



# NORTH DAKOTA OFFICE OF THE STATE AUDITOR

State Auditor Joshua C. Gallion

## North Dakota Dry Pea and Lentil Council

Audit Report for the Two-Year Period Ended June 30, 2024

Client Code 613



# TABLE OF CONTENTS

|  |          |
|--|----------|
| <b>INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT</b>  | <b>1</b> |
| <b>FINANCIAL STATEMENTS</b>  | <b>4</b> |
| Comparative Statement of Revenues and Expenditures   | 5        |
| Notes to the Financial Statement   | 7        |
| <b>EXHIBITS</b>  |          |
| Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting and on Compliance and Other Matters<br>Based on an Audit of Financial Statements Performed in Accordance With <i>Government Auditing<br/>    Standards</i> | 7        |



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**Independent Auditor's Report**

Members of the Legislative Assembly

Members of the North Dakota Dry Pea and Lentil Council

Kim Saueressig, North Dakota Dry Pea and Lentil Council Chairman

**Report on the Audit of the Financial Statement**

***Opinion***

We have audited the accompanying Comparative Statement of Revenues and Expenditures of the North Dakota Dry Pea and Lentil Council Fund, for the two years ended June 30, 2024, and the related notes to the financial statement, as listed in the table of contents.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statement referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the revenues and expenditures for the North Dakota Dry Pea and Lentil Council Fund, for the two-year period ended June 30, 2024, in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

***Basis for Opinion***

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAS) and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statement section of our report. We are required to be independent of the North Dakota Dry Pea and Lentil Council and to meet our other ethical responsibilities, in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements relating to our audit. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

***Emphasis of Matter***

As discussed in Note 1, the financial statement presents only the North Dakota Dry Pea and Lentil Council Fund's revenues and expenditures, and does not purport to, and does not present fairly

the financial position of the state of North Dakota as of June 30, 2024 and 2023, for the years then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. Our opinion is not modified with respect to this matter.

As discussed in Note 1, the financial statement is presented and audited in accordance with North Dakota Century Code 4.1-44-04. This financial statement is not intended to be a complete presentation of the North Dakota Dry Pea and Lentil Council Fund's assets and liabilities. Our opinion is not modified with respect to this matter.

### ***Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statement***

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statement in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, and for the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statement that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

### ***Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statement***

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statement as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not absolute assurance and therefore is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with GAAS and *Government Auditing Standards* will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control. Misstatements are considered material if there is a substantial likelihood that, individually or in the aggregate, they would influence the judgement made by a reasonable user based on the financial statement.

In performing an audit in accordance with GAAS and *Government Auditing Standards*, we

- exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.
- identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statement, whether due to fraud or error, and design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks. Such procedures include examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the amounts and disclosures in the financial statement.
- obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the North Dakota Dry Pea and Lentil Council's internal control. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.
- evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluate the overall presentation of the financial statement.

We are required to communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit, significant audit findings, and certain internal control-related matters that we identified during the audit.

***Other Reporting Required by the Government Auditing Standards***

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated December 2, 2024, on our consideration of the North Dakota Dry Pea and Lentil Council’s internal control over financial reporting and on our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements and other matters. The purpose of that report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the North Dakota Dry Pea and Lentil Council’s internal control over financial reporting or on compliance. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the North Dakota Dry Pea and Lentil Council’s internal control over financial reporting and compliance.

/S/

Joshua C. Gallion  
State Auditor  
Bismarck, North Dakota  
December 2, 2024

## Comparative Statement of Revenues and Expenditures

For the Years Ended June 30, 2024 and 2023

### Revenues

|  | <u>6/30/2024</u>    | <u>6/30/2023</u>    |
|--|---------------------|---------------------|
| Assessments (Net Refunds of \$133,148 and \$120,923) | \$ 1,742,489        | \$ 1,652,215        |
| Interest on Investments                              | 14,911              | 6,316               |
| Total Revenue  | <u>\$ 1,757,400</u> | <u>\$ 1,658,531</u> |

### Expenditures

|                                   |                     |                     |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Grants, Benefits, and Claims      | 1,234,826           | 1,300,886           |
| Operating Fees and Services       | 366,032             | 341,514             |
| Travel                            | 3,586               | 198                 |
| Salaries                          | 3,982               | -                   |
| Insurance                         | 840                 | 779                 |
| Postage                           | 1,005               | 521                 |
| Printing                          | 351                 | 98                  |
| Conference Expenses               | 14                  | -                   |
| Fringe Benefits                   | 305                 | -                   |
| IT Contractual Services           | 159                 | 168                 |
| Professional Fees and Services    | 46,662              | 7,225               |
| Total Expenditures                | <u>\$ 1,657,762</u> | <u>\$ 1,651,389</u> |
| Revenue Over/(Under) Expenditures | <u>\$ 99,638</u>    | <u>\$ 7,142</u>     |

## Notes to the Financial Statement

### NOTE 1 | SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The responsibility for the financial statement, the internal control structure, and compliance with laws and regulations belongs to management of the North Dakota Dry Pea and Lentil Council. A summary of the significant accounting policies follows:

#### A. REPORTING ENTITY

For financial reporting purposes, the North Dakota Dry Pea and Lentil Council includes all funds, programs, and activities over which it is financially accountable. The North Dakota Dry Pea and Lentil Council does not have any component units as defined by the Government Accounting Standards Board. The North Dakota Dry Pea and Lentil Council is part of the state of North Dakota as a reporting entity.

The North Dakota Dry Pea and Lentil Council was established by North Dakota Century Code, section 4.1-07, and is responsible for funding research, education programs, and market development efforts. The North Dakota Dry Pea and Lentil Council may participate in programs under the auspices of the United States Dry Pea and Lentil Council. In addition, the North Dakota Dry Pea and Lentil Council shall develop and disseminate information regarding the purpose of the dry pea and lentil assessment and ways in which the assessment benefits dry pea and lentil producers. The North Dakota Dry Pea and Lentil Council receives its funding through an assessment of 1% of the net value of dry peas and lentils grown in the state or sold to a first purchaser. The North Dakota Dry Pea and Lentil Council operates on a continuing appropriation and received no funding from the State Legislature.

#### B. REPORTING STRUCTURE

The financial statement includes all activities of the reporting entity as defined above. These activities are funded from North Dakota Dry Pea and Lentil Council Fund. The comparative statement of revenues and expenditures is a combined statement to give the users an overview of the agency's activity.

#### C. BASIS OF PRESENTATION

North Dakota Century Code 4.1-44-04 requires certain commodity promotion groups to prepare a report for the legislative assembly. As part of this report the applicable commodity groups are required to prepare a single-page uniform statement of revenues and expenditures.



Revenues and expenditures on the comparative statement of revenues and expenditures are reported on the modified accrual basis of accounting which is generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP) for governmental fund types.

Under the modified accrual basis of accounting revenues are recognized when susceptible to accrual (i.e. measurable and available). Measurable means the amount can be determined, available means due and collectible within the current period or soon enough thereafter to be used to pay liabilities of the current period. Revenues are considered available if they are collected within a year after fiscal year end. Expenditures are recorded when goods or services are received. Exceptions include: principal and interest expenditures which are recorded when due and compensated absences which are recorded when paid.

#### **D. GAAP REPORTING DIFFERENCES**

GAAP financial statements would include a balance sheet. GAAP financial statements would also provide additional note disclosures.

#### **NOTE 2 | RELATED PARTIES**

The North Dakota Dry Pea and Lentil Council contracts with Northern Pulse Growers Association and the USA Dry Pea and Lentil Council to implement and administer programs intended to contribute to the betterment of the North Dakota dry pea and lentil industry. Such programs include, but are not limited to: research, education, publicity, promotion, and transportation. The Northern Pulse Growers Association also provides the North Dakota Dry Pea and Lentil Council with administrative, financial, and reporting services. Payments under the contracts with Northern Pulse Growers Association and with USA Dry Pea and Lentil Council for the two-year period ended June 30, 2024 were \$1,417,145 and \$981,900 respectively.

#### **NOTE 3 | OTHER SIGNIFICANT ITEMS**

Council has cash and investment reserves of \$1,309,504.80 and \$1,492,645.30 at June 30, 2024 and June 30, 2023, respectively. Based on the average monthly expenditures for fiscal years 2024 and 2023, this amount represents approximately 9.48 and 10.85 months of expenditures, respectively.





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**Report on Internal Control Over  
Financial Reporting and on Compliance and Other Matters Based  
on an Audit of Financial Statements Performed in Accordance  
With Government Auditing Standards**

Independent Auditor's Report

Members of the Legislative Assembly

Members of the North Dakota Dry Pea and Lentil Council

Kim Saueressig, North Dakota Dry Pea and Lentil Council Chairman

We have audited, in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards* issued by the Comptroller General of the United States, the Comparative Statement of Revenues and Expenditures of the North Dakota Dry Pea and Lentil Council, for the two-year period ended June 30, 2024, and the related notes to the financial statement and have issued our report thereon dated December 2, 2024.

**Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting**

In planning and performing our audit of the financial statement, we considered North Dakota Dry Pea and Lentil Council's internal control over financial reporting (internal control) as a basis for designing audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances for the purpose of expressing our opinion on the financial statement, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the North Dakota Dry Pea and Lentil Council's internal control. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the North Dakota Dry Pea and Lentil Council's internal control.

*A deficiency in internal control* exists when the design or operation of a control does not allow management or employees, in the normal course of performing their assigned functions, to prevent, or detect and correct, misstatements on a timely basis. *A material weakness* is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control, such that there is a reasonable possibility that a material misstatement of the entity's financial statement will not be prevented, or detected and corrected on a timely basis. *A significant deficiency* is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies,

in internal control that is less severe than a material weakness, yet important enough to merit attention by those charged with governance.

Our consideration of internal control was for the limited purpose described in the first paragraph of this section and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control that might be material weaknesses or significant deficiencies. Given these limitations, during our audit we did not identify any deficiencies in internal control that we consider to be material weaknesses. However, material weaknesses or significant deficiencies may exist that have not been identified.

### **Report on Compliance and Other Matters**

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the North Dakota Dry Pea and Lentil Council's financial statement is free of material misstatement, we performed tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements, noncompliance with which could have a direct and material effect on the financial statement. However, providing an opinion on compliance with those provisions was not an objective of our audit, and accordingly, we do not express such an opinion. The results of our tests disclosed no instances of noncompliance or other matters that are required to be reported under *Government Auditing Standards*.

### **Purpose of this Report**

The purpose of this report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control or on compliance. This report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the entity's internal control and compliance. Accordingly, this communication is not suitable for any other purpose.

/S/

Joshua C. Gallion  
State Auditor  
Bismarck, ND  
December 2, 2024



NORTH DAKOTA STATE AUDITOR  
JOSHUA C. GALLION


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