

STATE OF MINNESOTA

Office of the State Auditor



Rebecca Otto
State Auditor

MANAGEMENT AND COMPLIANCE REPORT

COON CREEK WATERSHED DISTRICT
ANOKA COUNTY, MINNESOTA

YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2015

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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**COON CREEK WATERSHED DISTRICT
ANOKA COUNTY, MINNESOTA**

Year Ended December 31, 2015



Management and Compliance Report

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

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**COON CREEK WATERSHED DISTRICT
ANOKA COUNTY, MINNESOTA**

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**COON CREEK WATERSHED DISTRICT
ANOKA COUNTY, MINNESOTA**

**SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2015**

MINNESOTA LEGAL COMPLIANCE

ITEM ARISING THIS YEAR

Finding 2015-001

Contract Compliance

Criteria: Minn. Stat. § 16C.285 states that for each construction contract in excess of \$50,000 awarded pursuant to a lowest responsible bidder or best value process, the successful contractor must submit verification of compliance signed under oath by an owner or officer verifying compliance with the minimum criteria set forth in Minn. Stat. § 16C.285, subd. 3.

Condition: During our testing of contracts for compliance with contracting and bid laws, we noted two construction contracts where the District was unable to provide the signed responsible bidder certification form.

Context: The responsible bidder certification statute is new for 2015.

Effect: Noncompliance with Minn. Stat. § 16C.285.

Cause: District staff was not aware of the requirements of the new statute for construction contracts over \$50,000 awarded through the lowest responsible bidder or best value process.

Recommendation: We recommend the District obtain the responsible bidder certification forms on all construction contracts over \$50,000 and bid through the lowest responsible bidder or best value process.

Client's Response:

The District was not aware of the requirements of the new statute for construction contracts over \$50,000 awarded through the lowest responsible bidder or best value process, notes this finding, and has already initiated procedures to insure that the District obtains the responsible bidder certification forms on all construction contracts over \$50,000 and bid through the lowest responsible bidder or best value process.

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STATE AUDITOR

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INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT ON MINNESOTA LEGAL COMPLIANCE

Board of Managers
Coon Creek Watershed District
Blaine, Minnesota

We have audited, in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, the accompanying financial statements of the governmental activities and each major fund of the Coon Creek Watershed District as of and for the year ended December 31, 2015, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the District's basic financial statements and have issued our report thereon dated October 3, 2016.

The *Minnesota Legal Compliance Audit Guide for Other 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, claims and disbursements, miscellaneous provisions, and tax increment financing. Our audit considered all of the listed categories, except that we did not test for compliance with the provisions for tax increment financing because the Coon Creek Watershed District administers no tax increment financing districts.

In connection with our audit, nothing came to our attention that caused us to believe that the Coon Creek Watershed District failed to comply with the provisions of the *Minnesota Legal Compliance Audit Guide for Other Political Subdivisions*, except as described in the Schedule of Findings and Recommendations as item 2015-001. 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 District's noncompliance with the above referenced provisions.

The Coon Creek Watershed District's written response to the legal compliance finding identified in our audit has been included in the Schedule of Findings and Recommendations. We did not audit the District's response and, accordingly, we express no opinion on it.

This report is intended solely for the information and use of the Board of Managers and management of the Coon Creek Watershed District and the State Auditor 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

October 3, 2016

/s/Greg Hierlinger

GREG HIERLINGER, CPA
DEPUTY STATE AUDITOR