





Overview of Accounting Support to Michigan's Conservation Districts

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Accounting Challenges in Michigan Conservation Districts

- Accounting requirements in Conservation District (CD) law, other laws, and most grants
- Gaps in accounting knowledge, skills, and abilities
- MDARD requires CDs to use QuickBooks
- Limited tools and resources to help

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Calling in the Professionals

- Contract with a local Certified Public Accountant (CPA) firm
  - One-on-one assistance
  - Trainings (webinars and in-person)
  - Consultation on governmental accounting questions
- Dedicated QuickBooks and governmental accounting specialists

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Increasing Our Internal Capacity to Provide Support

- Opportunity to bring on new staff
- Skillset and interest to provide accounting support
- Main point of contact on CPA contract
- Refined process and improved support being provided

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Lessons Learned

- Relationships count
  - Building trust to overcome fears
- Known unknowns and unknown unknowns
- These in-depth looks help identify broader training needs

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Outcomes

- Protecting Michigan's investment
- Increased transparency
- Clearer reporting results in faster payments received
- Better understanding and better decisions locally
- Improved support to CDs (and growing)

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Questions?



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Thank you!

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