

**Duluth Seaway  
Port Authority  
Duluth, Minnesota**

Financial and Compliance Report  
March 31, 2021

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RSM US LLP

## Independent Auditor's Report

Board of Commissioners  
Duluth Seaway Port Authority

### Report on the Financial Statements

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of Duluth Seaway Port Authority, as of and for the years ended March 31, 2021 and 2020, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise Duluth Seaway Port Authority's basic 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.

### Auditor's 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 auditor's 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.

### Opinion

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Duluth Seaway Port Authority as of March 31, 2021 and 2020, and the changes in its financial position and its cash flows for the years then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

## **Other Matters**

### ***Required Supplementary Information***

Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require that management's discussion and analysis, schedule of proportionate share of the net pension liability, and schedule of pension contributions, as listed in the table of contents, 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 audits 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.

### ***Other Information***

Our audit was conducted for the purpose of forming opinions on the financial statements that collectively comprise Duluth Seaway Port Authority's basic financial statements. The supplementary information, as listed in the table of contents, including the combining statement of revenues and expenses and schedules of departmental revenues and expenses, are presented for purposes of additional analysis and are not a required part of the basic financial statements.

Such information is the responsibility of management and was derived from and relates directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the basic financial statements. Such information has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the basic financial statements and certain additional procedures, including comparing and reconciling such information directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the basic financial statements, or to the basic financial statements themselves, and other additional procedures in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. In our opinion, the information is fairly stated in all material respects in relation to the basic financial statements taken as a whole.

*RSM US LLP*

Duluth, Minnesota  
July 1, 2021

**Required Supplementary Information**  
**Management's Discussion and Analysis (MD&A)**

## **Duluth Seaway Port Authority**

### **Management's Discussion and Analysis March 31, 2021**

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This section of Duluth Seaway Port Authority's (the Authority) annual financial report presents a discussion and analysis of the Authority's financial performance during the years ended March 31, 2021 and 2020. Please read this discussion and analysis in conjunction with the Authority's financial statements.

Management's Discussion and Analysis (MD&A) is an element of Required Supplementary Information mandated by generally accepted accounting principles. Certain comparative information between the current year and prior year is required to be presented in the MD&A.

#### **Financial Highlights**

##### **2021**

The Authority's net position increased \$3,820,581 (6%), from \$58,963,756 in 2020 to \$62,784,337 in 2021. This increase was made up of operating income of \$381,475, and nonoperating income and capital grants of \$3,439,106.

The Authority's operating revenues increased 21% to \$5,265,577. This increase results primarily from an increase in facilities fees and wharfage for the Marine Terminal Department. Operating expenses decreased to \$4,884,102 (3%) primarily from a decrease in operating expense for the Marine Terminal Department. Operating income for 2021 is \$381,475 compared to a loss of \$640,926 in 2020.

##### **2020**

The Authority's net position increased \$2,645,445 (5%), from \$56,318,311 in 2019 to \$58,963,756 in 2020. This increase was made up of operating loss of \$640,926, and nonoperating income, capital grants and contributed capital of \$3,286,371.

The Authority's operating revenues increased 18% to \$4,368,404. This increase results primarily from an increase in rental revenue for the Administration Department. Operating expenses increased to \$5,009,330 (4%) primarily from an increase in depreciation expense for the Administration Department. Operating loss for 2020 is \$640,926 compared to \$1,108,936 in 2019.

#### **Overview of the Financial Statements**

This discussion and analysis serves as an introduction to the Authority's basic financial statements, which consist of two components: 1) Statements of Net Position, Revenues, Expenses and Changes in Net Position and Cash Flows and 2) notes to the financial statements. The report also contains other supplementary information in addition to the basic financial statements.

- The basic financial statements provide information about the Authority's financial status.

The financial statements also include notes that explain some of the information in the financial statements and provide more detailed data. The statements are followed by a section of other supplementary information that further explains and supports the information in the financial statements.

#### **Basic Financial Statements**

The financial statements are designed to give users details of the Authority's finances, in a manner similar to that of a private-sector business. The statements of net position present information on all of the Authority's assets and liabilities, with the difference between the two reported as net position. Increases or decreases in net position over time may serve as a useful indicator of whether the Authority's financial position is improving or deteriorating. The statements of revenues, expenses and changes in net position show how the Authority's net position changed during the fiscal year. All changes in net position are reported as soon as the underlying event that caused the change occurs, regardless of the timing of the related cash flows.

## Duluth Seaway Port Authority

### Management's Discussion and Analysis March 31, 2021

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#### Notes to Financial Statements

The notes provide additional information that is essential to a full understanding of the data provided in the financial statements.

#### Other Information

In addition to the basic financial statements and accompanying notes, this report also contains the combining statements referred to earlier. These statements follow the notes to the financial statements.

#### Financial Analysis

As noted earlier, over time, net position may serve as a useful indicator of the Authority's financial position. The largest portion of the Authority's net position, 83% in 2021 and 82% in 2020, is net investment in capital assets (land and improvements, buildings, and equipment). The Authority uses these assets to provide services to its clients; therefore, these assets are not available for future spending.

Of the Authority's net position balance, 1% in 2021 and 6% in 2020 is restricted for compliance with provisions of bond indentures and grants.

The remaining balance of net position, 16% in 2021 and 12% in 2020 is unrestricted and may be used to meet the Authority's ongoing obligations to its clients and creditors. The unrestricted component of net position is the net amount of the assets, deferred outflows of resources, liabilities and deferred inflows of resources that are not restricted or included in the determination of net investment in capital assets.

The following table presents a summary of the Authority's net position at March 31, 2021, 2020 and 2019:

	2021	2020	2019
Current and other assets	\$ 11,956,317	\$ 12,399,250	\$ 13,320,582
Capital assets	56,856,366	52,903,228	46,086,436
Deferred outflows	122,764	78,398	161,297
Total assets and deferred outflows	68,935,447	65,380,876	59,568,315
Long-term debt outstanding	4,384,072	4,721,895	1,446,613
Other liabilities	1,656,089	1,419,591	1,539,446
Deferred inflows	110,949	275,634	263,945
Total liabilities and deferred inflows	6,151,110	6,417,120	3,250,004
Net position:			
Net investment in capital assets	52,174,504	47,995,266	44,458,532
Restricted	323,356	3,782,023	1,086,188
Unrestricted	10,286,477	7,186,467	10,773,591
Total net position	\$ 62,784,337	\$ 58,963,756	\$ 56,318,311

During 2021, capital assets increased largely due to improvements and purchases related to the Seaway Building of \$3,000,000, Duluth Lake Port dock for \$950,000, cargo handling equipment for \$725,000 and various other additions, resulting in an increase net of depreciation of approximately \$4,000,000.

During 2020, capital assets increased largely due to increased activity in construction in progress related to renovations of administrative building and land improvements, resulting in an increase of \$6,800,000. Also during 2020, long-term debt outstanding increased due to the Authority entering into a debt agreement for \$3,500,000 to finance capital asset acquisition. See Note 4 for further details.

## Duluth Seaway Port Authority

### Management's Discussion and Analysis March 31, 2021

To give users a better understanding of the sources and uses of the Authority's net position, the table that follows presents a summary of revenues and expenses for the years ended March 31, 2021, 2020 and 2019. The schedule below shows revenues by source and expenses by function.

	2021	2020	2019
Revenues:			
Operating revenues	\$ 5,265,577	\$ 4,368,404	\$ 3,697,656
General revenues:			
Property taxes	1,286,174	1,209,729	1,154,915
Interest	72,851	187,493	221,658
Other	4,102	10,176	13,825
Total revenues	6,628,704	5,775,802	5,088,054
Expenses:			
Administration	1,368,032	1,374,071	1,489,717
Port promotion	763,984	772,304	700,413
Port development	271,583	267,609	293,493
Marine terminal	330,872	574,681	561,716
Interest on long-term debt	184,035	86,502	56,110
Depreciation	2,149,631	2,020,665	1,761,253
Total expenses	5,068,137	5,095,832	4,862,702
Capital grants and contributed capital	2,260,014	1,965,475	-
Increase in net position	3,820,581	2,645,445	225,352
Net position:			
Beginning of year	58,963,756	56,318,311	56,092,959
End of year	\$ 62,784,337	\$ 58,963,756	\$ 56,318,311

During 2021, the Authority received a capital grant and incurred eligible expenditures resulting in capital grant revenue of \$2,237,500 related to the renovation of the administrative building. In addition, the Authority had an increase of facilities fees revenue of \$500,000 due to increased terminal and port activity.

During 2020, the Authority received contributed capital of \$2,000,000 from the City of Duluth, Minnesota, for the development of berths. In addition, operating revenues increased \$670,000 primarily from an increase in rental revenue.

#### Capital Assets

The Authority's investment in capital assets, net of accumulated depreciation, was \$56,856,366 and \$52,903,228 as of March 31, 2021 and 2020, respectively. This investment includes land and improvements, buildings, equipment and construction in progress. The Authority's total investment in capital assets, net of accumulated depreciation, increased 7% during 2021. Additional information related to the Authority's capital assets can be found in Note 3 of the notes to the financial statements.



## **Duluth Seaway Port Authority**

### **Management's Discussion and Analysis March 31, 2021**

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#### **Debt**

At year-end, the Authority has \$4,384,072 in long-term debt compared to \$4,721,895 in 2020. Additional information related to the Authority's debt can be found in Note 4 of the financial statements.

#### **Economic Factors and Next Year's Budgets**

The Authority's revenues derive from revenue operation of the Clure Public Marine Terminal (cargo handling, warehousing, ship berthing, intermodal terminal operations), leasing, grant funds and a tax levy from St. Louis County. For fiscal year 2022, the Authority anticipates that general maritime cargo activity at the Clure Public Marine Terminal will be down compared to fiscal years 2021 and 2020 when the Terminal handled 33 and 24 vessels, respectively, and produced higher revenue compared to previous years' levels. The Authority expects intermodal terminal operations, warehousing activity and the tax levy to be on par with fiscal year 2018, with possible growth in intermodal activity.

The Authority has been awarded a MARAD – Port Infrastructure Development Program (PIDP) grant for \$10.5 million and two Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) Port Development Assistance Program (PDAP) grants totaling \$7.4 million. These grants will help fund the construction of a 58,000-square-foot rail-served warehouse addition at the Clure Public Marine Terminal, along with rehabilitation of 1,775 lineal feet of deteriorating dock walls at Berth 10 and 11 of the Clure Terminal Expansion. These improvements will enhance the Authority's ability to provide supply chain cost savings to regional industries, helping keep them competitive in the global marketplace. This infrastructure upgrade will allow increased cargo storage and movement flexibility, which allows cargo owners to take greater advantage of market opportunities. Construction is to begin in the spring of 2022 with final completion in the fall of 2024.

The Authority purchased a 1910-era building on Rice's Point in 2019 with the intent of remodeling it for use as the Authority's new office headquarters. The building formerly served as a primary school and, more recently, an office building. The remodeling of the building began June 1, 2020, and completed in March 2021.

On December 1, 2020, the Authority acquired Duluth Lake Port dock on Rice's Point. The future use of this property is still in the planning phase; the Authority's goal is to revitalize the pier and bring it back to life in a way that contributes to its regional economy and further expands service to customers within the Authority's region and around the globe.

In 2010, the Authority entered into a purchase agreement to obtain a 123-acre parcel of land from the United States Steel Corporation in the interest of creating large developable sites for industrial use to support the regional economy. This parcel of land is part of a 600-acre Superfund Site that was previously home to the U.S. Steel Duluth Works integrated steel mill. The purchase is dependent on a successful clean-up of the site. To date, working with U.S. Steel, the Authority has completed the Phase II environmental investigation stage (inclusive of the collection and laboratory analysis of soil and ground water samples) and prepared a draft Response Action Plan (RAP) for the clean-up of the site. Upon completion, the Authority and U.S. Steel will submit the RAP to the Minnesota PCA for approval. The Authority has obtained special tax increment legislation, which will support the redevelopment if the site is purchased.

#### **Requests for Information**

This financial report is meant to provide a general overview for all those with an interest in the Authority's finances. Questions concerning information provided in the report, or requests for additional financial information, should be addressed to the Authority, 802 Garfield Ave., Duluth, Minnesota 55802, Attention: Chief Financial Officer.

Duluth Seaway Port Authority

Statements of Net Position  
March 31, 2021 and 2020

	2021	2020
<b>Assets and Deferred Outflows</b>		
Current assets:		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 584,464	\$ 3,047,056
Investments	8,144,889	2,976,402
Receivables:		
Taxes	1,289,443	1,213,257
Accounts, less allowance for doubtful accounts of \$0 in 2021 and 2020	46,841	380,396
Interest	7,362	27,947
Due from other governments	561,815	3,000
Prepaid expenses	114,836	85,858
<b>Total current unrestricted assets</b>	<b>10,749,650</b>	<b>7,733,916</b>
Current restricted assets (Note 8):		
Cash and cash equivalents	2,085	2,085
Investments	321,271	3,779,938
<b>Total current restricted assets</b>	<b>323,356</b>	<b>3,782,023</b>
Capital assets (Note 3):		
Land and land improvements	45,077,811	43,866,794
Buildings	33,138,593	32,880,543
Equipment	7,530,026	6,760,991
Construction in progress	5,810,478	1,945,811
	<b>91,556,908</b>	85,454,139
Less accumulated depreciation	34,700,542	32,550,911
<b>Total capital assets</b>	<b>56,856,366</b>	52,903,228
Other assets:		
Restricted cash and cash equivalents (Note 8)	55,500	55,500
Land held for sale, at cost	827,811	827,811
<b>Total other assets</b>	<b>883,311</b>	883,311
<b>Total assets</b>	<b>68,812,683</b>	65,302,478
Deferred outflows of resources:		
Deferred pension amounts (Note 5)	122,764	78,398
<b>Total assets and deferred outflows</b>	<b>\$ 68,935,447</b>	<b>\$ 65,380,876</b>

See notes to financial statements.

	2021	2020
<b>Liabilities, Deferred Inflows and Net Position</b>		
Current liabilities:		
Accounts payable:		
Trade	\$ 55,686	\$ 83,836
Construction and equipment	297,790	186,067
Accrued payroll liabilities	133,513	120,920
Unearned revenue (Note 6)	99,288	97,421
Current maturities of long-term debt (Note 4)	354,858	342,145
<b>Total current liabilities</b>	<b>941,135</b>	<b>830,389</b>
Long-term debt, less current maturities (Note 4)	4,029,214	4,379,750
Net pension liability (Note 5)	827,373	691,097
Long-term accrued payroll liabilities	186,939	184,750
Other long-term liabilities	55,500	55,500
<b>Total liabilities</b>	<b>6,040,161</b>	<b>6,141,486</b>
Deferred inflows of resources:		
Deferred pension amounts (Note 5)	110,949	275,634
<b>Total liabilities and deferred inflows</b>	<b>6,151,110</b>	<b>6,417,120</b>
Net position:		
Net investment in capital assets	52,174,504	47,995,266
Restricted (Note 8)	323,356	3,782,023
Unrestricted	10,286,477	7,186,467
<b>Total net position</b>	<b>62,784,337</b>	<b>58,963,756</b>
<b>Total liabilities, deferred inflows and net position</b>	<b>\$ 68,935,447</b>	<b>\$ 65,380,876</b>

**Duluth Seaway Port Authority**

**Statements of Revenues, Expenses and Changes in Net Position  
Years Ended March 31, 2021 and 2020**

	2021	2020
Operating revenues	\$ 5,265,577	\$ 4,368,404
Operating expenses, excluding depreciation	<u>2,734,471</u>	2,988,665
<b>Operating income before depreciation</b>	<b>2,531,106</b>	1,379,739
Depreciation	<u>2,149,631</u>	2,020,665
<b>Operating income (loss)</b>	<b>381,475</b>	(640,926)
Nonoperating revenues (expenses):		
General tax levies	1,286,174	1,209,729
Interest income	72,851	187,493
Other revenues	4,102	10,176
Interest expense	<u>(184,035)</u>	(86,502)
	<u>1,179,092</u>	1,320,896
<b>Income before capital grants and contributed capital</b>	<b>1,560,567</b>	679,970
Capital grants and contributed capital	<u>2,260,014</u>	1,965,475
<b>Change in net position</b>	<b>3,820,581</b>	2,645,445
Net position:		
Beginning of year	<u>58,963,756</u>	56,318,311
End of year	<u><b>\$ 62,784,337</b></u>	<u>\$ 58,963,756</u>

See notes to financial statements.

**Duluth Seaway Port Authority**

**Statements of Cash Flows**  
**Years Ended March 31, 2021 and 2020**

	2021	2020
Cash flows from operating activities:		
Receipts from customers	\$ 5,593,101	\$ 4,511,014
Payments to suppliers	(1,398,376)	(1,642,678)
Payments to employees	(1,451,216)	(1,380,562)
Other receipts	12,000	113,871
<b>Net cash provided by operating activities</b>	<b>2,755,509</b>	<b>1,601,645</b>
Cash flows from noncapital financing activities:		
General tax levies	1,209,988	1,154,831
<b>Net cash provided by noncapital financing activities</b>	<b>1,209,988</b>	<b>1,154,831</b>
Cash flows from capital and related financing activities:		
Purchase of capital assets	(5,991,046)	(6,932,681)
Receipts from other governments	1,701,199	65,475
Proceeds on long-term debt	-	3,500,000
Principal payments on long-term debt	(337,823)	(224,718)
Interest paid on long-term debt	(184,035)	(86,502)
<b>Net cash used in capital and related financing activities</b>	<b>(4,811,705)</b>	<b>(3,678,426)</b>
Cash flows from investing activities:		
Purchase of investments	(7,988,000)	(10,418,161)
Proceeds from maturities of investments	6,278,180	12,558,034
Interest received	93,436	174,218
<b>Net cash provided by (used in) investing activities</b>	<b>(1,616,384)</b>	<b>2,314,091</b>
<b>Net increase (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents</b>	<b>(2,462,592)</b>	<b>1,392,141</b>
Cash and cash equivalents:		
Beginning	3,104,641	1,712,500
Ending	<b>\$ 642,049</b>	<b>\$ 3,104,641</b>
Cash and cash equivalents are reported as follows:		
Current assets	\$ 584,464	\$ 3,047,056
Restricted assets	2,085	2,085
Other assets	55,500	55,500
	<b>\$ 642,049</b>	<b>\$ 3,104,641</b>

(Continued)

**Duluth Seaway Port Authority**

**Statements of Cash Flows (Continued)  
Years Ended March 31, 2021 and 2020**

	2021	2020
Reconciliation of operating loss to net cash provided by operating activities:		
Operating income (loss)	\$ 381,475	\$ (640,926)
Adjustments to reconcile operating income (loss) to net cash provided by operating activities:		
Bad debt		
Depreciation	2,149,631	2,020,665
Miscellaneous nonoperating receipts	4,102	10,176
Change in deferred outflows	(44,366)	82,899
Change in deferred inflows	(164,685)	11,689
Changes in assets and liabilities:		
Receivables	333,555	244,543
Prepaid expenses	(28,978)	(4,497)
Land held for sale	-	1,727
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	(13,368)	(5,815)
Unearned revenue	1,867	35
Net pension liability	136,276	(118,851)
<b>Net cash provided by operating activities</b>	<b>\$ 2,755,509</b>	<b>\$ 1,601,645</b>
Supplemental schedule of noncash capital and related financing activities:		
Accounts payable, capital assets	\$ 297,790	\$ 186,067
Contributed capital	\$ -	\$ 1,900,000

See notes to financial statements.

## Duluth Seaway Port Authority

### Notes to Financial Statements

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#### Note 1. Nature of Operations and Significant Accounting Policies

**Nature of operations:** Duluth Seaway Port Authority (the Authority) is a corporate body created in accordance with Minnesota Statute Section 469.048. The Authority is an enterprise operation managed by a seven-member Board of Commissioners appointed as follows: two by the State of Minnesota, two by St. Louis County, and three by the City of Duluth, Minnesota.

The operational departments within the Authority are as follows:

**Administration:** The Authority oversees all departments and monitors all enterprise operations within the Port District. Revenue consists principally of rental revenues. Substantially all property and equipment is leased to others.

**Port promotion:** The Authority promotes the use of the Port of Duluth (the Port) on a local, regional, national and global basis; responds to the needs of both the users of the Port and the providers of services within the Port; and encourages shippers to use the public marine terminal.

**Port development:** The Authority oversees owned property and facilities and assists with development of the private and public enterprise operations within the Port District.

**Marine terminal:** The Authority owns maritime facilities that are operated by a private company under an agent operating agreement.

**Reporting entity:** Generally accepted accounting principles define the financial reporting entity as consisting of (a) the primary government, (b) organizations for which the primary government is financially accountable and (c) other organizations for which the nature and significance of their relationships with the primary government are such that exclusion would cause the reporting entity's financial statements to be misleading or incomplete.

Based upon the criteria provided, there are no entities that should be presented with the Authority.

The Authority is considered a special-purpose government and is not a component unit of any other government because a voting majority of its Board of Commissioners is not appointed by any single entity and it is fiscally independent.

#### Significant accounting policies:

**Measurement focus and basis of accounting:** The Authority's financial statements are reported using the economic resources measurement focus and the accrual basis of accounting. Revenues, expenses, assets and liabilities resulting from exchange and exchange-type transactions are recognized when the exchange takes place. Nonexchange transactions, in which the Authority gives or receives value without directly receiving or giving equal value in exchange, include grants, entitlements and donations. Revenues from grants, entitlements and donations are recognized in the fiscal year in which all eligibility requirements imposed by the provider have been satisfied. The operating statements present increases (revenues) and decreases (expenses) in net position.

**Cash and cash equivalents:** For purposes of reporting the statements of cash flows, the Authority considers all cash accounts and highly liquid debt instruments purchased with a maturity of three months or less to be cash equivalents. Cash equivalents consist primarily of money market funds.

## Duluth Seaway Port Authority

### Notes to Financial Statements

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#### Note 1. Nature of Operations and Significant Accounting Policies (Continued)

**Investments:** Investments are accounted for at amortized cost or fair value, which is the price that would be received to sell the investment in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date. Fair value of actively traded securities is determined by the reported market value of securities trading on national exchanges. Values of securities not actively traded are based on observable inputs of similar financial instruments or on the fair value of the underlying assets. Realized gains and losses are determined on the specific-identification method. Accrued income on investments is recorded as earned, since it is both measurable and available. Investment transactions are recorded on the settlement date.

**Capital assets:** Capital assets are recorded at cost and depreciated using the straight-line method over their estimated useful lives. Contributed assets are recorded at estimated acquisition cost on the date of received. Capital assets are defined by the Authority as assets with an initial, individual cost of more than \$5,000 and an estimated useful life in excess of one year. Costs incurred for repairs and maintenance are expensed as incurred. The estimated useful lives are as follows:

	<u>Years</u>
Land improvements	10-50
Buildings	20-50
Equipment	4-30

**Deferred inflows and deferred outflows:** Deferred outflows of resources represent a consumption of net position that applies to a future period and so will not be recognized as an expense or expenditure until then. Deferred outflows include pension expense, pension related deferrals, and contributions made to the pension plan in the current fiscal year. Deferred inflows of resources represent an acquisition of net position that applies to a future period and so will not be recognized as revenue until then. Such items include pension contributions and other pension-related deferrals.

**Net position:** Net position of the Authority is classified in three components. Net investment in capital assets consists of capital assets net of accumulated depreciation and reduced by the current balances of any outstanding borrowings used to finance the purchase or construction of these assets. Restricted net position is noncapital net position that must be used for a particular purpose, as specified by external restrictions imposed by creditors, grantors or laws or regulations of other governments. Unrestricted net position is remaining net position that does not meet the definition of net investment in capital assets or restricted.

**Operating revenues and expenses:** Operating revenues and expenses generally result from activities of the Authority's principal ongoing operations, which are administration, port promotion, port development and marine terminal activities. All revenues and expenses not meeting this definition are reported as nonoperating revenues and expenses.

**Property tax levies:** The Authority may request the City of Duluth to levy a tax for its benefit. This mandatory levy may not exceed 0.01813% of the taxable market value of the taxable property in the City. The amount levied is paid to the Authority by St. Louis County.

**Compensated absences:** Employees accumulate vacation hours for subsequent use or for payment upon termination, death or retirement. A maximum carryover of 80 vacation hours has been established by Board resolution. A liability is recorded for earned but unpaid vacation. During 2021, employees earned \$85,085, and used \$73,063 of vacation. During 2020, employees earned \$84,406, and used \$83,171 of vacation. At March 31, 2021 and 2020, the liability totaled \$123,580 and \$111,558, respectively.



## Duluth Seaway Port Authority

### Notes to Financial Statements

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#### Note 1. Nature of Operations and Significant Accounting Policies (Continued)

The Authority makes payments to the Minnesota State Retirement System Health Care Savings Plan for employees with 10 years of continuous service at time of retirement. The total of the payments made for a retiree is limited to the number of unused sick days at retirement (up to a maximum of 120 days) multiplied by the average daily earnings of all full-time employees at the retirement date. The Authority accrues this benefit for qualifying employees over the five-year period preceding their retirement dates. At March 31, 2021 and 2020, the liability totaled \$186,939 and \$184,750, respectively.

**Advertising costs:** Advertising costs are expensed as incurred. Advertising expense amounted to \$212,083 in 2021 and \$212,454 in 2020.

**Pensions:** For purposes of measuring the net pension liability, deferred outflows and inflows of resources, and pension expense, information about the fiduciary net position of the Public Employees Retirement Association (PERA) and additions to and deductions from PERA's fiduciary net position have been determined on the same basis as they are reported by PERA except that PERA's fiscal year-end is June 30. For this purpose, plan contributions are recognized as of employer payroll paid dates and benefit payments and refunds are recognized when due and payable in accordance with the benefit terms. Investments are reported at fair value.

**Use of estimates in the preparation of financial statements:** The preparation of financial statements 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.

#### Note 2. Deposits and Investments

The carrying amount of deposits and investments are included in the Authority's statements of net position as follows:

	2021	2020
Deposits with financial institutions	\$ 44,709	\$ 74,472
Investments:		
U.S. Treasury bills	1,492,364	988,179
U.S. Treasury notes	1,688,974	248,701
Certificates of deposit	5,284,822	5,519,460
Money market funds	597,340	3,030,169
	<u>\$ 9,108,209</u>	<u>\$ 9,860,981</u>
	2021	2020
Current assets:		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 584,464	\$ 3,047,056
Investments	8,144,889	2,976,402
Current restricted assets:		
Cash and cash equivalents	2,085	2,085
Investments	321,271	3,779,938
Other assets, restricted cash and cash equivalents	55,500	55,500
	<u>\$ 9,108,209</u>	<u>\$ 9,860,981</u>

## Duluth Seaway Port Authority

### Notes to Financial Statements

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#### Note 2. Deposits and Investments (Continued)

**Deposits:** In accordance with Minnesota Statutes, the Authority maintains deposits at those depository banks authorized by the Board. Such depositories are members of the Federal Reserve System.

Minnesota Statutes require that all Authority deposits be protected by surety bond or collateral. Authorized collateral includes U.S. governmental treasury bills, notes or bonds; issues of U.S. government agencies; certain rated general and revenue obligations of state and local governments; certain types of standby letters of credit and insured certificates of deposit. Minnesota Statutes require that securities pledged as collateral be held in safekeeping by the Authority's Treasurer or in a financial institution other than that furnishing collateral. The market value of collateral pledged must equal 110% of the deposits not covered by insurance or bonds (140% in the case of mortgage notes pledged). The Authority does not have a formal policy for deposits.

At March 31, 2021, the Authority's deposits and certificates of deposit were entirely covered by federal depository insurance and pledged collateral.

**Investments:** Minnesota Statutes authorize the Authority to invest in obligations of the U.S. Treasury, its agencies and instrumentalities, repurchase agreements, shares of certain investment companies, general obligations of the State of Minnesota and its municipalities, banker's acceptances, commercial paper and guaranteed investment contracts.

**Investment policy:** The Authority does not have a formal investment policy.

**Credit risk:** Generally, credit risk is the risk that the issuer of a debt type investment will not fulfill its obligation to the holder of the investment. This is measured by assignment of a rating by a nationally recognized rating organization. As of March 31, 2021, the Authority's money market funds, U.S. Treasury bills, and certificates of deposits had a credit rating of Aaa-mf, Unrated, and Unrated, respectively, as reported by Moody's.

**Custodial credit risk:** This is the risk that in the event of the failure of the counterparty (e.g., broker dealer) to a transaction, a government will not be able to recover the value of its investment or collateral securities that are in possession of another party. As of March 31, 2021, the Authority's investments were held in the name of the Authority and are not subject to custodial credit risk.

**Interest rate risk:** This is the risk that changes in market interest rates will adversely affect the fair value of an investment. Investments with longer maturities have greater sensitivity to fair value changes based on market interest rates. U.S. Treasury bills, U.S. Treasury notes and certificates of deposit have a maturity of less than two years.

**Fair value reporting:** The Authority's investments in money market funds are measured at amortized cost.

There is an established hierarchy of valuation inputs based on the extent to which the inputs are observable in the market place. A financial instrument's level within the fair value hierarchy is based on the lowest level of any input that is significant to the fair value measurement. The following describes the hierarchy of inputs used to measure fair value and primary valuation methodologies used for financial instruments measured at fair value on a recurring basis:

**Level 1:** Investments are those whose values are based on quoted prices (unadjusted) for identical assets (liabilities) in active markets that a government can access at measurement date.

**Level 2:** Investments are those with inputs, other than quoted prices included within Level 1 that are observable for an asset (liability), either directly or indirectly.

**Level 3:** Investments classified as Level 3 have unobservable inputs for an asset (liability) and may require a degree of professional judgment.

## Duluth Seaway Port Authority

### Notes to Financial Statements

#### Note 2. Deposits and Investments (Continued)

The U.S. Treasury bills and U.S. Treasury notes are valued using the Level 1 inputs of the fair value hierarchy. Certificates of deposit are valued using the Level 2 inputs of the fair value hierarchy.

#### Note 3. Capital Assets

	Cost			
	Balance	Additions	Reclassifications/ Deletions	Balance
	March 31, 2020		March 31, 2021	March 31, 2021
Land and land improvements	\$ 43,866,794	\$ -	\$ 1,211,017	\$ 45,077,811
Buildings	32,880,543	-	258,050	33,138,593
Equipment	6,760,991	-	769,035	7,530,026
Construction in progress	1,945,811	6,102,769	(2,238,102)	5,810,478
	<u>\$ 85,454,139</u>	<u>\$ 6,102,769</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 91,556,908</u>

	Accumulated Depreciation			Balance March 31, 2021	Net Book Value March 31, 2021
	Balance	Additions	Deductions		
	March 31, 2020				
Land and land improvements	\$ 10,720,245	\$ 1,073,987	\$ -	\$ 11,794,232	\$ 33,283,579
Buildings	17,377,684	875,731	-	18,253,415	14,885,178
Equipment	4,452,982	199,913	-	4,652,895	2,877,131
Construction in progress	-	-	-	-	5,810,478
	<u>\$ 32,550,911</u>	<u>\$ 2,149,631</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 34,700,542</u>	<u>\$ 56,856,366</u>

	Cost			
	Balance	Additions	Reclassifications/ Deletions	Balance
	March 31, 2019		March 31, 2020	March 31, 2020
Land and land improvements	\$ 39,869,369	\$ -	\$ 3,997,425	\$ 43,866,794
Buildings	28,630,556	-	4,249,987	32,880,543
Equipment	6,735,628	-	25,363	6,760,991
Construction in progress	1,407,841	8,837,457	(8,299,487)	1,945,811
	<u>\$ 76,643,394</u>	<u>\$ 8,837,457</u>	<u>\$ (26,712)</u>	<u>\$ 85,454,139</u>

	Accumulated Depreciation			Balance March 31, 2020	Net Book Value March 31, 2020
	Balance	Additions	Deductions		
	March 31, 2019				
Land and land improvements	\$ 9,725,469	\$ 994,776	\$ -	\$ 10,720,245	\$ 33,146,549
Buildings	16,551,122	826,562	-	17,377,684	15,502,859
Equipment	4,280,367	199,327	(26,712)	4,452,982	2,308,009
Construction in progress	-	-	-	-	1,945,811
	<u>\$ 30,556,958</u>	<u>\$ 2,020,665</u>	<u>\$ (26,712)</u>	<u>\$ 32,550,911</u>	<u>\$ 52,903,228</u>

**Duluth Seaway Port Authority**

**Notes to Financial Statements**

**Note 4. Long-Term Debt**

	2021	2020
Direct borrowings:		
Note payable at a fixed rate of 3.00%, due in monthly installments of \$17,158 due on February 15, 2027. Lease revenues and a building are pledged as collateral.	\$ 1,113,252	\$ 1,282,498
Note payable at a fixed rate of 4.25%, due in monthly installments of \$26,330 due on November 22, 2034. Lease revenues and a building are pledged as collateral.	3,270,820	3,439,397
	<u>4,384,072</u>	<u>4,721,895</u>
Less current maturities	354,858	342,145
	<u>\$ 4,029,214</u>	<u>\$ 4,379,750</u>

The following is a summary of changes in long-term debt at March 31, 2021 and 2020:

	2021				
	Beginning Balance	Additions	Deletions	Ending Balance	Due Within One Year
Notes from direct borrowings	\$ 4,721,895	\$ -	\$ 337,823	\$ 4,384,072	\$ 354,858
	<u>\$ 4,721,895</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 337,823</u>	<u>\$ 4,384,072</u>	<u>\$ 354,858</u>
	2020				
Notes from direct borrowings	\$ 1,446,613	\$ 3,500,000	\$ 224,718	\$ 4,721,895	\$ 342,145
	<u>\$ 1,446,613</u>	<u>\$ 3,500,000</u>	<u>\$ 224,718</u>	<u>\$ 4,721,895</u>	<u>\$ 342,145</u>

The Authority's outstanding notes from direct borrowings contain a provision that in an event of default, outstanding amounts become immediately due.

Debt service requirements on long-term debt at March 31, 2021, are as follows:

Years ending March 31:	Principal	Interest	Total
2022	\$ 354,858	\$ 166,999	\$ 521,857
2023	368,058	153,800	521,858
2024	381,713	140,145	521,858
2025	395,989	125,868	521,857
2026	410,764	111,294	522,058
Thereafter	2,472,690	453,896	2,926,586
	<u>\$ 4,384,072</u>	<u>\$ 1,152,002</u>	<u>\$ 5,536,074</u>

## Duluth Seaway Port Authority

### Notes to Financial Statements

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#### Note 5. Defined Benefit Pension Plan Statewide

**Plan description:** The Authority participates in the following cost-sharing multiple-employer defined benefit pension plans administered by PERA. PERA's defined benefit pension plans are established and administered in accordance with Minnesota Statutes, Chapters 353 and 356. PERA's defined benefit pension plans are tax-qualified plans under section 401(a) of the Internal Revenue Code. The General Employees Retirement Plan covers certain full time and part-time employees of the Authority. General Employees Plan members belong to the Coordinated Plan. Coordinated Plan members are covered by Social Security.

**Benefits provided:** PERA provides retirement, disability and death benefits. Benefit provisions are established by state statute and can only be modified by the state legislature. Vested, terminated employees who are entitled to benefits, but are not receiving them yet, are bound by the provisions in effect at the time they last terminated their public service.

Benefits are based on a member's highest average salary for any five successive years of allowable service, age, and years of credit at termination of service. Two methods are used to compute benefits for PERA's Coordinated Plan members. Members hired prior to July 1, 1989, receive the higher of Method 1 or Method 2 formulas. Only Method 2 is used for members hired after June 30, 1989. Under Method 1, the accrual rate for Coordinated members is 1.2% for each of the first 10 years of service and 1.7% for each additional year. Under Method 2, the accrual rate for Coordinated members is 1.7% for all years of service. For members hired prior to July 1, 1989 a full annuity is available when age plus years of service equal 90 and normal retirement age is 65. For members hired on or after July 1, 1989, normal retirement age is the age for unreduced Social Security benefits capped at 66."

Benefit increases are provided to benefit recipients each January. The postretirement increase is equal to 50% of the cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) announced by the Social Security Administration (SSA), with a minimum increase of at least 1% and a maximum of 1.5%. Recipients that have been receiving the annuity or benefit for at least a full year as of the June 30 before the effective date of the increase will receive the full increase. Recipients receiving the annuity or benefit for at least one month but less than a full year as of the June 30 before the effective date of the increase will receive a reduced prorated increase. For members retiring on January 1, 2024, or later, the increase will be delayed until normal retirement age (age 65 if hired prior to July 1, 1989, or age 66 for individuals hired on or after July 1, 1989). Members retiring under Rule of 90 are exempt from the delay to normal retirement.

**Contributions:** Minnesota Statutes Chapter 353 sets the rates for employer and employee contributions. Contribution rates can only be modified by the state legislature.

For calendar years 2021 and 2020, Coordinated Plan members were required to contribute 6.5% of their annual covered salary. In calendar years 2021 and 2020, the Authority was required to contribute 7.5% for Coordinated Plan members. The Authority's contributions to the General Employees Retirement Fund (GERF) for the years ended March 31, 2021 and 2020, were \$74,190 and \$73,075, respectively. The Authority's contributions were equal to the required contributions as set by state statute.

**Pension costs:** At March 31, 2021 and 2020, the Authority reported a liability of \$827,373 and \$691,097, respectively, for its proportionate share of the GERF's net pension liability. The Authority's net pension liability reflected a reduction due to the State of Minnesota's contribution of \$16 million.

## Duluth Seaway Port Authority

### Notes to Financial Statements

#### Note 5. Defined Benefit Pension Plan Statewide (Continued)

The State of Minnesota is considered a nonemployer contributing entity and the state's contribution meets the definition of a special funding situation. The State of Minnesota's proportionate share of the net pension liability associated with the Authority totaled \$25,467. The net pension liability was measured as of June 30, 2020, and the total pension liability used to calculate the net pension liability was determined by an actuarial valuation as of that date. The Authority's proportionate share of the net pension liability was based on the Authority's contributions received by PERA during the measurement period for employer payroll paid dates from July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2020, relative to the total employer contributions received from all of PERA's participating employers. At June 30, 2020 and 2019, the Authority's proportion was 0.0138% and 0.0125%, respectively.

Authority's proportionate share of the net pension liability	\$ 827,373
State of Minnesota's proportionate share of the net pension liability associated with the Authority	25,467
Total	<u>\$ 852,840</u>

For the years ended March 31, 2021 and 2020, the Authority recognized pension expense of negative \$72,745 and \$61,051, respectively, for its proportionate share of the General Employees Plan's pension expense. In addition, for the years ended March 31, 2021 and 2020, the Authority recognized an additional \$2,216 and \$1,610, respectively, as pension expense (and grant revenue) for its proportionate share of the State of Minnesota's pension expense for the annual \$16 million contribution.

At March 31, 2021 and 2020, the Authority reported its proportionate share of the General Employees Plan's deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to pensions from the following sources:

	2021		2020	
	Deferred Outflows of Resources	Deferred Inflows of Resources	Deferred Outflows of Resources	Deferred Inflows of Resources
Differences between expected and actual economic experience	\$ 6,883	\$ 3,131	\$ 21,559	\$ -
Changes in actuarial assumptions	-	30,417	-	64,114
Net difference between projected and actual investment earnings	6,673	-	-	85,845
Changes in proportion	53,906	77,401	2,030	125,675
Contributions paid to PERA subsequent to the measurement date	55,302	-	54,809	-
Total	<u>\$ 122,764</u>	<u>\$ 110,949</u>	<u>\$ 78,398</u>	<u>\$ 275,634</u>

**Duluth Seaway Port Authority**

**Notes to Financial Statements**

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**Note 5. Defined Benefit Pension Plan Statewide (Continued)**

The amount of \$55,302 reported as deferred outflows of resources related to pensions resulting from the Authority's contributions subsequent to the measurement date will be recognized as a reduction of the net pension liability in the year ended March 31, 2021. Other amounts reported as deferred outflows and inflows of resources related to pensions will be recognized in pension expense as follows:

	<u>Pension Expense</u>
Years ending March 31:	
2022	\$ (84,141)
2023	(12,922)
2024	33,583
2025	19,993
	<u>\$ (43,487)</u>

**Actuarial assumptions:** The total pension liability in the June 30, 2020 and 2019, actuarial valuations were determined using the following actuarial assumptions:

	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>
Inflation	2.25% per year	2.50% per year
Active member payroll growth	3.00% per year	3.25% per year
Investment rate of return	7.50%	7.50%

Salary increases were based on a service-related table. Mortality rates for active members, retirees, survivors and disabilitants were based on Pub-2010 General Employee Mortality, with slight adjustments to fit PERA's experience. Cost of living benefit increase after retirement for retirees are assumed to be 1.25% per year.

Actuarial assumptions used in the June 30, 2020, valuation were based on the results of actuarial experience studies. The most recent four-year experience study in the GERP was completed in 2019. The assumption changes were adopted by the Board and became effective with the July 1, 2020, actuarial valuation.

The following changes in actuarial assumptions and plan provisions occurred in 2020:

**GERF:**

***Changes in actuarial assumptions:***

- The price inflation assumption was decreased from 2.50% to 2.25%.
- The payroll growth assumption was decreased from 3.25% to 3.00%.
- Assumed salary increase rates were changed as recommended in the June 30, 2019, experience study. The net effect is assumed rates that average 0.25% less than previous rates.
- Assumed rates of retirement were changed as recommended in the June 30, 2019, experience study. The changes result in more unreduced (normal) retirements and slightly fewer Rule of 90 and early retirements.

## Duluth Seaway Port Authority

### Notes to Financial Statements

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#### Note 5. Defined Benefit Pension Plan Statewide (Continued)

- Assumed rates of termination were changed as recommended in the June 30, 2019, experience study. The new rates are based on service and are generally lower than the previous rates for years 2-5 and slightly higher thereafter.
- Assumed rates of disability were changed as recommended in the June 30, 2019, experience study. The change results in fewer predicted disability retirements for males and females.
- The base mortality table for healthy annuitants and employees was changed from the RP-2014 table to the Pub-2010 General Mortality table, with adjustments. The base mortality table for disabled annuitants was changed from the RP-2014 disabled annuitant mortality table to the PUB-2010 General/Teacher disabled annuitant mortality table, with adjustments.
- The mortality improvement scale was changed from Scale MP-2018 to Scale MP-2019.
- The assumed spouse age difference was changed from two years older for females to one year older.
- The assumed number of married male new retirees electing the 100% Joint & Survivor option changed from 35% to 45%. The assumed number of married female new retirees electing the 100% Joint & Survivor option changed from 15% to 30%. The corresponding number of married new retirees electing the Life annuity option was adjusted accordingly.

#### **Changes in plan provisions:**

- Augmentation for current privatized members was reduced to 2.0% for the period from July 1, 2020 through December 31, 2023, and 0.0% after. Augmentation was eliminated for privatizations occurring after June 30, 2020.'

The State Board of Investment, which manages the investments of PERA, prepares an analysis of the reasonableness on a regular basis of the long-term expected rate of return using a building-block method in which best-estimate ranges of expected future rates of return are developed for each major asset class. These ranges are combined to produce an expected long-term rate of return by weighting the expected future rates of return by the target asset allocation percentages. The target allocation and best estimates of geometric real rates of return for each major asset class are summarized in the following table:

	Target Allocation	Long-Term Expected Real Rate of Return
Domestic equity	35.5%	5.10%
International equity	17.5%	5.30%
Fixed income	20%	0.75%
Private markets	25%	5.90%
Cash equivalents	2%	0.00%
Total	<u>100%</u>	



## Duluth Seaway Port Authority

### Notes to Financial Statements

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#### Note 5. Defined Benefit Pension Plan Statewide (Continued)

**Discount rate:** The discount rate used to measure the total pension liability in 2020 was 7.50%. The projection of cash flows used to determine the discount rate assumed that contributions from plan members and employers will be made at rates set in Minnesota Statutes. Based on these assumptions, the fiduciary net position of the General Employees Fund was projected to be available to make all projected future benefit payments of current plan members. Therefore, the long-term expected rate of return on pension plan investments was applied to all periods of projected benefit payments to determine the total pension liability.

**Pension liability sensitivity:** The following presents the Authority's proportionate share of the net pension liability for all plans it participates in, calculated using the discount rate disclosed in the preceding paragraph, as well as what the Authority's proportionate share of the net pension liability would be if it were calculated using a discount rate one percentage point lower or one percentage point higher than the current discount rate:

	1% Lower (6.50%)	Current Discount Rate (7.50%)	1% Higher (8.50%)
Net pension liability at different discount rates	\$ 1,325,992	\$ 827,373	\$ 416,052

**Pension plan fiduciary net position:** Detailed information about the General Employees Fund's fiduciary net position is available in a separately issued PERA financial report that includes financial statements and required supplementary information. That report may be obtained on the internet at [www.mnpera.org](http://www.mnpera.org).

#### Note 6. Unearned Revenue

	2021	2020
Tenant capital asset rental	\$ 99,288	\$ 97,421

The Authority receives capital asset rentals from various tenants. Payments range from a monthly to an annual basis. Revenue is recognized ratably in income over the terms of the leases.

#### Note 7. Marine Terminal Operations

The Authority has engaged the services of Lake Superior Warehousing Co., Inc. as operator for the Arthur M. Clure Public Marine Terminal through March 31, 2023. The agreement stipulates distributions to Lake Superior Warehousing Co., Inc., and the Authority based on an agreed upon revenue share formula. The Authority has fiscal responsibility for property insurance and facility maintenance, excluding equipment maintenance. Customary harbor charges of dockage, wharfage and mooring are retained by the Authority.

## Duluth Seaway Port Authority

### Notes to Financial Statements

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#### Note 8. Restricted Assets and Net Position

Restricted assets and net position are composed of cash and investments that must be used for a specific purpose as required by contract with outside parties. The following is a summary of the restricted assets and net position at March 31, 2021 and 2020:

	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>
Intergovernmental grants; pledged matching funds:		
Dock wall rehabilitation and warehouse construction	\$ 127,438	\$ 3,017,438
Seaway office building renovation	193,833	762,500
Other	<u>2,085</u>	<u>2,085</u>
Restricted net position	323,356	3,782,023
Tenant and other deposits	<u>55,500</u>	<u>55,500</u>
Restricted assets	<u>\$ 378,856</u>	<u>\$ 3,837,523</u>

#### Note 9. Operating Leases

The Authority leases substantially all of its property and equipment to others. These leases are accounted for as operating leases and expire at various dates through 2073. As of March 31, 2021, minimum lease payments under these operating leases that have initial or remaining noncancelable lease terms in excess of one year are as follows:

Years ending March 31:	
2022	\$ 2,563,121
2023	1,965,661
2024	813,176
2025	543,688
2026	434,196
Thereafter	<u>2,255,129</u>
	<u>\$ 8,574,971</u>

#### Note 10. Risk Management

The Authority is exposed to various risks of losses related to torts; theft of, damage to or destruction of assets; errors or omissions; injuries to employees; and natural disasters. The Authority has purchased commercial insurance for all risks. Settled claims have not exceeded coverage in any of the last three years.

## Duluth Seaway Port Authority

### Notes to Financial Statements

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#### **Note 11. COVID-19 Implications**

On January 30, 2020, the World Health Organization declared the coronavirus outbreak a “Public Health Emergency of International Concern” and on March 11, 2020, declared it to be a pandemic. Actions taken around the world to help mitigate the spread of the coronavirus include restrictions on travel, and quarantines in certain areas, and forced closures for certain types of public places and businesses. The coronavirus and actions taken to mitigate the spread of it have had and are expected to continue to have an adverse impact on the economies and financial markets of many countries, including the geographical area in which the Authority operates. On March 27, 2020, the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act) was enacted to amongst other provisions, provide emergency assistance for individuals, families and businesses affected by the coronavirus pandemic. The Authority received no funding under the CARES Act.

It is unknown how long the adverse conditions associated with the coronavirus will last and what the complete financial effect will be to the Authority. To date, the Authority is not experiencing any adverse conditions associated with the coronavirus.

#### **Note 12. Commitments**

The Authority entered into an agreement with the United States Steel Corporation to purchase 123 acres of land located within a Superfund site for \$10,000 an acre. U.S. Steel has been identified as the responsible party. The purchase is contingent upon the remediation of the contaminated soil and the land being delisted from Superfund status. At March 31, 2021, the Authority had expended \$439,153 for this project. If the remediation cost is deemed to be excessive by either the Authority or U.S. Steel, either party may terminate the purchase agreement. The drilling and analyzing the soil has been completed on the property. The Response Action Plans for both the Superfund delisting (Federal Environmental Protection Agency) and the voluntary investigation and clean-up (Minnesota Pollution Control Agency) are being prepared by U.S. Steel and the Authority. By contract with U.S. Steel, the Authority will be responsible for payment of 25% of the costs to clean the targeted property. All cost associated with testing and cleaning are being recorded as construction in progress. If terminated, the Authority will write-off the capitalized development costs.

The Authority has entered into several contracts, including the renovation of an office building and equipment purchase. The Authority has approximately \$240,000 remaining on these contracts.

#### **Note 13. Pending Accounting Standards**

The Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) has issued the following statements not yet implemented by the Authority. Management has not yet evaluated the impact of these statements. Listed below are the statements that may impact future financial statements of the Authority:

GASB Statement No. 83, *Certain Asset Retirement Obligations*, will be effective for the Authority beginning with its year ending March 31, 2022. This statement establishes guidance for determining the timing and pattern of recognition for liabilities and corresponding deferred outflow of resources related to such obligations. Under this statement, a government that has a legal obligation to perform future asset retirement activities related to its tangible capital assets is required to recognize a liability and a corresponding deferred outflow of resources.

## Duluth Seaway Port Authority

### Notes to Financial Statements

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#### **Note 13. Pending Accounting Standards (Continued)**

GASB Statement No. 87, *Leases*, will be effective for the Authority beginning with its year ending March 31, 2023. This statement increases the usefulness of governments' financial statements 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.

GASB Statement No. 92, *Omnibus*, will be effective for the Authority beginning with its year ending March 31, 2023. This statement includes guidance addressing various accounting and financial reporting issues identified during the implementation and application of certain GASB pronouncements.

GASB Statement No. 94, *Public-Private and Public-Public Partnerships and Availability Payment Arrangements*, will be effective for the Authority beginning with its year ending March 31, 2024. This statement provides guidance to improve accounting and financial reporting for public-private and public-public partnership arrangements and availability payment arrangements. The statement also includes guidance for P3 arrangements, including those that are outside the scope of the GASB's existing literature, namely Statement No. 60, *Accounting and Financial Reporting for Service Concession Arrangements*, and Statement No. 87, *Leases*.

GASB Statement No. 97, *Certain Component Unit Criteria, and Accounting and Financial Reporting for Internal Revenue Code Section 457 Deferred Compensation Plans*, will be effective for the Authority beginning with its year ending March 31, 2023. This statement provides guidance to increase consistency and comparability related to the reporting of fiduciary component units in circumstances in which a potential component unit does not have a governing board and the primary government performs the duties that a governing board typically would perform. The statement also includes guidance to mitigate costs associated with the reporting of certain defined contribution pension plans, defined contribution other postemployment benefit (OPEB) plans, and employee benefit plans other than pension plans or OPEB plans (other employee benefit plans) as fiduciary component units in fiduciary fund financial statements and enhance the relevance, consistency, and comparability of the accounting and financial reporting for Internal Revenue Code (IRC) section 457 deferred compensation plans (section 457 plans) that meet the definition of a pension plan and for benefits provided through those plans.

## **Required Supplementary Information**

**Duluth Seaway Port Authority**

**Schedule of Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability  
PERA General Employees Retirement Fund**

Fiscal Year Ending	Proportion (Percentage) of the Net Pension Liability (NPL)	Proportionate Share (Amount) of the NPL (a)	Covered- Employee Payroll (b)	Proportionate Share of the NPL as a Percentage of its Covered- Employee Payroll (a/b)	Plan Fiduciary Net Position as a Percentage of the Total Pension Liability
June 30, 2014	0.0156%	\$ 732,810	\$ 823,803	88.95%	78.75%
June 30, 2015	0.0155%	803,290	927,786	86.58%	78.19%
June 30, 2016	0.0157%	1,274,762	982,357	129.77%	68.91%
June 30, 2017	0.0158%	1,008,662	1,016,007	99.28%	75.90%
June 30, 2018	0.0146%	809,948	978,548	82.77%	79.53%
June 30, 2019	0.0125%	691,097	887,882	77.84%	80.23%
June 30, 2020	0.0138%	827,373	982,615	84.20%	79.06%

**Duluth Seaway Port Authority**

**Schedule of Pension Contributions  
PERA General Employees Retirement Fund**

Fiscal Year Ended	Statutorily Required Contribution (a)	Contributions in Relation to the Statutorily Required Contribution (b)	Contribution Deficiency (Excess) (a-b)	Covered- Employee Payroll (d)	Contributions as a Percentage of Covered- Employee Payroll (b/d)
March 31, 2015	\$ 65,537	\$ 65,537	\$ -	\$ 895,902	7.3%
March 31, 2016	71,583	71,583	-	971,670	7.4%
March 31, 2017	74,984	74,984	-	999,793	7.5%
March 31, 2018	78,255	78,255	-	1,043,401	7.5%
March 31, 2019	63,579	63,579	-	847,718	7.5%
March 31, 2020	73,075	73,075	-	974,338	7.5%
March 31, 2021	74,190	74,190	-	1,050,905	7.1%

## Duluth Seaway Port Authority

### Notes to Schedule of Changes in Net Pension Liabilities and Related Ratios

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#### 2020 Changes

##### ***Changes in Actuarial Assumptions:***

- The price inflation assumption was decreased from 2.50% to 2.25%.
- The payroll growth assumption was decreased from 3.25% to 3.00%.
- Assumed salary increase rates were changed as recommended in the June 30, 2019, experience study. The net effect is assumed rates that average 0.25% less than previous rates.
- Assumed rates of retirement were changed as recommended in the June 30, 2019, experience study. The changes result in more unreduced (normal) retirements and slightly fewer Rule of 90 and early retirements.
- Assumed rates of termination were changed as recommended in the June 30, 2019, experience study. The new rates are based on service and are generally lower than the previous rates for years 2-5 and slightly higher thereafter.
- Assumed rates of disability were changed as recommended in the June 30, 2019, experience study. The change results in fewer predicted disability retirements for males and females.
- The base mortality table for healthy annuitants and employees was changed from the RP-2014 table to the Pub-2010 General Mortality table, with adjustments. The base mortality table for disabled annuitants was changed from the RP-2014 disabled annuitant mortality table to the PUB-2010 General/Teacher disabled annuitant mortality table, with adjustments.
- The mortality improvement scale was changed from Scale MP-2018 to Scale MP-2019.
- The assumed spouse age difference was changed from two years older for females to one year older.
- The assumed number of married male new retirees electing the 100% Joint & Survivor option changed from 35% to 45%. The assumed number of married female new retirees electing the 100% Joint & Survivor option changed from 15% to 30%. The corresponding number of married new retirees electing the Life annuity option was adjusted accordingly.

##### ***Changes in Plan Provisions:***

- Augmentation for current privatized members was reduced to 2.0% for the period from July 1, 2020 through December 31, 2023, and 0.0% after. Augmentation was eliminated for privatizations occurring after June 30, 2020.

#### 2019 Changes

##### ***Changes in Actuarial Assumptions:***

- The mortality projection scale was changed from MP-2017 to MP-2018.

##### ***Changes in Plan Provisions:***

- The employer supplemental contribution was changed prospectively, decreasing from \$31.0 million to \$21.0 million per year. The State's special funding contribution was changed prospectively, requiring \$16.0 million due per year through 2031.



## Duluth Seaway Port Authority

### Notes to Schedule of Changes in Net Pension Liabilities and Related Ratios

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#### 2018 Changes

##### ***Changes in Actuarial Assumptions:***

- The morality projection scale was changed from MP-2015 to MP-2017.
- The assumed benefit increase was changed from 1.00% per year through 2044 and 2.50% per year thereafter to 1.25% per year.

##### ***Changes in Plan Provisions:***

- The augmentation adjustment in early retirement factors is eliminated over a five-year period starting July 1, 2019, resulting in actuarial equivalence after June 30, 2024.
- Interest credited on member contributions decreased from 4.00% to 3.00%, beginning July 1, 2018.
- Deferred augmentation was changed to 0.00%, effective January 1, 2019. Augmentation that has already accrued for deferred members will still apply.
- Contribution stabilizer provisions were repealed.
- Postretirement benefit increases were changed from 1.00% per year with a provision to increase to 2.50% upon attainment of 90.00% funding ratio to 50.00% of the Social Security Cost of Living Adjustment, not less than 1.00% and not more than 1.50%, beginning January 1, 2019.
- For retirements on or after January 1, 2024, the first benefit increase is delayed until the retiree reaches normal retirement age; does not apply to Rule of 90 retirees, disability benefit recipients, or survivors.
- Actuarial equivalent factors were updated to reflect revised mortality and interest assumptions.

#### 2017 Changes

##### ***Changes in Actuarial Assumptions:***

- The combined service annuity (CSA) loads were changed from 0.80% for active members and 60.00% for vested and nonvested deferred members. The revised CSA load are now 0.00% for active member liability, 15.00% for vested deferred member liability, and 3.00% for nonvested deferred member liability.
- The assumed postretirement benefit increase rate was changed for 1.00% per year for all years to 1.00% per year through 2044 and 2.50% per year thereafter.

##### ***Changes in Plan Provisions:***

- The State's contribution for the Minneapolis Employees Retirement Fund equals \$16,000,000 in 2017 and 2018, and \$6,000,000 thereafter.
- The Employer Supplemental Contribution for the Minneapolis Employees Retirement Fund changed from \$21,000,000 to \$31,000,000 in calendar years 2019 to 2031. The state's contribution changed from \$16,000,000 to \$6,000,000 in calendar years 2019 to 2031.

## Duluth Seaway Port Authority

### Notes to Schedule of Changes in Net Pension Liabilities and Related Ratios

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#### 2016 Changes

##### *Changes in Actuarial Assumptions:*

- The assumed postretirement benefit increase rate was changed from 1.00% per year through 2035 and 2.50% per year thereafter to 1.00% per year for all years.
- The assumed investment return was changed from 7.90% to 7.50%. The single discount rate changed from 7.90% to 7.50%.
- Other assumptions were changed pursuant to the experience study June 30, 2015. The assumed future salary increases, payroll growth, and inflation were decreased by 0.25% to 3.25% for payroll growth and 2.50% for inflation.

##### *Changes in Plan Provisions:*

- There have been no changes since the prior valuation.

#### 2015 Changes

##### *Changes in Actuarial Assumptions:*

- The assumed postretirement benefit increase rate was changed from 1.00% per year through 2030 and 2.50% per year thereafter to 1.00% per year through 2035 and 2.50% per year thereafter.

##### *Changes in Plan Provisions:*

- On January 1, 2015, the Minneapolis Employees Retirement Fund was merged into the General Employees Fund, which increased the total pension liability by \$1.1 billion and increase the fiduciary plan net position by \$892 million. Upon consolidation, state and employer contributions were revised; the State's contribution of \$6.0 million, which meets the special funding situation definition, was due September 2015.

## **Supplementary Information**

**Duluth Seaway Port Authority**

**Combining Statement of Revenues and Expenses  
Year Ended March 31, 2021**

	Operational Departments				Combined
	Administration	Port Promotion	Port Development	Marine Terminal	
Operating revenues	\$ 2,337,668	\$ -	\$ 12,000	\$ 2,915,909	\$ 5,265,577
Operating expenses, excluding depreciation	1,368,032	763,984	271,583	330,872	2,734,471
<b>Operating income (loss) before depreciation</b>	969,636	(763,984)	(259,583)	2,585,037	2,531,106
Depreciation	1,227,835	-	-	921,796	2,149,631
<b>Operating income (loss)</b>	(258,199)	(763,984)	(259,583)	1,663,241	381,475
Nonoperating revenues (expenses):					
General tax levies	-	-	1,286,174	-	1,286,174
Interest income	72,851	-	-	-	72,851
Other revenues	4,102	-	-	-	4,102
Interest expense	(184,035)	-	-	-	(184,035)
	(107,082)	-	1,286,174	-	1,179,092
<b>Income (loss) before capital grants and contributed capital</b>	(365,281)	(763,984)	1,026,591	1,663,241	1,560,567
Capital grants and contributed capital	2,260,014	-	-	-	2,260,014
<b>Total capital grants and contributed capital</b>	2,260,014	-	-	-	2,260,014
<b>Change in net position</b>	<b>\$ 1,894,733</b>	<b>\$ (763,984)</b>	<b>\$ 1,026,591</b>	<b>\$ 1,663,241</b>	<b>\$ 3,820,581</b>

**Duluth Seaway Port Authority**

**Schedules of Departmental Operating Revenues and Expenses  
Administration**

**Years Ended March 31, 2021 and 2020**

	<b>2021</b>	<b>2020</b>
Departmental revenues:		
Rentals	\$ 2,337,668	\$ 2,076,728
Gain on sale of land held for resale	-	101,871
	<b>2,337,668</b>	<b>2,178,599</b>
Departmental expenses:		
Salaries and wages	<b>625,322</b>	562,617
Employee benefits:		
Health, welfare and pension	<b>163,692</b>	208,102
Social security tax	<b>44,192</b>	39,970
Workers' compensation insurance	<b>1,642</b>	9,395
Advertising and promotion	-	490
Commissioner fees	<b>8,690</b>	7,260
Consulting	<b>74,480</b>	137,740
Dues and subscriptions	<b>2,808</b>	11,111
Insurance	<b>107,281</b>	65,213
Office	<b>14,750</b>	23,990
Bad debt	-	-
Other	<b>16,873</b>	19,260
Professional services	<b>87,815</b>	70,235
Rent	<b>84,328</b>	81,872
Repairs, maintenance and supplies	<b>96,173</b>	58,021
Telephone	<b>9,439</b>	11,251
Travel and entertainment	<b>1,710</b>	33,107
Utilities	<b>28,837</b>	34,437
<b>Total departmental expenses</b>	<b>1,368,032</b>	<b>1,374,071</b>
<b>Departmental income before depreciation</b>	<b>969,636</b>	<b>804,528</b>
Depreciation	<b>1,227,835</b>	<b>1,145,454</b>
<b>Departmental operating loss</b>	<b>\$ (258,199)</b>	<b>\$ (340,926)</b>

**Duluth Seaway Port Authority**

**Schedules of Departmental Operating Revenues and Expenses**

**Port Promotion**

**Years Ended March 31, 2021 and 2020**

	2021	2020
Departmental revenues	\$ -	\$ -
Departmental expenses:		
Salaries and wages	341,283	318,745
Employee benefits:		
Health, welfare and pension	110,674	108,412
Social security tax	26,774	24,724
Workers' compensation insurance	1,702	1,593
Advertising and promotion	179,417	164,343
Consulting	4,173	14,378
Cruise ship visits	1,875	6,454
Dues and subscriptions	50,330	42,475
Insurance	4,861	5,183
Maritime representative	27,580	32,785
Other	4,094	2,771
Photographs and supplies	650	100
Repairs, maintenance and supplies	-	-
Telephone	3,637	3,794
Travel and entertainment	6,934	46,547
<b>Total departmental expenses</b>	<b>763,984</b>	<b>772,304</b>
<b>Departmental loss before depreciation</b>	<b>(763,984)</b>	<b>(772,304)</b>
Depreciation	-	-
<b>Departmental operating loss</b>	<b>\$ (763,984)</b>	<b>\$ (772,304)</b>

Duluth Seaway Port Authority

Schedules of Departmental Operating Revenues and Expenses  
 Port Development  
 Years Ended March 31, 2021 and 2020

	2021	2020
Departmental revenues:		
Other	\$ 12,000	\$ 12,000
<b>Total departmental revenues</b>	<b>12,000</b>	<b>12,000</b>
Departmental expenses:		
Salaries and wages	103,529	94,211
Employee benefits:		
Health, welfare and pension	39,056	33,290
Social security tax	7,633	6,868
Workers' compensation insurance	499	462
Consulting	71,147	71,257
Other	2,091	2,319
Professional services	46,733	56,899
Telephone	815	962
Travel and entertainment	80	1,341
<b>Total departmental expenses</b>	<b>271,583</b>	<b>267,609</b>
<b>Departmental loss before depreciation</b>	<b>(259,583)</b>	<b>(255,609)</b>
Depreciation	-	-
<b>Departmental operating loss</b>	<b>\$ (259,583)</b>	<b>\$ (255,609)</b>

**Duluth Seaway Port Authority**

**Schedules of Departmental Operating Revenues and Expenses**

**Marine Terminal**

**Years Ended March 31, 2021 and 2020**

	<b>2021</b>	<b>2020</b>
Departmental revenues:		
Dockage and mooring	\$ 232,995	\$ 193,430
Rentals	113,562	102,367
Facilities fee	2,064,861	1,570,337
Wharfage	504,491	311,671
<b>Total departmental revenues</b>	<b>2,915,909</b>	<b>2,177,805</b>
Departmental expenses:		
Advertising and promotion	32,667	47,621
Consulting	5,000	38,309
Foreign trade zone	-	-
Insurance	99,180	75,503
Other	665	665
Professional services	(37,647)	(22,570)
Travel and entertainment	128	164
Protection service	12,842	16,947
Repairs and maintenance	208,303	412,939
Utilities	9,734	5,103
<b>Total departmental expenses</b>	<b>330,872</b>	<b>574,681</b>
<b>Departmental income before depreciation</b>	<b>2,585,037</b>	<b>1,603,124</b>
Depreciation	921,796	875,211
<b>Departmental operating income</b>	<b>\$ 1,663,241</b>	<b>\$ 727,913</b>





RSM US LLP

## Independent Auditor's Report on Minnesota Legal Compliance

Board of Commissioners  
Duluth Seaway Port Authority

We have audited, in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, the financial statements of Duluth Seaway Port Authority as of and for the year ended March 31, 2021, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise Duluth Seaway Port Authority's basic financial statements, and have issued our report thereon dated July 1, 2021.

In connection with our audit, nothing came to our attention that caused us to believe that Duluth Seaway Port Authority failed to comply with the provisions of the contracting and bidding, deposits and investments, conflicts of interest, claims and disbursements, miscellaneous provisions, and tax increment financing sections of the *Minnesota Legal Compliance Audit Guide for Other Political Subdivisions*, promulgated by the State Auditor pursuant to Minnesota Statutes § 6.65, insofar as they relate to accounting matters. However, our audit was not directed primarily toward obtaining knowledge of such noncompliance. Accordingly, had we performed additional procedures, other matters may have come to our attention regarding Duluth Seaway Port Authority's noncompliance with the above-referenced provisions, insofar as they relate to accounting matters.

This report is intended solely for the information and use of those charged with governance and management of Duluth Seaway Port Authority and the State Auditor and is not intended to be and should not be used by anyone other than these specified parties.

*RSM US LLP*

Duluth, Minnesota  
July 1, 2021