

STATE OF MINNESOTA

Office of the State Auditor



Rebecca Otto
State Auditor

MANAGEMENT AND COMPLIANCE REPORT

**MEEKER COUNTY ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY**
(A COMPONENT UNIT OF MEEKER COUNTY)

YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2013

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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**MEEKER COUNTY ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
(A COMPONENT UNIT OF MEEKER COUNTY)**

Year Ended December 31, 2013



Management and Compliance Report

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

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**MEEKER COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
LITCHFIELD, MINNESOTA**

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**MEEKER COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
LITCHFIELD, MINNESOTA**

**SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2013**

INTERNAL CONTROL OVER FINANCIAL REPORTING

PREVIOUSLY REPORTED ITEM NOT RESOLVED

Finding 1996-002

Segregation of Duties

Criteria: A good system of internal control provides for an adequate segregation of duties so that no one individual handles a transaction from its inception to completion.

Condition: The receipting process of the Meeker County Economic Development Authority (EDA) lacks proper segregation of duties.

Context: Due to the limited number of office personnel, segregation of the accounting functions necessary to ensure adequate internal accounting control is not always possible. This is not unusual in operations the size of the Meeker County EDA; however, the Meeker County EDA's management should constantly be aware of this condition and realize that the concentration of duties and responsibilities in a limited number of individuals is not desirable from an accounting point of view.

Effect: Inadequate segregation of duties could adversely affect the Meeker County EDA's ability to detect misstatements of the financial statements in a timely period by employees in the normal course of performing their assigned functions.

Cause: The Meeker County EDA's current receipting process does not include a review of deposits before they are brought to the County Treasurer's and County Auditor's offices.

Recommendation: We recommend that the Meeker County EDA's elected officials and management be aware of the lack of segregation of duties of the receipting function and, where possible, implement oversight procedures to ensure that the internal control policies and procedures are being implemented by staff to the extent possible.

Client's Response:

The EDA has implemented steps to meet these requirements and is always looking to implement new ways of oversight to ensure that internal controls and procedures are being followed. In 2013, staff implemented the review of all deposits by the administrative assistant by the executive director on the day of the deposit versus on a weekly basis.

PREVIOUSLY REPORTED ITEM RESOLVED

Audit Adjustments (2012-001)

During our previous audit, an audit adjustment was necessary to record loans receivable and the related repayment activity for the year. The loans receivable balance at December 31, 2012, was \$293,662.

Resolution

No significant audit adjustments were necessary in order for the Meeker County EDA's financial statements to be fairly presented for the year ended December 31, 2013.



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REPORT ON INTERNAL CONTROL OVER FINANCIAL REPORTING AND ON COMPLIANCE AND OTHER MATTERS BASED ON AN AUDIT OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS PERFORMED IN ACCORDANCE WITH *GOVERNMENT AUDITING STANDARDS*

Independent Auditor's Report

Economic Development Authority Board
Meeker County Economic Development Authority

We have audited, in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards* issued by the Comptroller General of the United States, the financial statements of the Meeker County Economic Development Authority (EDA), which are part of Meeker County's financial statements, as of and for the year ended December 31, 2013, and the related notes to the financial statements, and have issued our report thereon dated September 18, 2014.

Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

In planning and performing our audit of the financial statements, we considered the Meeker County EDA's internal control over financial reporting to determine the audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances for the purpose of expressing our opinion on the financial statements, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Meeker County EDA's internal control over financial reporting. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the Meeker County EDA'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 Meeker County EDA's financial statements will not be prevented, or detected and corrected, on a timely basis. A significant deficiency is a deficiency, or combination of deficiencies, in internal control over financial reporting that is less severe than a material weakness, yet important enough to merit the attention of those charged with governance.

Our consideration of internal control over financial reporting was for the limited purpose described in the first paragraph of this section and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control over financial reporting that might be material weaknesses or significant deficiencies and, therefore, material weaknesses or significant deficiencies may exist that were not identified. Given these limitations, during our audit, we did not identify any deficiencies in internal control over financial reporting that we consider to be material weaknesses. However, material weaknesses may exist that have not been identified. We did identify a deficiency in internal control over financial reporting, described in the accompanying Schedule of Findings and Recommendations as item 1996-002, that we consider to be a significant deficiency.

Compliance and Other Matters

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the Meeker County EDA's financial statements are free from material misstatement, we performed tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements, noncompliance with which could have a direct and material effect on the determination of financial statement amounts. However, providing an opinion on compliance with those provisions was not an objective of our audit and, accordingly, we do not express such an opinion. The results of our tests disclosed no instances of noncompliance or other matters that are required to be reported under *Government Auditing Standards*.

Minnesota Legal Compliance

The *Minnesota Legal Compliance Audit Guide for Political Subdivisions*, promulgated by the State Auditor pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 6.65, contains six categories of compliance to be tested in connection with the audit of the Meeker County EDA's financial statements: contracting and bidding, deposits and investments, conflicts of interest, public indebtedness, claims and disbursements, and miscellaneous provisions. Our audit considered all of the listed categories except we did not test for compliance in deposits and investments, conflicts of interest, public indebtedness, claims and disbursements, and miscellaneous provisions because they were tested in conjunction with the audit of the financial statements of Meeker County. We also did not test for contracting and bidding because the Meeker County EDA did not enter into any contracts that were subject to legal requirements as stipulated by Minnesota statutes.

In connection with our audit, nothing came to our attention that caused us to believe that the Meeker County EDA failed to comply with the provisions of the *Minnesota Legal Compliance Audit Guide for Political Subdivisions*. However, our audit was not directed primarily toward obtaining knowledge of such noncompliance. Accordingly, had we performed additional procedures, other matters may have come to our attention regarding the Meeker County EDA's noncompliance with the above referenced provisions.

Meeker County EDA's Response to Findings

The Meeker County EDA's response to the internal control finding identified in our audit has been included in the Schedule of Findings and Recommendations. The Meeker County EDA's response was not subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the financial statements and, accordingly, we express no opinion on it.

Purpose of This Report

The purpose of this report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting, compliance, and the provisions of the *Minnesota Legal Compliance Audit Guide for Political Subdivisions* and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the Meeker County EDA's internal control over financial reporting or on compliance. This report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the Meeker County EDA's internal control over financial reporting and compliance. Accordingly, this communication is not suitable for any other purpose.

/s/Rebecca Otto

REBECCA OTTO
STATE AUDITOR

/s/Greg Hierlinger

GREG HIERLINGER, CPA
DEPUTY STATE AUDITOR

September 18, 2014