



FASAB Newsletter

Federal Accounting Standards Advisory Board

October-November 2020 TABLE OF CONTENTS

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Disclaimer

The staff of the Federal Accounting Standards Advisory Board publishes the FASAB newsletter following board meetings to provide highlights of recent Board actions and issues. When an article refers to a Board decision, it should be understood that this is tentative until FASAB issues a Statement of Federal Financial Accounting Concepts (SFFAC) or Statement of Federal Financial Accounting Standards (SFFAS).

Please direct newsletter editorial questions to Leigha Kiger at 202-512-7358 or kigerl@fasab.gov.

Please direct FASAB and AAPC administrative questions to Romona Parker at 202-512-7350 or parkerr1@fasab.gov.

Member News

FASAB Bids Farewell to Tim Soltis and Welcomes Regina Kearney to the Board

Mr. Timothy Soltis, the Federal Accounting Standards Advisory Board (FASAB or “the Board”) member representing the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), left the Board to take another position within OMB. FASAB thanks Mr. Soltis for his contributions to the Board over the last two years and wishes him much success in his new position. FASAB also welcomes Ms. Regina Kearney back to the Board as the new OMB representative to FASAB.

Ms. Kearney is the Branch Chief of the Financial Integrity and Risk Management Branch in the Office of Federal Financial Management. In this role, Ms. Kearney is

responsible for providing analysis and oversight of federal financial management initiatives including, federal financial reporting, program integrity, and risk management. Prior to joining the OMB in November of 2007, Ms. Kearney worked at the Department of Defense (DOD). While at DOD, her responsibilities included setting accounting policy for the department and progressing the reporting of environmental liabilities across DOD. Earlier Ms. Kearney supported the Marine Corps as an accountant within the Defense Finance and Accounting Services. There she was responsible for reporting on funds execution and reconciling Funds Balance with Treasury for the Marine Corps. Ms. Kearney received her Masters of Accountancy from the University of West Florida.

[FASAB Celebrates its 30th Anniversary](#)

October 10, 2020, marked FASAB’s 30th anniversary. As the Board celebrates its 30th anniversary and continues to navigate through COVID-19, it does so utilizing an array of virtual video-conferencing tools and other remote communication methods. The members, staff, and the many FASAB volunteers have successfully assisted the Board in navigating through this trying time and moving its agenda forward.

Over the last three decades, FASAB has continued to build onto a historic beginning as it continues to meet the needs of the federal financial management community it was created to serve.

30 Years of FASAB Publications			
	1991 – 2000	2001 – 2010	2011 – 2020
SFFAC	1 – 3	4 – 6	7 – 9
SFFAS	1 – 18	19 – 39	40 – 58
Interpretations	1 – 5	6 – 7	8 – 9
Technical Bulletins		TB 2000-1 – TB 2009-1	TB 2011-1 – TB 2020-1
Technical Releases	1 – 4	5 – 9	10 – 19
Staff Implementation Guidance		SIG 23.1 and SIG 31.1	SIG 6.1

For more information, please see the Board’s commemorative [YouTube video](#). A 30th anniversary newsletter is forthcoming.

[Apply to be a FASAB Student Volunteer Intern](#)

Are you a student interested in interning for FASAB? Do you know someone who might be? We have a vacancy open for a student volunteer intern. For more information on the vacancy, please review the [USA Jobs listing](#).

FASAB Issues its Annual Report and Three-Year Plan

On November 20, 2020, FASAB published its *Annual Report for Fiscal Year 2020 and Three-Year Plan*. The combined report allows stakeholders to consider FASAB's progress and invites them to advise the Board about its plans.

The report reviews the Board's efforts and accomplishments during fiscal year 2020 and provides information and three-year timelines for current projects. The report also includes three potential projects that the Board will consider moving forward.

FASAB requests your written comments regarding the content of the annual report and the three-year plan. Written comments are most helpful if they provide the reasoning for your views. Please provide your comments by **January 21, 2021**.

The report is available at <https://fasab.gov/about-fasab/our-annual-reports/>.

Current Board Projects

(For more information, click on the title of the project to be directed to the related active project page.)

[Accounting and Reporting of Government Land](#)

At the October 2020 meeting, members considered a draft document and agreed to move to a pre-ballot draft of Statement of Federal Financial Accounting Standards XX, *Accounting and Reporting of Government Land*, pending a few revisions.

Specifically, the Board reviewed one carry-over issue from the August 2020 meeting concerning multi-use land. Members also discussed the proposed disclosure of the outer continental shelf (OCS) and clarifying the effective date for capitalizing temporary land rights when selecting the SFFAS 50 alternative method.

As a result, staff will distribute a revised document for pre-balloting and request that any dissents be provided as soon as possible.

Visit [the land project page](#) to learn more.

Point of Contact: Domenic Savini, 202-512-6841, savinid@fasab.gov

Leases

At the October 2020 meeting, the Board reviewed a pre-ballot draft of the omnibus amendments proposals. Board members agreed on edits to finalize the questions for respondents and approved the proposal to be released for public comment.

On November 2, 2020, the Board, in tandem with the Accounting and Auditing Policy Committee, released a joint exposure draft (ED) titled *Implementation Guidance for Leases & Omnibus Amendments on Leases-Related Topics*.

- The proposed implementation guidance, which includes 99 implementation questions and answers, would provide technical guidance for applying the requirements of SFFAS 54.
- The omnibus amendments ED proposes targeted revisions to SFFAS 54, *Leases*, to enhance the clarity of the Statement, rescind certain disclosure requirements, and provide minor technical corrections therein.

Both the ED and the specific questions raised are available at <https://fasab.gov/board-activities/documents-for-comment/>. **Comments on the ED are requested by February 5, 2021.** Stakeholder input is integral to the Board's due process, and constituents are strongly encouraged to participate by reviewing and commenting on these proposals.

Visit the Board's [leases project page](#) and the AAPC's [leases implementation project page](#) to learn more.

Point of Contact: R. Alan Perry, Jr., 202-512-5720, perryra@fasab.gov

Reporting Model Initiative

Management's Discussion and Analysis

At the October 2020 meeting, members continued to update the draft MD&A vision framework in preparation for the MD&A pilot.

Visit the [MD&A project page](#) to learn more.

Point of Contact: Robin Gilliam, 202-512-7356, gilliamr@fasab.gov

Note Disclosures

At the October 2020 meeting, the Board discussed note disclosures concepts. Members agreed that staff should enhance the purpose of note disclosures discussed

in existing concepts and that note disclosures may present the following types of information:

- Relevant information integral to understanding line items of accrual basis financial statements and projections
- Context or background information regarding the reporting entity and its activities
- Past events, current conditions, and circumstances not previously recognized but that may affect an entity's operating performance and stewardship
- Other information users may need to assess the government's accountability

Visit [the note disclosures project page](#) to learn more.

Point of Contact: Ross Simms, 202-512-2512, simmsr@fasab.gov

Technical Clarifications of Existing Standards

Non-Federal, Non-Entity Fund Balance with Treasury

At the October 2020 meeting, the Board considered a ballot draft Interpretation, *Clarification of Non-Federal Non-entity FBWT Classification (SFFAS 1 Paragraph 31): An Interpretation of SFFAS 1 and SFFAS 31*.

On October 29, 2020, FASAB released the exposure draft for comment. The proposed Interpretation would clarify the classification and presentation of non-federal non-entity Fund Balance with Treasury (FBWT) in paragraph 31 of SFFAS 1, *Accounting for Selected Assets and Liabilities*. Paragraph 31 had been amended by SFFAS 31, *Accounting for Fiduciary Activities*, which led to ambiguity.

The proposal would clarify how amounts received in deposit funds from non-federal sources in anticipation of an order (that is, an advance) should be presented (that is, classification between intragovernmental and governmental) on component entity financial statements. It would clarify the classification of non-federal non-entity FBWT as intragovernmental by explaining that the standards do not define the phrase "other non-federal non-entity FBWT." The inclusion was intended to provide for similar treatment of activities that are comparable with fiduciary activity but that had not been identified specifically in SFFAS 31. The Board did not intend to require similar treatment for activities that were explicitly excluded from the provisions of SFFAS 31.

The exposure draft and the specific questions raised are available on the FASAB website in PDF and Microsoft Word format, respectively (<https://www.fasab.gov/documents-for-comment/>). While FASAB encourages that all comments be submitted by January 6, 2021, late submissions are also reviewed by the Board.

Visit the [non-federal, non-entity fund balance with Treasury project page](#) to learn more.

Point of Contact: Melissa Batchelor, 202-512-5976, batchelorm@fasab.gov

Accounting and Auditing Policy Committee

The AAPC cancelled its November 19, 2020, meeting.

AAPC Staff Liaison: R. Alan Perry, Jr., 202-512-5720, perryra@fasab.gov

Until further notice, FASAB and AAPC meetings will be held via teleconference. If you wish to observe a FASAB meeting via teleconference, the telephone number and observer passcode are available on the posted agendas.

FASAB Meeting Schedule

2020

December 15-16[^]

2021

February 23-24

April 27-28

June 22-23

August 24-25

October 26-27

December 14-15

[^] Beginning at 11:00 a.m. on Tuesday and 9:30 a.m. on Wednesday.

Agendas and briefing materials are available at <https://www.fasab.gov/briefing-materials/> approximately one week before the meetings. Agendas include conference line information for those interested in observing the teleconference meetings.

AAPC Meeting Schedule

2021

February 4

March 11

May 6

August 12

November 18

AAPC meetings prior to June 30, 2021, will be held via teleconference. Agendas are available at <https://fasab.gov/about-aapc/aapc-meetings/> approximately one week before the meetings. Agendas include conference line information for those interested in observing the teleconference meetings.

Security Notice for In-Person Meetings

FASAB and AAPC meetings will be held via teleconference until further notice. When in-person meetings resume and you wish to attend, please pre-register on our website at <https://www.fasab.gov/pre-registration/> **no later than 8 a.m. the Tuesday before the meeting to be observed.** GAO, which provides space for our meetings, has increased

its security procedures, and your name must be provided in advance to the GAO security force before you can enter the building. **When you arrive, please advise the security officer that you are attending either a FASAB or an AAPC meeting. Doing so will assist the officer in locating the correct security list.** Thank you.