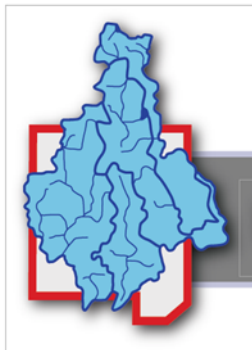


DUPAGE RIVER SALT CREEK WORKGROUP, ILLINOIS

ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT



DuPage River Salt Creek Workgroup

**FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED
FEBRUARY 28, 2026**

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DUPAGE RIVER SALT CREEK WORKGROUP, ILLINOIS

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FINANCIAL SECTION

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT



INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

May 26, 2026

Members of the Board of Directors
DuPage River Salt Creek Workgroup
Naperville, Illinois

Opinion

We have audited the accompanying cash basis financial statements of the DuPage River Salt Creek Workgroup (DRSCW) (nonprofit organization), which comprise the statement of financial position as of February 28, 2026 and February 28, 2025, and the related cash basis statements of activities, cash flows, and functional expenses for the year then ended, and the related notes to the financial statements.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the DuPage River Salt Creek Workgroup, as of February 28, 2026 and February 28, 2025, and the changes in its net assets and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with the cash basis of accounting as described in Note 2.

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of our report. We are required to be independent of DRSCW and to meet our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements relating to our audit. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Basis of Accounting

We draw attention to Note 2 of the financial statements, which describes the basis of accounting. The financial statements are prepared on the cash basis of accounting, which is a basis of accounting other than accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. Our opinion is not modified with respect to that matter.

Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with the cash basis of accounting described in Note 1, and for determining that the cash basis of accounting is an acceptable basis for the preparation of the financial statements in the circumstances. Management is also responsible 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.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not absolute assurance and therefore is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control. Misstatements, including omissions, are considered material if there is a substantial likelihood that, individually or in the aggregate, they would influence the judgment made by a reasonable user based on the financial statements.

In performing an audit in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards, we:

- Exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.
- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, and design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks. Such procedures include examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit 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 DRSCW's internal control. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluate the overall presentation of the financial statements.
- Conclude whether, in our judgment, there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about DRSCW's ability to continue as a going concern for a reasonable period of time.

We are required to communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit, significant audit findings, and certain internal control-related matters that we identified during the audit.

Lauterbach & Amen, LLP
LAUTERBACH & AMEN, LLP

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

DUPAGE RIVER SALT CREEK WORKGROUP, ILLINOIS

Statement of Financial Position - Cash Basis February 28, 2026 and February 28, 2025

	2026	2025
ASSETS		
Current Assets		
Cash and Investments	\$ 11,052,837	9,780,245
Noncurrent Assets		
Capital Assets		
Depreciable	411,470	289,719
Accumulated Depreciation	(251,283)	(235,816)
Total Noncurrent Assets	160,187	53,903
Total Assets	11,213,024	9,834,148
LIABILITIES		
Current Liabilities		
Accrued Interest	449	-
NET ASSETS		
Without Donor Restrictions	11,212,575	9,834,148

The notes to the financial statements are an integral part of this statement.

DUPAGE RIVER SALT CREEK WORKGROUP, ILLINOIS

Statement of Activities - Cash Basis

For the Fiscal Years Ended February 28, 2026 and February 28, 2025

	2026	2025
Without Donor Restrictions - Revenues		
Project Assessments	\$ 1,332,944	1,332,944
Membership Dues	546,338	541,578
Interest	408,725	381,982
Miscellaneous	20,573	20,000
Total Revenues	<u>2,308,580</u>	<u>2,276,504</u>
Expenses		
Program Services	875,024	615,766
Supporting Services		
Management and General	55,129	63,831
Fundraising	-	-
Total Expenses	<u>930,153</u>	<u>679,597</u>
Change in Net Assets	1,378,427	1,596,907
Net Assets - Beginning	<u>9,834,148</u>	<u>8,237,241</u>
Net Assets - Ending	<u><u>11,212,575</u></u>	<u><u>9,834,148</u></u>

The notes to the financial statements are an integral part of this statement.

DUPAGE RIVER SALT CREEK WORKGROUP, ILLINOIS

Statement of Cash Flows - Cash Basis

For the Fiscal Years Ended February 28, 2026 and February 28, 2025

	2026	2025
Cash Flows from Operating Activities		
Increase (Decrease) in Net Assets	\$ 1,378,427	1,596,907
Cash Flows from Capital and Related Financing Activities		
Purchase of Capital Assets	(121,751)	-
Adjustments to Reconcile Changes in Unrestricted Net Assets to Net Cash Provided by Operating Activities:		
Depreciation Expense	15,467	22,971
Change in Current Liabilities	449	-
	15,916	22,971
Net Cash Provided by Operating Activities	1,272,592	1,619,878
Cash and Cash Equivalents		
Beginning	9,780,245	8,160,367
Ending	11,052,837	9,780,245

The notes to the financial statements are an integral part of this statement.

DUPAGE RIVER SALT CREEK WORKGROUP, ILLINOIS

Statement of Functional Expenses - Cash Basis For the Fiscal Years Ended February 28, 2026

	Program Services	Management and General	Fundraising	Totals
Special Condition Projects/Studies	\$ 321,262	-	-	321,262
Laboratory Sampling and Testing	271,609	-	-	271,609
Staff Salaries	282,153	-	-	282,153
Accounting Fees	-	8,720	-	8,720
Supplies	-	240	-	240
Telephone	-	2,771	-	2,771
Occupancy, Rent, Utilities and Maintenance	-	17,460	-	17,460
Printing, Publications, Postage and Shipping	-	433	-	433
Travel	-	4,947	-	4,947
Conferences, Conventions and Meetings	-	915	-	915
Depreciation	-	15,467	-	15,467
Website Fee	-	670	-	670
Software	-	855	-	855
Miscellaneous	-	245	-	245
Professional Services	-	393	-	393
Insurance	-	2,013	-	2,013
	875,024	55,129	-	930,153

The notes to the financial statements are an integral part of this statement.

DUPAGE RIVER SALT CREEK WORKGROUP, ILLINOIS

Statement of Functional Expenses - Cash Basis For the Fiscal Years Ended February 28, 2025

	Program Services	Management and General	Fundraising	Totals
Special Condition Projects/Studies	\$ 231,679	-	-	231,679
Laboratory Sampling and Testing	111,591	-	-	111,591
Staff Salaries	272,496	-	-	272,496
Accounting Fees	-	8,560	-	8,560
Supplies	-	148	-	148
Telephone	-	2,506	-	2,506
Occupancy, Rent, Utilities and Maintenance	-	17,230	-	17,230
Printing, Publications, Postage and Shipping	-	194	-	194
Travel	-	6,667	-	6,667
Conferences, Conventions and Meetings	-	1,513	-	1,513
Depreciation	-	22,971	-	22,971
Website Fee	-	910	-	910
Software	-	704	-	704
Miscellaneous	-	40	-	40
Professional Services	-	375	-	375
Insurance	-	2,013	-	2,013
	615,766	63,831	-	679,597

The notes to the financial statements are an integral part of this statement.

DUPAGE RIVER SALT CREEK WORKGROUP, ILLINOIS

Notes to the Financial Statements February 28, 2026

NOTE 1 – NATURE OF ORGANIZATION

The DuPage River Salt Creek Workgroup (DRSCW) was formed November 12, 2005. DRSCW is a not-for-profit organization that aspires to bring together a diverse coalition of stakeholders to work together to preserve and enhance water quality. DRSCW fulfills its mission by serving communities along the East Branch DuPage River, West Branch DuPage River, Salt Creek and their tributaries.

NOTE 2 – SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of Accounting

The financial statements of DRSCW have been prepared on the cash basis of accounting, which is a comprehensive basis of accounting other than accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. The cash basis records revenue when received and expenses when paid. Consequently, DRSCW has not recognized dues receivable from members, accounts payable to vendors, deferred revenue associated with project assessments or their related effects on the change in net assets in the accompanying financial statements which may be material. Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require recognition of revenue when earned and expenses when incurred. Additionally, property and equipment are recorded when paid for and depreciated as the asset is used. All other costs are recognized as expenses when paid rather than when incurred.

Net Assets

DRSCW's financial statements have been prepared in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. Net assets of DRSCW and changes therein are classified and reported as follows:

Net assets without donor restrictions – Net assets that are not subject to donor-imposed restrictions and may be expended for any purpose in performing the primary objectives of the organization. These net assets may be used at the discretion of DRSCW's management and the board of directors.

Net assets with donor restrictions – Net assets subject to stipulations imposed by donors and grantors. Some donor restrictions are temporary in nature; those restrictions will be met by actions of DRSCW or by the passage of time. Other donor restrictions are perpetual in nature, where by the donor has stipulated the funds be maintained in perpetuity.

Donor restricted contributions are reported as increases in net assets with donor restrictions. When a restriction expires, net assets are reclassified from net assets with donor restrictions to net assets without donor restrictions in the Statement of Activities.

DRSCW had no net assets with donor restrictions at February 28, 2026 and February 28, 2025.

DUPAGE RIVER SALT CREEK WORKGROUP, ILLINOIS

Notes to the Financial Statements February 28, 2026

NOTE 2 – SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES – Continued

Cash and Investments

For the purpose of the Statement of Financial Position and Statement of Cash Flows, DRSCW's cash and cash equivalents are considered to be cash on hand, demand deposits and short-term investments with original maturities of three months or less from the date of purchase. Investments are generally reported at fair value. Short-term investments are reported at cost, which approximates fair value.

Fair Value Measurements

Fair value is defined as the price that would be received to sell an asset or paid to transfer a liability in an orderly transaction between market participants as of a given measurement date. Fair value measurements are based on three-level hierarchy based on the reliability of observable and unobservable inputs as follows:

Level 1 - Valuations are based on quoted prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities that the entity has the ability to access at the measurement date.

Level 2 - Valuations are based on quoted prices for similar assets or liabilities in active markets; quoted prices for identical or similar assets or liabilities in markets that are not active; and model-derived valuations whose significant inputs are observable.

Level 3 - Valuations are based on unobservable inputs for the assets or liability that reflect the reporting entity's own data and assumptions that market participants would use in pricing the asset or liability.

Investment Income

DRSCW records investment income earned on net assets with donor restrictions and without donor restrictions as without donor restrictions revenue.

Equipment

Equipment is depreciated over the estimated useful life of five years using the straight-line method.

Use of Estimates

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the report period. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

DUPAGE RIVER SALT CREEK WORKGROUP, ILLINOIS

Notes to the Financial Statements February 28, 2026

NOTE 2 – SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES – Continued

Functional Allocation of Expenses

The costs of providing the various programs and supporting services have been summarized on a functional basis in the statement of functional expenses. Functional expenses which are not directly attributable to one function are allocated between program, management and general, and fundraising services based on the number of employees involved, the amount of time spent, the percentage of their salary associated with the time and on estimates made by DRSCW's management.

Income Taxes

DRSCW is exempt from income tax under IRC section 501(c)(4), and similarly, is exempt from State of Illinois taxes under the Illinois Tax Act Section 205(a), though it is subject to tax on income unrelated to its exempt purpose, unless that income is otherwise excluded by the Code. DRSCW has processes presently in place to ensure the maintenance of its tax-exempt status; to identify and report unrelated income; to determine its filing and tax obligations in jurisdictions for which it has nexus; and to identify and evaluate other matters that may be considered tax positions. DRSCW has determined that there are no material uncertain tax positions that require recognition or disclosure in the financial statements. There was no unrelated business income for the year ended February 28, 2026 and February 28, 2025.

DRSCW's Forms 990, *Return of Organization Exempt from Income Tax*, are subject to examination by the IRS, generally, for three years after they were filed. Annual filings with the State of Illinois are, similarly, subject to examination.

NOTE 3 – CONTRIBUTIONS

Contributions with donor-imposed time or purpose restrictions that were met in the same period as the gift are reported as unrestricted support.

NOTE 4 – RELATED PARTY

The Conservation Foundation (Foundation) is an independent 501(c)(3) organization whose mission is to preserve and restore natural areas and open space, protect rivers and watersheds and promote stewardship of our environment. The Foundation provides a 2.4 full-time equivalent in staffing to DRSCW and DRSCW reimburses all related expenses to the Foundation. The total reimbursement was \$282,153 and \$272,496 for the years ended February 28, 2026 and February 28, 2025, respectively. In addition to staffing, one member of the Foundation's staff also sits on the Board of DRSCW.

DUPAGE RIVER SALT CREEK WORKGROUP, ILLINOIS

Notes to the Financial Statements February 28, 2026

NOTE 5 – CASH AND INVESTMENTS

Deposits. At year-end the carrying amount of DRSCW's cash deposits totaled \$402,842 and the bank balances totaled \$402,842. The entire balance of deposits was fully insured by federal deposit insurance.

At February 28, 2025 the carrying amount of DRSCW's cash deposits totaled \$1,023,398 and the bank balances totaled \$1,055,585. The entire balance of deposits was fully insured by federal deposit insurance.

Investments. DRSCW has the following investment fair values and maturities as of February 28, 2026:

Investment Type	Fair Value	Investment Maturities (in Years)	
		Less Than 1	1 to 5
Certificate of Deposits	\$ 10,450,297	10,450,297	-
U.S. Treasury Note	199,698	199,698	-
	10,649,995	10,649,995	-

DRSCW has the following recurring fair value measurements as of February 28, 2026:

- Certificate of Deposits of \$10,450,297 are valued using a matrix pricing model (Level 2 inputs)
- U.S. Treasury Note of \$199,698 are valued using quoted market prices (Level 1 inputs)

DRSCW has the following investment fair values and maturities as of February 28, 2025:

Investment Type	Fair Value	Investment Maturities (in Years)	
		Less Than 1	1 to 5
Certificate of Deposits	\$ 8,756,847	8,756,847	-

DRSCW has the following recurring fair value measurements as of February 28, 2025:

- Certificate of Deposits of \$8,756,847 are valued using a matrix pricing model (Level 2 inputs)

Debt Securities classified in Level 2 of the fair value hierarchy are valued using a matrix pricing technique. Matrix pricing is used to value securities based on the securities' relationship to benchmark quoted prices.

DUPAGE RIVER SALT CREEK WORKGROUP, ILLINOIS

Notes to the Financial Statements February 28, 2026

NOTE 6 – AVAILABILITY AND LIQUIDITY

The following represents DRSCW's financial assets at February 28, 2026 and February 28, 2025:

	2026	2025
Financial Assets at Year End:		
Cash and Investments	\$ 11,052,837	9,780,245
Less Amounts not Available to be used within one year:		
Net Assets with Donor Restrictions	-	-
Financial Assets Available to Meet General Expenses over the Next Twelve Months	<u>11,052,837</u>	<u>9,780,245</u>

DRSCW's goal is generally to maintain financial assets to meet 90 days of operating expenses; however, a large cash and investment balance does develop as member organizations remit funds annually in order to, over time, build up the necessary fund balance to pay the multi-million dollars cost of large-scale dam removal and stream restoration projects. As part of its liquidity plan, excess cash is invested in short-term investments, including money market accounts and certificates of deposit, if needed.

NOTE 7 – CAPITAL ASSETS

Capital asset activity for the year was as follows:

	Beginning Balances	Increases	Decreases	Ending Balances
Depreciable Capital Assets				
Equipment	\$ 289,719	121,751	-	411,470
Less Accumulated Depreciation				
Equipment	<u>235,816</u>	<u>15,467</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>251,283</u>
Total Net Capital Assets	<u>53,903</u>	<u>106,284</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>160,187</u>

Depreciation expense was \$15,467 and \$22,971 for the years ended February 28, 2026 and February 28, 2025, respectively.

NOTE 8 – SIGNIFICANT CONCENTRATIONS

Two agency members accounted for approximately 37% and 59% of revenues for the years ended February 28, 2026 and February 28, 2025, respectively.

DUPAGE RIVER SALT CREEK WORKGROUP, ILLINOIS

Notes to the Financial Statements February 28, 2026

NOTE 9 – INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT

In May 2019, DRSCW entered into an agreement with the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago (MWRDGC). This agreement was amended on October 8, 2021 and again on September 28, 2023. Per the agreement, MWRDGC will pay assessments to the DRSCW for one or more of the following projects: Fawell Dam Modifications, Spring Brook Restoration, Fullersburg Woods Dam Modification and Stream Restoration, and West Branch Stream Enhancement. At the end of the fiscal year and as of the opinion date, MWRDGC has paid down the assessments in the amount of \$8,424,150 for the Fullersburg Woods Dam Modification and Stream Restoration project by paying the contractors directly for the work for which MWRDGC is the project manager. MWRDGC is obligated under the agreement to pay project assessments of \$6,010,012. DRSCW has not recorded a receivable for this allotment due to the accounting being on a cash basis. The additional cost of the Dam Modification and Stream Restoration project is the responsibility of the DRSCW to pay.