

**FILED**

MAR 01 2023

COUNTY & PROBATE COURT CLERK

**COMBINED 2023 ANNUAL REPORT &  
ANNUAL TAXPAYER TRANSPERENCY REPORT OF THE  
BUFFALO ISLAND DRAINAGE DISTRICT No. 9  
CRAIGHEAD COUNTY, ARKANSAS**

Buffalo Island Drainage District No. 9 of Craighead County, Arkansas, submits its Annual Report as required by Act 386 of 2009 and Act 210 of 2011 of the Arkansas General Assembly (Arkansas Code Annotated Sections 14-86-103(c) and Sections 14-86-2101 – 2105).

**District's name:** Buffalo Island Drainage District No. 9 of Craighead County, Arkansas;

**Formation Statute:** The District was formed on August 23, 1999 when Drainage Districts Nos. 12, 17, 18 and 26 of Craighead County, Arkansas, merged with Drainage District No. 9 by Resolution, County Ordinance and Resolution Book 4, Pages 20-30, as provided for by Act 329 of 1999 of the Arkansas General Assembly codified at Arkansas Code Annotated Sections 14-121-1101 – 1110;

The District and its predecessor districts were formed under original Arkansas drainage improvement district law (Act 279 of 1909 as amended by Act 221 of 1911 and Act 177 of 1913 of the Arkansas General Assembly) now codified as part of Arkansas Annotated Code Sections 14-121-101 -- 1110;

Drainage District No. 9 was created on February 19, 1915, by County Court Order, County Court Record Book "M", Pages 77-79;

Drainage District No. 12 was created on August 4, 1914, by County Court Order, County Court Record Book "L", Pages 529-538;

Drainage District No. 17 was created on November 28, 1917, by County Court Order, County Court Record Book "N", Pages 28-29;

Drainage District No. 18 was created on April 25, 1918, by County Court Order, County Court Record Book "N", Pages 98-100; and

Drainage District No. 26 was created on October 20, 1923 by County Court Order, County Court Record Book "O", Pages 253-254.

**No. of Parcels:** approximately 80,000 acres

**Miles of Ditches:** approximately 130 miles

**Annual Assessment Receipts:** approximately \$110,000.00

**Purpose:** The District's predecessor drainage improvement districts nos. 9, 12, 17, 18 and 26 were originally formed to construct and maintain primary drainage ditches for their respective areas to drain the

area known as Buffalo Island in eastern Craighead County, east of the St. Francis River. The District administers annual ditch work to maintain the original ditches.

**Description of District:** A District map is filed with the County Clerk. The following lands within the District's boundaries which are located to the east of the St. Francis River Levee within Craighead County are more particularly described as:

All of Township 13 North, Range 7 East.

In Township 14 North, Range 6 East of Craighead County, Arkansas:

All of Sections 1, 2, 11, 12, 13, 14 and 24; and

All parts of Sections 3, 10, 15, 23 and 25, lying east of the St. Francis River Levee.

In Township 14 North, Range 7 East of Craighead County, Arkansas:

All of Township 14 North, Range 7 East.

In Township 15 North, Range 6 East of Craighead County, Arkansas:

All of Sections 25 and 36; and

All parts of Sections 24, 26, and 35, lying east of the St. Francis River Levee.

In Township 15 North, Range 7 East of Craighead County, Arkansas:

All of Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23,

24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35 and 36; and

All parts of Sections 6, 7, and 18, lying east of the St. Francis River Levee.

In Township 16 North, Range 7 East of Craighead County, Arkansas:

All of Sections 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 32, 33, 34, 35, and 36; and

All parts of Sections 20, 29, and 31, lying east of the St. Francis River Levee.

**A more detailed parcel listing can be obtained through the County Assessor's office.**

A map of the district is attached.

**General Description of Districts current and future maintenance and repairs needed:** Township 16 North, Range 7 East: Sections 20, 22, 23, 27, 26 and 34. Township 15 North, Range 7 East: Sections 3, 10, 15, 22, 25, 27, 34, and 36. . Township 14 North, Range 7 East: Section 1. . Township 13 North, Range 7 East: Sections 11, 14, 20, 32, 34.

**Total Existing Delinquent Assessments and Parties Responsible for Collection:** 333 Delinquent Assessments. Craighead County Tax Collector, 511 Union St., Suite 107, P.O. Box 9276, Jonesboro, AR 72401.

District Assessor's Contact Information: Craighead County Assessor, 511 S Union Street, Suite 130, Jonesboro, AR 72401, Phone: (870) 933-4570,

**Current Indebtedness:** None

**Current Contracts:** None. The District administers annual ditch maintenance work which is contracted on an hourly rate basis as needed through a bi-annual bid process. Current per hour unit prices for ditch maintenance using 30' boom, 1-yard bucket excavator is \$110.00 per hour.

**Statement Itemizing Income and Expenditures of District:** See attached.

**District Commissioners:**

Jeff Finch, 2399 Hwy 135 South, Black Oak, AR 72414, Term Expires 12/31/2029; (870) 926-7930, Finchjeff15@yahoo.com

Bishop Whitley, P.O. Box 82, Black Oak, AR 72414, Term Expires 12/31/2031; (870) 926-1572, bwhitley2005@yahoo.com

Dan Dunkerson, 3357 Hwy 135 South, Black Oak, AR 72414, Term Expires 12/31/2023; (870) 926-4245, dunkersonfarms@outlook.com

Bobby Pitts, P.O. Box 896, Monette, AR 72447, Term Expires 12/31/2025; (870) 930-4125, bpitts128@gmail.com

Justin Gathright, P.O. Box 54, Monette, AR 72447, Term Expired 12/31/2027; (870) 926-5769, jgfarms01@gmail.com

There are currently no vacancies on the district board or commission.

The Commissioners' terms of office are staggered ten (10) year terms pursuant to Arkansas Code Annotated Section 14-120-607.

**District Officers:**

Chair: Bishop Whitley

Vice Chair: Bobby Pitts

Treasurer: Dan Dunkerson

Secretary: Johnny Dunigan, P.O. Box 405, Monette, AR 72447

**Annual Meeting:**

The District has no set annual meeting date. It meets at least once per year, usually in late February or early March, and as needed. The District's last meeting was held on March 1, 2023, at 9:00 am at City Hall, Black Oak, Arkansas. Its next meeting is scheduled for February 21, 2023 at 9:00 a.m. at City Hall, Black Oak, Arkansas. The District typically does not meet between May and October unless a special meeting is called.

**District Payee:** District Treasurer 3357 Hwy 135 South, Black Oak, AR 72414

**Delinquent Penalty:**

Per the county's delinquent penalty and costs charges


**Method of Assessment:**

The District has an annual per acre assessed benefit equivalent to \$0.01 per acre and an annual per acre maintenance service charge equivalent to \$1.49 per acre. There has been no change in either the assessment or the service charge since 1999.

**Statement of Income:**

See attached audited financial report.

Completed by:



Johnny Dunigan, District Secretary

Date: 2/28/2023



**BUFFALO ISLAND DRAINAGE DISTRICT NO. 9  
OF CRAIGHEAD COUNTY ARKANSAS**

**INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT AND  
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**OCTOBER 31, 2022**

**BUFFALO ISLAND DRAINAGE DISTRICT NO. 9  
OF CRAIGHEAD COUNTY ARKANSAS**

**OCTOBER 31, 2022**

**CONTENTS**

**INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT ..... 1 - 2**

**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**Statement of Assets, Liabilities, and Net Assets (modified cash basis) ..... 3**

**Statement of Cash Receipts, Disbursements and Changes  
        in Net Assets (modified cash basis) ..... 4**

**Notes to Financial Statements (modified cash basis) ..... 5**

dls

despain luther short & company

901 Windover Road | Jonesboro, AR 72401 | 870-932-5401 | 870-972-1141

**INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT**

District Commissioners  
Buffalo Island Drainage District No. 9  
of Craighead County Arkansas  
Monette, Arkansas

**OPINION**

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the Buffalo Island Drainage District No. 9 of Craighead County Arkansas, which comprise the statement of assets, liabilities, and net assets (modified cash basis) as of October 31, 2022, and the related statement of cash receipts, disbursements, and changes in net assets (modified cash basis) 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 assets, liabilities, and net assets of the Buffalo Island Drainage District No. 9 of Craighead County Arkansas, as of October 31, 2022, and its cash receipts, disbursements, and changes in net assets for the year then ended in accordance with the modified cash basis of accounting as described in Note 1.

**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 Buffalo Island Drainage District No. 9 of Craighead County Arkansas, 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 1 of the financial statements, which describes the basis of accounting. The financial statements are prepared on the modified 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.

**MANAGEMENT'S RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with the modified cash basis of accounting as described in Note 1; this includes determining that the modified 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.



### AUDITORS' RESPONSIBILITY

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 auditors' 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 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 Buffalo Island Drainage District No. 9 of Craighead County Arkansas'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 Buffalo Island Drainage District No. 9 of Craighead County Arkansas'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 matters that we identified during the audit.

*Despain, Austin, Shaw  
& Company, CPAs, PA*

Jonesboro, Arkansas  
December 16, 2022

BUFFALO ISLAND DRAINAGE DISTRICT NO. 9  
OF CRAIGHEAD COUNTY ARKANSAS

STATEMENT OF ASSETS, LIABILITIES, AND NET ASSETS  
(MODIFIED CASH BASIS)

OCTOBER 31, 2022

ASSETS

CURRENT ASSETS

CASH

\$ 98,905

TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS

\$ 98,905

NET ASSETS

NET ASSETS

\$ 98,905

SEE NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

BUFFALO ISLAND DRAINAGE DISTRICT NO. 9  
OF CRAIGHEAD COUNTY ARKANSAS

STATEMENT OF CASH RECEIPTS, DISBURSEMENTS,  
AND CHANGES IN NET ASSETS  
(MODIFIED CASH BASIS)

YEAR ENDED OCTOBER 31, 2022

CASH RECEIPTS	
TAX COLLECTIONS	S 114,744
INTEREST INCOME	89
	<u>114,833</u>
CASH DISBURSEMENTS	
MAINTENANCE WORK	94,335
PUBLIC NOTICE	165
FILING FEES	60
OFFICE SUPPLIES	54
DUES	250
INSURANCE	5,084
MEETING FEES	0
ACCOUNTING FEES	1,200
	<u>101,148</u>
EXCESS (DEFICIENCY) OF CASH RECEIPTS OVER CASH DISBURSEMENTS	13,685
NET ASSETS, BEGINNING OF YEAR	<u>85,220</u>
NET ASSETS, END OF YEAR	<u>S 98,905</u>

SEE NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

**BUFFALO ISLAND DRAINAGE DISTRICT NO. 9  
OF CRAIGHEAD COUNTY ARKANSAS**

**NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
(MODIFIED CASH BASIS)**

**OCTOBER 31, 2022**

**NOTE 1: ORGANIZATION AND SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

**ORGANIZATION**

The BUFFALO ISLAND DRAINAGE DISTRICT NO. 9 OF CRAIGHEAD COUNTY ARKANSAS (the District) is a governmental district formed to manage and supervise activities related to the drainage ditches within its district.

**BASIS OF ACCOUNTING**

The District's accounts are maintained on a modified cash basis, and the financial statements reflect only cash received and disbursed. On the modified cash basis, expenditures for certificates of deposit are not treated as expenses but shown as current assets on the statement of assets, liabilities, and net assets. The financial statements are not intended to present the financial position or results of operations in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

**INCOME TAXES**

The District is a non-taxable governmental entity.

**NOTE 2: SUBSEQUENT EVENTS**

Management has evaluated subsequent events through December 16, 2022, the date which the financial statements were available to be issued.