporting and administration.

Finance and spending departments are operating in unprecedented times as they manage and administer these funds while also remaining economically viable, maintaining operations and adapting to the “new normal.”

Recommendation

Learn more about [compliance for federal funds](#) obtained for pandemic response efforts.

Recession proofing measures



Challenge

Ever aware of the need to balance the needs of diverse constituents against constrained revenue streams and conflicting priorities, public leaders strive to effectively deploy scarce resources while maintaining the highest levels of accountability and transparency.

In times of crisis, additional challenges emerge to maintain essential services, ensure citizen safety, protect their workforce and jumpstart programs to mitigate negative local economic impacts—all while focusing on planning for long-term effects of revenue shortages and the subsequent recovery.

Developing strategic clarity, aligning resources with priorities, strengthening performance, optimizing processes and leveraging

technology are imperative.

Recommendation

Learn about [proactive measures to insulate your organization](#) from financial hardship and to [optimize your organization's performance](#).

Recruiting and hiring

Challenge

Public sector entities in need of key workforce personnel, such as city or county managers and administrators, city or county attorneys, fire chiefs, police chiefs and other departmental directors, may find themselves in an unenviable position during a pandemic.

Organizations need the talent, but a pandemic can disrupt essential business processes and cause apprehension about access to desirable candidates.

Hiring leaders should proactively discuss what-if scenarios, evaluate short-term and long-term hiring priorities, and plan for situations where immediate recruitment is imperative.

Recommendation

Learn the key considerations and actions for [recruiting and hiring](#) in a crisis.



Risk assessment

Challenge



Organizations today manage ever-expanding priorities in a constantly evolving, disruptive risk environment. Undetected risks, insufficient internal controls and inefficient business processes may negatively impact not only the entity but also its workforce and the community at large.

Risk assessment and internal audit prove essential to identifying top risks and the appropriateness of response in order to:

- Manage risk and compliance
- Enhance governance and strategy
- Optimize operations
- Gain assurance around key functions and processes that contribute toward meeting organizational goals

Recommendation

Learn about the key considerations for the [risk assessment process and internal audit planning](#).

Economic development

Challenge

In today's complex economic landscape, communities face the daunting challenge of rebuilding their local economies. Restoring the momentum of economic expansion and investment to enhance quality of life for residents and produce long-term financial gain for the community is at the forefront of concerns.

Whether attracting growth to maximize opportunity built around community strengths or accounting for the many unknowns caused by major disruptions, a robust economic development strategy is essential to recovery.

Recommendation

Learn about the advantages of creating an [economic development strategic plan and the framework](#) to follow.



Harnessing data and analytics for strategic insight and decision-making



Challenge

In crisis and recovery, organizations are investing in advanced analytic solutions to help them not only make better decisions faster and more consistently, but also to improve operational efficiency and performance. Of all the business analytics available, advanced analytic solutions should be at the top of your priority list given the impact it can have on your business.

Recommendation

Learn more about [data & analytics strategy and roadmaps](#), [MDM and data process re-engineering](#), [AI strategy](#), [data visualization](#) and other digital and analytic capabilities.

Information technology and cybersecurity



Challenge

While return-to-work scenarios are being developed, it is likely that remote workforces will remain a reality for many organizations in the short- to mid-term. Though many organizations have been able to adapt on a short-term basis, some will not be prepared for long-term operation on a remote and virtual basis. Organizations should increase monitoring of invasive cyber events, given the likely increase in hackers sending out fake emails, website links and ransomware attacks – and also consider:

- Adequacy of IT controls and security
- Performance of remote infrastructure supporting operations
- Improvements to remote applications for communication, collaboration and workflow
- Alternatives for data entry, work and information flow

Recommendation

[Learn more](#) about information technology and cybersecurity, including [System & Organization Controls reporting](#).

A photograph showing a group of hands of various skin tones holding small green seedlings with soil. The hands are arranged in a circle, and the seedlings are held in the palms. The background is dark and out of focus.

Appendix A: Client service team

Client service team



Bethany Ryers, CPA

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A photograph of two men in an office setting. The man on the left, seen from the back, is wearing a white shirt and glasses. The man on the right, with a beard and wearing a light blue shirt, is smiling and shaking hands with the first man. They are standing behind a wooden desk. On the desk, there is a laptop, a tablet, a white mug, a small potted plant, and some papers. A large window is in the background, letting in bright light.

Appendix B: Management representation letter



Baker Tilly US, LLP
4807 Innovate Ln
P.O. Box 7398
Madison, WI 53707-7398

Dear Baker Tilly US, LLP:

We are providing this letter in connection with your audit of the financial statements of Gainesville Regional Utilities as of September 30, 2020 and 2019 and for the years then ended for the purpose of expressing an opinion as to whether the financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Gainesville Regional Utilities and the respective changes in financial position and cash flows, in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. We confirm that we are responsible for the fair presentation of the previously mentioned financial statements in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. We are also responsible for adopting sound accounting policies, establishing and maintaining internal control over financial reporting, and preventing and detecting fraud.

Certain representations in this letter are described as being limited to matters that are material. Items are considered material, regardless of size, if they involve an omission or misstatement of accounting information that, in the light of surrounding circumstances, makes it probable that the judgment of a reasonable person relying on the information would be changed or influenced by the omission or misstatement. An omission or misstatement that is monetarily small in amount could be considered material as a result of qualitative factors.

We confirm, to the best of our knowledge and belief, the following representations made to you during your audit.

Financial Statements

- 1) We have fulfilled our responsibilities, as set out in the terms of the audit engagement letter.
- 2) The financial statements referred to above are fairly presented in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America and include all properly classified funds and other financial information of the Utility required by accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America to be included in the financial reporting entity.
- 3) We acknowledge our responsibility for the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.
- 4) We acknowledge our responsibility for the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control to prevent and detect fraud.
- 5) Significant assumptions we used in making accounting estimates, if any, are reasonable.



- 6) Related party relationships and transactions, including revenues, expenditures/expenses, loans, transfers, leasing arrangements, and guarantees, and amounts receivable from or payable to related parties have been appropriately accounted for and disclosed in accordance with the requirements of accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.
- 7) All events subsequent to the date of the financial statements and for which accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require adjustment or disclosure have been adjusted or disclosed. No other events, including instances of noncompliance, have occurred subsequent to the financial statement date and through the date of this letter that would require adjustment to or disclosure in the aforementioned financial statements.
- 8) All material transactions have been recorded in the accounting records and are reflected in the financial statements.
- 9) The effects of all known actual or possible litigation, claims, and assessments have been accounted for and disclosed in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.
- 10) Guarantees, whether written or oral, under which the utility is contingently liable, if any, have been properly recorded or disclosed.

Information Provided

- 11) We have provided you with:
 - a) Access to all information, of which we are aware, that is relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements, such as financial records and related data, documentation, and other matters.
 - b) Additional information that you have requested from us for the purpose of the audit.
 - c) Unrestricted access to persons within the entity from whom you determined it necessary to obtain audit evidence.
 - d) Minutes of the meetings of the Utility Advisory Board and City Commission or summaries of actions of recent meetings for which minutes have not yet been prepared.
- 12) We have disclosed to you results of our assessment of the risk that the financial statements may be materially misstated as a result of fraud.
- 13) We have no knowledge of any fraud or suspected fraud that affects the entity and involves:
 - a) Management,
 - b) Employees who have significant roles in internal control, or
 - c) Others where the fraud could have a material effect on the financial statements.
- 14) We have no knowledge of any allegations of fraud or suspected fraud affecting the entity received in communications from employees, former employees, regulators, or others.



- 15) We have no knowledge of known instances of noncompliance or suspected noncompliance with provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, or grant agreements, or abuse, whose effects should be considered when preparing financial statements.
- 16) There are no known related parties or related party relationships and transactions of which we are aware.

Other

- 17) There have been no communications from regulatory agencies concerning noncompliance with, or deficiencies in, financial reporting practices.
- 18) We have taken timely and appropriate steps to remedy fraud, noncompliance with provisions of laws, regulations, contracts or grant agreements, or abuse that you have reported to us.
- 19) We have identified to you any previous financial audits, attestation engagements, and other studies related to the audit objectives and whether related recommendations have been implemented.
- 20) We have provided our views on reported findings, conclusions, and recommendations, as well as our planned corrective actions, for our report.
- 21) Gainesville Regional Utilities has no plans or intentions that may materially affect the carrying value or classification of assets, liabilities, or equity.
- 22) We are responsible for compliance with federal, state, and local laws, regulations, and provisions of contracts and grant agreements applicable to us, including tax or debt limits, debt contracts, and IRS arbitrage regulations; and we have identified and disclosed to you all federal, state, and local laws, regulations and provisions of contracts and grant agreements that we believe have a direct and material effect on the determination of financial statement amounts or other financial data significant to the audit objectives, including legal and contractual provisions for reporting specific activities in separate funds.
- 23) There are no:
 - a) Violations or possible violations of budget ordinances, federal, state, and local laws or regulations (including those pertaining to adopting, approving and amending budgets), provisions of contracts and grant agreements, tax or debt limits, and any related debt covenants whose effects should be considered for disclosure in the financial statements or as a basis for recording a loss contingency, or for reporting on noncompliance, except those already disclosed in the financial statement, if any.
 - b) Other liabilities or gain or loss contingencies that are required to be accrued or disclosed by accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.
 - c) Rates being charged to customers other than the rates as authorized by the applicable authoritative body.
 - d) Violations of restrictions placed on revenues as a result of bond resolution covenants such as revenue distribution or debt service funding.



- 24) In regards to the nonattest services performed by you listed below that was provided to the City Commission, Gainesville Regional Utilities did not have any involvement with the management, oversight, and responsibility for the adequacy and results of the services performed. It is our understanding that the City Commission, and the Human Resources Department of the City of Gainesville have 1) accepted all management responsibility; 2) designated an individual with suitable skill, knowledge, or experience to oversee the services; 3) evaluated the adequacy and results of the services performed, and 4) accepted responsibility for the results of the services.

a) Executive staffing consulting services

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

- 25) Gainesville Regional Utilities has satisfactory title to all owned assets, and there are no liens or encumbrances on such assets nor has any asset been pledged as collateral.
- 26) Gainesville Regional Utilities has complied with all aspects of contractual agreements that would have a material effect on the financial statement in the event of noncompliance.
- 27) The financial statements properly classify all funds and activities.
- 28) Components of net position (net investment in capital assets; restricted; and unrestricted) are properly classified and, if applicable, approved.
- 29) We believe that we have properly identified all derivative instruments and any embedded derivative instruments that require bifurcation. The utility's hedging activities, if any, are in accordance with its documented and approved hedging and risk management policies. The utility follows the valuation, accounting, reporting and disclosure requirements outlined in GASB Statement No. 53. We believe the timing, nature, and amounts of all forecasted transactions are probable of occurring. The fair values of all derivatives and hedged items have been determined based on prevailing market prices or by using financial models that we believe are the most appropriate models for valuing such instruments and that incorporate market data and other assumptions that we have determined to be reasonable and appropriate at year end.
- 30) Provisions for uncollectible receivables, if any, have been properly identified and recorded.
- 31) Expenses have been appropriately classified in or allocated to functions and programs in the statement of activities, and allocations have been made on a reasonable basis.
- 32) Interfund, internal, and intra-entity activity and balances have been appropriately classified and reported.
- 33) Deposits and investments are properly classified, valued, and disclosed (including risk disclosures, collateralization agreements, valuation methods, and key inputs, as applicable).
- 34) Capital assets, including infrastructure and intangible assets, are properly capitalized, reported, and, if applicable, depreciated/amortized. Any known impairments have been recorded and disclosed.
- 35) Tax-exempt bonds issued have retained their tax-exempt status.



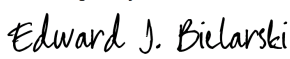
- 36) The operations and rate setting process meet the condition for application of accounting for regulated operations as outlined in GASB Statement No. 62. All regulatory items included in the financial statements have been approved and are being accounted for in accordance with specific action taken by the regulatory body and as such the expectation of future recovery or refund is reasonable.
- 37) We have appropriately disclosed the Gainesville Regional Utilities' policy regarding whether to first apply restricted or unrestricted resources when an expense is incurred for purposes for which both restricted and unrestricted net position are available and have determined that net position were properly recognized under the policy.
- 38) We acknowledge our responsibility for the required supplementary information (RSI). The RSI is measured and presented within prescribed guidelines and the methods of measurement and presentation have not changed from those used in the prior period. We have disclosed to you any significant assumptions and interpretations underlying the measurement and presentation of the RSI.
- 39) With respect to the supplementary information, (SI):
- a) We acknowledge our responsibility for presenting the SI in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, and we believe the SI, including its form and content, is fairly presented in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. The methods of measurement and presentation of the SI have not changed from those used in the prior period, and we have disclosed to you any significant assumptions or interpretations underlying the measurement and presentation of the supplementary information.
 - b) If the SI is not presented with the audited financial statements, we will make the audited financial statements readily available to the intended users of the supplementary information no later than the date we issue the supplementary information and the auditor's report thereon.
- 40) We agree with the prior year's restatement presented in the current year's financial statements.
- 41) We are responsible for the estimation methods and assumptions used in measuring assets and liabilities reported or disclosed at fair value, including information obtained from brokers, pricing services or third parties. Our valuation methodologies have been consistently applied from period to period. The fair value measurements reported or disclosed represent our best estimate of fair value as of the measurement date in accordance with the requirements of GASB 72 – Fair Value Measurement. In addition our disclosures related to fair value measurements are consistent with the objectives outlined in GASB 72. We have evaluated the fair value information provided to us by brokers, pricing services or other parties that have been used in the financial statements and believe this information to be reliable and consistent with the requirements.
- 42) All borrowings and financial obligations of Gainesville Regional Utilities of which we are aware are included in the financial statements at September 30, 2020 and 2019, as appropriate. We have fully disclosed to you all borrowing arrangements of which we are aware.
- 43) Gainesville Regional Utilities has not violated any covenants or requirements of its bond resolutions and other agreements related to outstanding securities during any of the periods reported. We have fully disclosed to you all covenants and information related to how we determined our compliance with the terms of the covenants.



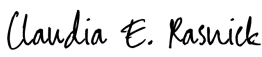
- 44) We assume responsibility for, and agree with, the findings of specialists and have adequately considered the qualifications of the specialists in determining the amounts and disclosures used in the financial statements and underlying accounting records. We did not give or cause any instructions to be given to specialists with respect to the values or amounts derived in an attempt to bias their work, and we are not otherwise aware of any matters that have had an impact on the independence or objectivity of the specialists.
- 45) Any direct borrowings, direct placements, lines of credit or debt default clauses have been identified and properly disclosed.
- 46) We have reviewed our long-term debt agreements and believe that all terms related to significant events of default with finance-related consequences, termination events with finance-related consequences and subjective acceleration clauses have been properly identified and disclosed.

Sincerely,

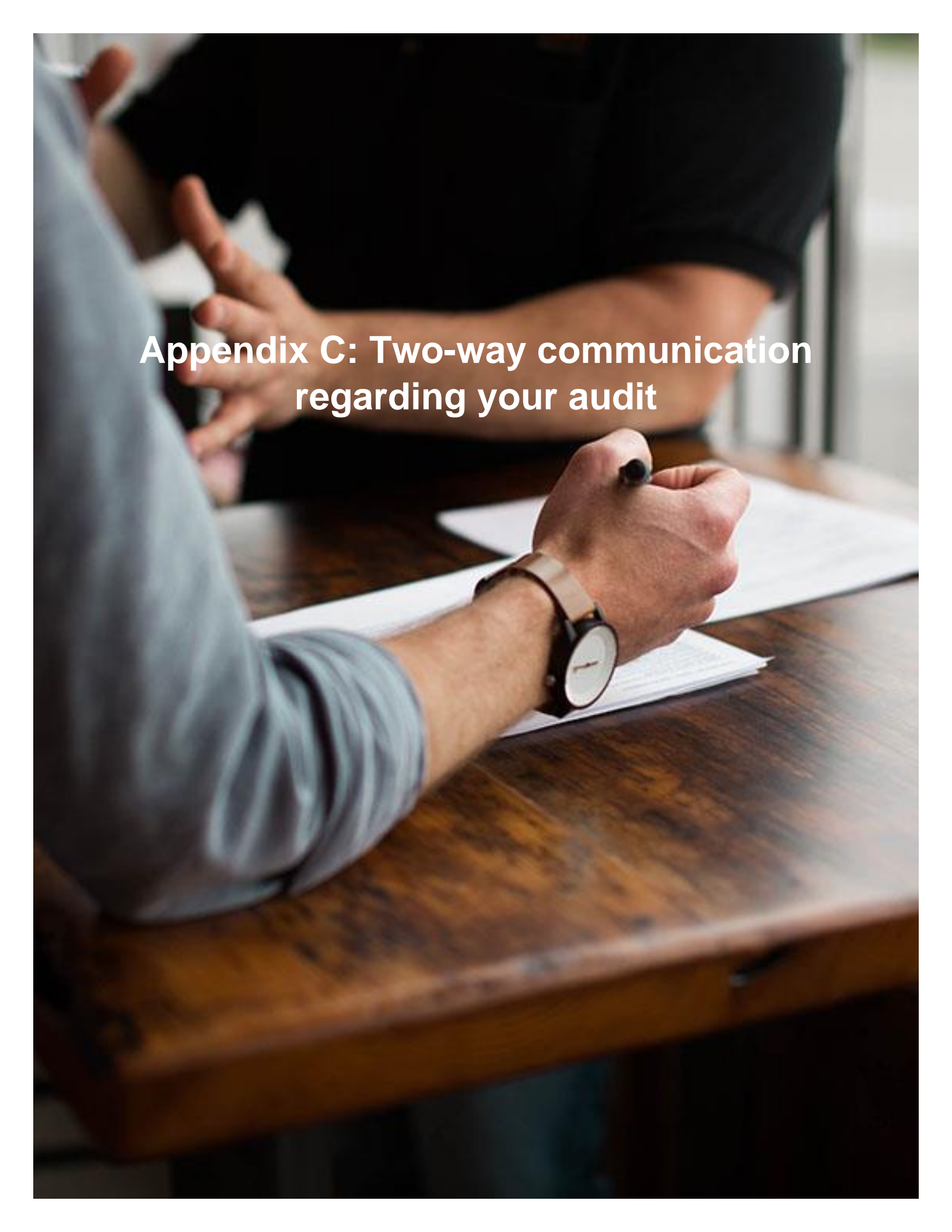
Gainesville Regional Utilities

Signed: DocuSigned by:

D8388B97A600412...
Ed Bielarski, General Manager

Date: 2/19/2021

Signed: DocuSigned by:

B9C52F97092A4F7
Claudia Rasnick, Chief Financial Officer

Date: 2/19/2021

A close-up photograph of a person's arm and hand writing on a document. The person is wearing a light blue long-sleeved shirt and a black watch with a white face. They are holding a black pen. The document is on a dark wooden table. In the background, another person's hands are visible, gesturing during a conversation.

Appendix C: Two-way communication regarding your audit

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

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

- a. We address the significant risks of material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, through our detailed audit procedures.
- b. We will obtain an understanding of the five components of internal control sufficient to assess the risk of material misstatement of the financial statements whether due to error or fraud, and to design the nature, timing, and extent of further audit procedures. We will obtain a sufficient understanding by performing risk assessment procedures to evaluate the design of controls relevant to an audit of financial statements and to determine whether they have been implemented. We will use such knowledge to:
 - Identify types of potential misstatements.
 - Consider factors that affect the risks of material misstatement.
 - Design tests of controls, when applicable, and substantive procedures.
- c. We will not express an opinion on the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting or compliance with laws, regulations, and provisions of contracts or grant programs. For audits performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, our report will include a paragraph that states that the purpose of the report is solely to describe the scope of testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance and the result of that testing and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting or on compliance and that the report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering internal control over financial reporting and compliance. The paragraph will also state that the report is not suitable for any other purpose.
- d. The concept of materiality recognizes that some matters, either individually or in the aggregate, are important for fair presentation of financial statements in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles while other matters are not important. In performing the audit, we are concerned with matters that, either individually or in the aggregate, could be material to the financial statements. Our responsibility is to plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance that material misstatements, whether caused by errors or fraud, are detected.

Our audit will be performed in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and *Government Auditing Standards*,

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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