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### **\*\*\*PRESS RELEASE\*\*\***

## **Collaborative Governance Council Releases Report to Legislature**

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**ST. PAUL (3/15/2011)** – State Auditor Rebecca Otto, chair of the Collaborative Governance Council, today released the Council's 2011 Legislative Report. Created in a bipartisan effort by the 2010 Legislature, the Council brought together key stakeholders from local governments and three major unions that represent local government employees, and a Chamber representative to develop recommendations to the Governor and Legislature for increasing government collaboration. No funding or staff was provided for the Council.

From their first meeting in July, the Council worked to identify impediments to collaboration in state statute and/or state rules. The Council reviewed successful local government collaborations and examined specific areas important to collaboration, including technology, shared services/shared resources, joint purchasing/cooperative purchasing opportunities, and joint powers entities and agreements.

The Council focused on finding ways to increase government cooperation, innovation, and collaboration at all levels. Council meetings were open to the public. There was strong attendance by members of the public, including small business owners, interested citizens, lobbyists, and chamber representatives. Government officials, experts and business representatives from around the state made presentations to the Council.

The Report contains recommendations to the Legislature and Governor. "Collaboration is not the panacea or the \$5 billion dollar solution," the Council's report states, "but is about effective, efficient service delivery and possible long-term savings."

To read the full report, go to:

[http://www.auditor.state.mn.us/other/councils/CollaborativeGovernance/Collaborative\\_Governance\\_Council\\_Legislative\\_Report.pdf](http://www.auditor.state.mn.us/other/councils/CollaborativeGovernance/Collaborative_Governance_Council_Legislative_Report.pdf).

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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 18<sup>th</sup> State Auditor. A high-resolution official photo is available for download at [http://www.auditor.state.mn.us/images/otto\\_hires.jpg](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=bio>.*