

## Tooratrs romics

- Wisconsin Retirement System

Operation

- Wisconsin Retirement System Overview (assets, contributions, dividends)
- Actuarial Projection Summary


## Questions

- How much retiree purchasing power loss is tolerable?
- How much variation in employer and employee contribution rates is tolerable?
- What happens if another 2008 depletes the dividend reserve?


## WRS Operation

- Benefits
- Plan Governance
- ETF Board Role
- SWIB Role
- WRS Accounts and Reserves
- Actuarial Valuation of WRS
- Sharing Asset Experience
- Dividend Reserve Depletion


## WRS Overview

## Covered Population at 12/31/2014

Financial Information

|  | Number | Total \$ Millions | Average |  | Type |  |
| :--- | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | :--- |
| Retirees | 185,605 | $\$$ | 4,489 | $\$$ | 24,185 | Annual Benefit |
| Active Members | 256,100 |  | 13,037 |  | 50,907 | Annual Pay |
| Inactive Members | 154,286 |  | 2,093 |  | 13,564 | Money Purchase Balance |
| Total | $\mathbf{5 9 5 , 9 9 1}$ |  |  |  |  |  |

- Core Fund
- Diversified Portfolio
- 5 Year Smoothing through Market

Recognition Account

- Variable Fund
- Equity Portfolio
- Marked to Market each year


## WRS Benefits

- Hybrid Plan

Defined Benefit: 1.6\% x FAC x Service (Most participants)
Not less than twice value of member account (A form of employer match)

- Adjustments are made to the above for members participating in Variable.


## WRS Contributions

- Four rate Groups: General, Executive,

Protective with and without Social
Security.

- Actuarial Valuation determines contributions by rate group.
- General and Executive participants split cost equally with employers.
- Protective participants pay the same rate as General participants and employers pay the difference.


## WRS Accounts and Reserves

- Retired Reserve: Intended to hold exactly the right amount of money so that IF
- each person lives exactly the right number of years,
- and gets exactly the same benefit each year
- and the reserve earns exactly 5\% each year,
- Then the reserve will be exhausted the day the last person dies.
- Retirees share in investment gains, but also share in investment losses. Prior dividends can be reduced if less than $5 \%$ is credited to the Core Annuity Division.
- Only dividends can be reduced. The original core benefit is protected.
- The present value of the excess of total core benefits over original benefits is called the "Dividend Reserve", although there is no formal definition of such a reserve.


## Dividend Reserve

- A positive dividend reserve means that retirees are getting some inflation protection, but also provides a means by which the effect of investment losses on employer rates can be dampened.
- A $\$ 0$ dividend reserve means that retirees have lost all inflation protection and one of the shock absorbers on employer rates is gone.


## Dividend Reserve Depletion

- The probability of such an event is low. Even 2008 did not produce depletion.
- But low is not zero, and there are people who believe the stock market is currently in a bubble.
- The following slides explore in general terms what a deficit in the retiree reserve means for the System.

Liability Attributable to Dividends

| Valuation | Liability for <br> Dividend Remaining <br> (billions) |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $12 / 31 / 2009$ | $\$ 8.1$ |  |
| $12 / 31 / 2010$ |  | 7.2 |
| $12 / 31 / 2011$ |  | 6.4 |
| $12 / 31 / 2012$ |  | 4.5 |
| $12 / 31 / 2013$ | 3.0 |  |
| $12 / 31 / 2014$ |  | 4.6 |
| $12 / 31 / 2015(e s t)$ | 5.7 |  |

Liability for
Dividend Adjustment
$\frac{\text { (billions) }}{\$(0.4)}$
2.0
1.3

12/31/2015(est)
5.7

- Liability for Dividend Remaining represents the value of all previously granted dividends
- If another market event similar to 2008 were to occur again, the complete depletion of the dividend would become a real possibility


## WRS Projections

## Study Objectives

- Review emerging demographic trends
- Perform stochastic projections
- Perform various deterministic projections
- Evaluate worst case scenarios
- Investigate probability of depleting the dividend reserve
- Investigate probable range of contribution rates


## Present \& Future Actives



The present population has a "half life" of about 10 years.

## Retiree Population Present and Future

Projected Retiree Population


## Projected Core Trust Fund Assets (\$Billions)



Projected Net External Cash Flow* Valuation Assumptions

| Year | \$ (Millions) | \% of <br> Assets | \% of <br> Payroll |
| ---: | ---: | :---: | :---: |
| 2015 | $\$(2,557)$ | $(3.1) \%$ | $(18.9) \%$ |
| 2025 | $(4,828)$ | $(4.0) \%$ | $(25.6) \%$ |
| 2035 | $(7,015)$ | $(4.4) \%$ | $(26.6) \%$ |
| 2045 | $(8,460)$ | $(4.0) \%$ | $(23.0) \%$ |
| 2055 | $(11,185)$ | $(3.9) \%$ | $(22.2) \%$ |
| 2065 | $(15,195)$ | $(3.9) \%$ | $(22.0) \%$ |

*Contribution income minus benefit payout.

## Projected Contributions and Benefits as a \% of Active Payroll



## Monte Carlo Simulations

- Based on 10,000 random trials
- Valuation Assumptions held constant
- Assumes seven sets of expected return/standard deviations
Scenario 1-5.0\%/9.3\%
Scenario 2-6.0\%/11.9\%
Scenario 3-7.0\%/15.9\%

Current
Allocation

Scenario 4-7.2\%/16.8\%
Scenario 5-8.0\%/20.6\%
Scenario 6-9.0\%/25.9\%
Scenario 7-10.0\%/32.3\%

## Contribution as a \% of Payroll Scenario 2 - 6.0\%ER,11.9\%SD


 $\begin{array}{llllllllllll}\text { 25th Percentile } & 13.9 \% & 13.6 \% & 13.7 \% & 13.8 \% & 14.0 \% & 14.4 \% & 14.8 \% & 15.1 \% & 15.3 \% & 15.5 \% & 15.6 \%\end{array}$

 | 75th Percentile | $13.9 \%$ | $13.6 \%$ | $13.4 \%$ | $13.0 \%$ | $12.8 \%$ | $12.6 \%$ | $12.6 \%$ | $12.6 \%$ | $12.7 \%$ | $12.9 \%$ |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |



## Dividend Rates <br> Scenario $2-6.0 \%$ ER,11.9\%SD



| 5th Percentile | $-1.3 \%$ | $-1.3 \%$ | $-3.0 \%$ | $-4.7 \%$ | $-5.2 \%$ | $-3.8 \%$ | $-3.3 \%$ | $-2.9 \%$ | $-2.5 \%$ | $-2.4 \%$ | $-2.2 \%$ |
| ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| 25th Percentile | $1.0 \%$ | $1.4 \%$ | $0.0 \%$ | $-1.4 \%$ | $-1.5 \%$ | $-1.0 \%$ | $-0.9 \%$ | $-0.7 \%$ | $-0.6 \%$ | $-0.5 \%$ | $-0.4 \%$ |
| Median | $2.6 \%$ | $3.3 \%$ | $2.1 \%$ | $0.8 \%$ | $0.9 \%$ | $0.8 \%$ | $0.8 \%$ | $0.8 \%$ | $0.8 \%$ | $0.8 \%$ | $0.8 \%$ |
| 75th Percentile | $4.1 \%$ | $5.2 \%$ | $4.2 \%$ | $3.1 \%$ | $3.1 \%$ | $2.6 \%$ | $2.4 \%$ | $2.2 \%$ | $2.1 \%$ | $2.0 \%$ | $1.9 \%$ |
| 95th Percentile | $6.5 \%$ | $8.1 \%$ | $7.3 \%$ | $6.3 \%$ | $6.4 \%$ | $5.3 \%$ | $4.6 \%$ | $4.4 \%$ | $4.1 \%$ | $3.8 \%$ | $3.6 \%$ |

# Contribution rate summary under alternate scenarios - median 



GRS

## Dividend rate summary under alternate scenarios - median



## Discussion of Dividend

## Probability that Dividend will be Depleted by Year

|  |  | Expected ROR | Standard Deviation | Year |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  | 1 |  | 5 | 10 | 20 | 50 |
| CurrentAllocation | 1 |  | 5.0\% | 9.3\% | 0.0\% | 4.3\% | 11.4\% | 18.3\% | 30.5\% |
|  | 2 | 6.0\% | 11.9\% | 0.0\% | 7.9\% | 11.1\% | 8.3\% | 3.2\% |
|  | 3 | 7.0\% | 15.9\% | 0.0\% | 12.0\% | 12.2\% | 6.1\% | 0.8\% |
|  | 4 | 7.2\% | 16.8\% | 0.0\% | 12.8\% | 12.6\% | 6.0\% | 0.7\% |
|  | 5 | 8.0\% | 20.6\% | 0.1\% | 15.9\% | 14.0\% | 5.9\% | 0.5\% |
|  | 6 | 9.0\% | 25.9\% | 0.4\% | 19.7\% | 16.4\% | 6.8\% | 0.5\% |
|  | 7 | 10.0\% | 32.3\% | 1.4\% | 23.2\% | 19.7\% | 8.7\% | 0.8\% |

## Discussion of Dividend

Probability of Negative Dividend by Year

|  |  | Expected ROR | Standard <br> Deviation | Year |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  | 1 |  | 5 | 10 | 20 | 50 |
| Current Allocation | 1 |  | 5.0\% | 9.3\% | 7.9\% | 50.2\% | 56.0\% | 54.9\% | 54.4\% |
|  | 2 | 6.0\% | 11.9\% | 13.8\% | 40.6\% | 34.0\% | 30.1\% | 30.1\% |
|  | 3 | 7.0\% | 15.9\% | 18.9\% | 36.6\% | 24.6\% | 19.8\% | 20.5\% |
|  | 4 | 7.2\% | 16.8\% | 19.8\% | 36.1\% | 23.4\% | 18.9\% | 19.5\% |
|  | 5 | 8.0\% | 20.6\% | 23.5\% | 35.2\% | 20.9\% | 16.1\% | 16.8\% |
|  | 6 | 9.0\% | 25.9\% | 26.7\% | 35.4\% | 19.5\% | 14.8\% | 15.5\% |
|  | 7 | 10.0\% | 32.3\% | 29.6\% | 36.6\% | 20.0\% | 15.0\% | 16.0\% |

## Discussion of Dividend

## Worst Case Scenario of Cumulative Dividend Percent (\% of Floor Benefit that is funded)

|  |  | Expected ROR | Standard <br> Deviation | Year |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  | 1 |  | 5 | 10 | 20 | 50 |
| $\begin{gathered} \text { Current } \\ \text { Allocation } \end{gathered}$ | 1 |  | 5.0\% | 9.3\% | 109\% | 93\% | 85\% | 80\% | 68\% |
|  | 2 | 6.0\% | 11.9\% | 109\% | 86\% | 79\% | 81\% | 86\% |
|  | 3 | 7.0\% | 15.9\% | 107\% | 77\% | 72\% | 78\% | 105\% |
|  | 4 | 7.2\% | 16.8\% | 106\% | 75\% | 70\% | 77\% | 108\% |
|  | 5 | 8.0\% | 20.6\% | 105\% | 66\% | 61\% | 72\% | 118\% |
|  | 6 | 9.0\% | 25.9\% | 102\% | 54\% | 49\% | 62\% | 124\% |
|  | 7 | 10.0\% | 32.3\% | 99\% | 40\% | 34\% | 46\% | 115\% |

Worst Case Scenario based on $1^{\text {st }}$ Percentile (i.e. $1 \%$ probability)

## Dividend Observations

- The low risk scenarios are actually risky in the sense that, for example, $5 \%$ expected return has much higher chance of dividend depletion in later years than higher risk scenarios
- Must balance short and long term volatility
- Consider probability of dividend depletion
- Consider level of worst case scenario that is acceptable


## Combination of all Scenarios



At least with respect to the 2025 outcome, there is a much narrower range on the worse results than on the better results, indicating a potential justification for risk above the minimum illustrated. After scenario 4, the worse results degrade at a high rate. Also the worst case scenario for the retiree dividend pool fall below $70 \%$ for scenarios $1,5,6$ and 7 . So do 2, 3, and 4 comprise a "Goldilocks Zone?"

## 2015 Observations

- 2013 and 2014 results helped rebuild the dividend base somewhat
- 2015 investment results might reduce some of that cushion depending on measured return at December 31
- High expected return/volatility scenarios appear to result in nearer term dividend risk
- Low expected return/volatility scenarios appear to result in longer term dividend risk
- Target 'Goldilocks zone' that provides for positive return with appropriate downside protection
- This presentation shall not be construed to provide tax advice, legal advice or investment advice.
- Readers are cautioned to examine original source materials and to consult with subject matter experts before making decisions related to the subject matter of this presentation.
- This presentation expresses the views of the authors and does not necessarily express the views of Gabriel, Roeder, Smith \& Company.



## - Introduction

## August SWIB meeting

- Actuarial overview of WRS
- Focus: role of investment return in System operation (contribution rates, dividends)
October SWIB meeting
- Focus: Use stochastic projections to
- Evaluate worst case scenarios
- Investigate probability of depleting the dividend reserve
- Investigate probable range of contribution rates


## Introduction

## October SWIB meeting

- Observations from this study
- Pursuing lower risk/return alternatives may lead to undesirable WRS results
- Pursuing higher risk/return alternatives may lead to undesirable WRS results
Target 'Goldilocks zone' that provides for positive return with appropriate downside protection


## Study Objectives

- Review emerging demographic trends
- Perform stochastic projections
- Perform various deterministic projections
- Evaluate worst case scenarios
- Investigate probability of depleting the dividend reserve
- Investigate probable range of contribution rates


## WRS Population



## Ratio of Active Members to Retirees




GRS

Female Life Expectancy


## Present \& Future Actives



The present population has a "half life" of about 10 years.

## Retiree Population Present and Future

Projected Retiree Population


## Projected Core Trust Fund Assets (\$Billions)



## Observations

- In nominal terms, assets will increase by a factor of 4.7 during the projection period
- In real terms, assets need to grow a little to cover the peak of the baby boom retirements
- They may decline slightly after that


## Observations

- A few present retirees will probably draw benefits for more than 50 years
- The number of retirees will increase by about $73 \%$ over the next 20 years
- Retiree liability will grow to about $60 \%$ of total liability
- Assets are about 6 times payroll

Maturing pension plans (like WRS) accumulate substantial assets relative to payroll

- Asset volatility increases dramatically for most plans
- Due to cost sharing nature of WRS, asset changes have been traditionally shared by:

Employees (through money purchase benefit)

- Employers (through contributions)
$\rightarrow$ Retirees (through dividends)
- WRS Market Recognition account serves to further filter asset experience

| Year | \$ (Millions) | \% of <br> Assets | \% of <br> Payroll |
| ---: | ---: | :---: | :---: |
| 2015 | $\$(2,557)$ | $(3.1) \%$ | $(18.9) \%$ |
| 2025 | $(4,828)$ | $(4.0) \%$ | $(25.6) \%$ |
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| 2045 | $(8,460)$ | $(4.0) \%$ | $(23.0) \%$ |
| 2055 | $(11,185)$ | $(3.9) \%$ | $(22.2) \%$ |
| 2065 | $(15,195)$ | $(3.9) \%$ | $(22.0) \%$ |

*Contribution income minus benefit payout.

Projected Contributions and Benefits as a \% of Active Payroll

Expected Benefit Payments as a \% of Active Payroll


## Comments

- Liquidity needs (i.e., contributions less benefits) increase to over $4 \%$ of fund assets
- Benefit payout peaks at about 40\% of payroll - more than 3 times the level of contribution income
- Benefits as \% of payroll have increased more than expected primarily due to declines in active headcount and low wage inflation
- More than $2 / 3^{\text {rds }}$ of benefit payout will come from investment return


# Stochastic Scenarios 

## Monte Carlo Simulations

- Based on 10,000 random trials
- Valuation Assumptions held constant
- Assumes seven sets of expected return/standard deviations

Scenario 1-5.0\%/9.3\%
Scenario 2-6.0\%/11.9\%
Scenario 3-7.0\%/15.9\%
Current Allocation
Scenario 4-7.2\%/16.8\%
Scenario 5-8.0\%/20.6\%
Scenario 6-9.0\%/25.9\%
Scenario 7-10.0\%/32.3\%

## Contribution as a \% of Payroll Scenario 1 - 5.0\%ER,9.3\%SD



## Contribution as a \% of Payroll Scenario 2 - 6.0\%ER,11.9\%SD



$\begin{array}{llllllllllll}\text { 25th Percentile } & 13.9 \% & 13.6 \% & 13.7 \% & 13.8 \% & 14.0 \% & 14.4 \% & 14.8 \% & 15.1 \% & 15.3 \% & 15.5 \% & 15.6 \%\end{array}$


| 75th Percentile | $13.9 \%$ | $13.6 \%$ | $13.4 \%$ | $13.0 \%$ | $12.8 \%$ | $12.6 \%$ | $12.6 \%$ | $12.6 \%$ | $12.7 \%$ | $12.9 \%$ |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |



## Contribution as a \% of Payroll Scenario 3-7.0\%ER,15.9\%SD



| 5th Percentile | $13.9 \%$ | $13.6 \%$ | $14.1 \%$ | $14.6 \%$ | $15.3 \%$ | $16.1 \%$ | $16.9 \%$ | $17.3 \%$ | $17.5 \%$ | $17.6 \%$ | $17.6 \%$ |
| ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| 25th Percentile | $13.9 \%$ | $13.6 \%$ | $13.8 \%$ | $13.9 \%$ | $14.1 \%$ | $14.5 \%$ | $14.9 \%$ | $15.1 \%$ | $15.3 \%$ | $15.4 \%$ | $15.4 \%$ |
| Median | $13.9 \%$ | $13.6 \%$ | $13.5 \%$ | $13.3 \%$ | $13.3 \%$ | $13.4 \%$ | $13.4 \%$ | $13.5 \%$ | $13.6 \%$ | $13.6 \%$ | $13.6 \%$ |
| 75th Percentile | $13.9 \%$ | $13.6 \%$ | $13.3 \%$ | $12.8 \%$ | $12.4 \%$ | $12.1 \%$ | $11.8 \%$ | $11.7 \%$ | $11.7 \%$ | $11.7 \%$ | $11.6 \%$ |
| 95th Percentile | $13.9 \%$ | $13.6 \%$ | $12.9 \%$ | $12.0 \%$ | $11.1 \%$ | $10.2 \%$ | $9.3 \%$ | $8.8 \%$ | $8.5 \%$ | $8.4 \%$ | $8.3 \%$ |

## Contribution as a \% of Payroll Scenario 4-7.2\%ER,16.8\%SD


$\begin{array}{lllllllllll}\text { 5th Percentile } & 13.9 \% & 13.6 \% & 14.1 \% & 14.7 \% & 15.4 \% & 16.2 \% & 17.1 \% & 17.5 \% & 17.6 \% & 17.8 \%\end{array} \quad 17.7 \%$
$\begin{array}{lllllllllll}\text { 25th Percentile } & 13.9 \% & 13.6 \% & 13.8 \% & 13.9 \% & 14.1 \% & 14.5 \% & 14.9 \% & 15.2 \% & 15.3 \% & 15.4 \% \\ 15.4 \%\end{array}$
Median 13.9\% 13.6\% 13.5\% 13.3\% 13.2\% 13.3\% 13.4\% $13.4 \% ~ 13.5 \% ~ 13.5 \% ~ 13.5 \%$
$\begin{array}{lllllllllllllllll}\text { 75th Percentile } & 13.9 \% & 13.6 \% & 13.3 \% & 12.7 \% & 12.3 \% & 12.0 \% & 11.7 \% & 11.5 \% & 11.5 \% & 11.5 \% & 11.3 \%\end{array}$
$\begin{array}{llllllllllll}\text { 95th Percentile } & 13.9 \% & 13.6 \% & 12.9 \% & 11.9 \% & 10.9 \% & 10.0 \% & 9.0 \% & 8.4 \% & 8.1 \% & 7.9 \% & 7.7 \%\end{array}$

## Contribution as a \% of Payroll Scenario 5 - 8.0\%ER,20.6\%SD



| 5th Percentile | $13.9 \%$ | $13.6 \%$ | $14.3 \%$ | $14.9 \%$ | $15.7 \%$ | $16.7 \%$ | $17.7 \%$ | $18.1 \%$ | $18.2 \%$ | $18.3 \%$ | $18.2 \%$ |
| ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| 25th Percentile | $13.9 \%$ | $13.6 \%$ | $13.8 \%$ | $14.0 \%$ | $14.2 \%$ | $14.7 \%$ | $15.1 \%$ | $15.3 \%$ | $15.4 \%$ | $15.4 \%$ | $15.3 \%$ |
| Median | $13.9 \%$ | $13.6 \%$ | $13.5 \%$ | $13.3 \%$ | $13.1 \%$ | $13.2 \%$ | $13.1 \%$ | $13.1 \%$ | $13.1 \%$ | $13.1 \%$ | $12.9 \%$ |
| 75th Percentile | $13.9 \%$ | $13.6 \%$ | $13.2 \%$ | $12.6 \%$ | $12.0 \%$ | $11.5 \%$ | $11.0 \%$ | $10.7 \%$ | $10.6 \%$ | $10.4 \%$ | $10.2 \%$ |
| 95th Percentile | $13.9 \%$ | $13.6 \%$ | $12.7 \%$ | $11.5 \%$ | $10.2 \%$ | $9.0 \%$ | $7.6 \%$ | $6.7 \%$ | $6.1 \%$ | $5.8 \%$ | $5.5 \%$ |

## Contribution as a \% of Payroll Scenario 6-9.0\%ER,25.9\%SD


$\begin{array}{lllllllllllllll}\text { 5th Percentile } & 13.9 \% & 13.6 \% & 14.4 \% & 15.3 \% & 16.3 \% & 17.4 \% & 18.6 \% & 19.0 \% & 19.1 \% & 19.1 \% & 19.0 \%\end{array}$


$\begin{array}{llllllllllll}\text { 75th Percentile } & 13.9 \% & 13.6 \% & 13.1 \% & 12.3 \% & 11.6 \% & 10.8 \% & 10.1 \% & 9.7 \% & 9.3 \% & 9.0 \% & 8.6 \%\end{array}$

| 95th Percentile | $13.9 \%$ | $13.6 \%$ | $12.5 \%$ | $10.9 \%$ | $9.3 \%$ | $7.5 \%$ | $5.6 \%$ | $4.2 \%$ | $3.3 \%$ | $2.7 \%$ |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |

## Contribution as a \% of Payroll Scenario 7 - 10.0\%ER,32.3\%SD



| 5th Percentile | $13.9 \%$ | $13.6 \%$ | $14.7 \%$ | $15.7 \%$ | $17.0 \%$ | $18.4 \%$ | $19.8 \%$ | $20.2 \%$ | $20.3 \%$ | $20.2 \%$ |
| ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| $20.0 \%$ |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 25th Percentile | $13.9 \%$ | $13.6 \%$ | $13.9 \%$ | $14.2 \%$ | $14.7 \%$ | $15.2 \%$ | $15.7 \%$ | $16.0 \%$ | $16.0 \%$ | $16.0 \%$ |
| $15.8 \%$ |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Median | $13.9 \%$ | $13.6 \%$ | $13.5 \%$ | $13.1 \%$ | $12.9 \%$ | $12.8 \%$ | $12.6 \%$ | $12.5 \%$ | $12.3 \%$ | $12.1 \%$ |
| $11.8 \%$ |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 75th Percentile | $13.9 \%$ | $13.6 \%$ | $13.0 \%$ | $12.0 \%$ | $11.1 \%$ | $10.1 \%$ | $9.1 \%$ | $8.5 \%$ | $8.0 \%$ | $7.5 \%$ |
| 95th Percentile | $13.9 \%$ | $13.6 \%$ | $12.2 \%$ | $10.3 \%$ | $8.1 \%$ | $5.7 \%$ | $3.2 \%$ | $1.2 \%$ | $-0.2 \%$ | $-1.2 \%$ |



## Dividend Rates

Scenario 2 - 6.0\%ER,11.9\%SD


| 5th Percentile | $-1.3 \%$ | $-1.3 \%$ | $-3.0 \%$ | $-4.7 \%$ | $-5.2 \%$ | $-3.8 \%$ | $-3.3 \%$ | $-2.9 \%$ | $-2.5 \%$ | $-2.4 \%$ | $-2.2 \%$ |
| ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| 25th Percentile | $1.0 \%$ | $1.4 \%$ | $0.0 \%$ | $-1.4 \%$ | $-1.5 \%$ | $-1.0 \%$ | $-0.9 \%$ | $-0.7 \%$ | $-0.6 \%$ | $-0.5 \%$ | $-0.4 \%$ |
| Median | $2.6 \%$ | $3.3 \%$ | $2.1 \%$ | $0.8 \%$ | $0.9 \%$ | $0.8 \%$ | $0.8 \%$ | $0.8 \%$ | $0.8 \%$ | $0.8 \%$ | $0.8 \%$ |
| 75th Percentile | $4.1 \%$ | $5.2 \%$ | $4.2 \%$ | $3.1 \%$ | $3.1 \%$ | $2.6 \%$ | $2.4 \%$ | $2.2 \%$ | $2.1 \%$ | $2.0 \%$ | $1.9 \%$ |
| 95th Percentile | $6.5 \%$ | $8.1 \%$ | $7.3 \%$ | $6.3 \%$ | $6.4 \%$ | $5.3 \%$ | $4.6 \%$ | $4.4 \%$ | $4.1 \%$ | $3.8 \%$ | $3.6 \%$ |



## Dividend Rates

Scenario 4-7.2\%ER,16.8\%SD


| 5th Percentile | $-2.7 \%$ | $-2.8 \%$ | $-4.6 \%$ | $-6.4 \%$ | $-7.0 \%$ | $-4.8 \%$ | $-3.9 \%$ | $-3.3 \%$ | $-2.8 \%$ | $-2.5 \%$ | $-2.2 \%$ |
| ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| 25th Percentile | $0.6 \%$ | $0.9 \%$ | $-0.3 \%$ | $-1.6 \%$ | $-1.6 \%$ | $-0.8 \%$ | $-0.5 \%$ | $-0.2 \%$ | $0.0 \%$ | $0.1 \%$ | $0.2 \%$ |
| Median | $2.8 \%$ | $3.7 \%$ | $2.6 \%$ | $1.6 \%$ | $1.8 \%$ | $1.8 \%$ | $1.8 \%$ | $1.9 \%$ | $1.9 \%$ | $1.9 \%$ | $1.9 \%$ |
| 75th Percentile | $5.0 \%$ | $6.4 \%$ | $5.7 \%$ | $4.8 \%$ | $5.0 \%$ | $4.4 \%$ | $4.1 \%$ | $3.9 \%$ | $3.8 \%$ | $3.7 \%$ | $3.6 \%$ |
| 95th Percentile | $8.3 \%$ | $10.6 \%$ | $10.0 \%$ | $9.3 \%$ | $9.6 \%$ | $8.1 \%$ | $7.3 \%$ | $6.9 \%$ | $6.5 \%$ | $6.2 \%$ | $5.9 \%$ |

## Dividend Rates

Scenario 5 - 8.0\%ER,20.6\%SD


## Dividend Rates <br> Scenario 6 - 9.0\%ER,25.9\%SD



| 5th Percentile | $-5.3 \%$ | $-5.8 \%$ | $-7.9 \%$ | $-10.3 \%$ | $-11.3 \%$ | $-7.3 \%$ | $-5.8 \%$ | $-4.6 \%$ | $-3.8 \%$ | $-3.4 \%$ | $-2.9 \%$ |
| ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| 25th Percentile | $-0.3 \%$ | $0.0 \%$ | $-1.2 \%$ | $-2.5 \%$ | $-2.3 \%$ | $-0.9 \%$ | $-0.4 \%$ | $0.1 \%$ | $0.5 \%$ | $0.8 \%$ | $1.0 \%$ |
| Median | $3.2 \%$ | $4.2 \%$ | $3.3 \%$ | $2.5 \%$ | $3.1 \%$ | $3.0 \%$ | $3.2 \%$ | $3.4 \%$ | $3.5 \%$ | $3.5 \%$ | $3.5 \%$ |
| 75th Percentile | $6.6 \%$ | $8.4 \%$ | $8.1 \%$ | $7.4 \%$ | $7.8 \%$ | $7.1 \%$ | $6.8 \%$ | $6.5 \%$ | $6.4 \%$ | $6.2 \%$ | $6.1 \%$ |
| 95th Percentile | $11.7 \%$ | $15.0 \%$ | $14.9 \%$ | $14.5 \%$ | $14.7 \%$ | $12.8 \%$ | $11.7 \%$ | $11.1 \%$ | $10.6 \%$ | $10.2 \%$ | $9.8 \%$ |



## Contribution rate summary under alternate scenarios - median

Comparison of contribution rates under alternate scenarios


## Dividend rate summary under alternate scenarios - median



GRS

## Comments on Monte Carlo Simulations

- Based on normal market fluctuations, there is a wide range of probable outcomes - even if the long-term average rate of return is exactly as assumed
- Market returns of last decade have been volatile asset returns my not be normally distributed.
- Maturing plans such as WRS are increasingly exposed to the effects of market volatility.
- The unique benefit structure of WRS enables it to deal with volatility to an extent not feasible in most public sector retirement systems.


## Dividend Discussion

## Dividend Discussion

- As of December 31, 2014, the total retiree liability was about $\$ 47.1$ billion.
- Of the $\$ 47.1$ billion, about $\$ 4.6$ billion (or $11 \%$ ) is attributable to dividends with the remaining $\$ 42.5$ billion attributable to the current floor benefit.
- While retirees cannot fall below the floor benefit, it is possible the asset pool could fall below this level.
- Returns above $5 \%$ will help increase the $11 \%$ dividend pool and returns below $5 \%$ will erode it.
- Dividend erosion is not uniform - people who retired a long time ago lose a larger share of their current benefit than more recent retirees


## Liability for Remaining Dividend (Billions)



## Discussion of Dividend

## Probability that Dividend will be Depleted by Year

|  |  | Expected ROR | Standard <br> Deviation | Year |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  | 1 |  | 5 | 10 | 20 | 50 |
| Current Allocation | 1 |  | 5.0\% | 9.3\% | 0.0\% | 4.3\% | 11.4\% | 18.3\% | 30.5\% |
|  | 2 | 6.0\% | 11.9\% | 0.0\% | 7.9\% | 11.1\% | 8.3\% | 3.2\% |
|  | 3 | 7.0\% | 15.9\% | 0.0\% | 12.0\% | 12.2\% | 6.1\% | 0.8\% |
|  | 4 | 7.2\% | 16.8\% | 0.0\% | 12.8\% | 12.6\% | 6.0\% | 0.7\% |
|  | 5 | 8.0\% | 20.6\% | 0.1\% | 15.9\% | 14.0\% | 5.9\% | 0.5\% |
|  | 6 | 9.0\% | 25.9\% | 0.4\% | 19.7\% | 16.4\% | 6.8\% | 0.5\% |
|  | 7 | 10.0\% | 32.3\% | 1.4\% | 23.2\% | 19.7\% | 8.7\% | 0.8\% |

## Discussion of Dividend

Probability of Negative Dividend by Year

|  |  | Expected ROR | Standard <br> Deviation | Year |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  | 1 |  | 5 | 10 | 20 | 50 |
| Current Allocation | 1 |  | 5.0\% | 9.3\% | 7.9\% | 50.2\% | 56.0\% | 54.9\% | 54.4\% |
|  | 2 | 6.0\% | 11.9\% | 13.8\% | 40.6\% | 34.0\% | 30.1\% | 30.1\% |
|  | 3 | 7.0\% | 15.9\% | 18.9\% | 36.6\% | 24.6\% | 19.8\% | 20.5\% |
|  | 4 | 7.2\% | 16.8\% | 19.8\% | 36.1\% | 23.4\% | 18.9\% | 19.5\% |
|  | 5 | 8.0\% | 20.6\% | 23.5\% | 35.2\% | 20.9\% | 16.1\% | 16.8\% |
|  | 6 | 9.0\% | 25.9\% | 26.7\% | 35.4\% | 19.5\% | 14.8\% | 15.5\% |
|  | 7 | 10.0\% | 32.3\% | 29.6\% | 36.6\% | 20.0\% | 15.0\% | 16.0\% |

## Discussion of Dividend

## Worst Case Scenario of Cumulative Dividend Percent (\% of Floor Benefit that is funded)

|  |  | Expected <br> ROR | Standard <br> Deviation | Year |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  | 1 |  | 5 | 10 | 20 | 50 |
| $\begin{gathered} \text { Current } \\ \text { Allocation } \end{gathered}$ | 1 |  | 5.0\% | 9.3\% | 109\% | 93\% | 85\% | 80\% | 68\% |
|  | 2 | 6.0\% | 11.9\% | 109\% | 86\% | 79\% | 81\% | 86\% |
|  | 3 | 7.0\% | 15.9\% | 107\% | 77\% | 72\% | 78\% | 105\% |
|  | 4 | 7.2\% | 16.8\% | 106\% | 75\% | 70\% | 77\% | 108\% |
|  | 5 | 8.0\% | 20.6\% | 105\% | 66\% | 61\% | 72\% | 118\% |
|  | 6 | 9.0\% | 25.9\% | 102\% | 54\% | 49\% | 62\% | 124\% |
|  | 7 | 10.0\% | 32.3\% | 99\% | 40\% | 34\% | 46\% | 115\% |

- The low risk scenarios are actually risky in the sense that, for example, $5 \%$ expected return has much higher chance of dividend depletion in later years than higher risk scenarios
Must balance short and long term volatility
Consider probability of dividend depletion
- Consider level of worst case scenario that is acceptable


## Combination of all Scenarios



At least with respect to the 2025 outcome, there is a much narrower range on the worse results than on the better results, indicating a potential justification for risk above the minimum illustrated. After scenario 4, the worse results degrade at a high rate. Also the worst case scenario for the retiree dividend pool fall below $70 \%$ for scenarios $1,5,6$ and 7 . So do 2, 3, and 4 comprise a "Goldilocks Zone?"

## 2013 Observations

- WRS is still a maturing system
- Dividend base for retirees has declined rapidly and is very close to being depleted
- 2013 and 2014 are pivotal years to rebuild the dividend base to a broader cohort of retirees
- Few systems can withstand another '2008' market year in the near future without large increases in contributions
- Continue to investigate strategies to reduce downside risk - may involve a statutory change


## 2015 Observations

- 2013 and 2014 results helped rebuild the dividend base somewhat
- 2015 investment results might reduce some of that cushion depending on measured return at December 31
- High expected return/volatility scenarios appear to result in nearer term dividend risk
- Low expected return/volatility scenarios appear to result in longer term dividend risk
- Target 'Goldilocks zone' that provides for positive return with appropriate downside protection


## Disclaimers

- This presentation shall not be construed to provide tax advice, legal advice or investment advice.
- Readers are cautioned to examine original source materials and to consult with subject matter experts before making decisions related to the subject matter of this presentation.
- This presentation expresses the views of the authors and does not necessarily express the views of Gabriel, Roeder, Smith \& Company.


## Appendix

| Year | Present Actives | Future Actives | Year | Present Actives |  |
| :---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | Future Actives

## Retiree Population - Present and Future Year by Year Results

| Year | Present Retirees | Future from Deferred | Future from Actives | Year | Present <br> Retirees | Future from Deferred | Future from Actives |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 2014 | 185,605 | - | - | 2039 | 46,543 | 104,581 | 176,576 |
| 2015 | 175,108 | 17,031 | 8,890 | 2040 | 41,159 | 105,140 | 180,927 |
| 2016 | 169,893 | 20,754 | 17,396 | 2041 | 36,049 | 105,553 | 185,074 |
| 2017 | 164,850 | 24,677 | 26,011 | 2042 | 31,256 | 105,695 | 189,113 |
| 2018 | 159,906 | 28,969 | 34,646 | 2043 | 26,818 | 105,605 | 193,002 |
| 2019 | 155,027 | 33,195 | 43,289 | 2044 | 22,769 | 105,196 | 196,764 |
| 2020 | 150,296 | 37,541 | 51,828 | 2045 | 19,130 | 104,329 | 200,405 |
| 2021 | 145,613 | 42,367 | 60,220 | 2046 | 15,907 | 103,154 | 203,851 |
| 2022 | 140,962 | 47,078 | 68,432 | 2047 | 13,097 | 101,392 | 207,106 |
| 2023 | 136,228 | 52,157 | 76,424 | 2048 | 10,681 | 99,378 | 210,150 |
| 2024 | 131,365 | 57,626 | 84,182 | 2049 | 8,633 | 97,151 | 213,032 |
| 2025 | 126,379 | 62,820 | 91,722 | 2050 | 6,917 | 94,561 | 215,757 |
| 2026 | 121,266 | 67,653 | 99,108 | 2051 | 5,498 | 91,669 | 218,276 |
| 2027 | 116,027 | 72,286 | 106,310 | 2052 | 4,339 | 88,448 | 220,639 |
| 2028 | 110,659 | 76,449 | 113,323 | 2053 | 3,402 | 84,877 | 222,842 |
| 2029 | 105,150 | 80,286 | 120,149 | 2054 | 2,656 | 80,955 | 224,922 |
| 2030 | 99,504 | 83,892 | 126,747 | 2055 | 2,067 | 76,736 | 226,858 |
| 2031 | 93,735 | 87,251 | 133,159 | 2056 | 1,606 | 72,370 | 228,659 |
| 2032 | 87,859 | 90,489 | 139,364 | 2057 | 1,249 | 67,967 | 230,323 |
| 2033 | 81,899 | 93,457 | 145,330 | 2058 | 974 | 63,587 | 231,860 |
| 2034 | 75,888 | 96,497 | 151,099 | 2059 | 762 | 59,265 | 233,284 |
| 2035 | 69,863 | 98,999 | 156,726 | 2060 | 599 | 55,030 | 234,596 |
| 2036 | 63,867 | 100,813 | 162,079 | 2061 | 474 | 50,917 | 235,794 |
| 2037 | 57,947 | 102,236 | 167,132 | 2062 | 378 | 46,936 | 236,883 |
| 2038 | 52,156 | 103,592 | 171,945 | 2063 | 304 | 43,094 | 237,863 |


| Approach | Theory | Impact on <br> Dividends | Who Bears <br> Cost? |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Do Nothing | "Short Term" deficit will be <br> made up by future <br> Investment Return >5\% | No dividends paid <br> until the "deficit" <br> has been filled | Current and <br> near retirees |
| Let Depletion <br> Flow <br> Through EAR | Fully fund retiree reserve <br> with special reserve <br> transfer, paid over EAR <br> financing period | Dividends may <br> resume very quickly | Participants <br> and <br> employers |
| Special <br> Amortization | Amortize deficit over 5 <br> years, charge interest at 5\% <br> credit (retiree reserve <br> earnings) $>5 \%$ | No dividends paid <br> until the "deficit" <br> has been filled | Participants <br> and <br> employers |

## Unfunded Dividend Analysis

## Do Nothing

- This course of action assumes that the deficit is a short-term phenomenon that will be made up by investment gains above $5 \%$ in the future.
- No dividends would be paid until the "deficit" has been filled.
- This method applies the full cost of the loss to present and near-term future retirees.
- Of course, the conditions that produced the deficit probably affected employer and participant contributions anyway.


## Let It Flow Through the EAR

- This method fully funds the retiree reserve with a special reserve transfer.
- The deficit is thereby transferred to the active reserves and is financed over the EAR financing period.
- The method transfers almost the entire cost of the deficit to participants and employers.
- Dividends might resume very rapidly in such a circumstance, perhaps even the next year.


## Special Amortization

- Set up a 5-year amortization of the deficit.
- Will affect both participant and employer rates.
- Charge the deficit with $5 \%$ interest.
- Credit the deficit with employer and participant amortization contributions and earnings on the retiree reserve above $5 \%$.
- No dividends paid until deficit is paid off.
- This method shifts a portion, but not all of the cost back to employers and active participants.


## Deficit Analysis

- Suppose the retiree core fund initially has $\$ 40$ billion in assets and liabilities and
- The entire dividend reserve has previously been used up and
- At the end of the year the fund has $\$ 36$ billion in assets and $\$ 40$ billion in liabilities and
- Going forward all assets earn 7.2\%
- How long will it take the assets to catch back up to the liabilities?


## Deficit Analysis

- In this case, the fund would have $\$ 36$ billion in assets earnings $7.2 \%$ each year, $2.2 \%$ more than required interest.
- So, an annual payment of $2.2 \% \times \$ 36$ billion, which is $\$ 720$ Million, could be applied to the $\$ 4$ billion deficit.
- Of course, the deficit is also a debt bearing interest at $5 \%$.
- The payoff schedule looks like this.


## Deficit Payoff Schedule

| Year | Beginning Balance | Interest (5\%) | Payment | Ending Balance |  |  |
| :---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| 1 | $\$$ | 4,000 | $\$$ | 200 | $\$$ | 792 |
| 2 | 3,408 | 170 | 792 | 3,408 |  |  |
| 2 | 2,786 | 139 | 792 | 2,786 |  |  |
| 3 | 2,134 | 107 | 792 | 2,134 |  |  |
| 4 | 1,448 | 72 | 792 | 1,448 |  |  |
| 5 | 729 | 36 | 792 | 729 |  |  |
| 6 |  |  |  |  | $(27)$ |  |

In this example, the deficit would be extinguished during the sixth year

- The payoff schedule is perhaps oversimplified.
- It assumes that reserve transfers and regular interest on the existing reserve assets covers benefit payments from the reserve.
- But for deficits on the order of $10 \%$, it might not be too far off.


## More Discussion

- If there were a $25 \%$ deficit, a similar calculation would suggest potential payoff in 30 years.
- That might be true, but the assumptions become questionable over such a time horizon.
- More sophisticated modeling would be required to provide a reliable answer.

