

STATE OF MINNESOTA

Office of the State Auditor



Rebecca Otto
State Auditor

NICOLLET COUNTY
ST. PETER, MINNESOTA

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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**NICOLLET COUNTY
ST. PETER, MINNESOTA**

Year Ended December 31, 2011



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

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**NICOLLET COUNTY
ST. PETER, MINNESOTA**

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**NICOLLET COUNTY
ST. PETER, MINNESOTA**

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**NICOLLET COUNTY
ST. PETER, MINNESOTA**

**ORGANIZATION
DECEMBER 31, 2011**

Office	Name	Term Expires
Commissioners		
1st District	Marie Dranttel	January 2015
2nd District	James Stenson*	January 2013
3rd District	Jack Kolars	January 2015
4th District	David Haack	January 2013
5th District	Dr. Bruce Beatty	January 2015
Officers Elected		
Attorney	Michelle Zehnder Fischer	January 2015
County Judge	Allison Krehbiel	January 2015
County Judge	Todd Westphal	January 2013
County Recorder	Kathryn Conlon	January 2015
Registrar of Titles	Kathryn Conlon	January 2015
Sheriff	David Lange	January 2015
Officers Appointed		
Assessor	Doreen Pehrson	December 2012
Auditor-Treasurer	Bridgette Kennedy	Indefinite
Court Administrator	Carol Melick	Indefinite
Highway Engineer	Seth Greenwood	May 2013
Probation Officer (Court Services Director)	Richard Molitor	Indefinite
Surveyor	Peter Blethen	Indefinite
Veterans Service Officer	Charles Dempewolf	November 2015
Coroner	Dr. Michael McGee	January 2014
Administrator	Robert Podhradsky**	Indefinite
Human Services Director	Joan Tesdahl	Indefinite
Public Health Director	Mary Hildebrandt	Indefinite
Environmental Services Director	Mandy Landkamer	Indefinite
Extension Director	Nathan Crane	Indefinite
Human Resources Director	Jamie Haefner	Indefinite
Emergency Management Director	Denise Wright	Indefinite

*Chair

**Resigned effective July 31, 2012. County Auditor-Treasurer was appointed Interim Administrator, effective until December 31, 2012.

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REBECCA OTTO
STATE AUDITOR

STATE OF MINNESOTA

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INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

Board of County Commissioners
Nicollet County

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the governmental activities, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of Nicollet County, Minnesota, as of and for the year ended December 31, 2011, which collectively comprise the County's basic financial statements, as listed in the table of contents. These financial statements are the responsibility of Nicollet County's management. Our responsibility is to express opinions 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; the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States; and U.S. Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Circular A-133, *Audits of States, Local Governments, and Non-Profit Organizations*. 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 opinions.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the respective financial position of the governmental activities, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of Nicollet County as of December 31, 2011, and the respective changes in financial position and cash flows, where applicable, thereof and the respective budgetary comparisons for the General Fund, Road and Bridge Special Revenue Fund, and Human Services Special Revenue Fund for the year then ended in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

As discussed in Note 1.D.10. to the financial statements, for 2011, the County adopted Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) Statement No. 54, *Fund Balance Reporting and Governmental Fund Type Definitions*.

Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require that the Management's Discussion and Analysis and Required Supplementary Information as listed in the table of contents be presented to supplement the basic financial statements. Such information, although not part of the basic financial statements, is required by the GASB, who considers it to be an essential part of financial reporting for placing the basic financial statements in an appropriate operational, economic, or historical context. In accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, we have applied certain limited procedures to the required supplementary information, which consisted of inquiries of management about the methods of preparing the information and comparing the information for consistency with management's responses to our inquiries, the basic financial statements, and other knowledge we obtained during our audit of the basic financial statements. We do not express an opinion or provide any assurance on the information because the limited procedures do not provide us with sufficient evidence to express an opinion or provide any assurance.

Our audit was conducted for the purpose of forming opinions on the financial statements that collectively comprise Nicollet County's basic financial statements as a whole. The supplementary information, including the Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards required by OMB Circular A-133, is presented for purposes of additional analysis and is not a required part of the basic financial statements. The supplementary information is the responsibility of management and was derived from and relates directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the basic financial statements. This information has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the basic financial statements and certain additional procedures, including comparing and reconciling such information directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the basic financial statements or to the basic financial statements themselves, and other additional procedures in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. In our opinion, the information is fairly presented in all material respects in relation to the basic financial statements as a whole.

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated August 17, 2012, on our consideration of Nicollet County's internal control over financial reporting and on our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, grant agreements, and other matters. The purpose of that report is to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on internal control over financial reporting or on compliance. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* and should be considered in assessing the results of our audit.

/s/Rebecca Otto

REBECCA OTTO
STATE AUDITOR

/s/Greg Hierlinger

GREG HIERLINGER, CPA
DEPUTY STATE AUDITOR

August 17, 2012

MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS

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**NICOLLET COUNTY
ST. PETER, MINNESOTA**

**MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS
DECEMBER 31, 2011
(Unaudited)**

As management of Nicollet County, we offer readers of the Nicollet County financial statements this narrative overview and analysis of the financial activities of Nicollet County for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2011. We encourage readers to consider the information presented here in conjunction with the County's basic financial statements following this section. All amounts, unless otherwise indicated, are expressed in whole dollars.

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

- The assets of Nicollet County exceeded its liabilities by \$92,986,945 at the close of 2011. Of this amount, \$21,298,493 (unrestricted net assets) may be used to meet Nicollet County's ongoing obligations to citizens and creditors.
- Nicollet County's total net assets increased by \$4,469,309 in 2011. This is attributable primarily to increases in cash, non-depreciable capital assets, and amounts due from other governments.
- At the close of 2011, Nicollet County's governmental funds reported combined ending fund balances of \$24,712,580, an increase of \$1,672,123 in comparison with the prior year. Of the total fund balance, \$9,720,098 is available for spending at the County's discretion and is noted as unassigned fund balance.
- At the close of 2011, the unassigned fund balance for the General Fund was \$9,959,391, or 79 percent, of total General Fund expenditures.
- Nicollet County's total debt decreased by \$1,630,000, or 12 percent, during 2011. The key factor in the decrease was due to the repayment of general obligation bonds.

OVERVIEW OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

This Management's Discussion and Analysis (MD&A) is intended to serve as an introduction to Nicollet County's basic financial statements. The County's basic financial statements comprise three components: (1) government-wide financial statements, (2) fund financial statements, and (3) notes to the financial statements. This report also contains other supplementary information in addition to the basic financial statements themselves.

Government-Wide Financial Statements

The government-wide financial statements are designed to provide readers with a broad overview of Nicollet County's finances in a manner similar to a private-sector business.

The statement of net assets presents information on all of Nicollet County's assets and liabilities, with the difference between the two reported as net assets. Over time, increases or decreases in net assets may serve as a useful indicator of whether the financial position of Nicollet County is improving or deteriorating.

The statement of activities presents information showing how the government's net assets changed during the most recent fiscal year. All changes in net assets are reported as soon as the underlying event giving rise to the change occurs, regardless of the timing of related cash flows. Thus, revenues and expenses are reported in this statement for some items that will result in cash flows only in future fiscal periods (uncollected taxes and earned but unused vacation leave).

The County's government-wide financial statements report functions of the County principally supported by taxes and intergovernmental revenues. The governmental activities of Nicollet County include general government, public safety, highways and streets, sanitation, human services, health, culture and recreation, conservation of natural resources, and economic development.

The government-wide financial statements can be found on Exhibits 1 and 2.

Fund Financial Statements

A fund is a grouping of related accounts used to maintain control over resources that have been segregated for specific activities or objectives. Nicollet County, like other state and local governments, uses fund accounting to ensure and demonstrate compliance with finance-related legal requirements. All of the funds of Nicollet County can be divided into three categories: governmental funds, proprietary funds, and fiduciary funds.

Because the focus of governmental funds is narrower than that of the government-wide financial statements, it is useful to compare the information presented for governmental funds with similar information presented for governmental activities in the government-wide financial statements. By doing so, readers may better understand the long-term impact of the government's short-term financing decisions. Both the governmental fund balance sheet and the governmental fund statement of revenues, expenditures, and changes in fund balances provide a reconciliation to facilitate this comparison between governmental funds and governmental activities.

- Governmental funds--Governmental funds are used to account for essentially the same functions reported as governmental activities in the government-wide financial statements. However, unlike the government-wide financial statements, County fund level financial statements focus on near-term inflows and outflows of spendable resources, as well as on balances of spendable resources available at the end of the fiscal year. Such information may be useful in evaluating a government's near-term financing requirements.

Nicollet County reports six individual governmental funds. Information is presented separately in the governmental fund balance sheet and in the governmental fund statement of revenues, expenditures, and changes in fund balances for the General Fund, the Road and Bridge Special Revenue Fund, the Human Services Special Revenue Fund, the Revolving Loan Special Revenue Fund, the Ditch Special Revenue Fund, and the Debt Service Fund, all of which are considered to be major funds. Governmental fund financial statements are on Exhibits 3 through 7.

- Proprietary funds--Nicollet County maintains one proprietary fund. The Self-Insurance Internal Service Fund is used to account for the accumulation of resources for, and the payment of, insurance costs of the self-insurance program. Proprietary funds provide the same type of information as the government-wide financial statements, only in more detail. Because the Self-Insurance Internal Service Fund benefits the governmental function, it has been included within the governmental activities column on the government-wide financial statements. Proprietary fund financial statements are on Exhibits 8 through 10.
- Fiduciary funds--Fiduciary funds are used to account for assets held by the County as an agent for individuals, private organizations, other governments, or other funds. Nicollet County's fiduciary funds consist of five agency funds. Agency funds are custodial in nature (assets equal liabilities) and do not involve measurement of results of operations. In addition, the agency funds are not reflected in the government-wide financial statements because those resources are not available to support the County's programs. Fiduciary funds are on Exhibit 11.

Notes to the Financial Statements

The notes to the financial statements provide additional information essential to a full understanding of the data provided.

Other Information

In addition to the basic financial statements and notes, this report also presents certain required supplementary information concerning Nicollet County's progress in funding its obligation to provide other postemployment benefits to its employees. Required supplementary information can be found on Exhibit A-1.

In addition, the County also provides supplementary information on Nicollet County's intergovernmental revenue on Exhibit D-1.

Nicollet County adopts an annual appropriated budget for the General Fund, the Road and Bridge Special Revenue Fund, the Human Services Special Revenue Fund, and the Debt Service Fund. Budgetary comparison statements have been provided for the County's major funds to demonstrate compliance with these budgets.

GOVERNMENT-WIDE FINANCIAL ANALYSIS

Over time, net assets serve as a useful indicator of the County's financial position. Nicollet County's assets exceeded liabilities by \$92,986,945 at the close of 2011. The largest portion of Nicollet County's net assets (69 percent) reflects its investment in capital assets (land, buildings, and equipment), less any related debt used to acquire those assets that is still outstanding. However, it should be noted that these assets are not available for future spending.

Governmental Net Assets

	2011	2010
Current and other assets	\$ 34,238,577	\$ 30,576,497
Capital assets	<u>75,940,639</u>	<u>76,921,676</u>
Total Assets	<u>\$ 110,179,216</u>	<u>\$ 107,498,173</u>
Long-term liabilities outstanding	\$ 15,915,533	\$ 17,468,787
Other liabilities	<u>1,276,738</u>	<u>1,511,750</u>
Total Liabilities	<u>\$ 17,192,271</u>	<u>\$ 18,980,537</u>
Net Assets		
Invested in capital assets, net of related debt	\$ 63,956,908	\$ 64,406,209
Restricted	7,731,544	5,174,858
Unrestricted	<u>21,298,493</u>	<u>18,936,569</u>
Total Net Assets	<u>\$ 92,986,945</u>	<u>\$ 88,517,636</u>

The unrestricted net asset amount of \$21,298,493 as of December 31, 2011, may be used to meet the County's ongoing obligations to citizens and creditors.

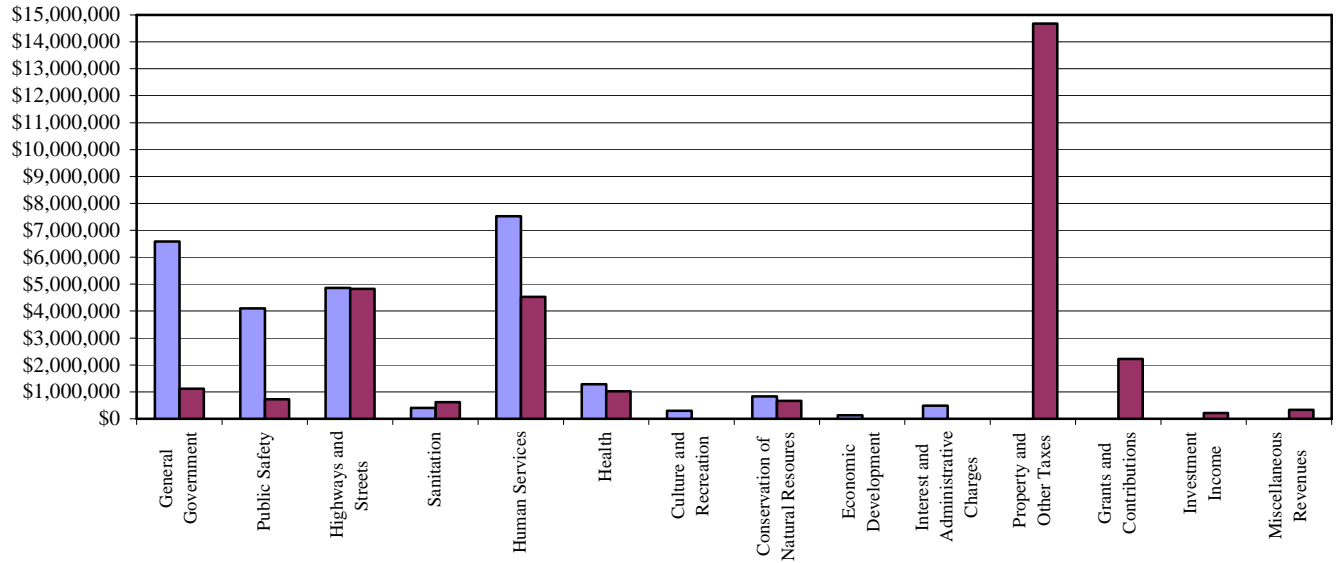
GOVERNMENTAL ACTIVITIES

Nicollet County's activities increased net assets by \$4,469,309, or five percent, over the 2010 net assets. The key element of the increase was due to an increase in cash, non-depreciable capital assets, and amounts due to other governments.

	Changes in Net Assets	
	<u>2011</u>	<u>2010</u>
Revenues		
Program revenues		
Charges for services	\$ 3,792,347	\$ 3,295,595
Operating grants and contributions	9,171,636	9,010,635
Capital grants and contributions	549,195	284,930
General revenues		
Property taxes	14,624,822	14,379,989
Other	<u>2,830,029</u>	<u>2,842,556</u>
Total Revenues	<u>\$ 30,968,029</u>	<u>\$ 29,813,705</u>
Expenses		
General government	\$ 6,585,949	\$ 6,743,957
Public safety	4,102,362	4,123,469
Highways and streets	4,860,946	3,492,992
Sanitation	400,893	453,484
Human services	7,517,860	7,711,082
Health	1,287,342	1,342,696
Culture and recreation	301,499	278,779
Conservation of natural resources	832,158	617,983
Economic development	126,814	141,313
Interest	<u>482,897</u>	<u>536,546</u>
Total Expenses	<u>\$ 26,498,720</u>	<u>\$ 25,442,301</u>
Increase in Net Assets	\$ 4,469,309	\$ 4,371,404
Net Assets, January 1	<u>88,517,636</u>	<u>84,146,232</u>
Net Assets, December 31	<u>\$ 92,986,945</u>	<u>\$ 88,517,636</u>

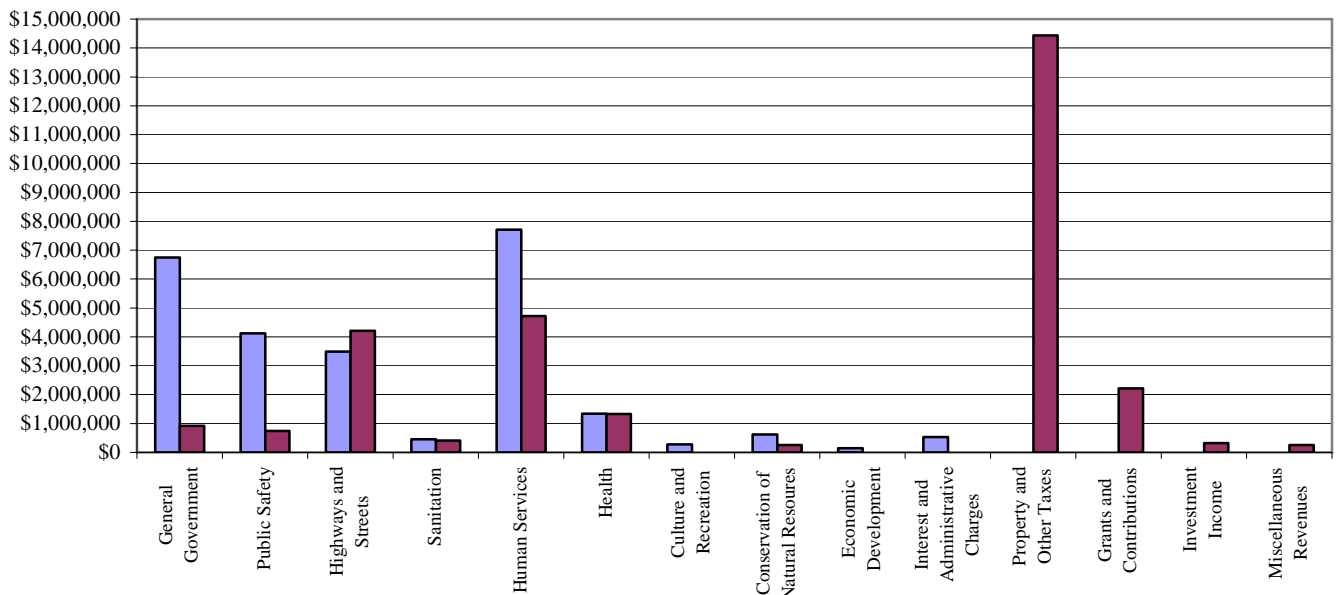
Expenses and Revenues - 2011

Expenses Revenues

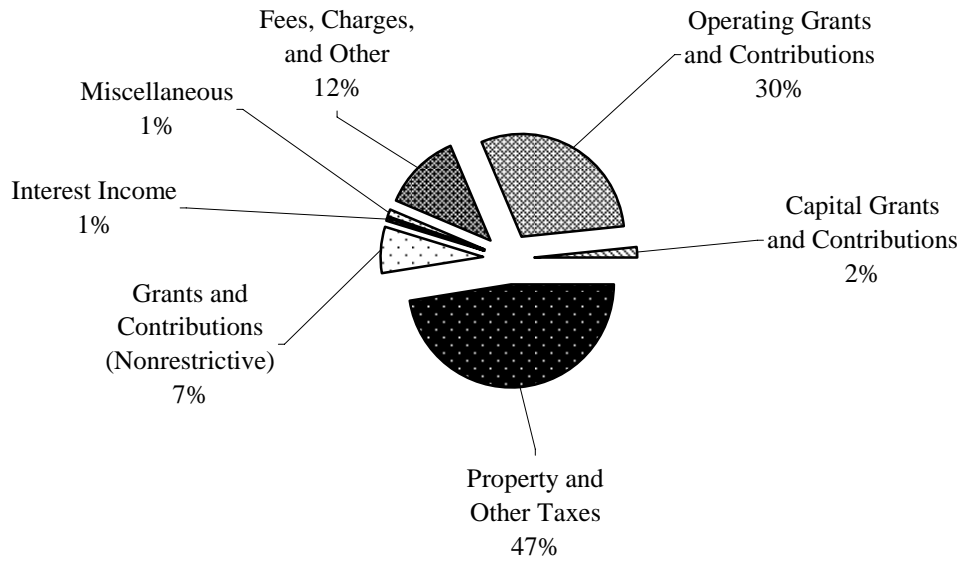


Expenses and Revenues - 2010

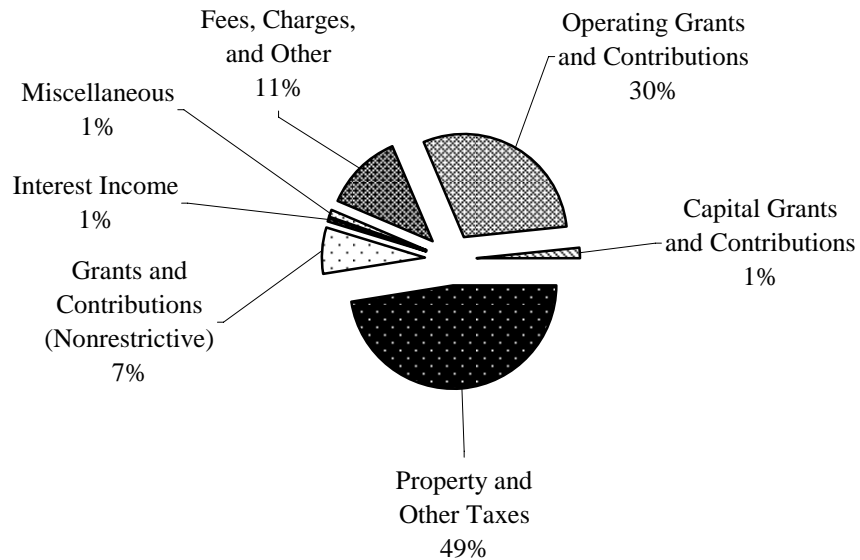
Expenses Revenues



Revenues by Source - 2011



Revenues by Source - 2010



FINANCIAL ANALYSIS OF THE GOVERNMENT'S FUNDS

As noted earlier, the County uses fund accounting to ensure and demonstrate compliance with finance-related legal requirements.

Governmental Funds

The focus of the County's governmental funds is to provide information on short-term inflows, outflows, and balances of spendable resources. Such information is useful in assessing the County's financing requirements. In particular, unassigned fund balance may serve as a useful measure of a government's net resources available for spending at the end of the fiscal year.

As of the end of the current fiscal year, the County's governmental funds reported combined ending fund balances of \$24,712,580, an increase of \$1,672,123 in comparison with the prior year. The majority of this amount (\$20,176,194) constitutes assigned and unassigned fund balance, which is available for spending at the County's discretion. The remainder of fund balance is restricted or nonspendable to indicate that it is not available for new spending because it has already been committed for various reasons.

The General Fund is the chief operating fund of Nicollet County. At the end of the current fiscal year, assigned and unassigned fund balance of the General Fund was \$10,673,691, while total fund balance was \$12,084,393. As a measure of the General Fund's liquidity, it may be useful to compare the assigned and unassigned fund balance to total fund expenditures. The assigned and unassigned fund balance represents 85 percent of total General Fund expenditures, while total fund balance represents 96 percent of that same amount. In 2011, the fund balance amount in the General Fund increased by \$554,250, primarily due to actual expenditures being less than budgeted expenditures.

The Road and Bridge Special Revenue Fund's assigned and nonspendable fund balance increased \$1,373,984 in 2011. The main reason for this increase was due to the transfer from the Debt Service Fund for projects occurring over the past three years.

General Fund Budgetary Highlights

The actual revenues did not meet the budgeted revenues by \$665,130. This was due largely to the unallocated state aid amounts. State aid amounts are a portion of the determination of the amount of tax to levy to support the operating budget. The national economic conditions on the expected rate of return on investments were also a portion. The actual expenditures were less than budgeted expenditures by \$1,329,211. The most significant variances were due to lower than expected expenditures in the Commissioners, Capital Outlay, Auditor/Treasurer, Accounting and Auditing, Assessor, Human Resources, Office of Technologies, Machine Room, Elections, Other General Government Operations, County Attorney, Recorder, Surveyor, Telephone, Courthouse Operations, County Offices Building, Environmental Services, Sheriff, Jail, Probation, Emergency Services, Solid Waste Management, Public Health Nursing Service, Agricultural Society, and Extension areas.

CAPITAL ASSETS AND DEBT ADMINISTRATION

Capital Assets

The County's investment in capital assets for its governmental activities as of December 31, 2011, was \$75,940,639 (net of accumulated depreciation). This investment in capital assets includes land, buildings, equipment, and infrastructure. The total decrease in the County's investment in capital assets for the current fiscal year was one percent. The major capital asset event in 2011 was an increase to construction in progress offset by depreciation.

	Capital Assets	
	<u>2011</u>	<u>2010</u>
Land	\$ 3,268,738	\$ 3,268,738
Construction in progress	1,629,162	1,274,851
Land improvements	176,247	194,636
Building	9,671,308	10,072,795
Machinery, vehicles, furniture, and equipment	1,354,935	1,398,563
Infrastructure	<u>59,840,249</u>	<u>60,712,093</u>
Totals	<u>\$ 75,940,639</u>	<u>\$ 76,921,676</u>

Additional information on the County's capital assets can be found in Note 3.A.3. in the notes to the financial statements.

Long-Term Debt

At the end of the current fiscal year, the County had total bonded debt outstanding of \$12,410,000, which is backed by the full faith and credit of the government.

	Outstanding Debt	
	<u>2011</u>	<u>2010</u>
General obligation bonds	<u>\$ 12,410,000</u>	<u>\$ 14,040,000</u>

The County's debt related to general obligation bonds decreased by \$1,630,000 (12.0 percent) during the fiscal year. The primary reason for the decrease was repayment of general obligation bonds.

Nicollet County's bond rating is "Aa2" from Moody's.

Minnesota statutes limit the amount of net debt to three percent of the market value of taxable property in the County. As of the end of 2011, Nicollet County is below the three percent debt limit imposed by state statutes.

Additional information on the County's long-term debt can be found in Note 3.C. in the notes to the financial statements.

ECONOMIC FACTORS AND NEXT YEAR'S BUDGETS

- Nicollet County's unemployment rate was 5.1 percent as of the end of 2011. This is moderately below the statewide rate of 5.8 percent. (Source: Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development, Unemployment Statistics - LAUS Data).
- Nicollet County's population is 32,949, an increase of one percent over 2010. Industries are maintaining, and agricultural property values continue to grow.

At the end of 2011, Nicollet County set its 2012 revenue and expenditure budgets.

REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION

This annual financial report is designed to provide a general overview of the County's finances for all those with an interest in the County's finances. Questions concerning any of the information provided in this report or requests for additional financial information should be addressed to the Nicollet County Auditor/Treasurer, Nicollet County Courthouse, 501 South Minnesota Avenue, St. Peter, Minnesota 56082.

BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

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GOVERNMENT-WIDE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

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**NICOLLET COUNTY
ST. PETER, MINNESOTA**

EXHIBIT 1

**STATEMENT OF NET ASSETS
GOVERNMENTAL ACTIVITIES
DECEMBER 31, 2011**

Assets

Cash and pooled investments	\$	25,646,753
Taxes receivable		
Prior		335,848
Special assessments receivable		
Prior		15,191
Noncurrent		1,381,860
Accounts receivable		728,138
Accrued interest receivable		31,196
Loan receivable		16,989
Due from other governments		5,210,546
Inventories		441,062
Prepaid items		315,263
Deferred charges		115,731
Capital assets		
Non-depreciable		4,897,900
Depreciable - net of accumulated depreciation		71,042,739
Total Assets	\$	110,179,216

Liabilities

Accounts payable	\$	656,975
Salaries payable		213,326
Contracts payable		24,609
Due to other governments		121,433
Accrued interest payable		178,269
Unearned revenue		82,126
Long-term liabilities		
Due within one year		2,819,197
Due in more than one year		13,096,336
Total Liabilities	\$	17,192,271

Net Assets

Invested in capital assets - net of related debt	\$	63,956,908
Restricted for		
General government		657,265
Public safety		420,956
Highways and streets		4,420,476
Conservation of natural resources		314,908
Debt service		1,917,939
Unrestricted		21,298,493
Total Net Assets	\$	92,986,945

The notes to the financial statements are an integral part of this statement.

**NICOLLET COUNTY
ST. PETER, MINNESOTA**

EXHIBIT 2

**STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2011**

Expenses	Program Revenues			Net (Expense) Revenue and Change in Net Assets	
	Fees, Charges, Fines, and Other	Operating Grants and Contributions	Capital Grants and Contributions		
<u>Functions/Programs</u>					
Governmental activities					
General government	\$ 6,585,949	\$ 713,600	\$ 403,574	\$ -	\$ (5,468,775)
Public safety	4,102,362	215,191	511,472	-	(3,375,699)
Highways and streets	4,860,946	229,322	4,053,320	547,194	(31,110)
Sanitation	400,893	538,241	79,947	-	217,295
Human services	7,517,860	744,483	3,779,534	-	(2,993,843)
Health	1,287,342	684,629	341,689	-	(261,024)
Culture and recreation	301,499	-	2,100	2,001	(297,398)
Conservation of natural resources	832,158	666,881	-	-	(165,277)
Economic development	126,814	-	-	-	(126,814)
Interest and administrative charges	482,897	-	-	-	(482,897)
Total Governmental Activities	\$ 26,498,720	\$ 3,792,347	\$ 9,171,636	\$ 549,195	\$ (12,985,542)
 General Revenues					
Property taxes					\$ 14,624,822
Mortgage registry and deed tax					31,963
Payments in lieu of tax					28,076
Grants and contributions not restricted to specific programs					2,224,127
Unrestricted investment earnings					218,451
Miscellaneous					327,412
					\$ 17,454,851
Change in net assets					\$ 4,469,309
Net Assets - January 1					88,517,636
Net Assets - December 31					\$ 92,986,945

FUND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

**NICOLLET COUNTY
ST. PETER, MINNESOTA**

**BALANCE SHEET
GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS
DECEMBER 31, 2011**

	General	Road and Bridge
<u>Assets</u>		
Cash and pooled investments	\$ 11,810,295	\$ 4,699,375
Taxes receivable		
Delinquent	183,849	40,477
Special assessments		
Delinquent	7,540	-
Deferred	-	-
Accounts receivable	103,734	22
Accrued interest receivable	31,196	-
Loans receivable	16,989	-
Due from other funds	27,002	16,982
Due from other governments	175,964	4,539,222
Prepaid items	315,492	-
Inventories	-	441,062
	\$ 12,672,061	\$ 9,737,140
<u>Liabilities and Fund Balances</u>		
Liabilities		
Accounts payable	\$ 170,347	\$ 126,733
Salaries payable	134,435	22,903
Contracts payable	-	24,609
Due to other funds	736	78
Due to other governments	20,456	3,124
Deferred revenue - unavailable	179,568	4,453,594
Deferred revenue - unearned	82,126	-
	\$ 587,668	\$ 4,631,041

EXHIBIT 3

<u>Human Services</u>	<u>Revolving Loan</u>	<u>Ditch</u>	<u>Debt Service</u>	<u>Total Governmental Funds</u>
\$ 4,658,004	\$ 604,201	\$ 221,107	\$ 1,910,391	\$ 23,903,373
71,165	-	-	40,357	335,848
-	6,640	1,011	-	15,191
-	681,743	700,117	-	1,381,860
623,949	-	433	-	728,138
-	-	-	-	31,196
-	-	-	-	16,989
-	-	-	-	43,984
495,360	-	-	-	5,210,546
1,321	-	-	-	316,813
-	-	-	-	441,062
<u>\$ 5,849,799</u>	<u>\$ 1,292,584</u>	<u>\$ 922,668</u>	<u>\$ 1,950,748</u>	<u>\$ 32,425,000</u>
\$ 176,204	\$ -	\$ 52,374	\$ -	\$ 525,658
55,988	-	-	-	213,326
-	-	-	-	24,609
20,710	-	22,460	-	43,984
56,547	-	41,306	-	121,433
647,194	687,261	700,858	32,809	6,701,284
-	-	-	-	82,126
<u>\$ 956,643</u>	<u>\$ 687,261</u>	<u>\$ 816,998</u>	<u>\$ 32,809</u>	<u>\$ 7,712,420</u>

**NICOLLET COUNTY
ST. PETER, MINNESOTA**

**BALANCE SHEET
GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS
DECEMBER 31, 2011**

	General	Road and Bridge
<u>Liabilities and Fund Balances</u>		
(Continued)		
Fund Balances		
Nonspendable		
Inventories	\$ -	\$ 441,062
Prepaid items	315,492	-
Long-term loans receivable	16,989	-
Restricted for		
Law library	74,982	-
Recorder's equipment	470,812	-
Enhanced 911	354,834	-
Handgun permit fees	46,298	-
Boat and water safety	714	-
Sheriff's contingency	8,522	-
Donations	82,250	-
Forfeited sheriff property	10,588	-
Forfeited attorney property	28,566	-
Veteran grave markers	655	-
Debt service	-	-
ISTS loans	-	-
Ditch maintenance and repairs	-	-
Assigned to		
Long-term improvements	164,300	-
Court costs	500,000	-
Elections	50,000	-
Road and bridge	-	4,665,037
Human services	-	-
Septic/sewer loans	-	-
Unassigned	9,959,391	-
Total Fund Balances	\$ 12,084,393	\$ 5,106,099
Total Liabilities and Fund Balances	\$ 12,672,061	\$ 9,737,140

EXHIBIT 3
(Continued)

<u>Human Services</u>	<u>Revolving Loan</u>	<u>Ditch</u>	<u>Debt Service</u>	<u>Total Governmental Funds</u>
\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 441,062
1,321	-	-	-	316,813
-	-	-	-	16,989
-	-	-	-	74,982
-	-	-	-	470,812
-	-	-	-	354,834
-	-	-	-	46,298
-	-	-	-	714
-	-	-	-	8,522
-	-	-	-	82,250
-	-	-	-	10,588
-	-	-	-	28,566
-	-	-	-	655
-	-	-	1,917,939	1,917,939
-	420,399	-	-	420,399
-	-	344,963	-	344,963
-	-	-	-	164,300
-	-	-	-	500,000
-	-	-	-	50,000
-	-	-	-	4,665,037
4,891,835	-	-	-	4,891,835
-	184,924	-	-	184,924
-	-	(239,293)	-	9,720,098
<u>\$ 4,893,156</u>	<u>\$ 605,323</u>	<u>\$ 105,670</u>	<u>\$ 1,917,939</u>	<u>\$ 24,712,580</u>
<u>\$ 5,849,799</u>	<u>\$ 1,292,584</u>	<u>\$ 922,668</u>	<u>\$ 1,950,748</u>	<u>\$ 32,425,000</u>

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**NICOLLET COUNTY
ST. PETER, MINNESOTA**

EXHIBIT 3A

**RECONCILIATION OF THE FUND BALANCES OF GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS
TO THE STATEMENT OF NET ASSETS
DECEMBER 31, 2011**

Fund balances - total governmental funds (Exhibit 3)	\$	24,712,580
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Amounts reported for governmental activities in the statement of net assets are different because:

Capital assets, net of accumulated depreciation, used in governmental activities are not financial resources and, therefore, are not reported in the funds.		75,940,639
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Other long-term assets are not available to pay for current period expenditures and, therefore, are deferred in the funds.

Deferred revenue	\$ 6,701,284		
Deferred charges reported on Exhibit 1	115,731		
Less: prepaid interest reported as fund assets	<u>(1,550)</u>		6,815,465

Long-term liabilities, including bonds payable, are not due and payable in the current period and, therefore, are not reported in the funds.

General obligation bonds	\$ (12,410,000)		
Less: unamortized discount on bonds payable	5,924		
Unamortized premium on bonds payable	(71,132)		
Accrued interest payable	(178,269)		
Capital leases payable	(155,000)		
Loans payable	(865,060)		
Compensated absences payable	(1,868,308)		
Net OPEB liability	<u>(551,957)</u>		(16,093,802)

The Internal Service Fund is used by management to charge the costs of insurance to individual funds. The assets and liabilities of the Internal Service Fund are included with governmental activities in the statement of net assets.

1,612,063

Net Assets of Governmental Activities (Exhibit 1)	\$	<u>92,986,945</u>
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**NICOLLET COUNTY
ST. PETER, MINNESOTA**

**STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES, AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES
GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2011**

	General	Road and Bridge
Revenues		
Taxes	\$ 8,138,768	\$ 1,715,992
Special assessments	288,603	-
Licenses and permits	55,680	-
Intergovernmental	2,525,760	2,970,000
Charges for services	1,356,845	183,232
Fines and forfeits	43,749	-
Gifts and contributions	21,387	2,100
Investment earnings	229,065	-
Miscellaneous	503,322	46,090
	\$ 13,163,179	\$ 4,917,414
Expenditures		
Current		
General government	\$ 6,092,030	\$ -
Public safety	4,029,848	-
Highways and streets	-	4,224,921
Sanitation	308,397	-
Human services	-	-
Health	1,294,668	-
Culture and recreation	123,566	65,378
Conservation of natural resources	316,963	-
Economic development	126,814	-
Intergovernmental	110,594	160,820
Capital outlay	70,222	258,594
Debt service		
Principal	75,000	205,000
Interest	13,726	32,236
Administrative charges	750	-
	\$ 12,562,578	\$ 4,946,949
Excess of Revenues Over (Under) Expenditures	\$ 600,601	\$ (29,535)
Other Financing Sources (Uses)		
Transfers in	\$ 16,649	\$ 1,181,491
Transfers out	(63,000)	-
Loans issued	-	-
	\$ (46,351)	\$ 1,181,491
Net Change in Fund Balances	\$ 554,250	\$ 1,151,956
Fund Balances - January 1	11,530,143	3,732,115
Increase (decrease) in inventories	-	222,028
Fund Balances - December 31	\$ 12,084,393	\$ 5,106,099

EXHIBIT 4

Human Services	Revolving Loan	Ditch	Debt Service	Total Governmental Funds
\$ 3,061,507	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,778,093	\$ 14,694,360
-	191,155	579,038	-	1,058,796
-	-	-	-	55,680
4,359,256	-	-	133,296	9,988,312
337,630	-	-	-	1,877,707
-	-	-	-	43,749
2,001	-	-	-	25,488
24	-	-	-	229,089
450,188	-	367	-	999,967
\$ 8,210,606	\$ 191,155	\$ 579,405	\$ 1,911,389	\$ 28,973,148
\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 6,092,030
-	-	-	-	4,029,848
-	-	-	-	4,224,921
-	91,610	-	-	400,007
7,514,922	-	-	-	7,514,922
-	-	-	-	1,294,668
-	-	-	-	188,944
-	-	516,301	-	833,264
-	-	-	-	126,814
-	-	-	-	271,414
-	-	-	-	328,816
-	101,484	60,000	1,365,000	1,806,484
-	12,408	22,983	408,700	490,053
-	-	-	1,719	2,469
\$ 7,514,922	\$ 205,502	\$ 599,284	\$ 1,775,419	\$ 27,604,654
\$ 695,684	\$ (14,347)	\$ (19,879)	\$ 135,970	\$ 1,368,494
\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,198,140
-	(16,649)	-	(1,118,491)	(1,198,140)
-	81,601	-	-	81,601
\$ -	\$ 64,952	\$ -	\$ (1,118,491)	\$ 81,601
\$ 695,684	\$ 50,605	\$ (19,879)	\$ (982,521)	\$ 1,450,095
4,197,472	554,718	125,549	2,900,460	23,040,457
-	-	-	-	222,028
\$ 4,893,156	\$ 605,323	\$ 105,670	\$ 1,917,939	\$ 24,712,580

**NICOLLET COUNTY
ST. PETER, MINNESOTA**

EXHIBIT 4A

**RECONCILIATION OF THE CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES OF
GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS TO THE STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2011**

Net change in fund balances - total governmental funds (Exhibit 4) **\$ 1,450,095**

Amounts reported for governmental activities in the statement of activities are different because:

In the funds, under the modified accrual basis, receivables not available for expenditure are deferred. In the statement of activities, those revenues are recognized when earned. The adjustment to revenue between the fund statements and the statement of activities is the increase or decrease in revenue deferred as unavailable.

Deferred revenue - December 31	\$ 6,701,284	
Deferred revenue - January 1	<u>(4,706,403)</u>	1,994,881

Governmental funds report capital outlay as expenditures. However, in the statement of activities, the cost of those assets is allocated over their estimated useful lives and reported as depreciation expense. Also, in the statement of activities, only the gain or loss on the disposal of assets is reported; whereas, in the governmental funds, the proceeds from the sale increase financial resources. Therefore, the change in net assets differs from the change in fund balance by the net book value of the assets sold.

Expenditures for general capital assets and infrastructure	\$ 1,389,801	
Net book value of assets sold	(5,348)	
Current year depreciation	<u>(2,365,490)</u>	(981,037)

Issuing long-term debt provides current financial resources to governmental funds, while the repayment of debt consumes current financial resources. Neither transaction, however, has any effect on net assets. Also, governmental funds report the net effect of issuance costs, premiums, discounts, and similar items when debt is first issued; whereas, those amounts are deferred and amortized over the life of the debt in the statement of activities.

Proceeds of new debt		
Loans payable		(81,601)
Principal repayments		1,806,484
Amortization of premium/discount on bonds		(13,617)

Some expenses reported in the statement of activities do not require the use of current financial resources and, therefore, are not reported as expenditures in governmental funds.

Change in inventories	\$ 222,028	
Change in accrued interest payable and prepaid interest	23,242	
Change in net OPEB liability	(117,075)	
Change in compensated absences payable	<u>(60,316)</u>	67,879

The net income of the Internal Service Fund is reported with governmental activities. 226,225

Change in Net Assets of Governmental Activities (Exhibit 2) **\$ 4,469,309**

The notes to the financial statements are an integral part of this statement.

**NICOLLET COUNTY
ST. PETER, MINNESOTA**

EXHIBIT 5

**STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES, AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCE
BUDGETARY COMPARISON SCHEDULE
GENERAL FUND
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2011**

	<u>Budgeted Amounts</u>		<u>Actual Amounts</u>	<u>Variance with Final Budget</u>
	<u>Original</u>	<u>Final</u>		
Revenues				
Taxes	\$ 8,645,600	\$ 8,645,600	\$ 8,138,768	\$ (506,832)
Special assessments	278,000	278,000	288,603	10,603
Licenses and permits	51,000	51,000	55,680	4,680
Intergovernmental	2,422,035	2,422,035	2,525,760	103,725
Charges for services	1,577,820	1,577,820	1,356,845	(220,975)
Fines and forfeits	75,000	75,000	43,749	(31,251)
Gifts and contributions	10,150	10,150	21,387	11,237
Investment earnings	351,000	351,000	229,065	(121,935)
Miscellaneous	417,704	417,704	503,322	85,618
Total Revenues	\$ 13,828,309	\$ 13,828,309	\$ 13,163,179	\$ (665,130)
Expenditures				
Current				
General government				
Commissioners	\$ 295,718	\$ 295,718	\$ 258,755	\$ 36,963
Courts	52,500	52,500	88,966	(36,466)
Courts - CHIPS/TPR	60,000	60,000	68,261	(8,261)
Drug court	-	-	49,686	(49,686)
Law library	32,520	32,520	37,428	(4,908)
County administrator	238,054	238,054	239,788	(1,734)
Capital outlay	12,000	12,000	5,610	6,390
Auditor-Treasurer	667,690	667,690	595,623	72,067
Accounting and auditing	80,100	80,100	67,477	12,623
Assessor	572,315	572,315	552,805	19,510
Human resources	83,253	83,253	69,424	13,829
Office of technologies	992,996	992,996	811,507	181,489
Machine room	81,000	81,000	60,698	20,302
Elections	16,900	16,900	13,240	3,660
Other general government	972,967	972,967	551,467	421,500
County attorney	869,114	869,114	770,988	98,126
County attorney's forfeited property proceeds	-	-	36,648	(36,648)
Recorder/abstracter	433,910	433,910	394,114	39,796
Recorder - future equipment	43,070	43,070	83,741	(40,671)
Surveyor	14,700	14,700	12,008	2,692
Telephone	145,732	145,732	135,148	10,584
Courthouse operations	552,876	552,876	538,222	14,654
County offices building	22,000	22,000	18,477	3,523
Building fund department	50,000	50,000	80,181	(30,181)
Veterans service	102,216	102,216	102,406	(190)
Environmental services	469,246	469,246	443,445	25,801
Connect Nicollet County	-	-	5,917	(5,917)
Total general government	\$ 6,860,877	\$ 6,860,877	\$ 6,092,030	\$ 768,847

The notes to the financial statements are an integral part of this statement.

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**NICOLLET COUNTY
ST. PETER, MINNESOTA**

**EXHIBIT 5
(Continued)**

**STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES, AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCE
BUDGETARY COMPARISON SCHEDULE
GENERAL FUND
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2011**

	<u>Budgeted Amounts</u>		<u>Actual Amounts</u>	<u>Variance with Final Budget</u>
	<u>Original</u>	<u>Final</u>		
Expenditures				
Current (Continued)				
Public safety				
Sheriff	\$ 1,344,055	\$ 1,344,055	\$ 1,248,820	\$ 95,235
Boat and water safety	925	925	782	143
Prisoner commissions account	8,500	8,500	7,759	741
Sheriff - snowmobile safety enforcement	2,923	2,923	159	2,764
Enhanced 911 system	27,820	27,820	35,985	(8,165)
Sheriff - forfeited property proceeds	1,500	1,500	7,941	(6,441)
Sheriff - offroad highway grant	4,479	4,479	300	4,179
Coroner	50,000	50,000	46,987	3,013
Dispatch center	587,337	587,337	598,887	(11,550)
Jail/prisoners	1,235,497	1,235,497	1,071,370	164,127
Probation department	1,027,979	1,027,979	950,163	77,816
Emergency services	105,267	105,267	60,695	44,572
Total public safety	\$ 4,396,282	\$ 4,396,282	\$ 4,029,848	\$ 366,434
Sanitation				
Solid waste management	\$ 319,700	\$ 319,700	\$ 308,397	\$ 11,303
Health				
Public health nurse	\$ 506,026	\$ 506,026	\$ 395,552	\$ 110,474
WIC program	99,899	99,899	89,107	10,792
Maternal and child health	218,828	218,828	182,093	36,735
Bioterrorism grant	16,000	16,000	25,084	(9,084)
Waivered programs	610,870	610,870	510,958	99,912
Loan closet account	460	460	414	46
Core function - nursing department	1,300	1,300	1,318	(18)
Senior citizen transportation	90,689	90,689	90,142	547
Total health	\$ 1,544,072	\$ 1,544,072	\$ 1,294,668	\$ 249,404
Culture and recreation				
Historical society	\$ 105,924	\$ 105,924	\$ 105,725	\$ 199
Wayside rest	-	-	17,841	(17,841)
Total culture and recreation	\$ 105,924	\$ 105,924	\$ 123,566	\$ (17,642)
Conservation of natural resources				
Agricultural society	\$ 49,100	\$ 49,100	\$ 44,100	\$ 5,000
County extension	191,266	191,266	187,208	4,058
Soil and water conservation district	82,341	82,341	84,955	(2,614)
Tri-county fair	700	700	700	-
Total conservation of natural resources	\$ 323,407	\$ 323,407	\$ 316,963	\$ 6,444

The notes to the financial statements are an integral part of this statement.

**NICOLLET COUNTY
ST. PETER, MINNESOTA**

**EXHIBIT 5
(Continued)**

**STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES, AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCE
BUDGETARY COMPARISON SCHEDULE
GENERAL FUND
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2011**

	<u>Budgeted Amounts</u>		<u>Actual Amounts</u>	<u>Variance with Final Budget</u>
	<u>Original</u>	<u>Final</u>		
Expenditures				
Current (Continued)				
Economic development				
Economic development	\$ 34,791	\$ 34,791	\$ 22,913	\$ 11,878
Housing and redevelopment authority	103,901	103,901	103,901	-
Total economic development	\$ 138,692	\$ 138,692	\$ 126,814	\$ 11,878
Intergovernmental				
Culture and recreation - regional library	\$ 111,209	\$ 111,209	\$ 110,594	\$ 615
Capital outlay				
General government	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 70,222	\$ (70,222)
Debt service				
Principal	\$ 75,000	\$ 75,000	\$ 75,000	\$ -
Interest	15,876	15,876	13,726	2,150
Administrative charges	750	750	750	-
Total debt service	\$ 91,626	\$ 91,626	\$ 89,476	\$ 2,150
Total Expenditures	\$ 13,891,789	\$ 13,891,789	\$ 12,562,578	\$ 1,329,211
Excess of Revenues Over (Under)				
Expenditures	\$ (63,480)	\$ (63,480)	\$ 600,601	\$ 664,081
Other Financing Sources (Uses)				
Transfers in	\$ 25,000	\$ 25,000	\$ 16,649	\$ (8,351)
Transfers out	(83,000)	(83,000)	(63,000)	20,000
Total Other Financing Sources (Uses)	\$ (58,000)	\$ (58,000)	\$ (46,351)	\$ 11,649
Net Change in Fund Balance	\$ (121,480)	\$ (121,480)	\$ 554,250	\$ 675,730
Fund Balance - January 1	11,530,143	11,530,143	11,530,143	-
Fund Balance - December 31	\$ 11,408,663	\$ 11,408,663	\$ 12,084,393	\$ 675,730

**NICOLLET COUNTY
ST. PETER, MINNESOTA**

EXHIBIT 6

**STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES, AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCE
BUDGETARY COMPARISON SCHEDULE
ROAD AND BRIDGE SPECIAL REVENUE FUND
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2011**

	<u>Budgeted Amounts</u>		<u>Actual Amounts</u>	<u>Variance with Final Budget</u>
	<u>Original</u>	<u>Final</u>		
Revenues				
Taxes	\$ 1,702,416	\$ 1,702,416	\$ 1,715,992	\$ 13,576
Intergovernmental	4,728,387	4,728,387	2,970,000	(1,758,387)
Charges for services	41,000	41,000	183,232	142,232
Gifts and contributions	-	-	2,100	2,100
Miscellaneous	17,450	17,450	46,090	28,640
Total Revenues	\$ 6,489,253	\$ 6,489,253	\$ 4,917,414	\$ (1,571,839)
Expenditures				
Current				
Highways and streets				
Administration	\$ 291,937	\$ 291,937	\$ 256,489	\$ 35,448
Maintenance	1,602,921	1,602,921	1,551,584	51,337
Construction	3,340,032	3,340,032	1,957,188	1,382,844
Equipment maintenance shops	422,471	422,471	459,660	(37,189)
Total highways and streets	\$ 5,657,361	\$ 5,657,361	\$ 4,224,921	\$ 1,432,440
Culture and recreation				
Parks	\$ 72,913	\$ 72,913	\$ 65,378	\$ 7,535
Intergovernmental				
Highways and streets	\$ 147,975	\$ 147,975	\$ 160,820	\$ (12,845)
Capital outlay				
Highways and streets	\$ 446,754	\$ 446,754	\$ 258,594	\$ 188,160
Debt service				
Principal	\$ 205,000	\$ 205,000	\$ 205,000	\$ -
Interest	32,240	32,240	32,236	4
Total debt service	\$ 237,240	\$ 237,240	\$ 237,236	\$ 4
Total Expenditures	\$ 6,562,243	\$ 6,562,243	\$ 4,946,949	\$ 1,615,294

**NICOLLET COUNTY
ST. PETER, MINNESOTA**

*EXHIBIT 6
(Continued)*

**STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES, AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCE
BUDGETARY COMPARISON SCHEDULE
ROAD AND BRIDGE SPECIAL REVENUE FUND
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2011**

	<u>Budgeted Amounts</u>		<u>Actual Amounts</u>	<u>Variance with Final Budget</u>
	<u>Original</u>	<u>Final</u>		
Excess of Revenues Over (Under)				
Expenditures	\$ (72,990)	\$ (72,990)	\$ (29,535)	\$ 43,455
Other Financing Sources (Uses)				
Transfers in	63,000	63,000	1,181,491	1,118,491
Net Change in Fund Balance	\$ (9,990)	\$ (9,990)	\$ 1,151,956	\$ 1,161,946
Fund Balance - January 1	3,732,115	3,732,115	3,732,115	-
Increase (decrease) in inventories	-	-	222,028	222,028
Fund Balance - December 31	<u>\$ 3,722,125</u>	<u>\$ 3,722,125</u>	<u>\$ 5,106,099</u>	<u>\$ 1,383,974</u>

**NICOLLET COUNTY
ST. PETER, MINNESOTA**

EXHIBIT 7

**STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES, AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCE
BUDGETARY COMPARISON SCHEDULE
HUMAN SERVICES SPECIAL REVENUE FUND
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2011**

	<u>Budgeted Amounts</u>		<u>Actual Amounts</u>	<u>Variance with Final Budget</u>
	<u>Original</u>	<u>Final</u>		
Revenues				
Taxes	\$ 3,037,964	\$ 3,037,964	\$ 3,061,507	\$ 23,543
Intergovernmental	4,409,926	4,409,926	4,359,256	(50,670)
Charges for services	285,500	285,500	337,630	52,130
Gifts and contributions	-	-	2,001	2,001
Investment earnings	-	-	24	24
Miscellaneous	181,600	181,600	450,188	268,588
Total Revenues	\$ 7,914,990	\$ 7,914,990	\$ 8,210,606	\$ 295,616
Expenditures				
Current				
Human services				
Income maintenance	\$ 2,532,682	\$ 2,532,682	\$ 2,475,825	\$ 56,857
Social services	5,530,824	5,530,824	5,039,097	491,727
Total Expenditures	\$ 8,063,506	\$ 8,063,506	\$ 7,514,922	\$ 548,584
Excess of Revenues Over (Under) Expenditures	\$ (148,516)	\$ (148,516)	\$ 695,684	\$ 844,200
Fund Balance - January 1	4,197,472	4,197,472	4,197,472	-
Fund Balance - December 31	\$ 4,048,956	\$ 4,048,956	\$ 4,893,156	\$ 844,200

**NICOLLET COUNTY
ST. PETER, MINNESOTA**

EXHIBIT 8

**STATEMENT OF FUND NET ASSETS
GOVERNMENTAL ACTIVITIES
SELF-INSURANCE INTERNAL SERVICE FUND
DECEMBER 31, 2011**

Assets

Current assets	
Cash and pooled investments	\$ 1,743,380

Liabilities

Current liabilities	
Accounts payable	<u>131,317</u>

Net Assets

Unrestricted	<u><u>\$ 1,612,063</u></u>
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**NICOLLET COUNTY
ST. PETER, MINNESOTA**

EXHIBIT 9

**STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENSES, AND CHANGES IN FUND NET ASSETS
GOVERNMENTAL ACTIVITIES
SELF-INSURANCE INTERNAL SERVICE FUND
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2011**

Operating Revenues	
Charges for services	\$ 3,244,364
Operating Expenses	
Professional services	<u>3,018,139</u>
Net Income (Loss)	\$ 226,225
Net Assets - January 1	<u>1,385,838</u>
Net Assets - December 31	<u><u>\$ 1,612,063</u></u>

**NICOLLET COUNTY
ST. PETER, MINNESOTA**

EXHIBIT 10

**STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
SELF-INSURANCE INTERNAL SERVICE FUND
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2011
Increase (Decrease) in Cash and Cash Equivalents**

Cash Flows From Operating Activities	
Receipts from customers and users	\$ 3,244,364
Payments to suppliers	<u>(3,044,807)</u>
Net Increase (Decrease) in Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$ 199,557
Cash and Cash Equivalents at January 1	<u>1,543,823</u>
Cash and Cash Equivalents at December 31	<u><u>\$ 1,743,380</u></u>
Reconciliation of operating income (loss) to net cash provided by (used in) operating activities	
Operating income (loss)	\$ 226,225
Adjustments to reconcile operating income (loss) to net cash provided by (used in) operating activities	
Increase (decrease) in accounts payable	<u>(26,668)</u>
Net Cash Provided by (Used in) Operating Activities	<u><u>\$ 199,557</u></u>

NICOLLET COUNTY
ST. PETER, MINNESOTA

EXHIBIT 11

STATEMENT OF FIDUCIARY NET ASSETS
AGENCY FUNDS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2011

Assets

Cash and pooled investments	<u>\$ 1,441,279</u>
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Liabilities

Due to other governments	<u>\$ 1,441,279</u>
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**NICOLLET COUNTY
ST. PETER, MINNESOTA**

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

1. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

Nicollet County's financial statements are prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP). The Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) is responsible for establishing GAAP for state and local governments through its pronouncements (statements and interpretations). Governments are also required to follow the pronouncements of the Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB) issued through November 30, 1989, (when applicable) that do not conflict with or contradict GASB pronouncements. Although the County has the option to apply FASB pronouncements issued after that date to its proprietary fund, the County has chosen not to do so. The more significant accounting policies established in GAAP and used by the County are discussed below.

A. Financial Reporting Entity

Nicollet County was established March 5, 1853, and is an organized county having the powers, duties, and privileges granted counties by Minn. Stat. ch. 373. The County is governed by a five-member Board of Commissioners elected from districts within the County. The Board is organized with a chair and vice chair elected at the annual meeting in January of each year. The County Administrator serves as the clerk of the Board of Commissioners but has no vote.

Joint Ventures and Jointly-Governed Organizations

The County participates in three joint ventures described in Note 5.B. The County also participates in several jointly-governed organizations described in Note 5.C.

B. Basic Financial Statements

1. Government-Wide Statements

The government-wide financial statements (the statement of net assets and the statement of activities) display information about the County. These statements include the financial activities of the overall County government, except for fiduciary activities. Eliminations have been made to minimize the double counting of internal activities.

**NICOLLET COUNTY
ST. PETER, MINNESOTA**

1. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

B. Basic Financial Statements

1. Government-Wide Statements (Continued)

In the government-wide statement of net assets, the governmental activities are reported on a full accrual, economic resource basis, which recognizes all long-term assets and receivables as well as long-term debt and obligations. The County's net assets are reported in three parts: (1) invested in capital assets, net of related debt; (2) restricted net assets; and (3) unrestricted net assets. The County first utilizes restricted resources to finance qualifying activities.

The statement of activities demonstrates the degree to which the direct expenses of each function of the County's governmental activities are offset by program revenues. Direct expenses are those clearly identifiable with a specific function or activity. Program revenues include: (1) fees, fines, and charges paid by the recipients of goods, services, or privileges provided by a given function or activity; and (2) grants and contributions restricted to meeting the operational or capital requirements of a particular function or activity. Revenues not classified as program revenues, including all taxes, are presented as general revenues.

2. Fund Financial Statements

The fund financial statements provide information about the County's funds, including its fiduciary funds. Separate statements for each fund category--governmental, proprietary, and fiduciary--are presented. The emphasis of governmental and proprietary fund financial statements is on major individual funds, with each displayed as separate columns in the fund financial statements.

Proprietary fund operating revenues, such as charges for services, result from exchange transactions associated with the principal activity of the fund. Exchange transactions are those in which each party receives and gives up essentially equal values. Nonoperating revenues, such as subsidies and investment earnings, result from nonexchange transactions or incidental activities.

**NICOLLET COUNTY
ST. PETER, MINNESOTA**

1. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

B. Basic Financial Statements

2. Fund Financial Statements (Continued)

The County reports the following major governmental funds:

The General Fund is the County's primary operating fund. It is used to account for all financial resources of the general government, except those accounted for in another fund.

The Road and Bridge Special Revenue Fund is used to account for restricted revenues from the federal and state government, as well as assigned property tax revenues used for the construction and maintenance of roads, bridges, and other projects affecting County roadways.

The Human Services Special Revenue Fund is used to account for restricted revenue sources from the federal, state, and other oversight agencies, as well as assigned property tax revenues from the County to be used for economic assistance and community social services programs.

The Revolving Loan Special Revenue Fund is used to account for restricted and assigned special assessment revenue for the financial transactions resulting from loans for the replacement of existing septic systems.

The Ditch Special Revenue Fund is used to account for the cost of constructing and maintaining an agricultural drainage ditch system. Financing is provided by special assessments levied against benefited property.

The Debt Service Fund is used to account for property tax revenues for the payment of principal, interest, and related costs of County debt.

Additionally, the County reports the following funds:

The Internal Service Fund is used to account for the accumulation of resources for, and the payment of, insurance costs of the Self-Insurance Program.

Agency funds are custodial in nature and do not present results of operations or have a measurement focus. These funds account for assets that the County holds for others in an agent capacity.

**NICOLLET COUNTY
ST. PETER, MINNESOTA**

1. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (Continued)

C. Measurement Focus and Basis of Accounting

The government-wide, proprietary fund, and fiduciary fund financial statements are reported using the economic resources measurement focus and the accrual basis of accounting. Revenues are recorded when earned, and expenses are recorded when a liability is incurred, regardless of the timing of related cash flows. Property taxes are recognized as revenues in the year for which they are levied. Shared revenues are generally recognized in the period the appropriation goes into effect. Grants and similar items are recognized as revenue as soon as all eligibility requirements imposed by the provider have been met.

Governmental fund financial statements are reported using the current financial resources measurement focus and the modified accrual basis of accounting. Revenues are recognized as soon as they are both measurable and available. Nicollet County considers all revenues as available if collected within 60 days after the end of the current period, except for reimbursement (expenditure driven) grants, for which the period is 90 days. Property and other taxes, licenses, and interest are all considered susceptible to accrual. Expenditures are recorded when the related fund liability is incurred, except for principal and interest on long-term debt, compensated absences, and claims and judgments, which are recognized as expenditures to the extent that they have matured. Proceeds of long-term debt and acquisitions under capital leases are reported as other financing sources.

When both restricted and unrestricted resources are available for use, it is the County's policy to use restricted resources first and then unrestricted resources as needed.

D. Assets, Liabilities, and Net Assets or Equity

1. Cash and Cash Equivalents

The County's cash and pooled investments are considered to be cash equivalents.

2. Deposits and Investments

The cash balances of substantially all funds are pooled and invested by the County Auditor/Treasurer for the purpose of increasing earnings through investment activities. Pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 385.07, investment earnings on cash and pooled investments are credited to the General Fund. Pooled investment earnings for 2011 were \$229,065.

**NICOLLET COUNTY
ST. PETER, MINNESOTA**

1. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

D. Assets, Liabilities, and Net Assets or Equity

2. Deposits and Investments (Continued)

The County may invest in the following types of investments as authorized by Minn. Stat. §§ 118A.04 and 118A.05:

- (1) securities which are direct obligations or are guaranteed or insured issues of the United States, its agencies, its instrumentalities, or organizations created by an act of Congress, except mortgage-backed securities defined as “high risk” by Minn. Stat. § 118A.04, subd. 6;
- (2) mutual funds through shares of registered investment companies provided the mutual fund receives certain ratings depending on its investments;
- (3) general obligations of the State of Minnesota and its municipalities, and in certain state agency and local obligations of Minnesota and other states provided such obligations have certain specified bond ratings by a national bond rating service;
- (4) bankers’ acceptances of United States banks;
- (5) commercial paper issued by United States corporations or their Canadian subsidiaries that is rated in the highest quality category by two nationally recognized rating agencies and matures in 270 days or less; and
- (6) with certain restrictions, in repurchase agreements, securities lending agreements, joint powers investment trusts, and guaranteed investment contracts.

Investments of the County are reported at fair value.

3. Receivables and Payables

Activities between funds are reported as “due to/from other funds.”

**NICOLLET COUNTY
ST. PETER, MINNESOTA**

1. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

D. Assets, Liabilities, and Net Assets or Equity

3. Receivables and Payables (Continued)

All accounts and taxes receivable are shown net of an allowance for uncollectibles. Accounts receivable are individually analyzed to arrive at the accounts receivable allowance for uncollectibles. The taxes receivable allowance is equal to 1/4 percent of outstanding property taxes at year-end.

Property taxes are levied as of January 1 on property values assessed as of the same date. The tax levy notice is mailed in March with the first half payment due May 15 and the second half payment due October 15. Unpaid taxes at December 31 become liens on the respective property and are classified in the financial statements as delinquent taxes receivable.

Special assessments receivable consist of delinquent special assessments payable in the years 2005 through 2011 and deferred special assessments payable in 2012 and after. All special assessments receivable are shown net of an allowance for uncollectibles. The special assessments receivable allowance is equal to 1/4 percent of outstanding special assessments at year-end.

4. Inventories and Prepaid Items

All inventories are valued using a weighted average method. Inventory in the Road and Bridge Special Revenue Fund consists of expendable supplies held for consumption. The cost of individual inventory items is recorded as an expenditure at the time the item is purchased. Inventories at the government-wide level are reported as expenses when consumed.

Inventories, as reported in the fund financial statements, are equally offset by nonspendable fund balance, which indicates that they do not constitute available spendable resources.

Certain payments to vendors reflect costs applicable to future accounting periods and are recorded as prepaid items in both the government-wide and fund financial statements.

**NICOLLET COUNTY
ST. PETER, MINNESOTA**

1. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

D. Assets, Liabilities, and Net Assets or Equity (Continued)

5. Capital Assets

Capital assets, which include property, plant, equipment, and infrastructure assets (such as roads and bridges), are reported in the government-wide financial statements. Capital assets are defined by the County as assets with an initial, individual cost of more than \$5,000 (\$100,000 for infrastructure) and an estimated useful life in excess of five years. Such assets are recorded at historical cost or estimated historical cost if purchased or constructed. Donated capital assets are recorded at estimated fair value at the date of donation.

The costs of normal maintenance and repairs that do not add to the value of the asset or materially extend assets' lives are not capitalized. Major outlays for capital assets and improvements are capitalized as projects are constructed.

Capital assets of the County are depreciated using the straight-line method over the following estimated useful lives:

<u>Assets</u>	<u>Years</u>
Buildings	25 - 40
Land improvements	20 - 30
Infrastructure	50 - 75
Machinery and equipment	5 - 15

6. Compensated Absences

It is Nicollet County's policy to permit employees to accumulate earned but unused vacation, compensatory time, and sick pay benefits. Unused vacation, compensatory time, and vested sick leave are paid to employees upon termination. Unvested sick leave is available to employees in the event of illness-related absences and is not paid to employees upon termination. The liability for compensated absences is reported in the governmental funds only if they have matured, for example, as a result of employee resignations and retirements. The government-wide statement of net assets reports both current and noncurrent portions of compensated absences using full accrual accounting. The current portion consists of all vacation, compensatory time, and 25 percent of total vested sick leave. The noncurrent portion consists of 75 percent of total vested sick leave.

**NICOLLET COUNTY
ST. PETER, MINNESOTA**

1. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

D. Assets, Liabilities, and Net Assets or Equity (Continued)

7. Deferred Revenue

All County funds and the government-wide financial statements defer revenue for resources that have been received, but not yet earned. Governmental funds also report deferred revenue in connection with receivables for revenues not considered to be available to liquidate liabilities of the current period.

8. Long-Term Obligations

In the government-wide financial statements, long-term debt and other long-term obligations are reported as liabilities. Bond premiums and discounts, as well as issuance costs, are deferred and amortized over the life of the bonds using the straight-line method. Bonds payable are reported net of the applicable bond premium or discount. Bond issuance costs are reported as deferred charges and amortized over the term of the related debt.

In the fund financial statements, governmental fund types recognize bond premiums and discounts, as well as bond issuance costs, during the current period. The face amount of the debt issued is reported as other financing sources. Premiums received on debt issuances are reported as other financing sources, while discounts on debt issuances are reported as other financing uses. Issuance costs, whether or not withheld from the actual debt proceeds received, are reported as debt service expenditures.

9. Classification of Net Assets

Net assets in the government-wide and proprietary fund financial statements are classified in the following categories:

Invested in capital assets, net of related debt - the amount of net assets representing capital assets, net of accumulated depreciation, and reduced by outstanding debt attributed to the acquisition, construction, or improvement of the assets.

**NICOLLET COUNTY
ST. PETER, MINNESOTA**

1. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

D. Assets, Liabilities, and Net Assets or Equity

9. Classification of Net Assets (Continued)

Restricted net assets - the amount of net assets for which external restrictions have been imposed by creditors, grantors, contributors, or laws or regulations of other governments and restrictions imposed by law through constitutional provisions or enabling legislation.

Unrestricted net assets - the amount of net assets that do not meet the definition of restricted or invested in capital assets, net of related debt.

10. Classification of Fund Balances

Beginning in 2011, Nicollet County implemented GASB Statement No. 54, *Fund Balance Reporting and Governmental Fund Type Definitions*. The standard's objectives are to enhance the usefulness of fund balance information included in the financial report through clearer fund balance classifications that can be consistently applied and to clarify existing governmental fund type definitions.

The County's fund balance policy established a minimum unassigned fund balance equal to 35 percent of total General Fund expenditures. In the event the unassigned fund balance drops below the established minimum level, the County Board will develop a plan to replenish the fund balance to the established level.

Fund balance is divided into five classifications based primarily on the extent to which the County is bound to observe constraints imposed upon the use of the resources in the governmental funds. The classifications are as follows:

Nonspendable - the nonspendable fund balance category includes amounts that cannot be spent because they are not in spendable form, or legally or contractually required to be maintained intact. The "not in spendable form" criterion includes items that are not expected to be converted to cash.

Restricted - fund balance is reported as restricted when constraints placed on the use of resources are either externally imposed by creditors (such as through debt covenants), grantors, contributors, or laws or regulations of other governments or is imposed by law through constitutional provisions or enabling legislation.

**NICOLLET COUNTY
ST. PETER, MINNESOTA**

1. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

D. Assets, Liabilities, and Net Assets or Equity

10. Classification of Fund Balances (Continued)

Committed - the committed fund balance classification includes amounts that can be used only for the specific purposes imposed by formal action (ordinance or resolution) of the County Board. Those committed amounts cannot be used for any other purpose unless the Board removes or changes the specified use by taking the same type of action (ordinance or resolution) it employed to previously commit those amounts.

Assigned - the assigned fund balance classification includes amounts the County intends to use for specific purposes that do not meet the criteria to be classified as restricted or committed. In governmental funds other than the General Fund, assigned fund balance represents the remaining amount not restricted or committed. In the General Fund, assigned amounts represent intended uses established by the County Board or the County Auditor/Treasurer who has been delegated that authority by Board resolution.

Unassigned - unassigned fund balance is the residual classification for the General Fund and includes all spendable amounts not contained in the other fund balance classifications. In other governmental funds, the unassigned classification is used only to report a deficit balance resulting from overspending for specific purposes for which amounts had been restricted or committed.

The County applies restricted resources first when expenditures are incurred for purposes for which either restricted or unrestricted (committed, assigned, and unassigned) amounts are available. Similarly, within unrestricted fund balance, committed amounts are reduced first followed by assigned, and then unassigned amounts when expenditures are incurred for purposes for which amounts in any of the unrestricted fund balance classifications could be used.

**NICOLLET COUNTY
ST. PETER, MINNESOTA**

1. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

D. Assets, Liabilities, and Net Assets or Equity (Continued)

11. Use of Estimates

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the reporting period. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

2. Stewardship, Compliance, and Accountability

A. Budgetary Information

Annual budgets are adopted on a basis consistent with generally accepted accounting principles for the General Fund, Road and Bridge Special Revenue Fund, Human Services Special Revenue Fund, and the Debt Service Fund. All annual appropriations lapse at year-end.

On or before mid-July of each year, all departments submit requests for appropriations to the County Auditor/Treasurer so that a budget can be prepared. Before September 15, the proposed budget is presented to the County Board for review. The Board holds public hearings, and a final budget must be prepared and adopted no later than December 31.

The appropriated budget is prepared by fund, function, and department. Transfers of appropriations within a department and between departments require approval of the County Board. The legal level of budgetary control, the level at which expenditures may not legally exceed appropriations, is the fund level.

During the year, the Board did not amend the revenue and expenditure budgets.

**NICOLLET COUNTY
ST. PETER, MINNESOTA**

2. Stewardship, Compliance, and Accountability (Continued)

B. Deficit Fund Equity

For internal accounting purposes, individual ditch system records are maintained on a basis which shows long-term debt payable, recognizes special assessments as revenues when levied, and does not eliminate interfund transactions. Using this basis of accounting, 31 of 85 drainage systems have deficit fund balances at December 31, 2011.

Although this method results in numbers not considered to be in conformity with GAAP for reporting, it provides necessary information by ditch for internal accounting purposes. The following is a summary of fund balances using this non-GAAP basis.

Account balances	\$ 282,694
Account balance deficits	<u>(116,166)</u>
Total	<u>\$ 166,528</u>

The Ditch Special Revenue Fund's deficit will be eliminated with future special assessment levies against benefited properties. The Ditch Special Revenue Fund had a fund balance of \$105,670 when reported on the modified accrual basis.

3. Detailed Notes on All Funds

A. Assets

1. Deposits and Investments

The County's total cash and investments are reported as follows:

Governmental funds	
Cash and pooled investments	\$ 23,903,373
Internal Service Fund	
Cash and pooled investments	1,743,380
Fiduciary funds - agency funds	
Cash and pooled investments	<u>1,441,279</u>
Total Cash and Investments	<u>\$ 27,088,032</u>

**NICOLLET COUNTY
ST. PETER, MINNESOTA**

3. Detailed Notes on All Funds

A. Assets

1. Deposits and Investments (Continued)

a. Deposits

The County is authorized by Minn. Stat. §§ 118A.02 and 118A.04 to designate a depository for public funds and to invest in certificates of deposit. The County is required by Minn. Stat. § 118A.03 to protect deposits with insurance, surety bond, or collateral. The market value of collateral pledged shall be at least ten percent more than the amount on deposit at the close of the financial institution's banking day, not covered by insurance or bonds.

Authorized collateral includes treasury bills, notes and bonds; issues of U.S. government agencies; general obligations rated "A" or better and revenue obligations rated "AA" or better; irrevocable standby letters of credit issued by the Federal Home Loan Bank; and certificates of deposit. Minnesota statutes require that securities pledged as collateral be held in safekeeping in a restricted account at the Federal Reserve Bank or in an account at a trust department of a commercial bank or other financial institution not owned or controlled by the financial institution furnishing the collateral.

Custodial Credit Risk

Custodial credit risk is the risk that in the event of a financial institution failure, the County's deposits may not be returned to it. It is the County's policy to minimize deposit custodial credit risk by obtaining collateral or bond for all uninsured deposits. As of December 31, 2011, the County's deposits were not exposed to custodial credit risk.

b. Investments

Interest Rate Risk

Interest rate risk is the risk that changes in the market interest rates will adversely affect the fair value of an investment. It is the County's policy to minimize interest rate risk by (1) structuring the investment portfolio so that securities mature to meet cash requirements for ongoing operations, thereby

**NICOLLET COUNTY
ST. PETER, MINNESOTA**

3. Detailed Notes on All Funds

A. Assets

1. Deposits and Investments

b. Investments

Interest Rate Risk (Continued)

avoiding the need to sell securities in the open market, and (2) investing operating funds primarily in shorter-term securities, liquid asset funds, money market mutual funds, or similar investment pools and limiting the average maturity in accordance with the County's cash requirements. At December 31, 2011, the County had the following investments:

<u>Investment Type</u>	<u>Carrying (Fair) Value</u>	<u>Maturity Dates</u>	
		<u>0 - 1 Year</u>	<u>Over 1 Year</u>
Mutual funds	\$ 10,511,764	\$ 10,511,764	\$ -
U.S. government securities (1)	6,673,541	-	6,673,541
Total	\$ 17,185,305	\$ 10,511,764	\$ 6,673,541

(1) These notes have step provisions, which could result in the notes being called prior to maturity.

Credit Risk

Generally, credit risk is the risk that an issuer of an investment will not fulfill its obligation to the holder of the investment. This is measured by the assignment of a rating by a nationally recognized statistical rating organization. It is the County's policy to invest only in securities that meet the ratings requirements set by state statute. The County's exposure to credit risk as of December 31, 2011, is as follows:

<u>S & P Rating</u>	<u>Fair Value</u>
AA+	\$ 6,673,541
AAAm	10,511,764
Total	\$ 17,185,305

**NICOLLET COUNTY
ST. PETER, MINNESOTA**

3. Detailed Notes on All Funds

A. Assets

1. Deposits and Investments

b. Investments (Continued)

Custodial Credit Risk

The custodial credit risk for investments is the risk that, in the event of the failure of the counterparty to a transaction, a government will not be able to recover the value of investment or collateral securities in the possession of an outside party. It is the County's policy to minimize investment custodial credit risk by permitting brokers to hold County investments only to the extent there is Securities Investor Protection Corporation (SIPC) coverage and excess SIPC coverage available. Securities purchased in excess of available SIPC coverage are transferred to an approved third-party custodian. At December 31, 2011, none of the County's investments were subject to custodial credit risk.

Concentration of Credit Risk

The concentration of credit risk is the risk of loss that may be caused by the County's investment in a single issuer.

It is the County's policy to minimize concentration of credit risk by diversifying the investment portfolio so that the impact of potential losses from any one type of security or issuer will be minimized. Investments in any one issuer that represents five percent or more of the County's investments are as follows:

<u>Issuer</u>	<u>Reported Amount</u>
Federal National Mortgage Association (FNMA)	\$ 1,374,041
Federal Home Loan Bank (FHLB)	1,974,500
Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation (FHLMC)	<u>3,325,000</u>
Total	<u>\$ 6,673,541</u>

**NICOLLET COUNTY
ST. PETER, MINNESOTA**

3. Detailed Notes on All Funds

A. Assets (Continued)

2. Receivables

Receivables as of December 31, 2011, for the County's governmental activities, including the applicable allowances for uncollectible accounts, are as follows:

	Total Receivables	Amounts Not Scheduled for Collection During the Subsequent Year
Governmental Activities		
Taxes - prior	\$ 335,848	\$ -
Special assessments - prior	15,191	-
Special assessments - noncurrent	1,381,860	1,098,368
Accounts	728,138	-
Accrued interest	31,196	-
Loans receivable	16,989	8,451
Due from other governments	5,210,546	-
Total Governmental Activities	\$ 7,719,768	\$ 1,106,819

3. Capital Assets

Capital asset activity for the year ended December 31, 2011, was as follows:

	Beginning Balance	Increase	Decrease	Ending Balance
Capital assets not depreciated				
Land	\$ 3,268,738	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,268,738
Construction in progress	1,274,851	1,083,564	729,253	1,629,162
Total capital assets not depreciated	\$ 4,543,589	\$ 1,083,564	\$ 729,253	\$ 4,897,900
Capital assets depreciated				
Buildings	\$ 15,367,089	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 15,367,089
Land improvements	459,156	-	-	459,156
Machinery and equipment	5,442,235	334,147	228,094	5,548,288
Infrastructure	80,341,360	701,343	-	81,042,703
Total capital assets depreciated	\$ 101,609,840	\$ 1,035,490	\$ 228,094	\$ 102,417,236

**NICOLLET COUNTY
ST. PETER, MINNESOTA**

3. Detailed Notes on All Funds

A. Assets

3. Capital Assets (Continued)

	Beginning Balance	Increase	Decrease	Ending Balance
Less: accumulated depreciation for				
Buildings	\$ 5,294,294	\$ 401,487	\$ -	\$ 5,695,781
Land improvements	264,520	18,389	-	282,909
Machinery and equipment	4,043,672	372,427	222,746	4,193,353
Infrastructure	19,629,267	1,573,187	-	21,202,454
Total accumulated depreciation	<u>\$ 29,231,753</u>	<u>\$ 2,365,490</u>	<u>\$ 222,746</u>	<u>\$ 31,374,497</u>
Total capital assets depreciated, net	<u>\$ 72,378,087</u>	<u>\$ (1,330,000)</u>	<u>\$ (5,348)</u>	<u>\$ 71,042,739</u>
Governmental Activities Capital Assets, Net	<u>\$ 76,921,676</u>	<u>\$ (246,436)</u>	<u>\$ 734,601</u>	<u>\$ 75,940,639</u>

Depreciation expense was charged to functions/programs of the primary government as follows:

General government	\$ 373,587
Public safety	174,053
Highways and streets, including depreciation of infrastructure assets	1,781,097
Human services	33,906
Culture and recreation	1,961
Sanitation	886
Total Depreciation Expense	<u>\$ 2,365,490</u>

B. Interfund Receivables, Payables, and Transfers

The composition of interfund balances as of December 31, 2011, is as follows:

1. Due To/From Other Funds

Receivable Fund	Payable Fund	Amount	Purpose
General	Road and Bridge	\$ 78	Utilities
	Human Services	20,710	Utilities, services, and supplies
	Ditch	6,214	Administration/postage fees
Road and Bridge	General	736	Fuel
	Ditch	16,246	Labor and maintenance
Total Due To/From Other Funds		<u>\$ 43,984</u>	

**NICOLLET COUNTY
ST. PETER, MINNESOTA**

3. Detailed Notes on All Funds

B. Interfund Receivables, Payables, and Transfers

1. Due To/From Other Funds (Continued)

The outstanding balances between funds result from the time lag between the dates the interfund goods and services were provided and reimbursable expenditures occurred, and when transactions are recorded in the accounting system and when the funds are repaid. All balances are expected to be liquidated in the subsequent year.

2. Interfund Transfers

Interfund transfers for the year ended December 31, 2011, consisted of the following:

Transfer to General Fund from Revolving Loan Special Revenue Fund	\$ 16,649	Septic loan interest payments
Transfer to Road and Bridge Special Revenue Fund from General Fund	63,000	Appropriation for County parks
Transfer to Road and Bridge Special Revenue Fund from Debt Service Fund	<u>1,118,491</u>	Bond proceeds for highway project
Total Interfund Transfers	<u>\$ 1,198,140</u>	

C. Liabilities

1. Other Postemployment Benefits (OPEB)

Plan Description and Funding Policy

Nicollet County provides postemployment health care benefits for early retirees and elected officials. Elected County officials and their dependents are eligible for the benefit for a number of years equal to 25 percent of the retiree's years in elective office, with a maximum of five years. The County pays 100 percent of health premiums for them and their families. The County's regular health benefit provider underwrites the retirees' policies. Retirees may not convert the benefit into an in-lieu-of-payment to secure coverage under independent plans. As of December 31, 2011, three retiree families were receiving the premium-coverage

**NICOLLET COUNTY
ST. PETER, MINNESOTA**

3. Detailed Notes on All Funds

C. Liabilities

1. Other Postemployment Benefits (OPEB)

Plan Description and Funding Policy (Continued)

benefit. The County finances the plan on a pay-as-you-go basis. For the year ended December 31, 2011, the County recognized \$14,174 of expenditures. A separate, audited GAAP-basis postemployment plan report is not issued.

The County also provides health insurance benefits for eligible retired employees and their spouses under a single-employer self-insured plan. The County provides benefits for retirees as required by Minn. Stat. § 471.61, subd. 2b. Retirees are required to pay 100 percent of the total premium cost. Since the premium is determined on the entire active and retiree population, the retirees are receiving an implicit rate subsidy. This postemployment benefit is funded on a pay-as-you-go basis, usually paying retiree benefits out of the General Fund. As of January 1, 2010, there were approximately 33 retirees receiving health benefits from the County's health plan. The implicit rate subsidy amount was determined by an actuarial study to be \$74,347 for 2011. A separate, audited GAAP-basis postemployment plan report is not issued.

Annual OPEB Cost and Net OPEB Obligation

The County's annual OPEB cost (expense) is calculated based on the annual required contribution (ARC) of the employer, an amount actuarially determined in accordance with the parameters of GASB Statement 45. The ARC represents a level of funding that, if paid on an ongoing basis, is projected to cover normal costs each year and amortize any unfunded actuarial accrued liabilities (or funding excess) over a period not to exceed 30 years. The following table shows the components of the County's annual OPEB cost for the year, the amount actually contributed to the plan, and changes in the County's net OPEB obligation to the plan.

**NICOLLET COUNTY
ST. PETER, MINNESOTA**

3. Detailed Notes on All Funds

C. Liabilities

1. Other Postemployment Benefits (OPEB)

Annual OPEB Cost and Net OPEB Obligation (Continued)

ARC	\$	212,573
Interest on net OPEB obligation		19,570
Adjustment to ARC		(26,547)
		(26,547)
Annual OPEB cost (expense)	\$	205,596
Contributions made		(88,521)
		(88,521)
Increase in net OPEB obligation	\$	117,075
Net OPEB Obligation - Beginning of Year		434,882
		434,882
Net OPEB Obligation - End of Year	\$	551,957

The County's annual OPEB cost, the percentage of annual OPEB cost contributed to the plan, and the net OPEB obligation for the years ended December 31, 2009, 2010, and 2011, were as follows:

Fiscal Year Ended	Annual OPEB Cost	Employer Contribution	Percentage Contributed	Net OPEB Obligation
December 31, 2009	\$ 195,574	\$ 66,991	34.25%	\$ 278,466
December 31, 2010	208,237	51,821	24.89	434,882
December 31, 2011	205,596	88,521	43.06	551,957

Funded Status and Funding Progress

As of January 1, 2010, the most recent actuarial valuation date, the plan was 0.0 percent funded. The actuarial accrued liability for benefits was \$1,580,922, and the actuarial value of assets was \$0, resulting in an unfunded actuarial accrued liability (UAAL) of \$1,580,922. The covered payroll (annual payroll of active employees covered by the plan) was \$9,600,349, and the ratio of the UAAL to the covered payroll was 16.5 percent.

**NICOLLET COUNTY
ST. PETER, MINNESOTA**

3. Detailed Notes on All Funds

C. Liabilities

1. Other Postemployment Benefits (OPEB)

Funded Status and Funding Progress (Continued)

Actuarial valuations of an ongoing plan involve estimates of the value of reported amounts and assumptions about the probability of occurrence of events far into the future. Examples include assumptions about future employment, mortality, and the health care cost trend. Amounts determined regarding the funded status of the plan and the annual required contributions of the employer are subject to continual revision as actual results are compared with past expectations and new estimates are made about the future. The Schedule of Funding Progress - Other Postemployment Benefits, presented as required supplementary information following the notes to the financial statements, presents multi-year trend information about whether the actuarial value of plan assets is increasing or decreasing over time relative to the actuarial accrued liabilities for benefits.

Actuarial Methods and Assumptions

Projections of benefits for financial reporting purposes are based on the substantive plan (the plan as understood by the employer and the plan members) and include the types of benefits provided at the time of each valuation and the historical pattern of sharing of benefit cost between the employer and plan members to that point. The actuarial methods and assumptions used include techniques designed to reduce the effects of short-term volatility in actuarial accrued liabilities and the actuarial value of assets, consistent with the long-term perspective of the calculations.

In the January 1, 2010, actuarial valuation, the projected unit credit actuarial cost method was used. The actuarial assumptions include a 4.5 percent investment rate of return (net of investment expenses), which is Nicollet County's implicit rate of return on the General Fund. The annual health care cost trend is 8.5 percent initially, reduced by decrements to an ultimate rate of 5.0 percent over 7 years. Both rates included a 3.0 percent inflation assumption. The UAAL is being amortized over 30 years on a closed basis. The remaining amortization period at December 31, 2011, was 26 years.

**NICOLLET COUNTY
ST. PETER, MINNESOTA**

3. Detailed Notes on All Funds

C. Liabilities (Continued)

2. Capital Leases

The County has entered into a capital lease agreement to provide facilities for Human Services. This lease qualifies as a capital lease for accounting purposes and is recorded by the County as a capital asset at the present value of the future minimum payments as of the inception of the lease. The capital lease consists of the following at December 31, 2011:

<u>Lease</u>	<u>Maturity</u>	<u>Installment</u>	<u>Payment Amount</u>	<u>Original</u>	<u>Balance</u>
Human Services Building	2013	Semi-annual	\$75,000 - \$80,000	\$ 940,000	<u>\$ 155,000</u>

Lease payments are made by the General Fund. The future minimum lease obligations and the net present value of these minimum lease payments as of December 31, 2011, were as follows:

<u>Year Ending December 31</u>	
2012	\$ 82,800
2013	<u>83,150</u>
Total minimum lease payments	\$ 165,950
Less: amount representing interest and fiscal fees	<u>(10,950)</u>
Present Value of Minimum Lease Payments	<u>\$ 155,000</u>

**NICOLLET COUNTY
ST. PETER, MINNESOTA**

3. Detailed Notes on All Funds

C. Liabilities (Continued)

3. Long-Term Debt

<u>Type of Indebtedness</u>	<u>Final Maturity</u>	<u>Installment Amounts</u>	<u>Interest Rate (%)</u>	<u>Original Issue Amount</u>	<u>Outstanding Balance December 31, 2011</u>
General obligation bonds					
2002A G.O. State-Aid Road Bonds	2014	\$205,000	4.45 - 4.60	\$ 2,450,000	\$ 615,000
2004A G.O. Capital Improvement Bonds	2015	\$270,000 - \$295,000	3.30 - 3.70	2,605,000	1,125,000
2006A G.O. Capital Improvement Bonds	2017	\$385,000 - \$470,000	4.00	3,970,000	2,560,000
2008A G.O. Road Reconstruction Bonds	2024	\$375,000 - \$615,000	3.25 - 3.65	6,985,000	6,280,000
2008A G.O. Drainage Bonds	2023	\$45,000 - \$60,000	3.25 - 3.60	815,000	640,000
2009A G.O. Capital Improvement Refunding Bonds	2014	\$390,000 - \$410,000	2.00 - 2.50	<u>1,945,000</u>	<u>1,190,000</u>
Total General Obligation Bonds				<u>\$ 18,770,000</u>	\$ 12,410,000
Less: unamortized discount					(5,924)
Plus: unamortized premium					<u>71,132</u>
Total General Obligation Bonds, Net					<u>\$ 12,475,208</u>

Capital improvement bonds are being retired by the Debt Service Fund, drainage bonds are paid by the Ditch Special Revenue Fund, and state-aid road bonds are paid by the Road and Bridge Special Revenue Fund.

**NICOLLET COUNTY
ST. PETER, MINNESOTA**

3. Detailed Notes on All Funds

C. Liabilities

3. Long-Term Debt (Continued)

Loans Payable

The County entered into loan agreements with the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency for the purpose of funding Clean Water Partnership (CWP) projects. The loans are secured by special assessments.

<u>Type of Indebtedness</u>	<u>Final Maturity</u>	<u>Installment Amount</u>	<u>Interest Rate (%)</u>	<u>Original Issue Amount</u>	<u>Outstanding Balance December 31, 2011</u>
1995 Groundwater Implementation CWP Project	2014	\$12,067	-	\$ 362,000	\$ 60,333
2002 Seven Mile Creek CWP Project	2015	\$11,936	2.00	215,392	80,308
2005 Seven Mile Creek Watershed Continuation CWP Project	2018	\$10,694	2.00	192,974	139,057
2006 Rush River Watershed	2018	\$5,141	2.00	92,781	62,385
2007 Middle Minnesota	2020	\$17,108	2.00	308,726	280,544
2007 Rush River Watershed	2020	\$10,442	2.00	188,425	188,425
2011 Middle River Watershed	2023	\$8,068	2.00	145,600	54,008
Totals				<u>\$ 1,505,898</u>	<u>\$ 865,060</u>

Payments on the loans are made by the Revolving Loan Special Revenue Fund.

**NICOLLET COUNTY
ST. PETER, MINNESOTA**

3. Detailed Notes on All Funds

C. Liabilities (Continued)

4. Debt Service Requirements

Debt service requirements at December 31, 2011, were as follows:

Year Ending December 31	General Obligation Bonds		Loans*	
	Principal	Interest	Principal	Interest
2012	\$ 1,685,000	\$ 409,770	\$ 120,239	\$ 14,536
2013	1,720,000	352,610	122,171	12,605
2014	1,780,000	291,786	112,074	10,634
2015	1,205,000	237,967	90,082	8,624
2016	945,000	197,835	79,837	6,933
2017 - 2021	3,215,000	586,498	286,649	12,831
2022 - 2024	1,860,000	101,236	-	-
Total	\$ 12,410,000	\$ 2,177,702	\$ 811,052	\$ 66,163

*The debt service requirements for the loan from the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency of \$54,008 are not known as of December 31, 2011.

5. Changes in Long-Term Liabilities

Long-term liability activity for the year ended December 31, 2011, was as follows:

	Beginning Balance	Additions	Reductions	Ending Balance	Due Within One Year
Bonds payable					
General obligation bonds	\$ 14,040,000	\$ -	\$ 1,630,000	\$ 12,410,000	\$ 1,685,000
Less: deferred amounts for issuance discounts	(8,046)	-	(2,122)	(5,924)	-
Plus: deferred amounts for issuance premium	79,016	-	7,884	71,132	-
Total bonds payable	\$ 14,110,970	\$ -	\$ 1,635,762	\$ 12,475,208	\$ 1,685,000
Capital leases	230,000	-	75,000	155,000	75,000
Loans payable	884,943	81,601	101,484	865,060	120,239
Net OPEB liability	434,882	205,596	88,521	551,957	-
Compensated absences	1,807,992	60,316	-	1,868,308	938,958
Total Long-Term Liabilities	\$ 17,468,787	\$ 347,513	\$ 1,900,767	\$ 15,915,533	\$ 2,819,197

**NICOLLET COUNTY
ST. PETER, MINNESOTA**

3. Detailed Notes on All Funds (Continued)

D. Risk Management

The County is exposed to various risks of loss related to torts; theft of, damage to, or destruction of assets; errors or omissions; injuries to employees; or natural disasters. The County has entered into a joint powers agreement with other Minnesota counties to form the Minnesota Counties Intergovernmental Trust (MCIT). The County is a member of both the MCIT Workers' Compensation and Property and Casualty Divisions. The County self-insures for employee health and dental coverage. For other risk, the County carries commercial insurance. There were no significant reductions in insurance from the prior year. The amount of settlements did not exceed insurance coverage for the past three fiscal years.

The Workers' Compensation Division of MCIT is self-sustaining based on the contributions charged, so that total contributions plus compounded earnings on these contributions will equal the amount needed to satisfy claims liabilities and other expenses. MCIT participates in the Workers' Compensation Reinsurance Association with coverage at \$450,000 per claim in 2011 and \$460,000 per claim in 2012. Should the MCIT Workers' Compensation Division liabilities exceed assets, MCIT may assess the County in a method and amount to be determined by MCIT.

The Property and Casualty Division of MCIT is self-sustaining, and the County pays an annual premium to cover current and future losses. MCIT carries reinsurance for its property lines to protect against catastrophic losses. Should the MCIT Property and Casualty Division liabilities exceed assets, MCIT may assess the County in a method and amount to be determined by MCIT.

The County established a limited risk management program for health and dental coverages in 1992. Premiums are paid into the Self-Insurance Internal Service Fund by all other funds and are available to pay claims, claim reserves, and administrative costs of the program. The County has retained risk up to a \$125,000 stop-loss per family per year (\$2,726,400 aggregate) for the health plan. There is a maximum claim limit of \$750 per person per year for the dental plan.

Liabilities of the fund are reported when it is probable that a loss has occurred and the amount of the loss can be reasonably estimated. Liabilities include an amount for claims that have been incurred but not reported (IBNRs). The result of the process to estimate the claims liability is not an exact amount as it depends on many complex factors, such as inflation, changes in legal doctrines, and damage awards. Accordingly,

**NICOLLET COUNTY
ST. PETER, MINNESOTA**

3. Detailed Notes on All Funds

D. Risk Management (Continued)

claims are re-evaluated periodically to consider the effects of inflation, recent claim settlement trends (including frequency and amount of pay-outs), and other economic and social factors. Changes in the balances of claims liabilities during the past two years are as follows:

	Year Ended December 31	
	2011	2010
Unpaid claims, January 1	\$ 157,985	\$ 193,927
Incurred claims (including IBNRs)	2,207,925	2,303,329
Claims payments	(2,234,593)	(2,339,271)
Unpaid Claims, December 31	\$ 131,317	\$ 157,985

4. Employee Retirement Systems and Pension Plans

A. Defined Benefit Plans

Plan Description

All full-time and certain part-time employees of Nicollet County are covered by defined benefit pension plans administered by the Public Employees Retirement Association of Minnesota (PERA). PERA administers the General Employees Retirement Fund, the Public Employees Police and Fire Fund, and the Local Government Correctional Service Retirement Fund (the Public Employees Correctional Fund), which are cost-sharing, multiple-employer retirement plans. These plans are established and administered in accordance with Minn. Stat. chs. 353 and 356.

General Employees Retirement Fund members belong to either the Coordinated Plan or the Basic Plan. Coordinated Plan members are covered by Social Security, and Basic Plan members are not. All new members must participate in the Coordinated Plan, and benefits vest after three years of credited service (five years for those first eligible for membership after June 30, 2010).

**NICOLLET COUNTY
ST. PETER, MINNESOTA**

4. Employee Retirement Systems and Pension Plans

A. Defined Benefit Plans

Plan Description (Continued)

All police officers, firefighters, and peace officers who qualify for membership by statute are covered by the Public Employees Police and Fire Fund. Members who are employed in a county correctional institution as a correctional guard or officer, a joint jailer/dispatcher, or as a supervisor of correctional guards or officers or of joint jailer/dispatchers and are directly responsible for the direct security, custody, and control of the county correctional institution and its inmates, are covered by the Public Employees Correctional Fund. For members first eligible for membership after June 30, 2010, benefits vest on a graduated schedule starting with 50 percent after five years and increasing 10 percent for each year of service until fully vested after ten years. Members eligible for membership before July 1, 2010, are fully vested after three years of service.

PERA provides retirement benefits as well as disability benefits to members and benefits to survivors upon death of eligible members. Benefits are established by state statute. Defined retirement benefits are based on a member's average yearly salary for the five highest-paid consecutive years of allowable service, age, and years of credit at termination of service.

Two methods are used to compute benefits for General Employees Retirement Fund Coordinated and Basic Plan members. The retiring member receives the higher of a step-rate benefit accrual formula (Method 1) or a level accrual formula (Method 2). Under Method 1, the annuity accrual rate for a Basic Plan member is 2.2 percent of average salary for each of the first ten years of service and 2.7 percent for each year thereafter. For a Coordinated Plan member, the annuity accrual rate is 1.2 percent of average salary for each of the first ten years and 1.7 percent for each successive year. Under Method 2, the annuity accrual rate is 2.7 percent of average salary for Basic Plan members and 1.7 percent for Coordinated Plan members for each year of service. For Public Employees Police and Fire Fund members, the annuity accrual rate is 3.0 percent of average salary for each year of service. For Public Employees Correctional Fund members, the annuity accrual rate is 1.9 percent of average salary for each year of service.

**NICOLLET COUNTY
ST. PETER, MINNESOTA**

4. Employee Retirement Systems and Pension Plans

A. Defined Benefit Plans

Plan Description (Continued)

For all General Employees Retirement Fund members hired prior to July 1, 1989, whose annuity is calculated using Method 1, and for all Public Employees Police and Fire Fund and Public Employees Correctional Fund members, a full annuity is available when age plus years of service equal 90. Normal retirement age is 55 for Public Employees Police and Fire Fund members and Public Employees Correctional Fund members, and either 65 or 66 (depending on date hired) for General Employees Retirement Fund members. A reduced retirement annuity is also available to eligible members seeking early retirement.

The benefit provisions stated in the previous paragraphs of this section are current provisions and apply to active plan participants. Vested, terminated employees who are entitled to benefits but are not yet receiving them are bound by the provisions in effect at the time they last terminated public service.

PERA issues a publicly available financial report that includes financial statements and required supplementary information for the General Employees Retirement Fund, the Public Employees Police and Fire Fund, and the Public Employees Correctional Fund. That report may be obtained on the internet at www.mnpera.org; by writing to PERA at 60 Empire Drive, Suite 200, Saint Paul, Minnesota 55103-2088; or by calling 651-296-7460 or 1-800-652-9026.

Funding Policy

Pension benefits are funded from member and employer contributions and income from the investment of fund assets. Rates for employer and employee contributions are set by Minn. Stat. ch. 353. These statutes are established and amended by the State Legislature. The County makes annual contributions to the pension plans equal to the amount required by state statutes. General Employees Retirement Fund Basic Plan members and Coordinated Plan members are required to contribute 9.10 and 6.25 percent, respectively, of their annual covered salary. Public Employees Police and Fire Fund members are required to contribute 9.60 percent. Public Employees Correctional Fund members are required to contribute 5.83 percent of their annual covered salary.

**NICOLLET COUNTY
ST. PETER, MINNESOTA**

4. Employee Retirement Systems and Pension Plans

A. Defined Benefit Plans

Funding Policy (Continued)

The County is required to contribute the following percentages of annual covered payroll in 2011:

General Employees Retirement Fund	
Basic Plan members	11.78%
Coordinated Plan members	7.25
Public Employees Police and Fire Fund	14.40
Public Employees Correctional Fund	8.75

The County's contributions for the years ending December 31, 2011, 2010, and 2009, for the General Employees Retirement Fund, the Public Employees Police and Fire Fund, and the Public Employees Correctional Fund were:

	<u>2011</u>	<u>2010</u>	<u>2009</u>
General Employees Retirement Fund	\$ 581,348	\$ 563,245	\$ 556,692
Public Employees Police and Fire Fund	102,898	104,317	100,756
Public Employees Correctional Fund	52,753	49,299	46,501

These contribution amounts are equal to the contractually required contributions for each year as set by state statute.

B. Defined Contribution Plan

Five employees of Nicollet County are covered by the Public Employees Defined Contribution Plan, a multiple-employer, deferred compensation plan administered by PERA. The plan is established and administered in accordance with Minn. Stat. ch. 353D, which may be amended by the State Legislature. The plan is a tax qualified plan under Section 401(a) of the Internal Revenue Code, and all contributions by or on behalf of employees are tax deferred until time of withdrawal.

**NICOLLET COUNTY
ST. PETER, MINNESOTA**

4. Employee Retirement Systems and Pension Plans

B. Defined Contribution Plan (Continued)

Plan benefits depend solely on amounts contributed to the plan plus investment earnings, less administrative expenses. For those qualified personnel who elect to participate, Minn. Stat. § 353D.03 specifies plan provisions, including the employee and employer contribution rates. An eligible elected official who decides to participate contributes 5.00 percent of salary, which is matched by the employer. Employees may elect to make member contributions in an amount not to exceed the employer share. Employee and employer contributions are combined and used to purchase shares in one or more of the seven accounts of the Minnesota Supplemental Investment Fund. For administering the plan, PERA receives 2.00 percent of employer contributions and 0.25 percent of the assets in each member account annually.

Total contributions by dollar amount and percentage of covered payroll made by the County during the year ended December 31, 2011, were:

	<u>Employee</u>	<u>Employer</u>
Contribution amount	\$ 5,577	\$ 5,577
Percentage of covered payroll	5%	5%

Required contribution rates were 5.00 percent.

5. Summary of Significant Contingencies and Other Items

A. Contingent Liabilities

Amounts received or receivable from grant agencies are subject to audit and adjustment by grantor agencies, principally the federal government. Any disallowed claims, including amounts already collected, may constitute a liability of the applicable funds. The amount, if any, of the expenditures that may be disallowed by the grantor cannot be determined at this time, although the County expects such amounts, if any, to be immaterial.

The County is a defendant in various lawsuits. Although the outcome of these lawsuits is not presently determinable, in the opinion of the County Attorney, the resolution of these matters will not have a material adverse effect on the financial condition of the County.

**NICOLLET COUNTY
ST. PETER, MINNESOTA**

5. Summary of Significant Contingencies and Other Items (Continued)

B. Joint Ventures

Brown-Nicollet Community Health Services Board

The Brown-Nicollet Community Health Services Board was established pursuant to Minn. Stat. ch. 145A and a joint powers agreement effective July 1, 1975. The Health Services Board consists of ten members, five each from Brown and Nicollet Counties. The primary function of the joint venture is to provide health services and to promote efficiency and economy in the delivery of health services. The joint venture is financed primarily from state and federal grants. For the year ended December 31, 2010, the most current information available, the Health Services Board had net assets of \$716,587.

Complete financial statements for the Health Services Board can be obtained at 322 South Minnesota Avenue, St. Peter, Minnesota 56082.

Tri-County Solid Waste

Nicollet County entered into a joint powers agreement to create and operate Tri-County Solid Waste, pursuant to the Waste Management Act, Minn. Stat. § 471.59, and a joint powers agreement effective November 3, 1987. Management of Tri-County Solid Waste is vested in the Tri-County Solid Waste Joint Powers Board, which consists of six representatives, two from each Board of Commissioners from Le Sueur, Nicollet, and Sibley Counties. The primary function of Tri-County Solid Waste is to coordinate solid waste management programs, excluding the collection and disposal of solid waste, within the multi-county area. Emphasis is placed on planning, recycling, hazardous waste, problem materials, and education.

One-half of the financing is provided by appropriations from the three counties based on the ratio of their population to the total population of the member counties, and one-half is provided by an equal appropriation from the three counties. Nicollet County contributed \$73,912 in 2011. Sibley County is the fiscal agent. Current financial statements are not available.

**NICOLLET COUNTY
ST. PETER, MINNESOTA**

5. Summary of Significant Contingencies and Other Items

B. Joint Ventures (Continued)

Rush River Clean Water Partnership

Nicollet County entered into a joint powers agreement to create and operate Rush River Clean Water Partnership, pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 471.59 and a joint powers agreement effective February 26, 2008. Management of Rush River Clean Water Partnership is vested in the Board of Directors, which consists of five representatives, three from the Sibley County Board of Commissioners and two from the Nicollet County Board of Commissioners. The purpose of this joint powers agreement is to organize, govern, train, equip, and maintain clean water projects that promote citizen participation and water quality improvement.

The joint powers agreement is financed primarily from state and federal grants. Sibley County is the fiscal agent. Current financial statements are not available.

C. Jointly-Governed Organizations

Sentence to Serve

Nicollet County, in conjunction with other local governments, participates in the State of Minnesota's Sentence to Serve (STS) program. STS is a project of the State Department of Administration's Strive Toward Excellence in Performance (STEP) program. STEP's goal is a statewide effort to make positive improvements in public services. It gives the courts an alternative to jail or fines for the nonviolent offenders who can work on a variety of community or state projects. Private funding, funds from various foundations and initiative funds, as well as the Departments of Corrections and Natural Resources, provide the funds needed to operate the STS program. Although Nicollet County has no operational or financial control over the STS program, Nicollet County budgets for a percentage of this program.

Joint Airport Zoning Board

The Joint Airport Zoning Board was established by joint action of Nicollet County, LeSueur County, and the City of St. Peter, and has representation from each entity. The purpose of the Board is to create an ordinance to prevent the creation or establishment of airport hazards and to ensure public safety.

**NICOLLET COUNTY
ST. PETER, MINNESOTA**

5. Summary of Significant Contingencies and Other Items

C. Jointly-Governed Organizations (Continued)

Minnesota Criminal Justice Data Communications Network

The Minnesota Criminal Justice Data Communications Network Joint Powers Agreement exists to create access for the County Sheriff and County Attorney to systems and tools available from the State of Minnesota, Department of Public Safety, and the Bureau of Criminal Apprehension to carry out criminal justice.

Minnesota River Board

The Minnesota River Board promotes orderly water quality improvement and management of the Minnesota River Watershed. During the year, the County paid \$2,500 to the Board.

Nicollet County Family Services Collaborative

Nicollet County entered into the Nicollet County Family Services Collaborative. The purpose of the Collaborative is to enhance family strengths and support through service coordination and access to informal communication. The Collaborative started in 1998 and consists of Nicollet County Social Services, Nicollet County Public Health, Nicollet County Court Services, St. Peter Public Schools, Nicollet Public Schools, and the Minnesota Valley Action Council. Nicollet County is the fiscal agent for the Collaborative. Financing is provided by various grants. Activities of the Collaborative are accounted for in an agency fund of Nicollet County.

South Central Community-Based Initiative

The South Central Community-Based Initiative was established pursuant to Minn. Stat. §§ 471.59 and 245.4661 and a joint powers agreement effective June 10, 2008. The purpose of this joint powers agreement is to provide services to persons with mental illness in the most clinically-appropriate, person-centered, least restrictive, and cost-effective ways. The focus is on improved access and outcomes for persons with mental illness as a result of the collaboration between state-operated services programs and community-based treatment. The membership of the Board comprises one representative appointed by each party to the agreement.

**NICOLLET COUNTY
ST. PETER, MINNESOTA**

5. Summary of Significant Contingencies and Other Items

C. Jointly-Governed Organizations (Continued)

South Central Minnesota Emergency Medical Services Joint Powers Board

The South Central Minnesota Emergency Medical Services Joint Powers Board provides various emergency medical services to several counties. During the year, the County made no contributions to the South Central Minnesota Emergency Medical Services Joint Powers Board.

South Central Minnesota Regional Radio Board

The South Central Minnesota Regional Radio Board was established pursuant to Minn. Stat. §§ 471.59 and 403.39 and a joint powers agreement effective May 27, 2008. The Board consists of one County Commissioner from each county included in the agreement, one City Council member from each city included in the agreement, a member of the South Central Minnesota Regional Advisory Committee, a member of the South Central Minnesota Regional Radio System User Committee, and a member of the Owners and Operators Committee. The primary function of the joint venture is to provide regional administration of enhancements to the Statewide Public Safety Radio and Communication System for the Allied Radio Matrix for Emergency Response (ARMER) owned and operated by the State of Minnesota and enhance and improve interoperable public safety communications.

South Central Regional IMMTRACK (Immunization Registry) Joint Powers Board

The South Central Regional IMMTRACK (immunization registry) Joint Powers Board promotes implementation and maintenance of a regional immunization information system to ensure age-appropriate immunizations through complete and accurate records.

South Central Workforce Council

The South Central Workforce Council Joint Powers Board comprises one representative from each of the participating County Boards. The Board is the local governmental body that appoints the Workforce Council members and is a full partner with them in overseeing area employment and training programs.

**NICOLLET COUNTY
ST. PETER, MINNESOTA**

5. Summary of Significant Contingencies and Other Items

C. Jointly-Governed Organizations (Continued)

Southeast Minnesota Homeland Security/Emergency Management

The Southeast Minnesota Homeland Security/Emergency Management Joint Powers Board's purpose is to provide for regional coordination of planning, training, purchase of equipment, and allocating emergency services and staff in the event of a disaster within the region. There are 16 counties participating, with one member from each entity being represented on the Joint Powers Board.

D. Subsequent Event

In April 2012, the County Board passed a resolution relating to the financing of proposed projects to be undertaken by the County and established compliance with Reimbursement Bond regulations under the Internal Revenue Code. The intent for such reimbursement is to finance the ARMER Radio System in the amount up to \$500,000 and for various capital equipment consistent within the Capital Improvement Plan in the amount up to \$950,000. The County intends to evaluate the various needs of the County and plans to issue the debt late in 2012 or early 2013.

6. Other Information

A. Special Benefit Tax Levy

In 1993, the South Central Minnesota Multi-County Housing Authority issued \$20,315,000 of revenue bonds to construct housing units in Nicollet County and four surrounding counties. The Authority has since defaulted on these bonds. In 2000, the counties entered into a settlement agreement where each of the counties will approve a special benefit tax levy on behalf of the Authority from 2001 through 2024 to cover the operating deficits based on each county's proportionate share of housing units constructed. Nicollet County's proportionate share of the operating deficit for 2011 is \$103,901. The proportionate shares of the counties may change for years 2012 through 2024 if there are changes in the taxable market value over the 2001 taxable market value.

**NICOLLET COUNTY
ST. PETER, MINNESOTA**

6. Other Information (Continued)

B. Agricultural Best Management Loan Program

The County has entered into an agreement with the Minnesota Department of Agriculture and a local lending institution to jointly administer a loan program to individuals to implement projects that prevent or mitigate non-point source water pollution. While the County is not liable for the repayment of the loans in any manner, it does have certain responsibilities under the agreement. The County has met those responsibilities for 2011.

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REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

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**NICOLLET COUNTY
ST. PETER, MINNESOTA**

EXHIBIT A-1

**SCHEDULE OF FUNDING PROGRESS - OTHER POSTEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS
DECEMBER 31, 2011**

Actuarial Valuation Date	Actuarial Value of Assets (a)	Actuarial Accrued Liability (AAL) (b)	Unfunded Actuarial Accrued Liability (UAAL) (b-a)	Funded Ratio (a/b)	Covered Payroll (c)	UAAL as a Percentage of Covered Payroll ((b-a)/c)
January 1, 2008	\$ -	\$ 1,471,483	\$ 1,471,483	0.0%	\$ 8,227,736	17.9%
January 1, 2010	-	1,580,922	1,580,922	0.0%	9,600,349	16.5%

See Note 3.C.1., Other Postemployment Benefits, for more information.

Multi-year trend information is not available at this time, as Governmental Accounting Standards Board Statement 45 was implemented in 2008. Future notes will provide additional trend analysis to meet the three actuarial valuations requirement as it becomes available.

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SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

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**COMBINING AND INDIVIDUAL FUND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
AND SCHEDULES**

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**NICOLLET COUNTY
ST. PETER, MINNESOTA**

DEBT SERVICE FUND

The Debt Service Fund is used to account for the accumulation of resources for and the payment of the principal, interest, and related costs of the general obligation bonds.

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**NICOLLET COUNTY
ST. PETER, MINNESOTA**

EXHIBIT B-1

**STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES, AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCE
BUDGETARY COMPARISON SCHEDULE
DEBT SERVICE FUND
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2011**

	Budgeted Amounts		Actual Amounts	Variance with Final Budget
	Original	Final		
Revenues				
Taxes	\$ 1,764,757	\$ 1,764,757	\$ 1,778,093	\$ 13,336
Intergovernmental	133,296	133,296	133,296	-
Total Revenues	\$ 1,898,053	\$ 1,898,053	\$ 1,911,389	\$ 13,336
Expenditures				
Debt service				
Principal	\$ 1,487,634	\$ 1,487,634	\$ 1,365,000	\$ 122,634
Interest	408,700	408,700	408,700	-
Administrative charges	1,719	1,719	1,719	-
Total Expenditures	\$ 1,898,053	\$ 1,898,053	\$ 1,775,419	\$ 122,634
Excess of Revenues Over (Under) Expenditures	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 135,970	\$ 135,970
Other Financing Sources (Uses)				
Transfers out	-	-	(1,118,491)	(1,118,491)
Net Change in Fund Balance	\$ -	\$ -	\$ (982,521)	\$ (982,521)
Fund Balance - January 1	2,900,460	2,900,460	2,900,460	-
Fund Balance - December 31	\$ 2,900,460	\$ 2,900,460	\$ 1,917,939	\$ (982,521)

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**NICOLLET COUNTY
ST. PETER, MINNESOTA**

AGENCY FUNDS

The Agency Fund is used to account for all assets not accounted for by other agency funds and held by the County as an agent for individuals, private organizations, other governments, or other funds.

The Settlement Fund accounts for all taxes and penalties collected and the distribution of the taxes.

The State Revenue Fund accounts for collections for and disbursements to the State of Minnesota.

The Community Health Service Fund accounts for collections and disbursements for Brown-Nicollet Community Health Services.

The Family Services Collaborative Fund accounts for collections and disbursements for the Family Services Collaborative.

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**NICOLLET COUNTY
ST. PETER, MINNESOTA**

EXHIBIT C-1

**COMBINING STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN ASSETS AND LIABILITIES
ALL AGENCY FUNDS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2011**

	<u>Balance January 1</u>	<u>Additions</u>	<u>Deductions</u>	<u>Balance December 31</u>
<u>AGENCY FUND</u>				
<u>Assets</u>				
Cash and pooled investments	\$ <u>10,758</u>	\$ <u>459,274</u>	\$ <u>460,233</u>	\$ <u>9,799</u>
<u>Liabilities</u>				
Due to other governments	\$ <u>10,758</u>	\$ <u>459,274</u>	\$ <u>460,233</u>	\$ <u>9,799</u>
 <u>SETTLEMENT FUND</u>				
<u>Assets</u>				
Cash and pooled investments	\$ <u>303,563</u>	\$ <u>56,380,170</u>	\$ <u>56,327,959</u>	\$ <u>355,774</u>
<u>Liabilities</u>				
Due to other governments	\$ <u>303,563</u>	\$ <u>56,380,170</u>	\$ <u>56,327,959</u>	\$ <u>355,774</u>
 <u>STATE REVENUE FUND</u>				
<u>Assets</u>				
Cash and pooled investments	\$ <u>101,693</u>	\$ <u>3,185,237</u>	\$ <u>3,150,000</u>	\$ <u>136,930</u>
<u>Liabilities</u>				
Due to other governments	\$ <u>101,693</u>	\$ <u>3,185,237</u>	\$ <u>3,150,000</u>	\$ <u>136,930</u>

**NICOLLET COUNTY
ST. PETER, MINNESOTA**

*EXHIBIT C-1
(Continued)*

**COMBINING STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN ASSETS AND LIABILITIES
ALL AGENCY FUNDS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2011**

	Balance January 1	Additions	Deductions	Balance December 31
<u>COMMUNITY HEALTH SERVICE FUND</u>				
<u>Assets</u>				
Cash and pooled investments	\$ <u>650,731</u>	\$ <u>1,256,337</u>	\$ <u>1,375,233</u>	\$ <u>531,835</u>
<u>Liabilities</u>				
Due to other governments	\$ <u>650,731</u>	\$ <u>1,256,337</u>	\$ <u>1,375,233</u>	\$ <u>531,835</u>
 <u>FAMILY SERVICES COLLABORATIVE FUND</u>				
<u>Assets</u>				
Cash and pooled investments	\$ <u>335,596</u>	\$ <u>202,026</u>	\$ <u>130,681</u>	\$ <u>406,941</u>
<u>Liabilities</u>				
Due to other governments	\$ <u>335,596</u>	\$ <u>202,026</u>	\$ <u>130,681</u>	\$ <u>406,941</u>
 <u>TOTAL ALL AGENCY FUNDS</u>				
<u>Assets</u>				
Cash and pooled investments	\$ <u>1,402,341</u>	\$ <u>61,483,044</u>	\$ <u>61,444,106</u>	\$ <u>1,441,279</u>
<u>Liabilities</u>				
Due to other governments	\$ <u>1,402,341</u>	\$ <u>61,483,044</u>	\$ <u>61,444,106</u>	\$ <u>1,441,279</u>

**NICOLLET COUNTY
ST. PETER, MINNESOTA**

EXHIBIT D-1

**SCHEDULE OF INTERGOVERNMENTAL REVENUE - GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2011**

Shared Revenue

State

Highway users tax	\$ 2,042,904
County program aid	1,423,781
PERA rate reimbursement	34,276
Disparity reduction aid	11,666
Police aid	85,369
Enhanced 911	109,665
Market value credit	740,071
Market value credit - manufactured homes	14,333

Total shared revenue **\$ 4,462,065**

Reimbursement for Services

State

Minnesota Department of Human Services	\$ 633,677
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Payments

Local

Payments in lieu of taxes	\$ 28,076
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Grants

State

Minnesota Department of Public Safety	\$ 11,811
Health	91,903
Natural Resources	3,848
Human Services	1,193,200
Veterans Affairs	558
Corrections	274,605
Water and Soil Resources Board	87,375
Pollution Control Agency	79,947

Total state **\$ 1,743,247**

Federal

Department of Agriculture	\$ 303,107
Commerce	23,485
Transportation	547,194
Energy	31,878
Health and Human Services	2,164,029
Homeland Security	51,554

Total federal **\$ 3,121,247**

Total state and federal grants **\$ 4,864,494**

Total Intergovernmental Revenue **\$ 9,988,312**

**NICOLLET COUNTY
ST. PETER, MINNESOTA**

EXHIBIT D-2

**SCHEDULE OF EXPENDITURES OF FEDERAL AWARDS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2011**

Federal Grantor Pass-Through Agency Grant Program Title	Federal CFDA Number	Expenditures
U.S. Department of Agriculture		
Passed Through Brown-Nicollet Community Health Services Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children	10.557	\$ 120,218
Passed Through Minnesota Department of Human Services State Administrative Matching Grants for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program	10.561	<u>182,889</u>
Total U.S. Department of Agriculture		<u>\$ 303,107</u>
U.S. Department of Commerce		
Passed Through Blue Earth County Public Safety Interoperable Communications Grant Program	11.555	<u>\$ 23,485</u>
U.S. Department of Transportation		
Passed Through Minnesota Department of Transportation Highway Planning and Construction	20.205	<u>\$ 547,194</u>
U.S. Department of Energy		
Passed Through Minnesota Department of Commerce Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program (EECBG) - ARRA	81.128	<u>\$ 31,878</u>
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services		
Passed Through Brown-Nicollet Community Health Services Public Health Emergency Preparedness	93.069	\$ 23,240
Temporary Assistance for Needy Families Cluster Temporary Assistance for Needy Families	93.558	16,304
Medical Assistance Program	93.778	21,966
Maternal and Child Health Services Block Grant to the States	93.994	31,497

**NICOLLET COUNTY
ST. PETER, MINNESOTA**

**EXHIBIT D-2
(Continued)**

**SCHEDULE OF EXPENDITURES OF FEDERAL AWARDS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2011**

Federal Grantor Pass-Through Agency Grant Program Title	Federal CFDA Number	Expenditures
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (Continued)		
Passed Through Minnesota Department of Human Services		
Promoting Safe and Stable Families	93.556	2,862
Temporary Assistance for Needy Families Cluster		
Temporary Assistance for Needy Families	93.558	347,388
Emergency Contingency Fund for Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) State Program - ARRA	93.714	31,030
Child Support Enforcement	93.563	637,733
Child Care Development Cluster		
Child Care Development Block Grant	93.575	13,201
Child Care Mandatory and Matching Funds of the Child Care and Development Fund	93.596	14,130
Foster Care - Title IV-E	93.658	214,344
Social Services Block Grant	93.667	153,510
Chafee Foster Care Independence Program	93.674	3,042
Children's Health Insurance Program	93.767	104
Medical Assistance Program	93.778	502,085
Block Grants for Community Mental Health Services	93.958	12,613
Block Grants for Prevention and Treatment of Substance Abuse	93.959	138,980
Total U.S. Department of Health and Human Services		\$ 2,164,029
U.S. Department of Homeland Security		
Passed Through Minnesota Department of Public Safety		
Disaster Grants - Public Assistance (Presidentially Declared Disasters)	97.036	\$ 39,371
Pre-Disaster Mitigation	97.047	4,033
Passed Through Blue Earth County		
Interoperable Emergency Communications	97.055	2,231
Homeland Security Grant Program	97.067	5,919
Total U.S. Department of Homeland Security		\$ 51,554
Total Federal Awards		\$ 3,121,247

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**NICOLLET COUNTY
ST. PETER, MINNESOTA**

**NOTES TO THE SCHEDULE OF EXPENDITURES OF FEDERAL AWARDS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2011**

1. Reporting Entity

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

2. Basis of Presentation

The accompanying Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards includes the federal grant activity of Nicollet County under programs of the federal government for the year ended December 31, 2011. 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 Nicollet County, it is not intended to and does not present the financial position, changes in net assets, or cash flows of Nicollet County.

3. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

Expenditures reported on the schedule are reported on 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. Clusters

Clusters of programs are groupings of closely related programs that share common compliance requirements. Total expenditures by cluster are:

Temporary Assistance for Needy Families Cluster	\$	394,722
Child Care and Development Cluster		27,331

5. Subrecipients

During 2011, the County did not pass any federal money to subrecipients.

**NICOLLET COUNTY
ST. PETER, MINNESOTA**

6. American Recovery and Reinvestment Act

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.

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**NICOLLET COUNTY
ST. PETER, MINNESOTA**

**SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS AND QUESTIONED COSTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2011**

I. SUMMARY OF AUDITOR'S RESULTS

Financial Statements

Type of auditor's report issued: **Unqualified**

Internal control over financial reporting:

- Material weaknesses identified? **No**
- Significant deficiencies identified? **No**

Noncompliance material to the financial statements noted? **No**

Federal Awards

Internal control over major programs:

- Material weaknesses identified? **No**
- Significant deficiencies identified? **No**

Type of auditor's report issued on compliance for major programs: **Unqualified**

Any audit findings disclosed that are required to be reported in accordance with Section 510(a) of OMB Circular A-133? **No**

The major programs are:

Highway Planning and Construction	CFDA #20.205
Temporary Assistance for Needy Families Cluster	
Temporary Assistance for Needy Families	CFDA #93.558
Emergency Contingency Fund for Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) State Program - ARRA	CFDA #93.714
Child Support Enforcement	CFDA #93.563

The threshold for distinguishing between Types A and B programs was \$300,000.

Nicollet County qualified as low-risk auditee? **No**

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

INTERNAL CONTROL

PREVIOUSLY REPORTED ITEMS RESOLVED

Audit Adjustments (06-2)

Management and employees, in the normal course of performing their assigned functions, were not able to prevent, or detect and correct, misstatements of the financial statements on a timely basis.

Resolution

There were no material and significant audit adjustments required in our audit of the County's financial statements.

Budgeting (06-3)

The County did not have a formal, written budget policy.

Resolution

The County has adopted a budget policy which includes elements of control over the budgeting process.

Preparation of the Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards (10-1)

The County did not have a process in place to adequately identify federal programs.

Resolution

The County prepared the Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards.

III. FINDINGS AND QUESTIONED COSTS FOR FEDERAL AWARD PROGRAMS

None.

IV. OTHER FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

MINNESOTA LEGAL COMPLIANCE

PREVIOUSLY REPORTED ITEM NOT RESOLVED

96-1 Ditch Fund Deficit Cash Balances

Criteria: Minn. Stat. § 103E.655 requires that drainage system costs be paid from the ditch system account for which the costs are being incurred. If money is not available in the drainage system account on which the warrant is drawn, this statute allows for loans to be made from ditch systems with surplus funds or from the General Fund to a ditch system with insufficient cash to pay expenditures. Such loans must be paid back with interest.

Condition: Of the 85 individual ditch systems in the County, 36 had deficit cash balances totaling \$162,477, and 31 had negative fund balances totaling \$116,166. These amounts decreased from the prior year when we reported 44 ditch systems with negative cash balances totaling \$184,810, and 46 ditch systems with negative fund balances totaling \$165,265.

Context: Individual ditch systems should be maintained with a positive fund balance to display solvency. As provided by Minn. Stat. § 103E.735, subd. 1, a balance to be used for repairs may be established for any drainage system, not to exceed 20 percent of the assessed benefits of the ditch system or \$100,000, whichever is larger.

Effect: The County is not in compliance with Minnesota statutes by having ditch systems with negative cash balances. Individual ditch systems are, in effect, receiving an interest-free loan from the General Fund. Ditch systems with negative fund balances indicate that measures have not been taken to ensure that an individual ditch system can meet financial obligations.

Cause: Ditch expenditures were necessary, and the ditch cash balance and levies were not sufficient to cover all costs.

Recommendation: We recommend that the County eliminate the cash deficits by borrowing from eligible funds with surplus cash balances under Minn. Stat. § 103E.655. Fund balance deficits should be eliminated by levying assessments pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 103E.735, subd. 1, which permits the accumulation of a surplus cash balance to provide for the repair and maintenance of the ditch systems.

Client's Response:

The past five years have shown an aggressive attempt to bring all ditch systems to a positive fund balance. It is the intention to continue this process until all ditches in the County carry positive balances.

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REBECCA OTTO
STATE AUDITOR

STATE OF MINNESOTA

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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
Nicollet County

We have audited the financial statements of the governmental activities, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of Nicollet County as of and for the year ended December 31, 2011, which collectively comprise the County's basic financial statements, and have issued our report thereon dated August 17, 2012. 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

Management of Nicollet County is responsible for establishing and maintaining effective internal control over financial reporting. In planning and performing our audit, we considered Nicollet 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 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.

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 Nicollet 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 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 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 compliance for tax increment financing because the County has no tax increment financing.

The results of our tests indicate that for the items tested, Nicollet 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 96-1.

Nicollet 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 Nicollet 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

REBECCA OTTO
STATE AUDITOR

/s/Greg Hierlinger

GREG HIERLINGER, CPA
DEPUTY STATE AUDITOR

August 17, 2012

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REBECCA OTTO
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REPORT ON COMPLIANCE WITH REQUIREMENTS THAT COULD HAVE A DIRECT AND MATERIAL EFFECT ON EACH MAJOR PROGRAM AND ON INTERNAL CONTROL OVER COMPLIANCE IN ACCORDANCE WITH OMB CIRCULAR A-133

Board of County Commissioners
Nicollet County

Compliance

We have audited Nicollet County's compliance with the types of compliance requirements described in the U.S. Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Circular A-133 Compliance Supplement that could have a direct and material effect on each of its major federal programs for the year ended December 31, 2011. Nicollet 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 Nicollet 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 of the County's compliance with those requirements.

In our opinion, Nicollet County complied, in all material respects, with the compliance requirements referred to above that could have a direct and material effect on each of its major federal programs for the year ended December 31, 2011.

Internal Control Over Compliance

Management of Nicollet 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 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.

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

REBECCA OTTO
STATE AUDITOR

/s/Greg Hierlinger

GREG HIERLINGER, CPA
DEPUTY STATE AUDITOR

August 17, 2012