



State of Wisconsin Public Employees Deferred Compensation Plan & Trust Madison, Wisconsin

We have audited the financial statements of the State of Wisconsin Public Employees Deferred Compensation Plan & Trust (the Plan) for the year ended December 31, 2014, and have issued our report thereon dated June 17, 2015. We have previously communicated to you information about our responsibilities under auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, as well as certain information related to the planned scope and timing of our audit. Professional standards also require that we communicate to you the following information related to our audit.

## Significant audit findings

# Qualitative aspects of accounting practices

# Accounting policies

Management is responsible for the selection and use of appropriate accounting policies. The significant accounting policies used by the Plan are described in Note 1 to the financial statements.

No new accounting policies were adopted and the application of existing policies was not changed during 2014.

We noted no transactions entered into by the Plan during the year for which there is a lack of authoritative guidance or consensus. All significant transactions have been recognized in the financial statements in the proper period.

## **Accounting estimates**

Accounting estimates are an integral part of the financial statements prepared by management and are based on management's knowledge and experience about past and current events and assumptions about future events. Certain accounting estimates are particularly sensitive because of their significance to the financial statements and because of the possibility that future events affecting them may differ significantly from those expected. There were significant accounting estimates of financial data which would be particularly sensitive and require substantial judgments by management. These estimates relate to the valuation of the Great-West Life Group Annuity policies and the Stable Value Fund.

The Stable Value Fund is valued at contract value, which approximates fair value. The contract value, as estimated by Galliard Capital Management, is guaranteed through a related contract with a separate provider. The credited interest rates are reset periodically according to terms set forth in the contract and are actuarially determined. The value of the Great-West Life Group Annuity contract represents reserves established by the insurance carrier and is based upon actuarial assumptions as to anticipated morality, withdrawals and investment yield. Such assumptions are periodically reviewed and updated by the carrier and any resulting adjustments are reflected as interest income.

#### Financial statement disclosures

Certain financial statement disclosures are particularly sensitive because of their significance to financial statement users. There were no particularly sensitive financial statement disclosures.

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



#### Difficulties encountered in performing the audit

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

#### **Uncorrected misstatements**

Professional standards require us to accumulate all misstatements identified during the audit, other than those that are clearly trivial, and communicate them to the appropriate level of management. Management did not identify and we did not notify them of any uncorrected financial statement misstatements.

#### Disagreements with management

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

#### **Management representations**

We have requested certain representations from management that are included in the attached management representation letter dated June 17, 2015.

## Management consultations with other independent accountants

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

## Significant issues discussed with management prior to engagement

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

#### Other information in documents containing audited financial statements

Other information is being included in documents containing the audited financial statements and the auditors' report thereon. Our responsibility for such other information does not extend beyond the financial information identified in our auditors' report. We have no responsibility for determining whether such other information is properly stated and do not have an obligation to perform any procedures to corroborate other information contained in such documents. As required by professional standards, we read management's discussion and analysis, schedule of changes in the net pension liability and related ratios, schedule of employer contributions, and the schedule of investment returns and considered whether the information or the manner in which it was presented was materially inconsistent with information or the manner of presentation of the financial statements. We did not identify any material inconsistencies between the other information and the audited financial statements.

State of Wisconsin Public Employees Deferred Compensation Plan & Trust Page  ${\bf 3}$ 

Clifton Larson Allen LLP

This information is intended solely for the use of the State of Wisconsin Public Employees Deferred Compensation Board and management of the Plan and is not intended to be and should not be used by anyone other than these specified parties.

CliftonLarsonAllen LLP

Baltimore, Maryland June 17, 2015



# STATE OF WISCONSIN Department of Employee Trust Funds

Robert J. Conlin SECRETARY 801 W Badger Road PO Box 7931 Madison WI 53707-7931

1-877-533-5020 (toll free) Fax 608-267-4549 etf.wi.gov

June 17, 2015

CliftonLarsonAllen LLP 1966 Greenspring Drive, Suite 300 Timonium, MD 21093

This representation letter is provided in connection with your audits of the financial statements of the State of Wisconsin Public Employees Deferred Compensation Program (the Plan), which comprise the respective financial position of the Plan as of December 31, 2014 and 2013, and the respective changes in financial position, and the related notes to the financial statements, for the purpose of expressing opinions on whether the financial statements are presented fairly, in all material respects, in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (U.S. GAAP).

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

We confirm, to the best of our knowledge and belief, as of June 17, 2015, the following representations made to you during your audit.

# **Financial Statements**

- We have fulfilled our responsibilities, as set out in the terms of the audit engagement letter
  dated October 30, 2014, for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in
  accordance with U.S. GAAP. The financial statements include all properly classified funds and
  other financial information of the primary government and all component units required by
  generally accepted accounting principles to be included in the financial reporting entity.
- We acknowledge and have fulfilled our responsibility for the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.
- We acknowledge our responsibility for the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control to prevent and detect fraud.
- Significant assumptions used by us in making accounting estimates, including those measured at fair value, are reasonable.
- Related party relationships and transactions, including, but not limited to, revenues, expenditures/expenses, loans, transfers, leasing arrangements, and guarantees, and amounts receivable from or payable to related parties have been appropriately accounted for and disclosed in accordance with the requirements of U.S. GAAP.

- No events, including instances of noncompliance, have occurred subsequent to the financial statement date and through the date of this letter that would require adjustment to, or disclosure in, the financial statements.
- We have not identified or been notified of any uncorrected financial statement misstatements.
- We are not aware of any pending or threatened litigation, claims, or assessments or unasserted claims or assessments that are required to be accrued or disclosed in the financial statements in accordance with U.S. GAAP, and we have not consulted a lawyer concerning litigation, claims, or assessments.
- Guarantees, whether written or oral, under which the entity is contingently liable, if any, have been properly recorded or disclosed in accordance with U.S. GAAP.
- Receivables recorded in the financial statements represent valid claims against debtors for transactions arising on or before the financial statement date and have been reduced to their estimated net realizable value.
- We have no plans or intentions that may materially affect the carrying value or classification of assets, liabilities, or equity.

## Information Provided

- We have provided you with:
  - Access to all information, of which we are aware, that is relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements such as records, documentation, and other matters.
  - o Additional information that you have requested from us for the purpose of the audit.
  - Unrestricted access to persons within the entity from whom you determined it necessary to obtain audit evidence.
  - Complete minutes of the meetings of the governing board and related committees, or summaries of actions of recent meetings for which minutes have not yet been prepared.
- All material transactions have been recorded in the accounting records and are reflected in the financial statements.
- We have disclosed to you the results of our assessment of the risk that the financial statements may be materially misstated as a result of fraud.
- We have no knowledge of any fraud or suspected fraud that affects the entity and involves:
  - Management;
  - Employees who have significant roles in internal control; or

- Others when the fraud could have a material effect on the financial statements.
- We have no knowledge of any allegations of fraud, or suspected fraud, affecting the entity's financial statements communicated by employees, former employees, regulators, or others.
- We have no knowledge of any instances of noncompliance or suspected noncompliance with laws and regulations and provisions of contracts and grant agreements, or abuse whose effects should be considered when preparing financial statements.
- We are not aware of any pending or threatened litigation, claims, or assessments, or unasserted
  claims or assessments, that are required to be accrued or disclosed in the financial statements in
  accordance with U.S. GAAP, and we have not consulted a lawyer concerning litigation, claims, or
  assessments.
- There are no other material liabilities or gain or loss contingencies that are required to be accrued or disclosed in accordance with U.S. GAAP.
- We have disclosed to you the identity of the entity's related parties and all the related party relationships and transactions of which we are aware.
- The entity has satisfactory title to all owned assets, and there are no liens or encumbrances on such assets, nor has any asset been pledged as collateral, except as made known to you and disclosed in the financial statements.
- We have a process to track the status of audit findings and recommendations.
- We are responsible for compliance with the laws, regulations, and provisions of contracts and
  grant agreements applicable to the Plan, including tax or debt limits and debt contracts; and we
  have identified and disclosed to you all laws, regulations, and provisions of contracts and grant
  agreements that we believe have a direct and material effect on the determination of financial
  statement amounts or other financial data significant to the audit objectives, including legal and
  contractual provisions for reporting specific activities in separate funds.
- The entity has complied with all aspects of contractual agreements that would have a material effect on the financial statements in the event of noncompliance.
- We have followed all applicable laws and regulations in adopting, approving, and amending budgets.
- The financial statements properly classify all funds and activities.
- Investments are properly valued.
- The values of non-readily marketable investments represent good faith estimates of fair value determined by Management. The methods and significant assumptions used result in a measure of fair value appropriate for financial measurement and disclosure purposes.
- Deposits and investment securities are properly classified as to risk and are properly disclosed.

Wisconsin Deferred Compensation Program Financial Statements Audit June 17, 2015
Page 4

- We understand that you prepared the trial balance for use during the audit and that your
  preparation of the trial balance was limited to formatting information into a working trial
  balance based on management's chart of accounts.
- As part of your audit, you prepared the draft financial statements and related notes. We have
  designated an individual who possesses suitable skill, knowledge, and/or experience to
  understand and oversee your services; have made all management judgments and decisions;
  and have assumed all management responsibilities. We have evaluated the adequacy and
  results of the service. We have reviewed, approved, and accepted responsibility for those
  financial statements and related notes.

Signature:

Shelly Schueller

Title: <u>Deferred Compensation Director</u>

State of Wisconsin Public Employees Deferred Compensation Plan & Trust

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- We are responsible for compliance with the laws, regulations, and provisions of contracts and grant
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  or other financial data significant to the audit objectives, including legal and contractual provisions for
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As part of your audit, you prepared the draft financial statements and related notes. We have
designated an individual who possesses suitable skill, knowledge, and/or experience to understand and
oversee your services; have made all management judgments and decisions; and have assumed all
management responsibilities. We have evaluated the adequacy and results of the service. We have
reviewed, approved, and accepted responsibility for those financial statements and related notes.

Signature:

Kathy Rogers

Title: Lead Account Manager

**Great-West Retirement Services**