



Office of the Washington State Auditor
Pat McCarthy

Accountability Audit Report

Washington Pulse Crops Commission

For the period July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2020

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**Office of the Washington State Auditor
Pat McCarthy**

June 17, 2021

Board of Commissioners
Washington Pulse Crops Commission
Moscow, Washington

Report on Accountability

Thank you for the opportunity to work with you to promote accountability, integrity and openness in government. The Office of the Washington State Auditor takes seriously our role of providing state and local governments with assurance and accountability as the independent auditor of public accounts. In this way, we strive to help government work better, cost less, deliver higher value and earn greater public trust.

Independent audits provide essential accountability and transparency for Commission operations. This information is valuable to management, the governing body and public stakeholders when assessing the government's stewardship of public resources.

Attached is our independent audit report on the Commission's compliance with applicable requirements and safeguarding of public resources for the areas we examined. We appreciate the opportunity to work with your staff and value your cooperation during the audit.

Sincerely,

Pat McCarthy
State Auditor
Olympia, WA

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AUDIT RESULTS

Results in brief

This report describes the overall results and conclusions for the areas we examined. In those selected areas, Commission operations complied, in all material respects, with applicable state laws, regulations, and its own policies, and provided adequate controls over the safeguarding of public resources.

In keeping with general auditing practices, we do not examine every transaction, activity, policy, internal control, or area. As a result, no information is provided on the areas that were not examined.

About the audit

This report contains the results of our independent accountability audit of the Washington Pulse Crops Commission from July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2020.

Management is responsible for ensuring compliance and adequate safeguarding of public resources from fraud, loss or abuse. This includes the design, implementation and maintenance of internal controls relevant to these objectives.

This audit was conducted under the authority of RCW 15.65.490 for Washington State Agricultural Commodity Boards, which requires the Office of the Washington State Auditor to examine the financial affairs of the Commission at least once every five years and WAC 16-536-020(10)(g), which requires the Commission to have its records, books and accounts audited at least annually by the Office of the Washington State Auditor. Our audit involved obtaining evidence about the Commission's use of public resources, compliance with state laws and regulations and its own policies and procedures, and internal controls over such matters. The procedures performed were based on our assessment of risks in the areas we examined.

Based on our risk assessment for the years ended June 30, 2020, 2019, 2018 and 2017, the areas examined were those representing the highest risk of fraud, loss, abuse, or noncompliance. We examined the following areas during this audit period:

- Compliance with personal and administrative services contracts
- Procurement – sole source contracts
- Financial condition
- Accounts payable – general disbursements

RELATED REPORTS

Financial

A financial statement audit was performed by a firm of certified public accountants. That firm's report is available on our website, <http://portal.sao.wa.gov/ReportSearch>. The firm reported a significant deficiency in internal controls over financial reporting regarding the lack of adequate segregation of duties for accounting tasks.

INFORMATION ABOUT THE COMMISSION

The Washington Pulse Crops Commission (formally known as Dry Pea and Lentil Commission) was created under the Washington State Enabling Act of 1961. A board was established in 1965 to oversee marketing, research, education, grading and standardization of dry peas, lentils and chickpeas. In 2016, faba beans and lupines were added to the marketing order.

The Commission is funded by assessments on pulse crops (i.e. dry peas, lentils, chickpeas, lupins, and faba beans) sold in Washington. The Commission is governed by a ten member Board of Commissioners consisting of eight members of affected producers from their respective districts, one affected handler and one representative of the Washington Department of Agriculture. Management of operations is contracted to the U.S.A. Dry Pea and Lentil Council. The Commission had expenditures of approximately \$671,000, \$786,000, \$820,000 and \$558,000 for fiscal years 2017, 2018, 2019 and 2020, respectively.

Contact information related to this report

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Information current as of report publish date.

Audit history

You can find current and past audit reports for the Washington Pulse Crops Commission at <http://portal.sao.wa.gov/ReportSearch>.

ABOUT THE STATE AUDITOR'S OFFICE

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

We work with state agencies, local governments and the public to achieve our vision of increasing trust in government by helping governments work better and deliver higher value.

In fulfilling our mission to provide citizens with independent and transparent examinations of how state and local governments use public funds, we hold ourselves to those same standards by continually improving our audit quality and operational efficiency, and by developing highly engaged and committed employees.

As an agency, the State Auditor's Office has the independence necessary to objectively perform audits, attestation engagements and investigations. Our work is designed to comply with professional standards as well as to satisfy the requirements of federal, state and local laws. The Office also has an extensive quality control program and undergoes regular external peer review to ensure our work meets the highest possible standards of accuracy, objectivity and clarity.

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

The results of our work are available to everyone through the more than 2,000 reports we publish each year on our website, www.sao.wa.gov. Additionally, we share regular news and other information via an email subscription service and social media channels.

We take our role as partners in accountability seriously. The Office provides training and technical assistance to governments both directly and through partnerships with other governmental support organizations.

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