

# STATE OF MINNESOTA

## Office of the State Auditor



**Rebecca Otto**  
**State Auditor**

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MANAGEMENT AND COMPLIANCE REPORT

**MORRISON COUNTY**  
**RURAL DEVELOPMENT FINANCE AUTHORITY**  
**LITTLE FALLS, MINNESOTA**

FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2014

## **Description of the Office of the State Auditor**

The mission of the Office of the State Auditor is to oversee local government finances for Minnesota taxpayers by helping to ensure financial integrity and accountability in local governmental financial activities.

Through financial, compliance, and special audits, the State Auditor oversees and ensures that local government funds are used for the purposes intended by law and that local governments hold themselves to the highest standards of financial accountability.

The State Auditor performs approximately 150 financial and compliance audits per year and has oversight responsibilities for over 3,300 local units of government throughout the state. The office currently maintains five divisions:

**Audit Practice** - conducts financial and legal compliance audits of local governments;

**Government Information** - collects and analyzes financial information for cities, towns, counties, and special districts;

**Legal/Special Investigations** - provides legal analysis and counsel to the Office and responds to outside inquiries about Minnesota local government law; as well as investigates allegations of misfeasance, malfeasance, and nonfeasance in local government;

**Pension** - monitors investment, financial, and actuarial reporting for approximately 700 public pension funds; and

**Tax Increment Financing** - promotes compliance and accountability in local governments' use of tax increment financing through financial and compliance audits.

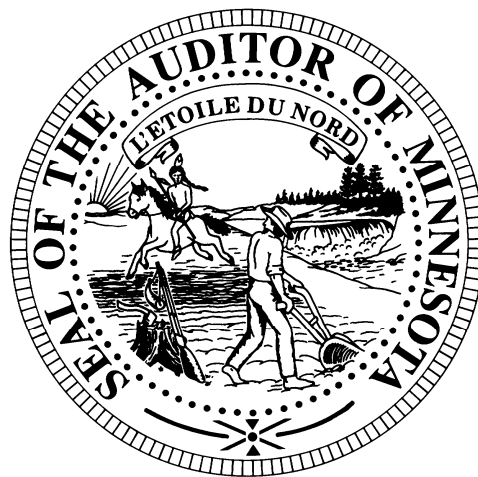
The State Auditor serves on the State Executive Council, State Board of Investment, Land Exchange Board, Public Employees Retirement Association Board, Minnesota Housing Finance Agency, and the Rural Finance Authority Board.

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**MORRISON COUNTY  
RURAL DEVELOPMENT FINANCE AUTHORITY  
LITTLE FALLS, MINNESOTA**

**For the Year Ended December 31, 2014**



**Management and Compliance Report**

**Audit Practice Division  
Office of the State Auditor  
State of Minnesota**

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**MORRISON COUNTY  
RURAL DEVELOPMENT FINANCE AUTHORITY  
LITTLE FALLS, MINNESOTA**

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**MORRISON COUNTY  
RURAL DEVELOPMENT FINANCE AUTHORITY  
LITTLE FALLS, MINNESOTA**

**SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2014**

**FINDINGS RELATED TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AUDITED IN ACCORDANCE  
WITH *GOVERNMENT AUDITING STANDARDS***

INTERNAL CONTROL

PREVIOUSLY REPORTED ITEM NOT RESOLVED

Finding 2011-001

Segregation of Duties

**Criteria:** A good system of internal control provides for an adequate segregation of duties so that no one individual handles a transaction from its inception to completion.

**Condition:** The accounting functions over cash handling and receipting of the Morrison County Rural Development Finance Authority (RDFA) lack of proper segregation of duties. The RDFA has one staff person who is responsible for receipting, recording, and depositing receipts as well as reconciling bank accounts.

**Context:** Due to the limited number of staff within the RDFA, segregation of the accounting functions necessary to ensure adequate internal accounting control is not possible. This is not unusual in operations the size of the RDFA; however, the RDFA's management should constantly be aware of this condition and realize that the concentration of duties and responsibilities in one individual is not desirable from an accounting point of view.

**Effect:** Inadequate segregation of duties could adversely affect the RDFA's ability to detect misstatements in amounts that would be material in relation to the financial statements.

**Cause:** The RDFA informed us it does not have the economic resources available to hire additional qualified accounting staff to adequately segregate duties.

**Recommendation:** We recommend the RDFA's elected officials and management be aware of the lack of segregation of duties of the accounting functions and, where possible, implement oversight procedures to ensure that the internal control policies and procedures are being implemented by staff to the extent possible.

Client's Response:

*The Morrison County RDFA is fully aware of the limited number of office personnel and will do what is necessary to ensure that the assets of the Morrison County RDFA are protected.*





REBECCA OTTO  
STATE AUDITOR

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## **REPORT ON INTERNAL CONTROL OVER FINANCIAL REPORTING AND ON COMPLIANCE AND OTHER MATTERS BASED ON AN AUDIT OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS PERFORMED IN ACCORDANCE WITH *GOVERNMENT AUDITING STANDARDS***

### Independent Auditor's Report

Board of Commissioners  
Morrison County Rural Development Finance Authority  
Little Falls, Minnesota

We have audited, in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards* issued by the Comptroller General of the United States, the financial statements of Morrison County, Minnesota, which include the governmental activities and the General Fund of the Morrison County Rural Development Finance Authority (RDFA), a component unit of Morrison County, as of and for the year ended December 31, 2014, and have issued our report thereon dated September 2, 2015.

### **Internal Control Over Financial Reporting**

In planning and performing our audit of the financial statements, we considered the Morrison County RDFA's internal control over financial reporting to determine the audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances for the purpose of expressing our opinions on the financial statements, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Authority's internal control over financial reporting. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the Authority's internal control over financial reporting.

A deficiency in internal control over financial reporting exists when the design or operation of a control does not allow management or employees, in the normal course of performing their assigned functions, to prevent, or detect and correct, misstatements on a timely basis. A material weakness is a deficiency, or combination of deficiencies, in internal control over financial reporting such that there is a reasonable possibility that a material misstatement of the Authority's financial statements will not be prevented, or detected and corrected, on a timely basis. A significant deficiency is a deficiency, or combination of deficiencies, in internal control over financial reporting that is less severe than a material weakness, yet important enough to merit the attention of those charged with governance.

Our consideration of internal control over financial reporting was for the limited purpose described in the first paragraph of this section and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control over financial reporting that might be material weaknesses or significant deficiencies and, therefore, material weaknesses or significant deficiencies may exist that were not identified. Given these limitations, during our audit, we did not identify any deficiencies in internal control over financial reporting that we consider to be material weaknesses. However, material weaknesses may exist that have not been identified. We did identify a deficiency in internal control over financing reporting, described in the accompanying Schedule of Findings and Recommendations as item 2011-001, that we consider to be a significant deficiency.

## **Compliance and Other Matters**

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the Morrison County RDFA's financial statements are free from material misstatement, we performed tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements, noncompliance with which could have a direct and material effect on the determination of financial statement amounts. However, providing an opinion on compliance with those provisions was not an objective of our audit and, accordingly, we do not express such an opinion. The results of our tests disclosed no instances of noncompliance or other matters that are required to be reported under *Government Auditing Standards*.

## **Minnesota Legal Compliance**

The *Minnesota Legal Compliance Audit Guide for Political Subdivisions*, promulgated by the State Auditor pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 6.65, contains six categories of compliance to be tested in connection with the audit of the Authority's financial statements: contracting and bidding, deposits and investments, conflicts of interest, public indebtedness, claims and disbursements, and miscellaneous provisions. Our audit considered all of the listed categories, except that we did not test for compliance with the provisions for contract and bidding since the Authority did not enter into any contracts. In addition, we did not test for compliance in public indebtedness because the Authority has no long-term debt.

In connection with our audit, nothing came to our attention that caused us to believe that the Morrison County RDFA failed to comply with the provisions of the *Minnesota Legal Compliance Audit Guide for Political Subdivisions*. However, our audit was not directed primarily toward obtaining knowledge of such noncompliance. Accordingly, had we performed additional procedures, other matters may have come to our attention regarding the Authority's noncompliance with the above referenced provisions.

## **Morrison County RDFA's Response to Finding**

The Morrison County RDFA's response to the internal control finding identified in our audit has been included in the Schedule of Findings and Recommendations. The Authority's response was not subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the financial statements and, accordingly, we express no opinion on it.

## **Purpose of This Report**

The purpose of this report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting, compliance, and the provisions of the *Minnesota Legal Compliance Audit Guide for Political Subdivisions* and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the Authority's internal control over financial reporting or on compliance. This report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the Authority's internal control over financial reporting and compliance. Accordingly, this communication is not suitable for any other purpose.

*/s/Rebecca Otto*

REBECCA OTTO  
STATE AUDITOR

*/s/Greg Hierlinger*

GREG HIERLINGER, CPA  
DEPUTY STATE AUDITOR

September 2, 2015