

Washington State Auditor's Office
Accountability Audit Report

**Northwest Lincoln County Regional
Public Development Authority**

Report Date
August 19, 2011

Report No. 1006337

Issue Date
September 12, 2011



WASHINGTON
BRIAN SONNTAG
STATE AUDITOR



**Washington State Auditor
Brian Sonntag**

September 12, 2011

Board of Directors
Northwest Lincoln County Regional Public Development Authority
Almira, Washington

Report on Accountability

We appreciate the opportunity to work in cooperation with your Authority to promote accountability, integrity and openness in government. The State Auditor's Office takes seriously our role to advocate for government accountability and transparency and to promote positive change.

Please find attached our report on the Northwest Lincoln County Regional Public Development Authority's accountability and compliance with state laws and regulations and its own policies and procedures. Thank you for working with us to ensure the efficient and effective use of public resources.

Sincerely,

BRIAN SONNTAG, CGFM
STATE AUDITOR

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Audit Summary

Northwest Lincoln County Regional Public Development Authority August 19, 2011

ABOUT THE AUDIT

This report contains the results of our independent accountability audit of the Northwest Lincoln County Regional Public Development Authority from January 1, 2009 through August 19, 2011.

We evaluated internal controls and performed audit procedures on the activities of the Authority. We also determined whether the Authority complied with state laws and regulations and its own policies and procedures.

In keeping with general auditing practices, we do not examine every transaction, activity or area. Instead, the areas examined were those representing the highest risk of noncompliance, misappropriation or misuse. The following areas were examined during this audit period:

- Cash receipting
- Open public meetings/records laws
- Use of state grant and loan funds
- Payment/expenditures
- Disposition of surplus property
- Dissolution procedures

RESULTS

In the areas we examined, the Authority's internal controls were adequate to safeguard public assets. The Authority also complied with state laws and regulations and its own policies and procedures in the areas we examined.

Description of the Authority

Northwest Lincoln County Regional Public Development Authority August 19, 2011

ABOUT THE AUTHORITY

The towns of Almira, Creston and Wilbur created the Northwest Lincoln County Regional Public Development Authority through an inter-local agreement in June 2001. The Authority's intended purpose was to help the communities create sustainable economic development opportunities. The agreement did not require the Authority to adopt a formal budget. Volunteers performed administrative tasks.

In 2002, the Authority built an industrial park with approximately \$945,000 of Community Economic Revitalization Board grants and loans. The original tenant was a livestock feed provider and in 2007 the building was repurposed into a biodiesel facility. The biodiesel tenant could not sustain its financial viability and the Authority has been unable to find another tenant for the property. In 2011, the property was sold and the remaining debt forgiven. The Board held its final meeting on August 19, 2011, and the Authority was dissolved.

APPOINTED OFFICIALS

These officials served during the audit period:

Board of Directors:

President	Bill Wadlington
Vice President	Don Reid
Secretary	Joyce Mings
Treasurer	Wally Kulver
	Greg Sassman
	Mary Flemming
	Larry Haydon
	Bob Young
	Marvin Flygare

Note: Teri Lynch replaced Marvin Flygare during the audit period.



ABOUT THE STATE AUDITOR'S OFFICE

The State Auditor's Office is established in the state's Constitution and is part of the executive branch of state government. The State Auditor is elected by the citizens of Washington and serves four-year terms.

Our mission is to work in cooperation with our audit clients and citizens as an advocate for government accountability. As an elected agency, the State Auditor's Office has the independence necessary to objectively perform audits and investigations. Our audits are designed to comply with professional standards as well as to satisfy the requirements of federal, state, and local laws.

The State Auditor's Office employees are located around the state to deliver our services effectively and efficiently.

Our audits look at financial information and compliance with state, federal and local laws on the part of all local governments, including schools, and all state agencies, including institutions of higher education. In addition, we conduct performance audits of state agencies and local governments and fraud, whistleblower and citizen hotline investigations.

The results of our work are widely distributed through a variety of reports, which are available on our Web site and through our free, electronic subscription service. We continue to refine our reporting efforts to ensure the results of our audits are useful and understandable.

We take our role as partners in accountability seriously. We provide training and technical assistance to governments and have an extensive quality assurance program.

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