

WSR 21-11-041
EXPEDITED RULES
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
(Pulse Crops Commission)
[Filed May 12, 2021, 4:31 p.m.]

Title of Rule and Other Identifying Information: Chapter 16-536 WAC, Washington pulse crops commission. This is the marketing order for Washington pulse crops.

Purpose of the Proposal and Its Anticipated Effects, Including Any Changes in Existing Rules: This rule making amends the Washington pulse crops commission marketing order by (1) removing term limits; (2) changing the terms "dry peas and lentils" to "pulse crops"; and (3) adding public records request procedures.

Reasons Supporting Proposal: Increased state government requirements make it difficult to seat a volunteer board. Removing term limits allows board members to seek appointment to more than two terms. This will allow the commission to retain knowledge and provide continuity in order to direct the commission and carry out the purposes of the marketing order. In addition, RCW 42.56.040 requires agencies to publish its procedures regarding public disclosure requests.

Statutory Authority for Adoption: RCW 15.65.047, 42.56.040; and chapter 34.05 RCW.

Statute Being Implemented: Chapters 15.65 and 42.56 RCW.

Rule is not necessitated by federal law, federal or state court decision.

Name of Proponent: Washington pulse crops commission and the Washington state department of agriculture, governmental.

Name of Agency Personnel Responsible for Drafting: Teresa Norman, Olympia, 360-902-2043; Implementation and Enforcement: Tim McGreevy, Pullman, 208-882-3023.

Agency Comments or Recommendations, if any, as to Statutory Language, Implementation, Enforcement, and Fiscal Matters: None.

This notice meets the following criteria to use the expedited adoption process for these rules:

Relates only to internal governmental operations that are not subject to violation by a person.

Corrects typographical errors, make address or name changes, or clarify language of a rule without changing its effect; and

Content is explicitly and specifically dictated by statute.

Explanation of the Reason the Agency Believes the Expedited Rule-Making Process is Appropriate: Using the expedited rule-making process is appropriate because the subject matter does not rise to the importance of a referendum of affected producers.

NOTICE

THIS RULE IS BEING PROPOSED UNDER AN EXPEDITED RULE-MAKING PROCESS THAT WILL ELIMINATE THE NEED FOR THE AGENCY TO HOLD PUBLIC HEARINGS, PREPARE A SMALL BUSINESS ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT, OR PROVIDE RESPONSES TO THE CRITERIA FOR A SIGNIFICANT LEGISLATIVE RULE. IF YOU OBJECT TO THIS USE OF THE EXPEDITED RULE-MAKING PROCESS, YOU MUST EXPRESS YOUR OBJECTIONS IN WRITING AND THEY MUST BE SENT TO Teresa Norman, Washington State Department of Agriculture, P.O. Box 42560, Olympia, WA 98504-2560, phone 360-902-2043, fax 360-902-2092, email tnorman@agr.wa.gov, AND RECEIVED BY July 20, 2021.

May 12, 2021
Derek I. Sandison

OTS-3004.1

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 16-15-004, filed 7/7/16, effective 8/7/16)

WAC 16-536-020 The pulse crops board. (1) **Administration.** The provisions of this order and the applicable provisions of the act shall be administered and enforced by the board as the designee of the director.

(2) **Board membership.**

(a) The board shall consist of ten members. Eight members shall be affected producers appointed as provided in this marketing order. One member shall be an affected handler appointed as provided in this marketing order. The director shall appoint one member of the board who is neither an affected producer nor an affected handler to represent the director. The position representing the director shall be a voting member.

(b) For the purpose of nomination and appointment of producer members of the board, the affected area of the state of Washington shall be divided into four representative districts as follows:

(i) District I shall have three board members, being positions 1, 2 and 3 and shall include the county of Whitman.

(ii) District II shall have two board members, being positions 4 and 5 and shall include the county of Spokane.

(iii) District III shall have one board member being position 6 and shall include the counties of Walla Walla, Garfield, Columbia and Asotin.

(iv) District IV shall have two board members, being positions 7 and 8 and shall include all other counties of the state of Washington: Provided, That the addition of another member, being position 8, shall not become effective until approved by a referendum vote of the affected commercial wrinkled pea seed producers.

(3) **Board membership qualifications.**

(a) The producer members of the board must be practical producers of pulse crops in the district in and for which they are nominated and appointed and each shall be a citizen and resident of the state, over the age of eighteen years. Each producer board member must be and have been actually engaged in producing pulse crops within the state of Washington for a period of five years and has during that time derived a substantial portion of his or her income therefrom and is not engaged in business, directly or indirectly, as a handler or other dealer.

(b) The handler member of the board must be a practical handler of pulse crops and shall be a citizen and resident of the state, over the age of eighteen years. The handler board member must be and have been, either individually or as an officer or an employee of a corporation, firm, partnership, association or cooperative actually engaged in handling pulse crops within the state of Washington for a period of five years and has during that period derived a substantial portion of his or her income therefrom.

(c) The qualifications of members of the board must continue during their term of office.

(4) **Term of office.**

(a) The term of office for members of the board shall be three years, and one-third of the membership as nearly as possible shall be appointed each year.

(b) Membership positions on the board shall be designated numerically; affected producers shall have positions one through eight, the affected handler shall have position nine and the member representing the director position ten.

(c) The term of office for the initial board members shall be as follows:

Positions seven, eight, nine, and ten - One year

Positions four, five and six - Two years

Positions one, two, and three - Three years

(d) ~~((Except for the director's representative, no appointed member of the board may serve more than two full consecutive three-year terms.~~

~~(e))~~ To accomplish the transition to a commodity board structure where the director appoints a majority of the board members, the names of the currently elected board members shall be forwarded to the director for appointment within thirty days of the effective date of this amended marketing order.

(5) **Nomination of director-appointed board members.**

(a) For the purpose of nominating candidates for appointment to board membership the director shall call separate meetings of affected producers and affected handlers.

(b) Each year the director shall call a nomination meeting for director-appointed board members in those districts whose board members term is about to expire. The meeting(s) shall be held at least thirty days in advance of the date set by the director for the advisory vote of board members.

(c) Notice of a nomination meeting shall be published in newspapers of general circulation within the affected district not less than ten days in advance of the date of such meeting and in addition, written notice of every such meeting shall be given to all affected producers within such affected district and handlers according to the list maintained by the board pursuant to RCW 15.65.295.

(d) Nonreceipt of notice by any interested person shall not invalidate the proceedings at a nomination meeting.

(e) Any qualified affected producer or handler may be nominated orally for membership on the board at a nomination meeting. Nominations may also be made within five days after the meeting by written petition filed with the director signed by not less than five affected producers or affected handlers.

(f) If the board moves and the director approves that the nomination meeting procedure be deleted, the director shall give notice of the open board position(s) by mail to all affected producers and handlers. Nominating petitions for producers and handlers shall be signed by not less than five affected producers and handlers. Final date for filing nominations shall be not less than twenty days after the notice was mailed.

(g) When only one nominee is nominated for a director-appointed position, RCW 15.65.250 shall apply.

(6) **Advisory vote of board members.**

(a) An advisory vote shall be conducted by secret ballot under the supervision of the director within the month of May. Each affected producer and affected handler shall be entitled to one vote.

(b) An advisory vote shall be conducted for board members appointed by the director under the provisions of RCW 15.65.243. The names of the two candidates receiving the most votes in the advisory vote shall be forwarded to the director for potential appointment to the board. In the event there are only two candidates nominated for a board position, an advisory vote may not be held and the candidates' names shall be forwarded to the director for potential appointment.

(c) Notice of every advisory vote for board membership shall be published in a newspaper of general circulation within the affected district not less than ten days in advance of the date of the advisory vote. Not less than ten days prior to every advisory vote for board membership, the director shall mail a ballot of the candidates to each affected producer and affected handler entitled to vote whose name appears upon the list of such affected producers and affected handlers maintained by the board pursuant to RCW 15.65.295. Any other affected producer or affected handler entitled to vote may obtain a ballot by application to the director upon establishing his or her qualifications.

(d) Nonreceipt of a ballot by an affected producer or affected handler shall not invalidate the advisory vote of any board member.

(7) **Vacancies.** In the event of a vacancy in a director-appointed position, the position shall be filled as specified in RCW 15.65.270.

(8) **Quorum.** A majority of the members shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of all business and the carrying out of all duties of the board.

(9) **Board compensation.** No member of the board shall receive any salary or other compensation, but each member may be compensated in accordance with RCW 43.03.230 and shall be reimbursed for subsistence, lodging, and mileage in accordance with RCW 43.03.050 and 43.03.060, as provided for in RCW 15.65.270. The board may adopt by resolution provisions for reimbursement of actual travel expenses incurred by members and employees of the board in carrying out the provisions of this marketing order pursuant to RCW 15.65.270.

(10) **Powers and duties of the board.** The board shall have the following powers and duties:

(a) To administer, enforce and control the provisions of this order as the designee of the director.

(b) To elect a chairman and such other officers as the board deems advisable.

(c) To employ and discharge at its discretion such personnel, including attorneys engaged in the private practice of law subject to the approval and supervision of the attorney general, as the board determines are necessary and proper to carry out the purpose of the order and effectuate the declared policies of the act.

(d) To pay only from moneys collected as assessments or advances thereon the costs arising in connection with the formulation, issuance, administration and enforcement of the order. Such expenses and costs may be paid by check, draft or voucher in such form and in such manner and upon the signature of the person as the board may prescribe.

(e) To reimburse any applicant who has deposited money with the director in order to defray the costs of formulating the order: Provided, That the total reimbursement to all applicants shall not exceed two thousand dollars.

(f) To establish a "pulse crops board marketing revolving fund" and such fund to be deposited in a bank or banks or financial institution or institutions, approved for the deposit of state funds, in

which all money received by the board, except as the amount of petty cash for each day's needs, not to exceed one hundred dollars, shall be deposited each day or as often during the day as advisable.

(g) To keep or cause to be kept in accordance with accepted standards of good accounting practice, accurate records of all assessments, collections, receipts, deposits, withdrawals, disbursements, paid outs, moneys and other financial transactions made and done pursuant to this order. Such records, books and accounts shall be audited at least annually subject to procedures and methods lawfully prescribed by the state auditor. Such books and accounts shall be closed as of the last day of each fiscal year of the state of Washington. A copy of such audit shall be delivered within thirty days after the completion thereof to the governor, the director, the state auditor and the board.

(h) To require a bond of all board members and employees of the board in a position of trust in the amount the board shall deem necessary. The premium for such bond or bonds shall be paid by the board from assessments collected. Such bond shall not be necessary if any such board member or employee is covered by any blanket bond covering officials or employees of the state of Washington.

(i) To prepare a budget or budgets covering anticipated income and expenses to be incurred in carrying out the provisions of the order during each fiscal year. The board, at least fifteen days prior to the beginning of its fiscal year, shall prepare and submit to the director for approval its research plan, its commodity-related education and training plan, and its budget.

(j) To establish by resolution, a headquarters which shall continue as such unless and until so changed by the board. All records, books and minutes of board meetings shall be kept at such headquarters.

(k) To adopt rules of a technical or administrative nature for the operation of the board, subject to the provisions of chapter 34.05 RCW (Administrative Procedure Act).

(l) To carry out the provisions of RCW 15.65.510 covering the obtaining of information necessary to effectuate the provisions of the order and the act, along with the necessary authority and procedure for obtaining such information.

(m) To bring actions or proceedings upon joining the director as a party for specific performance, restraint, injunction or mandatory injunction against any person who violates or refuses to perform the obligations or duties imposed upon him by the act or order.

(n) To confer with and cooperate with the legally constituted authorities of other states and of the United States for the purpose of obtaining uniformity in the administration of federal and state marketing regulations, licenses, agreements or orders.

(o) To carry out any other grant of authority or duty provided designees and not specifically set forth in this section.

(p) To work cooperatively with other local, state, and federal agencies; universities; and national organizations for the purposes provided in this order.

(q) To enter into contracts or interagency agreements with any private or public agency, whether federal, state, or local. Personal service contracts must comply with chapter 39.29 RCW.

(r) To accept and expend or retain any gifts, bequests, contributions, or grants from private persons or private and public agencies.

(s) To enter into contracts or agreements for research in the production, irrigation, processing, transportation, marketing, use, or distribution of pulse crops.

(t) To retain in emergent situations the services of private legal counsel to conduct legal actions on behalf of the commission. The retention of a private attorney is subject to review by the office of the attorney general.

(u) To engage in appropriate fund-raising activities for the purpose of supporting activities authorized by this order.

(v) To participate in international, federal, state, and local hearings, meetings, and other proceedings relating to the production, irrigation, manufacture, regulation, transportation, distribution, sale, or use of pulse crops including activities authorized under RCW 42.17.190, including the reporting of those activities to the public disclosure commission.

(w) To maintain a list of the names and addresses of affected producers that may be compiled from information used to collect assessments under the provisions of this marketing order and data on the value of each producer's production for a minimum three-year period pursuant to RCW 15.65.280.

(x) To maintain a list of the names and addresses of persons who handle pulse crops within the affected area and data on the amount and value of the (~~dry peas and lentils~~) pulse crops handled for a minimum three-year period by each person pursuant to RCW 15.65.280.

(y) To maintain a list of the names and addresses of all affected persons who produce pulse crops and the amount, by unit, of pulse crops produced during the past three years pursuant to RCW 15.65.295.

(z) To maintain a list of all persons who handle pulse crops and the amount of pulse crops handled by each person during the past three years pursuant to RCW 15.65.295.

(aa) To establish a foundation using commission funds as grant money for the purposes established in this marketing order.

(11) Procedures for board.

(a) The board shall hold regular meetings with the time and date thereof to be fixed by resolution of the board and the meetings shall be held in accordance with chapter 42.30 RCW (Open Public Meetings Act). The notice of the time and place of regular meetings shall be published on or before January of each year in the *Washington State Register*. Notice of any change to the meeting schedule shall be published in the state register at least twenty days prior to the rescheduled meeting date.

(b) The board shall hold an annual meeting, at which time an annual report will be presented. The proposed budget shall be presented for discussion at the meeting. Notice of the annual meeting shall be given by the board at least ten days prior to the meeting through regular wire news services and radio-television press.

(c) The board may call special meetings as provided under RCW 42.30.080.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 15.65.047, 15.65.050, and chapter 34.05 RCW. WSR 16-15-004, § 16-536-020, filed 7/7/16, effective 8/7/16. Statutory Authority: RCW 15.65.047 and chapter 34.05 RCW. WSR 04-17-021, § 16-536-020, filed 8/9/04, effective 9/9/04. Statutory Authority: RCW 15.65.050. WSR 95-17-117 (Order 5079), § 16-536-020, filed 8/23/95, effective 9/23/95. Statutory Authority: Chapter 15.65 RCW. WSR 82-15-020 (Order 1768), § 16-536-020, filed 7/13/82; Marketing Order Article II, §§ A through K, filed 3/26/65.]

NEW SECTION

WAC 16-536-090 Description, address, and telephone number of the Washington pulse crops commission. Headquartered at 2780 W. Pullman Road, Moscow, Idaho 83843, the Washington pulse crops commission serves Washington pulse crops producers by supporting the pulse crops industry in the areas of marketing, education, and research. The telephone number is 208-882-3023.

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NEW SECTION

WAC 16-536-100 Public records officer. (1) The commission's public records shall be in the charge of the public records officer designated by the commission. The commission or its executive director may appoint a temporary public records officer to serve during the absence of the designated records officer. The public records officer shall be responsible for implementing the commission's rules regarding disclosure of public records, coordination of staff regarding disclosure of public records, and generally ensuring compliance by staff with public records disclosure requirements.

(2) The name of the commission's current public records officer is on file with the office of the code reviser in accordance with RCW 42.56.580 and is published in the *Washington State Register*.

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NEW SECTION

WAC 16-536-110 Request for public records. (1) All requests for disclosure of public records must be submitted in writing directly to the commission's public records officer by mail to Washington Pulse Crops Commission, 2780 W. Pullman Road, Moscow, Idaho 83843. The request may also be submitted by email to: eaune@usapulses.org. The written request must include:

(a) The name, address, and telephone number or other contact information of the person requesting the records;

(b) The calendar date on which the request is made; and

(c) Sufficient information to readily identify records being requested.

(2) Any person wishing to inspect the commission's public records may make an appointment with the public records officer to inspect the records at the commission office during regular business hours. In order to adequately protect the commission's public records, the following will apply:

(a) Public records made available for inspection may not be removed from the area the commission makes available for inspection;

(b) Inspection of any public record will be conducted in the presence of the public records officer or designee;

(c) Public records may not be marked or altered in any manner during the inspection; and

(d) The commission has the discretion to designate the means and the location for the inspection of records. The viewing of those records that require specialized equipment shall be limited to the availability of that equipment located at the commission's office and the availability of authorized staff to operate that equipment.

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NEW SECTION

WAC 16-536-115 Response to public records requests. (1) The public records officer shall respond to public records requests within five business days by:

- (a) Making the records available for inspection or copying;
 - (b) Providing a link or address for a record available on the internet under RCW 42.56.520;
 - (c) Acknowledging receipt of the request and providing a reasonable estimate of the time the commission will require to respond to the request;
 - (d) Sending the copies to the requestor if copies are requested and payment of a deposit for the copies is made or terms of payment have been agreed upon; or
 - (e) Denying the public records request. Responses refusing in whole or in part the inspection of a public record shall include a statement of the specific exemption authorizing withholding of the record, or any part of the record, and a brief explanation of how the exemption applies to the record withheld or to any redactions in records produced.
- (2) Additional time to respond to the request may be based upon the need to:
- (a) Clarify the intent of the request;
 - (b) Locate and assemble the information requested;
 - (c) Notify persons or agencies affected by the request; or
 - (d) Determine whether any of the information requested is exempt from disclosure and that a denial should be made as to all or part of the request.
- (3) In acknowledging receipt of a public records request that is unclear, the public records officer may ask the requestor to clarify what records the requestor is seeking. The public records officer is not obligated to provide further response if the requestor fails to clarify the request.
- (4) In the event the requested records name a specific person or pertain to a specific person and may be exempt from disclosure, the commission may, prior to providing the records, give notice to others whose rights may be affected by the disclosure. Sufficient notice will be given to allow affected persons to seek an order from a court to prevent or limit the disclosure. The notice to the affected persons will include a copy of the request.

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NEW SECTION

WAC 16-536-120 Fees—Inspection and copying. (1) No fee will be charged for the inspection of public records.

(2) Pursuant to RCW 42.56.120(2), the commission declares for the following reasons that it would be unduly burdensome for it to calculate the actual costs it charges for providing copies of public records: Funds were not allocated for performing a study to calculate actual costs and the commission lacks the necessary funds to perform a study and calculations; staff resources are insufficient to perform a study and to calculate such actual costs; and a study would interfere with and disrupt other essential agency functions.

(3) The commission may charge fees for production of copies of public records consistent with the fee schedule established in RCW 42.56.120. For all copying or duplicating service charges incurred, an invoice will be sent to the requestor. Reimbursement is payable within fifteen days of receipt of invoice payable to the Washington pulse crops commission. The commission may require that all charges be paid in advance of release of the copies of the records.

(4) The commission or its designee may waive any of the foregoing copying costs.

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NEW SECTION

WAC 16-536-125 Exemptions. The commission's public records are available for disclosure except as otherwise provided under chapter 42.56 RCW or any other law. Requestors should be aware of the following exemptions to public disclosure specific to commission records. This list is not exhaustive and other exemptions may apply:

(1) Production or sales records required to determine assessment levels and actual assessment payments to the commission under chapter 15.65 RCW (reference RCW 42.56.380(3)).

(2) Financial and commercial information and records supplied by persons:

(a) To the commission for the purpose of conducting a referendum for the establishment of the commission; or

(b) To the commission under chapter 15.65 RCW with respect to domestic or export marketing activities or individual producer's production information (reference RCW 42.56.380(5)).

(3) Lists of individuals requested for commercial purposes (reference RCW 42.56.070(8)).

(4) Records that are relevant to a controversy to which the commission is a party but which records would not be available to another party under the rules of pretrial discovery for causes pending in the superior courts, including records involving attorney-client communications between the commission and the office of the attorney general (reference RCW 5.60.060(2) and 42.56.290).

(5) Credit card numbers, debit card numbers, electronic check numbers, card expiration dates, or bank or other financial account numbers, except when disclosure is expressly required or governed by other law (reference RCW 42.56.230(5)).

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NEW SECTION**WAC 16-536-130 Review of denial of public records requests.** (1)

Any person who objects to the initial denial of a request to copy or inspect public records may petition the commission for review of such decision by submitting a written request to the commission. The request shall specifically refer to the statement which constituted or accompanied the denial.

(2) The commission's executive director or designee shall immediately consider the matter and either affirm or reverse the denial within ten business days following the commission's receipt of the written request for review of the original denial.

(3) Under RCW 42.56.530, if the commission denies a requestor access to public records because it claims the record is exempt in whole or in part from disclosure, the requestor may request the attorney general's office to review the matter.

(4) Any person may obtain court review of a denial of a public records request under RCW 42.56.550.

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NEW SECTION

WAC 16-536-135 Records index. The commission shall establish a records index, which shall be made available for public review. The index includes the following records:

- (1) Commission authorizing statute;
- (2) Commission marketing order;
- (3) Minutes of commission meetings;
- (4) Commission board roster; and
- (5) List of marketing, education, and research projects.

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