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*****PRESS RELEASE*****

State Auditor Otto Releases Best Practices Review

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ST. PAUL (10/14/2013) – State Auditor Rebecca Otto today released the Best Practices Review: Collaboration Part 2: Getting it Right. This is the second part of a three-part series of Reviews focused on collaborations involving local governments.

“Local governments in Minnesota have been collaborating and cooperating together for many years,” said Auditor Otto. **“Much of the time, these arrangements improve service delivery and/or reduce costs to deliver a service and the arrangements function as intended. However, there are instances where this is not the case. This Best Practices Review is intended to be a resource guide for local government officials to use when considering entering into sharing resources, consolidation of services, contracting for services, or mutual aid agreements with other local governments and community partners. By following the steps laid out, they can avoid common pitfalls that arise when collaborating/cooperating with others.”**

The Review identifies the types of decisions that a local government should make early in the process of collaboration and the steps that should be taken as a result of those decisions. The Review also identifies resources that are entity specific including sample service contracts, sample joint powers agreements, and model mutual aid agreements.

The topic for this series of reviews on collaboration was suggested by the Collaborative Governance Council (CGC). The Council recommended a series of reviews on best practices for collaboration in government conducted by the Office of the State Auditor.

To view the complete report, go to:

<http://www.auditor.state.mn.us/default.aspx?page=20131014.000>.

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The Office of the State Auditor is a constitutional office that is charged with overseeing more than \$20 billion spent annually by local governments in Minnesota. The Office of the State Auditor does this by performing audits of local government financial statements, and by reviewing documents, data, reports, and complaints reported to the Office. The financial

information collected from local governments is analyzed and is the basis of statutory reports issued by the Office of the State Auditor.

Rebecca Otto is Minnesota's 18th State Auditor. A high-resolution official photo is available for download at http://www.auditor.state.mn.us/images/otto_hires.jpg. To learn more about State Auditor Otto, see <http://www.auditor.state.mn.us/default.aspx?page=bi>.