

STATE OF MINNESOTA

Office of the State Auditor



Rebecca Otto
State Auditor

SOUTHEAST MINNESOTA RECYCLERS' EXCHANGE
ROCHESTER, MINNESOTA

FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2011

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 160 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 730 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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**SOUTHEAST MINNESOTA RECYCLERS' EXCHANGE
ROCHESTER, MINNESOTA**

For the Year Ended December 31, 2011



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

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**SOUTHEAST MINNESOTA RECYCLERS' EXCHANGE
ROCHESTER, MINNESOTA**

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**SOUTHEAST MINNESOTA RECYCLERS' EXCHANGE
ROCHESTER, MINNESOTA**

ORGANIZATION
DECEMBER 31, 2011

<u>Name</u>		<u>Representing</u>
Board Members		
Mark Piepho		Blue Earth County
Dave Hansen		Dodge County
Mike Lee		Freeborn County
Mike Ankeny		Mower County
Dave Perkins - (Jim Bier alt.)		Olmsted County
Jake Gillen - (Milt Plaisance alt.)	2011 Vice Chair	Rice County
Doug Johnson	2011 Chair	Steele County
James Peterson - (Mike Hinz alt.)		Waseca County
Peggy Rehder		City of Red Wing
Technical Committee		
Jean Lundquist		Blue Earth County
Terry Selthun		Dodge County
Randy Tuchtenhagen		Freeborn County
Jeff Weaver		Mower County
Scott Martin		Olmsted County
Paul Pieper		Rice County
Mary Overlee Olson		Steele County
Lee Williams		Waseca County
Jeff Schneider		City of Red Wing
Officer		
Sharon Schriever	Executive Director	

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INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

Board of Commissioners
Southeast Minnesota Recyclers' Exchange
Joint Powers Board

We have audited the accompanying basic financial statements of the Southeast Minnesota Recyclers' Exchange Joint Powers Board as of and for the year ended December 31, 2011, as listed in the table of contents. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Southeast Minnesota Recyclers' Exchange Joint Powers Board's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit.

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

As discussed in Note 1.C., the Joint Powers Board prepares its financial statements 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.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the respective cash basis financial position of the Southeast Minnesota Recyclers' Exchange Joint Powers Board as of December 31, 2011, and the respective changes in cash basis financial position and cash flows thereof for the year then ended in conformity with the cash basis of accounting described in Note 1.C.

/s/Rebecca Otto

REBECCA OTTO
STATE AUDITOR

/s/Greg Hierlinger

GREG HIERLINGER, CPA
DEPUTY STATE AUDITOR

December 19, 2012

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BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

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**SOUTHEAST MINNESOTA RECYCLERS' EXCHANGE
ROCHESTER, MINNESOTA**

EXHIBIT 1

**NET CASH ASSETS ARISING FROM CASH TRANSACTIONS
DECEMBER 31, 2011**

<u>Assets</u>	
Cash and cash equivalents	<u>\$ 95,744</u>
 <u>Net Cash Assets</u>	
Unrestricted	<u>\$ 95,744</u>

**SOUTHEAST MINNESOTA RECYCLERS' EXCHANGE
ROCHESTER, MINNESOTA**

EXHIBIT 2

**RECEIPTS, DISBURSEMENTS, AND CHANGES IN NET CASH ASSETS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2011**

Operating Receipts	
Materials marketed for others	\$ 1,034,353
Shipping reimbursement	9,515
Membership fees	10,800
Miscellaneous	<u>2,787</u>
Total Operating Receipts	<u>\$ 1,057,455</u>
Operating Disbursements	
Administration	
Contracted services	\$ 39,000
Other services and charges	15,150
Supplies	123
Cooperative Marketing	
Payments to individuals	223,596
Payments to other governments	<u>723,192</u>
Total Operating Disbursements	<u>\$ 1,001,061</u>
Increase (decrease) in cash from operations	\$ 56,394
Nonoperating Receipts	
Interest on investments	<u>118</u>
Net Change in Cash	\$ 56,512
Cash Balance - January 1	<u>39,232</u>
Cash Balance - December 31	<u><u>\$ 95,744</u></u>

**SOUTHEAST MINNESOTA RECYCLERS' EXCHANGE
ROCHESTER, MINNESOTA**

EXHIBIT 3

**STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2011
Increase (Decrease) in Cash and Cash Equivalents**

Cash Flows from Operating Activities	
Receipts from customers and users	\$ 1,057,455
Payments to suppliers	<u>(1,001,061)</u>
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities	\$ 56,394
Cash Flows from Investing Activities	
Investment earnings received	<u>118</u>
Net Increase (Decrease) in Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$ 56,512
Cash and Cash Equivalents at January 1	<u>39,232</u>
Cash and Cash Equivalents at December 31	<u><u>\$ 95,744</u></u>

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**SOUTHEAST MINNESOTA RECYCLERS' EXCHANGE
ROCHESTER, MINNESOTA**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
AS OF AND FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2011**

1. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

The Southeast Minnesota Recyclers' Exchange Joint Powers Board's (SEMREX) financial statements are prepared in accordance with the cash basis of accounting as of and for the year ended December 31, 2011. This basis of accounting differs from accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. The more significant accounting policies established in GAAP and used by SEMREX are discussed below.

A. Financial Reporting Entity

The Southeast Minnesota Recyclers' Exchange Joint Powers Board is an organization of counties focused on recycling and waste reduction. Informally allied since 1989, SEMREX was restructured in August 1997 as a Joint Powers Board, as provided by Minn. Stat. § 471.59. The Board has a chair and is composed of one representative from each of the nine members. The Board contracted with Olmsted County to act as fiscal agent and provide administrative services.

B. Financial Statement Presentation

The financial statements include a Statement of Net Cash Assets Arising From Cash Transactions; a Statement of Receipts, Disbursements, and Changes in Net Cash Assets; and a Statement of Cash Flows. Operating receipts, such as charges for services, result from exchange transactions associated with the principal activity of the Joint Powers Board. Exchange transactions are those in which each party receives and gives up essentially equal values. Nonoperating receipts, such as interest income, result from nonexchange transactions or incidental activities.

C. Basis of Accounting and Measurement Focus

Basis of accounting refers to the time at which revenues and expenses are recognized in the accounts and reported in the financial statements. Basis of accounting relates to the timing of the measurements made, regardless of the measurement focus applied. SEMREX is accounted for using the cash basis of accounting. Sales of materials are recognized when the cash is received and disbursements are recognized when checks are issued. These statements do not give effect to accounts receivable, accounts payable, or other accrued items and, therefore, are not presented in accordance with generally

**SOUTHEAST MINNESOTA RECYCLERS' EXCHANGE
ROCHESTER, MINNESOTA**

1. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

C. Basis of Accounting and Measurement Focus (Continued)

accepted accounting principles. The cooperative marketing program markets recyclable materials for private recyclers and government programs. It was developed to overcome the obstacles facing rural recyclers by providing the increased bargaining power and transportation efficiencies of large volumes, so that greater sales revenues can be obtained. SEMREX is funded by a brokerage fee on each load marketed through the program.

D. Cash and Cash Equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents are amounts SEMREX has on deposit with Olmsted County.

E. Net Assets

The unrestricted net asset account indicates the portion of net assets available for future period expenses.

F. Change in Basis of Accounting

SEMREX is preparing its financial statements using a cash basis of accounting which is a change from the prior year accrual basis. The cash basis is a comprehensive basis of accounting other than generally accepted accounting principles.

2. Detailed Notes

Assets

Cash transactions are administered by Olmsted County, who is authorized to deposit cash in financial institutions designated by the County Board pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 118A.02. The County is authorized to invest in the investments listed in Minn. Stat. § 118A.04 and 118A.05. Minnesota statutes require that all County deposits be covered by insurance, surety bond, or collateral. SEMREX's total cash and cash equivalents of \$95,744 are on deposit with Olmsted County and are included in Olmsted County's pooled cash and investments.

**SOUTHEAST MINNESOTA RECYCLERS' EXCHANGE
ROCHESTER, MINNESOTA**

3. Summary of Significant Contingencies and Other Items

Risk Management

SEMREX is exposed to various risks of loss related to torts; theft of, damage to, and destruction of assets; errors and omissions; and natural disasters. General liability is covered with a policy from the Minnesota Counties Intergovernmental Trust. This insurance was first purchased in 1998 with no changes since that time. Settled claims have not exceeded this coverage for the past three years.

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REPORT ON MINNESOTA LEGAL COMPLIANCE

Board of Commissioners
Southeast Minnesota Recyclers' Exchange
Joint Powers Board

We have audited the cash basis financial statements of the Southeast Minnesota Recyclers' Exchange Joint Powers Board as of and for the year ended December 31, 2011. We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the provisions of the *Minnesota Legal Compliance Audit Guide for Political Subdivisions*, promulgated by the State Auditor pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 6.65. Accordingly, the audit included such tests of the accounting records and such other auditing procedures as we considered necessary in the circumstances.

The *Minnesota Legal Compliance Audit Guide for Political Subdivisions* contains six categories of compliance to be tested: contracting and bidding, deposits and investments, conflicts of interest, public indebtedness, claims and disbursements, and miscellaneous provisions. Our study included all of the listed categories, except that we did not test for compliance in deposits and investments and claims and disbursements, because these items were tested as part of the Olmsted County audit, and public indebtedness, because the Southeast Minnesota Recyclers' Exchange Joint Powers Board has no public debt.

The results of our tests indicate that for the items tested, the Joint Powers Board complied with the material terms and conditions of applicable legal provisions.

This report is intended solely for the information and use of the Southeast Minnesota Recyclers' Exchange Joint Powers Board, its management, and others within the Joint Powers Board and is not intended to be, and should not be, used by anyone other than those specified parties.

/s/Rebecca Otto

REBECCA OTTO
STATE AUDITOR

/s/Greg Hierlinger

GREG HIERLINGER, CPA
DEPUTY STATE AUDITOR

December 19, 2012