

STATE OF MINNESOTA

Office of the State Auditor



Rebecca Otto
State Auditor

MANAGEMENT AND COMPLIANCE REPORT
PREPARED AS A RESULT OF THE AUDIT OF

NORTHSTAR CORRIDOR
DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
ELK RIVER, MINNESOTA

FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2012

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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**NORTHSTAR CORRIDOR
DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
ELK RIVER, MINNESOTA**

For the Year Ended December 31, 2012



Management and Compliance Report

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

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**NORTHSTAR CORRIDOR DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
ELK RIVER, MINNESOTA**

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**NORTHSTAR CORRIDOR DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
ELK RIVER, MINNESOTA**

**SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2012**

INTERNAL CONTROL OVER FINANCIAL REPORTING

PREVIOUSLY REPORTED ITEM RESOLVED

Prior Period Adjustment (10-1)

A material prior period adjustment was identified that resulted in a significant change to the Northstar Corridor Development Authority's financial statements.

Resolution

No material audit adjustments were identified during the 2012 audit.

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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

Joint Powers Board
Northstar Corridor Development Authority

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 the governmental activities and the General Fund of the Northstar Corridor Development Authority (NCDA) as of and for the year ended December 31, 2012, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the NCDA's basic financial statements, and have issued our report thereon dated November 4, 2013.

Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

In planning and performing our audit of the financial statements, we considered the NCDA'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 NCDA's internal control over financial reporting. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the NCDA'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 NCDA'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. However, material weaknesses may exist that have not been identified.

Compliance and Other Matters

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the NCDA's financial statements are free of 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: 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 because all cash and investments are held by Anoka and Sherburne Counties, and public indebtedness because the NCDA has no debt.

In connection with our audit, nothing came to our attention that caused us to believe that the NCDA 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 NCDA's noncompliance with the above referenced provisions.

Management Representations

We have requested certain representations from management that are included in the management's representation letter dated November 4, 2013.

Management Consultations with Other Independent Accountants

In some cases, management may decide to consult with other accountants about auditing and accounting matters, similar to obtaining a "second opinion" on certain situations. If a consultation involves application of an accounting principle to the NCDA's financial statements or a determination of the type of auditor's opinion that may be expressed on those statements, our professional standards require the consulting accountant to check with us to determine that the consultant has all the relevant facts. To our knowledge, there were no such consultations with other accountants.

* * *

This information is intended solely for the use of the Joint Powers Board and management of the NCDA and is not intended to be, and should not be, used by anyone other than those specified parties.

/s/Rebecca Otto

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STATE AUDITOR

/s/Greg Hierlinger

GREG HIERLINGER, CPA
DEPUTY STATE AUDITOR