

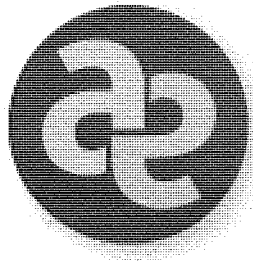
# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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**Maine Dairy and Nutrition Council  
Financial Statements  
And Supplementary Information  
For the Year Ended  
December 31, 2016**



**AUSTIN ASSOCIATES**  
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

*Your Financial Team*

**Maine Dairy and Nutrition Council  
Financial Statements  
And Supplementary Information  
For the Year Ended December 31, 2016**

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**AUSTIN ASSOCIATES**  
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT**

To the Board of Directors  
Maine Dairy and Nutrition Council

**Report on the Financial Statements**

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the business-type activities of Maine Dairy and Nutrition Council as of and for the year ended December 31, 2016, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the Council'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 audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in Government Auditing Standards, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. 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 auditors consider 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.

### **Basis for Qualified Opinion**

As explained in Note 7 to the financial statements, Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) Statement No. 68, Accounting and Financial Reporting for Pensions, is effective for fiscal years beginning after June 15, 2014. Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require that employers who participate in multiple-employer defined benefit pension plans account for pensions under the provisions of this statement. The effects on the accompanying financial statements of the failure to record the pension liability and expense have not been determined.

### **Opinions**

In our opinion, except for the possible effects of the matter described in the Basis for Qualified Opinion paragraph, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Maine Dairy and Nutrition Council as of December 31, 2016, and the changes in its net position and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

### **Other Matters**

Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require that the management's discussion and analysis and budgetary comparison information included herewith be presented to supplement the basic financial statements. Such information, although not 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 to management about the methods of preparing the information and comparing the information for consistency with management's responses to our inquiries, the basic financial statements, and other knowledge we obtained during our audit of the basic financial statements. We do not express an opinion or provide any assurance on the information because the limited procedures do not provide us with sufficient evidence to express an opinion or provide any assurance.

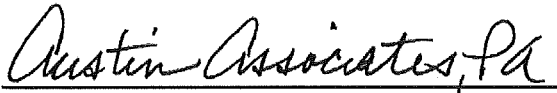
### **Other Information**

The supplementary information listed in the table of contents 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 supplementary information listed in the table of contents is fairly stated, in all material respects, in relation to the basic financial statements as a whole.



### Other Reporting Required by Government Auditing Standards

In accordance with Government Auditing Standards, we have also issued our report dated April 20, 2017 on our consideration of the Council's internal control over financial reporting and on our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements and other matters. The purpose of that report is to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on internal control over financial reporting or on compliance. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with Government Auditing Standards in considering the Council's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.



AUSTIN ASSOCIATES, P.A.

Certified Public Accountants

Auburn, Maine

April 20, 2017



AUSTIN ASSOCIATES  
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

**Management's Discussion and Analysis**

The discussion and analysis of Maine Dairy and Nutrition Council's (the Council) financial performance provides an overall review of the Council's financial activities for the year ended December 31, 2016. The intent of this discussion and analysis is to provide citizens, taxpayers, and other interested parties with an overview of our financial performance, from management's viewpoint. The detail and more in-depth analysis are provided in the auditor's reports and financial statements. The readers should also review the basic financial statements and notes to enhance their understanding of the Council's financial position.

**Financial Highlights**

The Council's net position as of December 31, 2016 was \$47,310, a decrease of \$5,040 over last year as a result of this year's operations.

Milk tax revenues were \$190,571 or 99.85% of all revenues.

The Council does not have any long-term liabilities.

**Overview of the Basic Financial Statements**

This section of the annual report consists of the basic financial statements and the notes to the financial statements.

**Basic Financial Statements**

The statement of net position presents the Council's assets and liabilities, with the difference between the two reported as net position. The statement of net position provides information about the nature and amount of investments in resources (assets), and the obligations to creditors and others (liabilities). Net position increases when revenues exceed expenses. The statement of revenues, expenses and changes in net position reports the revenues and expenses during the period indicated. The statement of cash flows provides information about the Council's cash receipts and payments from operations, as well as funds provided and used in investing and financing activities.

**Notes to the Financial Statements**

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

**Financial Analysis**

**Assets**

Current assets decreased by \$15,218. This was primarily due to a decrease in cash of \$17,509. The Certificate of Deposit increased by \$208, accounts receivable decreased by \$2. The due to/from Maine Dairy Promotion Board totals were combined and resulted in a receivable from the Board as of December 31, 2016 of \$2,085.

Cash decreased by \$17,509. The decrease was primarily due to the operating deficit for the year. Milk tax revenues increased slightly from 2015 amounts.

Non-current assets remained consistent with 2015.

**Liabilities**

Current liabilities decreased by \$10,178. This decrease was due to an \$8,607 decrease in accounts payable, a \$437 increase in accrued payroll, a \$40 increase in accrued vacation time, and a \$2,048 decrease in amount due to Maine Dairy Promotion Board.

Maine Dairy and Nutrition Council has no long-term debt.

**Net Position**

Net investment in capital assets remained consistent with 2015.

Unrestricted net position items are available to finance day-to-day operations without constraints established by debt covenants or other legal

requirements. In 2016, unrestricted net position decreased by \$5,040 due to a loss from operations.

**Operating Revenue**

Operating revenues increased from \$186,790 in 2015 to \$190,571 in 2016. This increase is attributed to an increase in milk production. The revenue from this activity increased by \$3,781 during the year ended December 31, 2016. Revenue transferred from Maine Dairy Promotion Board increased in the amount of \$6,424.

**Operating Expenses**

Operating expenses went from \$240,391 in 2015 to \$195,890 in 2016. This decrease of \$44,501 was primarily due to decreases in the educational programs spending. The overall budget for expenses was decreased in 2016 from 2015 to reduce the operating deficit. However, expenses were \$7,910 below budget due to the spending conservation and the timing and initiation of programs. As of January 1, 2016, the Promotion Board took over paying the rent expense for the office space.

**Contacting Maine Dairy and Nutrition Council's Financial Management**

This financial report is designed to provide citizens and taxpayers with a general overview of the Dairy Council's finances and to reflect on the Council's accountability for the monies it receives. Questions about this report or requests for additional information should be directed to Maine Dairy and Nutrition Council, 333 Cony Road, Augusta, Maine 04330. The Council can also be reached by phone at (207) 287-3621.



Maine Dairy and Nutrition Council  
Statement of Net Position  
December 31, 2016

**ASSETS**

**Current Assets**

Cash	\$ 72,668
Accounts receivable	7,130
Due from Maine Dairy Promotion Board	<u>2,085</u>
Total current assets	81,883

**Non-Current Assets**

Equipment	21,599
Less - Accumulated depreciation	<u>21,599</u>
Total non-current assets	<u>-</u>

<b>Total Assets</b>	<b><u>\$ 81,883</u></b>
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**LIABILITIES AND NET POSITION**

**Current Liabilities**

Accounts payable	\$ 1,295
Accrued payroll	4,210
Accrued vacation	<u>29,068</u>
Total liabilities	34,573

<b>Net Position - Unrestricted</b>	<b><u>47,310</u></b>
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<b>Total Liabilities and Net Position</b>	<b><u>\$ 81,883</u></b>
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The accompanying notes are an integral part of these statements.



**Maine Dairy and Nutrition Council**  
**Statement of Revenues, Expenses and Changes in Net Position**  
**For the Year Ended December 31, 2016**

**Operating Revenue**

Milk tax	\$ 190,571
Other income	<u>279</u>
Total operating revenue	190,850

**Operating Expenses**

Salaries	108,450
Payroll taxes and employee benefits	61,511
Educational programs and supplies	11,029
Professional fees	7,133
Travel expenses	1,138
Communications	2,942
Rent/Lease	1,897
Educational seminars and training	614
Office supplies	784
Insurance	<u>392</u>
Total operating expenses	<u>195,890</u>

**Change in Net Position** (5,040)

**Total Net Position, January 1, 2016** 52,350

**Total Net Position, December 31, 2016** \$ 47,310

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these statements.



**Maine Dairy and Nutrition Council**  
**Statement of Cash Flows**  
**For the Year Ended December 31, 2016**

**Cash Flows from Operating Activities**

Cash received from milk tax	\$ 180,653
Cash received from other operating revenue	20
Cash received from interest income	259
Cash payments to suppliers for goods and services	(102,185)
Cash payments to employees and professional contractors for services	<u>(96,048)</u>
Net cash used in operating activities	(17,301)

**Cash Flows from Investing Activities**

Reinvestment in Certificate of Deposit	<u>(208)</u>
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**Net Decrease in Cash and Cash Equivalents** (17,509)

**Cash and Cash Equivalents, January 1, 2016** 90,177

**Cash and Cash Equivalents, December 31, 2016** \$ 72,668

**Reconciliation of Change in Net Position to Net Cash Used in Operating Activities**

Change in net position	\$ (5,040)
Adjustment to reconcile change in net position to net cash used in operating activities	
Decrease in accounts receivable	2
Increase in amounts due from Maine Dairy Promotion Board	(4,133)
Decrease in accounts payable	(8,607)
Increase in accrued vacation	40
Increase in accrued payroll	<u>437</u>
Total adjustments	<u>(12,261)</u>

**Net Cash Used in Operating Activities** \$ (17,301)

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these statements.



**NOTE 1: Reporting Entity**

Maine Dairy and Nutrition Council (the Council) was established by Maine State Legislature as of July 1, 1996 as a public body, corporate and political, and a public instrumentality of the State of Maine. Prior to that time, the Council operated as an agency within the State of Maine Department of Agriculture. The mission of the Council is to promote the prosperity and welfare of the Maine dairy industry by sponsoring promotion, education, advertising and research programs.

The Council is charged with the responsibility of providing guidance in nutrition and nutrition education based on the concept of a balanced diet, including milk and its products in accordance with scientific recommendations, and to protect the interests of all the people of the state by strengthening and preserving the dairy industry.

Operations of the Council are funded by milk assessments collected from dealers and producer-dealers of fluid milk.

**NOTE 2: Summary of Significant Accounting Policies****Basis of Presentation**

The accompanying financial statements have been prepared on the full accrual basis in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America as applied to governmental units. The Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) is the accepted standard setting body for establishing governmental accounting and financial reporting principles.

GASB Statement No. 34, *Basic Financial Statements and Management's Discussion and Analysis for State and Local Governments*, requires that governments' proprietary activities apply all applicable GASB pronouncements as well as the Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB) Statements and Interpretations, Accounting Principles Board Opinions and Accounting Research Bulletins. The primary objective of this statement is to incorporate

applicable guidance from those FASB and AICPA pronouncements into the state and local government accounting and financial reporting standards. The Council follows the provisions of GASB Statement No. 34.

**Fund Accounting**

All activities of the Council are accounted for within a single proprietary (enterprise) fund. Proprietary funds are used to account for operations that are (a) financed and operated in a manner similar to private business enterprises where the intent of the governing body is that the cost of providing goods or services to the general public on a continuing basis be financed or recovered primarily through user charges; or (b) where the governing body has decided that periodic determination of revenues earned, expenses incurred, and/or net income is appropriate for capital maintenance, public policy, management control, accountability, or other purposes.

**Basis of Accounting**

Basis of accounting refers to when revenues and expenses are recognized in the accounts and reported in the financial statements. Basis of accounting relates to the timing of the measurements made, regardless of the measurement focus applied. The transactions of the Council are accounted for on a flow of economic resources measurement focus. With this measurement focus, all assets and all liabilities associated with the operations are included in the statement of net position.

Revenues are recognized in the accounting period when they are earned and expenses are recognized when the related liability is incurred.

Proprietary funds distinguish operating revenues and expenses from non-operating items. Operating revenues and expenses generally result from providing services and/or producing and delivering goods in connection with a proprietary fund's principal ongoing operations. All revenues and expenses not meeting this definition are reported as non-operating revenues and expenses.



**Assessments**

The Council derives the majority of its revenue from two sources. The Council receives two cents of the 10-cent assessment per hundredweight of all fluid milk produced in Maine received by Maine Dairy Promotion Board (see Note 5). In addition, the Council receives a 1.5 cent assessment per hundredweight from all dealers and producer dealers on all milk purchased from Maine producers or purchased from producers outside the state and sold within the state.

**Budget Practices**

An annual budget is prepared by management and approved by the Council’s board of directors. The budget is prepared according to generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP), except that the funding for capital acquisitions are considered to be expenses and depreciation is excluded from expenses.

**Deposits and Investments**

Cash and cash equivalents include demand deposits, savings accounts, and money market accounts. The Council considers all highly liquid debt instruments purchased with a maturity of three months or less to be cash equivalents.

Investments, if any, are reported at fair value, except that investments with a remaining maturity at time of purchase of one year or less are reported at amortized cost.

**Property and Equipment**

Purchased equipment is recorded at cost. Depreciation of fixed assets is calculated using the straight-line method over the estimated lives of the equipment, which is estimated at 5 years.

**Net Position**

Net position comprises the various net earnings from operations, non-operating revenues, expenses and contributions of capital. Net position is generally classified in the following components:

Investment in capital assets, net of related debt:  
Consists of all capital assets, net of accumulated

depreciation and reduced by the outstanding balances of any bonds or other borrowings that are attributable to the acquisition, construction or improvement of those assets. Net investment in capital assets amounted to \$-0- as of December 31, 2016.

Unrestricted: Consists of all other net position items that are not included in the other categories previously mentioned.

**Income Taxes**

The Council is a not-for profit organization exempt from income taxes under Section 501(C) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code and classified by the Internal Revenue Service as other than a private foundation and, therefore, no provision for income taxes has been made. The Council does not believe it has done anything during the past year that would jeopardize its tax exempt status at either the state or federal level. The Council reports its activities to the IRS in an annual information return. These filings are subject to review by the tax authorities and the federal income tax returns for 2014, 2015 and 2016 are subject to examination by the IRS, generally for three years after they were filed.

**Estimates**

The preparation of financial statements requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect certain reported amounts and disclosures. Accordingly, actual results could differ from those estimates.

**NOTE 3: Cash and Cash Equivalents**

The Council’s cash is categorized to give an indication of the level of risk assumed by the Council at year-end. These categories are defined as follows:

Category 1: Insured or collateralized with securities held by the Council or by its agent in the Council’s name.

Category 2: Collateralized with securities held by the pledging financial institution's trust department or agent in the Council's name.

Category 3: Uninsured and uncollateralized. This also includes any bank balance that is collateralized with securities held by the pledging financial institution, or by its trust department or agent, but not in the Council's name.

The Council's entire cash balances at Key Bank were insured (Category 1) as of December 31, 2016 under the FDIC.

**NOTE 4: Milk Tax Receivable**

At December 31, 2016, the Council had receivable balances for dairy assessments totaling \$9,921. Council management believes that all accounts receivable are collectible and, therefore, has not established an allowance for doubtful accounts.

At December 31, 2016, the Council had a payable of \$7,836 to Maine Dairy Promotion Board for its share of payroll costs. The net of milk tax receivable and payroll payable resulted in a receivable of \$2,085 from the Maine Dairy Promotion Board.

**NOTE 5: Related Party**

The Maine State Legislature established Maine Dairy Promotion Board as a quasi-governmental agency at the same time as Maine Dairy and Nutrition Council. Maine Dairy Promotion Board was created to promote the prosperity and welfare of the dairy industry of the state by fostering promotional, educational, advertising and research programs.

Because of the closely related missions of both Maine Dairy and Nutrition Council and Maine Dairy Promotion Board, the two entities share staff, equipment and office space. Separate records are maintained for the two entities. However, Maine Dairy and Nutrition Council reimburses Maine Dairy Promotion Board for its share of payroll costs. The Council has payable balances for payroll totaling \$7,836. In addition, Maine Dairy and Nutrition Council is funded, in part, with two-cents per

hundredweight of milk produced in Maine that is transferred monthly from the Maine Dairy Promotion Board (see Note 2). During the year, the Maine Dairy Promotion Board incurred revenue of \$627,051 from the 10-cent assessment per hundredweight of milk produced in Maine. During the year, \$125,225 was transferred to Maine Dairy and Nutrition Council from these assessments.

At December 31, 2016, the Council had a net receivable amount of \$2,085 from the Maine Dairy Promotion Board.

As of January 1, 2016, the Maine Dairy Promotion Board took over the monthly rent expense for the office space.

**NOTE 6: Operating Leases**

Maine Dairy and Nutrition Council and Maine Dairy Promotion Board share office space that is leased on a month-to-month basis from the Maine Department of Agriculture. As of January 1, 2016, the Maine Dairy Promotion Board took over the rent expense. The rent is \$1,083 per month. Maine Dairy Promotion Board budgets for and expends the entire amount for rent on this lease, thus no amount is shown in the Council's financial statements for rent expense related to this lease.

**NOTE 7: Pension Plan**

As defined in the legislation that established Maine Dairy and Nutrition Council as a public instrumentality, all current and future employees have full rights and benefits under the Maine Public Employees Retirement System (MainePERS). Employees contribute to MainePERS, an agent multiple-employer public retirement system that acts as a common investment and administrative agent for public school teachers, state employees and political subdivisions. Employees are required to contribute 7.65% of their annual salary to the system. The Council contributes 22.69% to fund the employees' retirement accounts. During the year ended December 31, 2016, the Council contributed \$26,960 into the plan.



The MainePERS issues a publicly available financial report that includes financial statements and required supplementary information. That report may be obtained by writing the Maine Public Employees Retirement System, 46 State House Station, and Augusta, Maine 04333-0046.

GASB Statement No. 68 is effective for fiscal years beginning after June 15, 2014. The statement establishes accounting and financial reporting standards and focuses on pension obligation, changes in the obligation and attribution of pension expense. It requires participants in a cost-sharing multiple employer defined benefit pension plan such as the MPERS plan to record their proportionate share of the Plan's net pension liability (total pension liability minus plan assets at market value), pension expense, and deferred positions.

The statement also requires greatly expanded plan and employer disclosures, including a description of the plan and significant assumptions, the policy for determining contributions, the discount rate and key rate assumptions, a sensitivity analysis of the impact on liabilities of a one percentage point increase and decrease in the discount rate, changes in the net plan liability for the past ten (10) years, current period pension expense, a schedule of deferred outflows/inflows of resources, and other measurement and actuarial data.

Management has determined that it is impractical to gather this information from MPERS for the year ended December 31, 2016 and, therefore, the required accounting and financial reporting, including disclosures, has not been presented in these financial statements.

**NOTE 8: Contingencies and Commitments**

**Insurance**

The Council is exposed to various risks of losses related to torts, theft of, damage to, and destruction of assets, errors and omissions, injuries to employees, and natural disasters. The Council contracts with an insurance company for coverage of the above-mentioned exposures. Settled claims have not exceeded commercial coverage in any of the past three years, and there has been no significant reduction in insurance coverage from the prior fiscal year.

**NOTE 9: Subsequent Events**

The Council has evaluated events, if any, that have occurred subsequent to December 31, 2016 through April 20, 2017, the date the financial statements were available to be issued, and included information in the notes to the financial statements related to any identifiable events, if necessary.

**Maine Dairy and Nutrition Council**  
**Statement of Revenues, Expenses and Changes in Net Position--Budget and Actual**  
**For the Year Ended December 31, 2016**

	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	Variance/ Favorable <u>(Unfavorable)</u>
<b>Operating Revenue</b>			
Milk tax - 20% from Maine Dairy			
Promotion Board	\$ 125,318	\$ 117,600	\$ 7,718
Milk tax - Other	65,253	67,000	(1,747)
Material sales and other income	20	150	(130)
Interest income	259	300	(41)
Total operating revenue	190,850	185,050	5,800
<b>Operating Expenses</b>			
Integrated Communications			
Black Bear	5,250	5,250	-
Dairy farmer relations	698	5,250	4,552
Social media	1,103	1,500	397
Board relations	4,540	6,000	1,460
Fuel Up to Play 60			
Farmer activation	274	500	226
Nutrition Affairs			
Dairy's role in the diet	266	1,000	734
Child health	250	-	(250)
Personnel			
Dental insurance	630	640	10
Health insurance	20,252	20,100	(152)
Life insurance	864	870	6
Medicare tax	1,022	1,080	58
Professional dues and memberships	300	-	(300)
Retiree health insurance	11,052	10,750	(302)
Retirement contributions	26,960	26,895	(65)
Salaries	108,450	108,000	(450)
Staff development	114	500	386
Training and seminars	200	200	-
Workers' compensation	731	800	69

(Continued on Next Page)





**Maine Dairy and Nutrition Council**  
**Statement of Revenues, Expenses and Changes in Net Position--Budget and Actual**  
**For the Year Ended December 31, 2016**

	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	Variance/ Favorable <u>(Unfavorable)</u>
<b>Operating Expenses (Continued)</b>			
Administrative and General			
Communications	\$ 2,734	\$ 2,700	\$ (34)
Office supplies	612	895	283
Postage and shipping	150	150	-
Sales tax	-	15	15
Travel	-	25	25
Equipment leasing	300	300	-
Repairs and maintenance	-	35	35
Liability insurance	178	200	22
Professional services	7,363	8,145	782
Vehicle lease	<u>1,597</u>	<u>2,000</u>	<u>403</u>
Total operating expenses	195,890	203,800	7,910
<b>Change in Net Position</b>	(5,040)	(18,750)	13,710
<b>Total Net Position, January 1, 2016</b>	<u>52,350</u>	<u>52,350</u>	<u>-</u>
<b>Total Net Position, December 31, 2016</b>	<u>\$ 47,310</u>	<u>\$ 33,600</u>	<u>\$ 13,710</u>





**AUSTIN ASSOCIATES**  
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

**REPORT ON INTERNAL CONTROL OVER FINANCIAL REPORTING AND ON  
COMPLIANCE AND OTHER MATTERS BASED ON AN AUDIT OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
PERFORMED IN ACCORDANCE WITH GOVERNMENT AUDITING STANDARDS**

April 20, 2017

To the Board of Directors  
Maine Dairy and Nutrition Council

**Independent Auditor's Report**

We have audited, in accordance with the auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards* issued by the Comptroller General of the United States, the financial statements of the business-type activities of Maine Dairy and Nutrition Council, as of and for the year ended December 31, 2016, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the Council's basic financial statements, and have issued our report thereon dated April 20, 2017.

**Internal Control over Financial Reporting**

In planning and performing our audit of the financial statements, we considered Maine Dairy and Nutrition Council's internal control over financial reporting (internal control) to determine the audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances for the purpose of expressing our opinions on the financial statements, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of Maine Dairy and Nutrition Council's internal control. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of Maine Dairy and Nutrition Council's internal control.

A deficiency in internal control exists when the design or operation of a control does not allow management or employees, in the normal course of performing their assigned functions, to prevent, or detect and correct, misstatements on a timely basis. A material weakness is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control, such that there is a reasonable possibility that a material misstatement of the entity's financial statements will not be prevented, or detected and corrected on a timely basis. A significant deficiency is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control that is less severe than a material weakness, yet important enough to merit attention by those charged with governance.

Our consideration of internal control was for the limited purpose described in the first paragraph of this section and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control that might be material weaknesses or significant deficiencies. Given these limitations, during our audit we did not identify any deficiencies in internal control that we consider to be material weaknesses. However, material weaknesses may exist that have not been identified.

### **Compliance and Other Matters**

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether Maine Dairy and Nutrition Council's financial statements are free from material misstatement, we performed tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements, noncompliance with which could have a direct and material effect on the determination of financial statement amounts. However, providing an opinion on compliance with those provisions was not an objective of our audit, and accordingly, we do not express such an opinion. The results of our tests disclosed no instances of noncompliance or other matters that are required to be reported under *Government Auditing Standards*.

### **Purpose of this Report**

The purpose of this report is solely to describe the scope of our 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. This report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the entity's internal control and compliance. Accordingly, this communication is not suitable for any other purpose.



AUSTIN ASSOCIATES, P.A.  
Certified Public Accountants



**AUSTIN ASSOCIATES**  
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

**RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS POSED BY THE USDA DAIRY DIVISION**

April 20, 2017

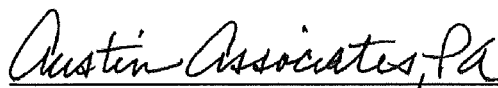
To the Board of Directors  
Maine Dairy and Nutrition Council

Additional information has been requested in connection with our audit for the year ended December 31, 2016, of the Maine Dairy and Nutrition Council.

Our responses to the questions posed by the USDA Dairy Division are as follows:

1. Is the Council engaged in dairy product promotion, research or nutrition education? **YES**
2. Are the Council's activities financed primarily (more than 50%) by dairy producers, either individually or through cooperative association? **YES**
3. Does the Council use a brand name or trade name in its advertising and promotion of dairy products?  
**NO**
4. Does the Council use funds for the purpose of influencing the governmental policy or actions? **NO**
5. Does the Council have in place internal controls that provide reasonable assurance that funds, property and other assets are safeguarded against fraud, waste and unauthorized use? **YES**

Please contact us if we can be of further assistance in this matter.

  
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AUSTIN ASSOCIATES, P.A.  
Certified Public Accountants

