



Office of the Washington State Auditor
Pat McCarthy

Accountability Audit Report

Camas Washougal Economic Development Association

For the period January 1, 2020 through July 21, 2020

Published December 9, 2021

Report No. 1029451



Find out what's new at SAO
by scanning this code with
your smartphone's camera



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

December 9, 2021

Board of Directors
Camas Washougal Economic Development Association
Washougal, 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 Association 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 Association'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,

Olympia, WA

Americans with Disabilities

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, we will make this document available in alternative formats. For more information, please contact our Office at (564) 999-0950, TDD Relay at (800) 833-6388, or email our webmaster at webmaster@sao.wa.gov.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Audit Results.....	4
Summary Schedule of Prior Audit Findings	5
Information about the Association.....	7
About the State Auditor's Office.....	8

AUDIT RESULTS

Results in brief

This was the first audit of the Association following our report on unauditable government for the period June 7, 2011 through December 31, 2019.

The Association officially dissolved operations as of July 21, 2020. This report marks the last audit of the Association.

This report describes the overall results and conclusions for the areas we examined. In those selected areas, Association 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 Camas Washougal Economic Development Association from January 1, 2020 through July 21, 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 43.09.260, which requires the Office of the Washington State Auditor to examine the financial affairs of all local governments. Our audit involved obtaining evidence about the Association'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 year ended July 21, 2020, the areas examined were those representing the highest risk of fraud, loss, abuse, or noncompliance. In addition, as part of this audit we followed up on the special investigation report issued May 14, 2020, over disbursements. We examined the following areas during this audit period:

- Accounts payable – general disbursements
- Open public meetings – documentation of meeting minutes
- Dissolution of the Association

SUMMARY SCHEDULE OF PRIOR AUDIT FINDINGS

Camas Washougal Economic Development Association January 1, 2020 through July 21, 2020

This schedule presents the status of findings reported in prior audit periods.

Audit Period: July 7, 2011 – December 31, 2019	Report Ref. No.: 1026276	Finding Ref. No.: 2019-001
Finding Caption: The Association's Board did not provide adequate oversight over financial activities, which resulted in a loss of public funds.		
Background: The Board relied on the Executive Director for all financial activities without adequate oversight and review of bank statements, reconciliations, expenditures or other financial transactions. As a result, the Executive Director was able to misappropriate \$19,311 in public funds.		
Status of Corrective Action: (check one) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fully Corrected <input type="checkbox"/> Partially Corrected <input type="checkbox"/> Not Corrected <input type="checkbox"/> Finding is considered no longer valid		
Corrective Action Taken: <i>The board put in place a review of all payables prior to payment through 12/19 when they gave authority to the Washougal Finance Director to pay the "normal" bills until the prior audit was complete. The Board signed off on these payables as well and then CWEDA dissolved and the remaining funds were distributed back to the partners.</i>		

Audit Period: July 7, 2011 – December 31, 2019	Report Ref. No.: 1026276	Finding Ref. No.: 2019-002
Finding Caption: The Camas Washougal Economic Development Association did not comply with the Open Public Meetings Act.		
Background: The Association believed that they were not a government agency subject to the Open Public Meetings Act, which resulted in minutes not being recorded and denying citizens with access to the deliberations of the Associations actions.		
Status of Corrective Action: (check one) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fully Corrected <input type="checkbox"/> Partially Corrected <input type="checkbox"/> Not Corrected <input type="checkbox"/> Finding is considered no longer valid		
Corrective Action Taken: <i>Minutes were taken through the final meeting 12/19</i>		

Audit Period: July 7, 2011 – December 31, 2019	Report Ref. No.: 1026276	Finding Ref. No.: 2019-003
Finding Caption: The Association did not ensure annual reports were submitted promptly to the State Auditor's Office in accordance with state law.		
Background: The Association did not take appropriate action to prepare or submit the required annual reports for fiscal years 2011 through 2017 by the statutory deadline.		
Status of Corrective Action: (check one) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fully Corrected <input type="checkbox"/> Partially Corrected <input type="checkbox"/> Not Corrected <input type="checkbox"/> Finding is considered no longer valid		
Corrective Action Taken: <i>Reports have been filed on time.</i>		

INFORMATION ABOUT THE ASSOCIATION

The Camas-Washougal Economic Development Association (CWEDA) was created by the leadership of the cities of Washougal and Camas and the Port of Camas-Washougal in 2011. The primary mission of CWEDA was to help existing businesses succeed and bring new businesses and jobs to the area.

The Association was governed by a Board of Directors. The Association officially dissolved operations as of July 21, 2020.

Contact information related to this report

Address:	Camas Washougal Economic Development Association 1701 C Street Washougal, WA 98671
Contact:	Jennifer Forsberg, City of Washougal Finance Director
Telephone:	(360) 835-8501 x 503
Website:	www.cweda.org

Information current as of report publish date.

Audit history

You can find current and past audit reports for the Camas Washougal Economic Development Association 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.

Stay connected at sao.wa.gov

- [Find your audit team](#)
- [Request public records](#)
- Search BARS manuals ([GAAP](#) and [cash](#)), and find [reporting templates](#)
- Learn about our [training workshops](#) and [on-demand videos](#)
- Discover [which governments serve you](#) — enter an address on our map
- Explore public financial data with the [Financial Intelligence Tool](#)

Other ways to stay in touch

- Main telephone:
(564) 999-0950
- Toll-free Citizen Hotline:
(866) 902-3900
- Email:
webmaster@sao.wa.gov