STATE OF MINNESOTA Office of the State Auditor



Rebecca Otto State Auditor

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

SHERBURNE COUNTY ELK RIVER, MINNESOTA

YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2009

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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Year Ended December 31, 2009



Management and Compliance Report

Audit Practice Division Office of the State Auditor State of Minnesota

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<u>Schedule 1</u>

SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS AND QUESTIONED COSTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2009

I. SUMMARY OF AUDITOR'S RESULTS

- A. Our report expresses unqualified opinions on the basic financial statements of Sherburne County.
- B. No matters involving internal control over financial reporting were reported in the "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*."
- C. No instances of noncompliance material to the financial statements of Sherburne County were disclosed during the audit.
- D. No matters involving internal control over compliance relating to the audit of the major federal award programs were reported in the "Report on Compliance with Requirements Applicable to Each Major Program and Internal Control Over Compliance in Accordance with OMB Circular A-133."
- E. The Auditor's Report on Compliance for the major federal award programs for Sherburne County expresses an unqualified opinion.
- F. No findings were disclosed that are required to be reported in accordance with Section 510(a) of OMB Circular A-133.
- G. The major programs are:

Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)	CFDA #10.557
State Administrative Matching Grants for the Supplemental	
Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Cluster	
State Administrative Matching Grants for SNAP	CFDA #10.561
State Administrative Matching Grants for SNAP - ARRA	CFDA #10.561
Highway Planning and Construction Cluster	
Highway Planning and Construction	CFDA #20.205
Highway Planning and Construction - ARRA	CFDA #20.205

Child Support Enforcement Cluster	
Child Support Enforcement	CFDA #93.563
Child Support Enforcement - ARRA	CFDA #93.563
Foster Care - Title IV-E Cluster	
Foster Care - Title IV-E	
Foster Care - Title IV-E - ARRA	CFDA #93.658

- H. The threshold for distinguishing between Types A and B programs was \$300,000.
- I. Sherburne County was determined to be a low-risk auditee.

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

INTERNAL CONTROL

PREVIOUSLY REPORTED ITEM RESOLVED

Departmental Internal Accounting Control (96-2)

Due to the limited number of office personnel within the Public Health Department and the County Extension Office, segregation of the accounting functions necessary to ensure adequate internal accounting control was not possible.

Resolution

The Public Health Department is being combined with the Social Services Department to become a combined Human Services Department. This will allow adequate segregation of the accounting functions. The County Extension Office has strengthened internal accounting controls by implementing a system to number its publications and plat books and maintaining a log to record those sales for accounting purposes.

III. FINDINGS AND QUESTIONED COSTS FOR FEDERAL AWARD PROGRAMS

None.

IV. OTHER FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

A. <u>MINNESOTA LEGAL COMPLIANCE</u>

ITEM ARISING THIS YEAR

09-1 <u>Safe Driving Class</u>

Sherburne County has established a Traffic Safety Course option in lieu of issuance or court filing of a state uniform traffic ticket. Sheriff's Deputies have the discretion to offer traffic violators the option of attending the Traffic Safety Course in lieu of a citation. The course is two hours long and costs \$75, which is payable to the Sherburne County Sheriff. This is in violation of Minn. Stat. § 169.022, which states, "... Local authorities may adopt traffic regulations which are not in conflict with the provisions of this chapter; provided that when any local ordinance regulating traffic covers the same subject for which a penalty is provided for in this chapter, then the penalty provided for in this chapter for the same offense."

In a letter to State Representative Steve Smith on December 1, 2003, the Minnesota Attorney General specifically addressed the issue of a driver improvement course or clinic in lieu of a ticket or other penalty. After reviewing the state law, the Attorney General concluded: "All such programs, however, require that a *trial court* make the determination as to whether attendance at such a [driver's] clinic is appropriate. We are aware of no express authority for local officials to create a *pretrial* diversion program." (emphasis is that of the Attorney General).

The Minnesota Supreme Court has stated "[a]s a creature of the state deriving its sovereignty from the state, the county should play a leadership role in carrying out legislative policy." *Kasch v. Clearwater County*, 289 N.W. 2d 148, 152 (Minn. 1980), *quoting County of Freeborn v. Bryson*, 243 N.W. 2d 316, 321 (Minn. 1976).

In 2009, the Minnesota Legislature enacted a new statute, Minn. Stat. § 169.999, to authorize the issuance of administrative citations and prescribe criteria for them. See 2009 Minn. Laws, ch. 158. Among other provisions, the new law states that a governing body resolution must be passed to authorize issuance of administrative citations. The resolution must bar peace officers from issuing

administrative citations in violation of Minn. Stat. § 169.999 and specifies the offenses for which an administrative citation may be used. The authority requires the use of a uniform administrative citation prescribed by the Commissioner of Public Safety and specifies that the fine for an administrative violation must be \$60, two-thirds of which must be credited to the general revenue fund of the local unit of government, and one-third of which must be transferred to the Commissioner of Minnesota Management and Budget for deposit in the state's General Fund. A local unit of government receiving administrative fine proceeds must use one-half of the funds for law enforcement purposes. Each local unit of government must follow these and other criteria specified in the new statute.

We recommend the County comply with Minn. Stat. ch. 169, including Minn. Stat. § 169.999 (2009) or any subsequent legislation, by not offering a Traffic Safety Course in lieu of issuance or court filing of a state uniform traffic ticket.

Client's Response:

The Sherburne County Sheriff's Office, the Sherburne County Attorney's Office, and the Judges of the District Court in Sherburne County, have reviewed our traffic safety program and the parameters under which it is held. Our conclusions differ from those reached in the State Auditor's report and we respectfully disagree with the report's findings and recommendations.

B. <u>OTHER ITEM FOR CONSIDERATION</u>

GASB Statement 54

The Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) recently issued Statement No. 54, *Fund Balance Reporting and Governmental Fund Type Definitions*. The intention of this standard is to enhance the usefulness of information included in the financial report about fund balance through clearer fund balance classifications that can be more consistently applied, as well as to clarify existing governmental fund type definitions.

Fund Balance Reporting

Statement 54 establishes new fund balance classifications based on constraints imposed on how resources can be spent. The existing components of fund balance reserved, unreserved, designated, and undesignated are being replaced by nonspendable, restricted, committed, assigned, and unassigned as defined below:

- *Nonspendable* amounts that cannot be spent because they are either not in spendable form (for example inventory or prepaids) or legally or contractually required to be maintained intact (for example. corpus of a permanent fund).
- *Restricted* amounts that can be spent only for the specific purposes stipulated by constitution, external resource providers, or through enabling legislation.
- *Committed* amounts that can be used only for specific purposes determined by a formal action of a government's highest level of decision-making authority.
- *Assigned* amounts a government intends to use for a specific purpose that do not meet the criteria to be classified as restricted or committed.
- *Unassigned* spendable amounts not contained in the other classifications.

Governmental Fund Type Definitions

The definitions of the general fund, special revenue fund type, capital projects fund type, debt service fund type, and permanent fund type are clarified in Statement 54. Interpretations of certain terms within the definition of the special revenue fund type have been provided and, for some governments, those interpretations may affect the activities they choose to report in those funds. The capital projects fund type definition also was clarified for better alignment with the needs of preparers and users. Definitions of other governmental fund types also have been modified for clarity and consistency.

The requirements of GASB Statement 54 are effective for the County for the year ending December 31, 2011.



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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

Board of County Commissioners Sherburne County

We have audited the financial statements of the governmental activities, the business-type activities, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of Sherburne County as of and for the year ended December 31, 2009, which collectively comprise the County's basic financial statements, and have issued our report thereon dated June 15, 2010. We conducted our audit 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.

Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

In planning and performing our audit, we considered Sherburne County's internal control over financial reporting as a basis for designing our auditing procedures 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 County's internal control over financial reporting. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the County's internal control over financial 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 County's financial statements will not be prevented or detected and corrected on a timely basis.

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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 deficiencies, significant deficiencies, or material weaknesses. We did not identify any deficiencies in internal control over financial reporting that we consider to be material weaknesses, as defined above.

Compliance and Other Matters

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether Sherburne County'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

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 Local Government*, 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 Local Government* contains seven categories of compliance to be tested: contracting and bidding, deposits and investments, conflicts of interest, public indebtedness, claims and disbursements, miscellaneous provisions, and tax increment financing. Our study included all of the listed categories, except that we did not test for compliance in tax increment financing, as the cities administer the tax increment financing in Sherburne County.

The results of our tests indicate that, for the items tested, Sherburne County complied with the material terms and conditions of applicable legal provisions, except as described in the Schedule of Findings and Questioned Costs as item 09-1.

Also included in the Schedule of Findings and Questioned Costs is an other item for consideration. We believe this information to be of benefit to the County and are reporting it for that purpose.

Sherburne County's written response to the legal compliance finding identified in our audit has been included in the Schedule of Findings and Questioned Costs. We did not audit the County's response and, accordingly, we express no opinion on it.

This report is intended solely for the information and use of the Board of County Commissioners, management, others within Sherburne County, and federal awarding agencies and pass-through entities and is not intended to be, and should not be, used by anyone other than those specified parties.

/s/Rebecca Otto

/s/Greg Hierlinger

REBECCA OTTO STATE AUDITOR GREG HIERLINGER, CPA DEPUTY STATE AUDITOR

June 15, 2010



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REPORT ON COMPLIANCE WITH REQUIREMENTS APPLICABLE TO EACH MAJOR PROGRAM AND INTERNAL CONTROL OVER COMPLIANCE IN ACCORDANCE WITH OMB CIRCULAR A-133

Board of County Commissioners Sherburne County

Compliance

We have audited the compliance of Sherburne County with the types of compliance requirements described in the U.S. Office of Management and Budget (OMB) *Circular A-133 Compliance Supplement* that are applicable to each of its major federal programs for the year ended December 31, 2009. Sherburne County's major federal programs are identified in the Summary of Auditor's Results section of the accompanying Schedule of Findings and Questioned Costs. Compliance with the requirements of laws, regulations, contracts, and grants applicable to each of its major federal programs is the responsibility of the County's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the County's compliance based on our audit.

We conducted our audit of compliance in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America; the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States; and OMB Circular A-133, *Audits of States, Local Governments, and Non-Profit Organizations*. Those standards and OMB Circular A-133 require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether noncompliance with the types of compliance requirements referred to above that could have a direct and material effect on a major federal program occurred. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence about Sherburne County's compliance with those requirements and performing such other procedures as we considered necessary in the circumstances. We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion. Our audit does not provide a legal determination on the County's compliance with those requirements.

In our opinion, Sherburne County complied, in all material respects, with the requirements referred to above that are applicable to each of its major federal programs for the year ended December 31, 2009.

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Internal Control Over Compliance

The management of Sherburne County is responsible for establishing and maintaining effective internal control over compliance with requirements of laws, regulations, contracts, and grants applicable to federal programs. In planning and performing our audit, we considered the County's internal control over compliance with requirements that could have a direct and material effect on a major federal program in order to determine our auditing procedures for the purpose of expressing our opinion on compliance and to test and report on internal control over compliance in accordance with OMB Circular A-133, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of internal control over compliance. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the County's internal control over compliance.

A deficiency in internal control over compliance exists when the design or operation of a control over compliance does not allow management or employees, in the normal course of performing their assigned functions, to prevent, or detect and correct, noncompliance with a type of compliance requirement of a federal program on a timely basis. A material weakness in internal control over compliance is a deficiency, or combination of deficiencies, in internal control over compliance, such that there is a reasonable possibility that material noncompliance with a type of compliance requirement of a federal program will not be prevented, or detected and corrected, on a timely basis.

Our consideration of the internal control over compliance 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 compliance that might be deficiencies, significant deficiencies, or material weaknesses. We did not identify any deficiencies in internal control over compliance that we consider to be material weaknesses, as defined above.

Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards

We have audited the financial statements of the governmental activities, the business-type activities, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of Sherburne County as of and for the year ended December 31, 2009, which collectively comprise the County's basic financial statements, and have issued our report thereon dated June 15, 2010. Our audit was performed for the purpose of forming opinions on the County's financial statements that collectively comprise the County's basic financial statements. The accompanying Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards is presented for purposes of additional analysis as required by OMB Circular A-133 and is not a required part of the basic financial statements. Such information has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the basic financial statements and, in our opinion, is fairly stated in all material respects in relation to the basic financial statements taken as a whole.

This report is intended solely for the information and use of the Board of County Commissioners, management and others within the County, and federal awarding agencies and pass-through entities and is not intended to be, and should not be, used by anyone other than those specified parties.

/s/Rebecca Otto

/s/Greg Hierlinger

REBECCA OTTO STATE AUDITOR GREG HIERLINGER, CPA DEPUTY STATE AUDITOR

June 15, 2010

Schedule 2

SCHEDULE OF EXPENDITURES OF FEDERAL AWARDS FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2009

Federal Grantor Pass-Through Agency Grant Program Title	Federal CFDA Number	Fx	penditures
Of unit i Fogrum That	1 (unified		penuntures
U.S. Department of Agriculture			
Direct			
Conservation Reserve Program	10.069	\$	1,170
Passed Through Minnesota Department of Health			
Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and			
Children (WIC)	10.557		316,344
Passed Through Minnesota Department of Human Services			
State Administrative Matching Grants for the Supplemental Nutrition			
Assistance Program (SNAP) Cluster			
State Administrative Matching Grants for SNAP	10.561		258,530
State Administrative Matching Grants for SNAP - ARRA	10.561		16,096
Total U.S. Department of Agriculture		\$	592,140
U.S. Department of Justice			
Direct			
Bulletproof Vest Partnership Program	16.607	\$	2,933
Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program - ARRA	16.804		6,525
Total U.S. Department of Justice		\$	9,458
U.S. Department of Transportation			
Passed Through Minnesota Department of Transportation			
Highway Planning and Construction Cluster			
Highway Planning and Construction	20.205	\$	616,838
Highway Planning and Construction - ARRA	20.205		468,966
Passed Through Minnesota Department of Public Safety			
State and Community Highway Safety	20.600		18,656
Minimum Penalties for Repeat Offenders for Driving While Intoxicated	20.608		20,312
Total U.S. Department of Transportation		\$	1,124,772

<u>Schedule 2</u> (Continued)

SCHEDULE OF EXPENDITURES OF FEDERAL AWARDS FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2009

ber Expenditures 944 \$ 353 969 58,779 50 2,585 968 1,240 983 77,398 958 76,819 994 52,427 956 23,677 958 479,407
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The notes to the Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards are an integral part of this schedule.

NOTES TO THE SCHEDULE OF EXPENDITURES OF FEDERAL AWARDS FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2009

1. <u>Reporting Entity</u>

The Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards presents the activities of federal award programs expended by Sherburne County. The County's reporting entity is defined in Note 1 to the financial statements.

2. <u>Basis of Presentation</u>

The accompanying Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards includes the federal grant activity of Sherburne County under programs of the federal government for the year ended December 31, 2009. The information in this schedule is presented in accordance with the requirements of Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Circular A-133, *Audits of States, Local Governments, and Non-Profit Organizations*. Because the schedule presents only a selected portion of the operations of Sherburne County, it is not intended to and does not present the financial position, changes in net assets, or cash flows of Sherburne County.

3. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

Expenditures reported on the schedule are reported on the basis of accounting used by the individual funds of Sherburne County. Governmental funds use the modified accrual basis of accounting. Such expenditures are recognized following the cost principles contained in OMB Circular A-87, *Cost Principles for State, Local and Indian Tribal Governments*, wherein certain types of expenditures are not allowable or are limited as to reimbursement. Pass-through grant numbers were not assigned by the pass-through agencies.

4. Subrecipients

The County did not pass any federal money to subrecipients during the year ended December 31, 2009.

5. <u>American Recovery and Reinvestment Act</u>

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) requires recipients to clearly distinguish ARRA funds from non-ARRA funding. In the schedule, ARRA funds are denoted by the addition of ARRA to the program name.