

## **EXHIBIT A-1**

### **CONSULTANT AND GLWA ENGAGEMENT RESPONSIBILITIES**

In this Exhibit A-1, Consultant is referred to as “we” and “our”, and GLWA may be referred to as “you”.

#### **Service and Related Report**

We will audit the financial statements of the Great Lakes Water Authority as of and for the years ended June 30, 2025 through 2027, and the related notes to the financial statements. Upon completion of our audit, we will provide the Great Lakes Water Authority with our audit report on the financial statements and supplemental information referred to below. If, for any reasons caused by or relating to the affairs or management of the Great Lakes Water Authority, we are unable to complete the audit or are unable to or have not formed an opinion, or if we determine in our professional judgment the circumstances necessitate, we may withdraw and decline to issue a report as a result of this engagement.

The following supplementary information accompanying the financial statements will also be subjected to the auditing procedures applied in our audit of the financial statements and certain additional procedures, including comparing and reconciling such information directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the financial statements or to the financial statements themselves, and other additional procedures in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, and our auditor's report will provide an opinion on it in relation to the financial statements as a whole.

- > Combining and Individual Fund Schedules included within the Annual Comprehensive Financial Report

The following supplementary information will also be subjected to the auditing procedures applied in our audit of the financial statements and certain additional procedures, including comparing and reconciling such information directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the financial statements or to the financial statements themselves, and other additional procedures in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, and our auditor's report will provide an opinion on it in relation to the financial statements as a whole.

- > Schedule of Expenditures of Federal and State Awards (if in separate document from financial statements)

Accounting standards generally accepted in the United States of America provide for certain required supplementary information (RSI), such as management's discussion and analysis, to supplement the Great Lakes Water Authority's financial statements. Such information, although not a part of the financial statements, is required by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board who considers it to be an essential part of financial reporting for placing the financial statements in an appropriate operational, economic or historical context. As part of our engagement, we will apply certain limited procedures to the Great Lakes Water Authority's RSI in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. These limited procedures will consist of inquiries of management regarding the methods of preparing the information and comparing the information for consistency with management's response to our inquiries, the financial statements, and other knowledge we obtained during our audit of the financial statements. We will 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. The following RSI is required by generally accepted accounting principles and will be subjected to certain limited procedures, but will not be audited:

- > Management's Discussion and Analysis
- > Defined Benefit Pension Plan Schedules

We will read the following other information accompanying the financial statements to identify any material inconsistencies with the audited financial statements; however, the other information will not be subjected to the auditing procedures applied in our audit of the financial statements and our auditor's report will not provide an opinion or any assurance on that other information:

- > Introductory Section
- > Statistical Section

Our report does not include reporting on key audit matters.

### **Our Responsibilities and Limitations**

The objective of a financial statement audit is the expression of an opinion on the financial statements. We will be responsible for performing that audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAS). These standards require that we plan and perform our audit to obtain reasonable, rather than absolute, assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement, whether caused by error or fraud. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not absolute assurance and therefore is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with GAAS and *Government Auditing Standards* will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. A misstatement is considered material if there is a substantial likelihood that, individually or in the aggregate, it would influence the judgment made by a reasonable user based on the financial statements. The objective also includes reporting on:

- > Internal control related to the financial statements and compliance with laws, regulations and the provisions of contracts or grant agreements, noncompliance with which could have a direct and material effect on the financial statements in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*.
- > Internal control related to major federal programs and an opinion (or disclaimer of opinion) on compliance with laws, regulations and the provisions of contracts or grant agreements that could have a direct and material effect on each major program in accordance with the Single Audit Act Amendments of 1996 and OMB *Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards* (Uniform Guidance).

The *Government Auditing Standards* report on internal control over financial reporting and on compliance and other matters will include a paragraph that states (i) that the purpose of the report is solely to describe the scope of testing of internal control and compliance, and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control or on compliance, and (ii) that the report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the entity's internal control and compliance. The Uniform Guidance report on internal control over compliance will include a paragraph that states that the purpose of the report on internal control over compliance is solely to describe the scope of testing of internal control over compliance and the results of that testing based on the requirements of the Uniform Guidance. Both reports will state that the report is not suitable for any other purpose.

We will be responsible for performing the audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAS); the standards for financial audits contained in *Government*

*Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States; the Single Audit Act Amendments of 1996; the Uniform Guidance, and will include tests of accounting records, a determination of major program(s) in accordance with the Uniform Guidance, and other procedures we consider necessary to enable us to express such opinions and to render the required reports.

As part of an audit in accordance with GAAS, we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit. We will also:

- > Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements and supplemental information, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- > Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. However, we will communicate to you in writing concerning any significant deficiencies or material weaknesses in internal control relevant to the audit of the financial statements and supplemental information that we have identified during the audit.
- > Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluate the overall presentation of the financial statements and supplemental information, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements and supplemental information represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.
- > Conclude, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the entity's ability to continue as a going concern for a reasonable period of time.

Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, together with the inherent limitations of internal controls, an unavoidable risk that some material misstatements may not be detected exists, even though the audit is properly planned and performed in accordance with GAAS. Because the determination of abuse is subjective, *Government Auditing Standards* do not expect auditors to provide reasonable assurance of detecting abuse. Our audit will include examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements, assessing accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, and evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. Our audit does not relieve management or those charged with governance of their responsibilities. Our audit is limited to the period covered by our audit and does not extend to any later periods during which we are not engaged as auditor.

The audit will include obtaining an understanding of the Great Lakes Water Authority and its environment, including internal controls, sufficient to assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements and to determine the nature, timing and extent of further audit procedures. An audit is not designed to provide assurance on internal control or to identify deficiencies in internal control. However, during the audit, we will communicate to management and those charged with governance internal control matters that are required to be communicated under professional standards. We will also inform you of any other matters involving internal control, if any, as required by *Government Auditing Standards* and the Uniform Guidance.

Tests of controls may be performed to test the effectiveness of certain controls that we consider relevant to preventing and detecting errors and fraud that are material to the financial statements and to preventing and detecting misstatements resulting from illegal acts and other noncompliance matters that have a direct and material effect on the financial statements. Our tests, if performed, will be less in scope than would be necessary to render an opinion on internal control and, accordingly, no opinion will be expressed in our report on internal control issued pursuant to *Government Auditing Standards*.

As required by the Uniform Guidance, we will perform tests of controls over compliance to evaluate the effectiveness of the design and operation of controls that we consider relevant to preventing or detecting material noncompliance with compliance requirements applicable to each major federal award program. However, our tests will be less in scope than would be necessary to render an opinion on those controls and, accordingly, no opinion will be expressed in our report on internal control over compliance issued pursuant to the Uniform Guidance.

Also, if required by *Government Auditing Standards*, we will report known or likely fraud, illegal acts, violations of provisions of contracts or grant agreements, or abuse directly to parties outside of the Great Lakes Water Authority.

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement, we will perform tests of the Great Lakes Water Authority's compliance with the provisions of applicable laws, regulations, contracts and agreements, including grant agreements. However, the objective of those procedures will not be to provide an opinion on overall compliance and we will not express such an opinion in our report on compliance issued pursuant to *Government Auditing Standards*.

The Uniform Guidance requires that we also plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether you have complied with applicable laws and regulations and the provisions of contracts and grant agreements applicable to major programs. Our procedures will consist of test of transactions and other applicable procedures described in the OMB Compliance Supplement for the types of compliance requirements that could have a direct and material effect on each of the Great Lakes Water Authority's major programs. The purpose of those procedures will be to express an opinion on your compliance with requirements applicable to each of your major programs in our report on compliance issued pursuant to the Uniform Guidance.

We are also responsible for determining that those charged with governance are informed about certain other matters related to the conduct of the audit, including (i) our responsibility under GAAS, (ii) an overview of the planned scope and timing of the audit, and (iii) significant findings from the audit, which include (a) our views about the qualitative aspects of your significant accounting practices, accounting estimates, and financial statement disclosures; (b) difficulties encountered in performing the audit; (c) uncorrected misstatements and material corrected misstatements that were brought to the attention of management as a result of auditing procedures; and (d) other significant and relevant findings or issues (e.g., any disagreements with management about matters that could be significant to your financial statements or our report thereon, consultations with other independent accountants, issues discussed prior to our retention as independent auditors, fraud and illegal acts, and all significant deficiencies and material weaknesses identified during the audit). Lastly, we are responsible for ensuring that those charged with governance receive copies of certain written communications between us and management including written communications on accounting, auditing, internal controls or operational matters and representations that we are requesting from management.

The audit will not be planned or conducted in contemplation of reliance of any specific third party or with respect to any specific transaction. Therefore, items of possible interest to a third party will not be specifically addressed and matters may exist that would be addressed differently by a third party, possibly in connection with a specific transaction.

## Management's Responsibilities

Our audit will be conducted on the basis that the Great Lakes Water Authority's management and, when appropriate, those charged with governance, acknowledge and understand that they have responsibility:

- > For the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements and supplementary information in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America;
- > For the design, implementation, establishment, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements and supplementary information that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error; and for evaluating and monitoring ongoing activities to help ensure that appropriate goals and objectives are met and;
- > For identifying all federal awards received and understanding and complying with the compliance requirements;
- > For the design, implementation, and maintenance of effective internal controls over compliance that provides reasonable assurance that the Great Lakes Water Authority administers federal and state awards in compliance with the compliance requirements; and
- > To provide us with:
  - Access to all information of which management is aware that is relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements and supplementary information such as records, documentation, and other matters;
  - Additional information that we may request from management for the purpose of the audit; and
  - Unrestricted access to persons within the Great Lakes Water Authority from whom we determine it necessary to obtain audit evidence

You are responsible for identifying and ensuring that the entity complies with applicable laws, regulations, contracts, agreements, and grants and for taking timely and appropriate steps to remedy fraud and noncompliance with provisions of laws, regulations, contracts or grant agreements, or abuse that we report. Additionally, as required by the Uniform Guidance, it is management's responsibility to follow up and take corrective action on reported audit findings and to prepare a summary schedule of prior audit findings and a corrective action plan. The summary schedule of prior audit findings should be available for our review before we begin fieldwork.

Management is responsible for establishing and maintaining a process for tracking the status of audit findings and recommendations. Management is also responsible for identifying for us previous financial audits, attestation engagements, performance audits or other studies related to the objectives discussed above. This responsibility includes relaying to us corrective actions taken to address significant findings and recommendations resulting from those audits, attestation engagements, performance audits or studies. You are also responsible for providing management's views on our current findings, conclusions and recommendations, as well as your planned corrective actions for the report, and for the timing and format for providing that information.

You are responsible for preparation of the schedule of expenditures of federal awards (including notes and noncash assistance received) in conformity with the Uniform Guidance. You agree to include our report on the schedule of expenditures of federal awards in any document that contains and indicates that we have reported on the schedule of expenditures of federal awards. You also agree to make the audited financial statements readily available to intended users of the schedule of expenditures of federal awards no later than the date the schedule of expenditures of federal awards is issued with our report thereon. Your responsibilities include acknowledging to us in a written representation letter that (a) you are responsible for presentation of the schedule of expenditures of federal awards in accordance with the Uniform Guidance; (b) that you believe the schedule of expenditures of federal awards including its form and content, is fairly presented in accordance with the Uniform Guidance; (c) that the methods of measurement or presentation have not changed from those used in the prior year (or, if they have changed, the reasons for such changes); and (d) you have disclosed to us any significant assumptions or interpretations underlying the measurement or presentation of the schedule of expenditures of federal awards.

Management is responsible for (i) adjusting the financial statements to correct material misstatements and for affirming to us in a management representation letter that the effects of any uncorrected misstatements aggregated by us during the current engagement and pertaining to the latest period under audit are immaterial, both individually and in the aggregate, to the financial statements taken as a whole, and (ii) notifying us of all material weaknesses, including other significant deficiencies, in the design or operation of your internal control over financial reporting that are reasonably likely to adversely affect your ability to record, process, summarize and report external financial data reliably in accordance with GAAP. Management is also responsible for identifying and ensuring that the Great Lakes Water Authority complies with the laws and regulations applicable to its activities.

As part of our audit process, we will request from management and, when appropriate, those charged with governance written confirmation concerning representations made to us in connection with the audit.

If applicable, management is responsible for informing us on a timely basis of the name of any single investor in you that owns 20% or more of your equity at any point in time. Management is also responsible for informing us on a timely basis of any investments held by you which constitutes 20% or more of the equity/capital of the investee entity at any point in time.

Baker Tilly U.S., LLP is not a municipal advisor as defined in Section 975 of the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act or under Section 15B of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (the Act). Baker Tilly is not recommending an action to the Great Lakes Water Authority; is not acting as an advisor to you and does not owe a fiduciary duty pursuant to Section 15B of the Act to you with respect to the information and material contained in the deliverables issued under this engagement. Any municipal advisory services would only be performed by Baker Tilly Municipal Advisors LLC (BTMA) pursuant to a separate engagement letter between you and BTMA. You should discuss any information and material contained in the deliverables with any and all internal and external advisors and experts that you deem appropriate before acting on this information or material.

### **Nonattest Services**

Prior to or as part of our audit engagement, it may be necessary for either Baker Tilly US, LLP or Baker Tilly Advisory Group, LP to perform certain nonattest services. For purposes of this letter, nonattest services include services that *Government Auditing Standards* refers to as nonaudit services.

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



Baker Tilly US, LLP and Baker Tilly Advisory Group, LP will not perform any management functions or make management decisions on your behalf with respect to any nonattest services provided. In connection with our performance of any nonattest services, Baker Tilly US, LLP or Baker Tilly Advisory Group, LP agree that you will:

- > Continue to make all management decisions and perform all management functions, including approving all journal entries and general ledger classifications when they are submitted to you.
- > Designate an employee with suitable skill, knowledge, and/or experience, preferably within senior management, to oversee the services performed.
- > Evaluate the adequacy and results of the nonattest services performed.
- > Accept responsibility for the results of the nonattest services.
- > Establish and maintain internal controls, including monitoring ongoing activities related to the nonattest function.

On a periodic basis, as needed, we will meet with you to discuss your accounting records and the management implications of your financial statements. We will notify you, in writing, of any matters that we believe you should be aware of and will meet with you upon request.

#### **Other Documents**

If you intend to reproduce or publish the financial statements in an annual report or other information (excluding official statements), and make reference to our firm name in connection therewith, you agree to publish the financial statements in their entirety. In addition, you agree to provide us, for our approval and consent, proofs before printing and final materials before distribution.

With regard to the electronic dissemination of audited financial statements, including financial statements published electronically on your Internet website, you understand that electronic sites are a means to distribute information and, therefore, we are not required to read the information contained in these sites or to consider the consistency of other information in the electronic site with the original document.

At the conclusion of our engagement, we will complete the appropriate auditor sections of the Data Collection Form that summarizes our audit findings. It is management's responsibility to complete the auditee sections and to submit the reporting package (including financial statements, schedule of expenditures of federal awards, summary schedule of prior year audit findings, auditors' reports and corrective action plan) along with the Data Collection Form to the federal audit clearinghouse. We will coordinate with you the electronic submission and certification. If applicable, we will provide copies of our report for you to include within the reporting package you will submit to pass-through entities. The Data Collection Form and the reporting package must be submitted within the earlier of thirty (30) days after receipt of the auditors' reports or nine (9) months after the end of the audit period.

We will provide copies of our reports to the Great Lakes Water Authority, however, management is responsible for distribution of the reports and the financial statements. Copies of our reports are to be made available for public inspection unless restricted by law or regulation or if they contain privileged and confidential information.

*Government Auditing Standards* require that we provide you with a copy of our most recent external peer review report and any subsequent peer review reports received during the period of the contract. Our most recent peer review report was provided to you on June 17, 2025.

*(End Exhibit A-1)*