

CONCLUSION: The Rankin-Hinds Pearl River Flood and Drainage Control District (District) received \$9,907,790.01 in revenue and expended \$9,894,428.92 from FY 2015 to FY 2024, a difference of approximately \$13,000. More than 93% of its revenue comes from millage assessed on property within the District. District financial data from FY 2015 to FY 2024 shows that funds were used for the purposes of administration of a flood control district, upkeep of current levees and property, and pursuit of a flood control plan.



BACKGROUND

The District was established by order of the Rankin County Chancery Court on May 9, 1962. Responsible for flood control since its inception, the District took over the chief responsibility of planning and executing the Jackson metropolitan area's current flood control and risk management project in 2001.

At present, the District board's membership consists of seven members appointed from the municipalities and areas served by the District. This includes the mayors of Jackson, Flowood, Pearl, and Richland, appointees from the Hinds and Rankin counties' boards of supervisors, and one gubernatorial appointee.

During the 1960s, this board worked with the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to develop the system of levees that is present in Hinds and Rankin counties.

The District continues to work with the Corps to pursue a flood control plan for the Jackson metro area.

Appendix A, page 18, summarizes the proposed flood control plans since the 1979 flood.

District Revenue, FY 2015 to FY 2024

- From FY 2015 to FY 2024, the District generated \$9,907,790.01 in income.
- Millage accounts for more than 93% of District revenue. Assessed at a rate of 4.75 mils on property owners within the District boundary.
- The District also received a 2019 grant from the Mississippi Development Authority for \$300,000.

The Pearl River Vision Foundation, a private non-profit, funded additional scientific and engineering studies related to the District's pursuit of a flood control plan.

District Expenditures, FY 2015 to FY 2024

- The District expended \$9,894,428.92 over the ten-year-period from FY 2015 to FY 2024.
- Expenditures go toward administering the District, maintaining the District's existing flood control structures, and pursuing, as needed, additional flood control projects.
- The largest expenditure categories were as follows:
 - Flood risk management project – 43.26% or \$4,280,203.20;
 - Repairs to existing pumps and levees – 18.06% or \$1,787,192.41;
 - Payroll and benefits – 15.88% or \$1,571,380.01;
 - Includes 9 part-time maintenance staff;
 - Maintenance-related expenses – 7.07% or \$699,280.32;
 - Utilities – 4.88% or \$488,608.62; and,
 - Other professional fees – 4.83% or \$477,949.36;
 - Include legal and accounting fees related to District operations.
- Exhibit 3 on page 9 provides details of District expenses.
- Appendix B on page 22 provides the District's yearly revenue and expenses.

Flood Control Project Expenses, FY 2015 to FY 2024

Legal Fees – 52.79% or \$2,259,524.92

- Include project management fees.

Engineering fees – 43.97%, or \$1,882,157.28

- These primarily pertain to completing and revising the Feasibility Study/Economic Impact Statement.
- The District did not provide contracts for portions of work performed by select vendors.

Corps Technical Assistance Fees – 3.24% or \$138,521.00

Key Events

July 19, 2012 – The District and the Corps enter into a Section 211 Agreement to complete a Section 211 feasibility report to determine federal interest in Pearl River Watershed project.

- Per the Water Resource Development Act (WRDA) of 2007, a Section 211 Agreement authorizes the Corps to provide specialized or technical services for a local government entity.

June 22, 2022 – The District releases its Section 211 Draft Feasibility Study/Economic Impact Statement.

June 2024 – The Corps releases its Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) evaluating the District’s alternatives but also added its own alternatives.

Authorized Funding to Implement Flood Control Project under WRDA

Section 3104 of WRDA authorizes the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works to choose a flood damage reduction project for the Mississippi Pearl River Basin at a total cost of \$205,800,000 (based on 2007 dollars), with an estimated federal cost of \$133,770,000 and an estimated non-federal cost of \$72,030,000. Adjusted for inflation for FY 2024:

- the total updated authorized project cost is \$370,495,000; and,
- the maximum project cost limit imposed by Section 902 of the WRDA 1986 is \$440,103,000.

The 2024 cost of \$370.5 million would result in a 35% local share of \$130 million and a 65% federal share of \$240 million.



RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Given the impact on the Jackson metropolitan area and the likelihood any approved Pearl River flood control plan may need state and federal support, the District should update the Legislature and Governor as to any significant changes. As part of the 2010 report, PEER recommended the District report actions taken or progress toward completion of a comprehensive flood control program for the Jackson metropolitan area.
2. The District should consider hiring a record keeper or bookkeeper to better maintain District records, including contracts, purchase orders, professional service agreements, and invoices. The District has not had a full-time superintendent since October 1, 2022, and only recently decided to bring its accounting function in-house on a part-time basis.