

Oklahoma Senate Committee on Appropriations

2013-14 Performance Report

Oklahoma Peanut Commission

AGENCY MISSION STATEMENT:

The Oklahoma Peanut Commission was created in 1965; its mission is “to enhance the viability of Oklahoma peanut producers through promotion, education and research efforts.” The OPC was the state’s first “check-off” board, uniquely governed and voluntarily funded by producers to engage in various education and promotional activities to encourage the production and sale of peanuts, as well as research to develop more efficient and profitable production practices for peanuts.

The Commission receives **no-appropriated funds**.

LEAD ADMINISTRATOR:

James M. (Mike) Kubicek, Executive Director, P.O. Box 1949, Shawnee, OK 74802. 405-275-5994 office; 405-878-0887 fax; okpeanut@sbcglobal.net

GOVERNANCE:

The Oklahoma Peanut Commission is governed by six (6) peanut producers (two from each of the state’s three production districts) nominated by their peers and appointed by the Governor for a three (3) year term. Current board members from Dist 1 are Anthony Reed (Thackerville) and Mike Mayes (Leon); Dist 2 are John Clay (Carnegie) – Secretary and Duane Stevens (Anadarko); Dist 3 are Joe D. White (Frederick) – Chairman and Leslie D. Crall (Weatherford), Vice-Chair.

The Board’s officers collectively function as the “executive committee”.

GOVERNANCE ACCOUNTABILITY:

Is there an attendance policy for board members/commissioners? If so, is it being followed?

The following attendance policy language is being followed: “A member of the OPC may cease to hold his or her position on the Commission for the following reasons, at the discretion of a majority of the Commission, upon resolution duly adopted by the Commission dismissing such member: 1. Failure to attend two or more regular meetings of the Commission.”

MODERNIZATION EFFORTS:

Please provide a listing of all government modernization efforts undertaken by the agency since July 1, 2010. (All that has been mandated) Additionally, please provide any authorizing statutory changes that prompted the modernization efforts and whether those efforts have led to cost savings or additional cost burden. (N/A)

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What steps has the agency taken to cut costs and/or eliminate waste? Are there efforts that have been successful which you believe could serve as a model for other state agencies seeking to keep costs minimal?

The Commission has a solid track record of efficiency of operation. Perhaps most effective has been the combination of producer education meetings to save time and resources while providing higher quality programs. For example, 12 spring (two hour) production meetings evolved into a day-long Oklahoma Peanut Expo which draws participants from multiple states and provides a venue for national headliner speakers....with a cost to the Commission equal to only one of the former meetings.

CORE MISSION:

What services are you required to provide which are outside of your core mission? Are any services you provide duplicated or replicated by another agency? Are there services which are core to your mission which you are unable to perform because of requirements to perform non-core services elsewhere?

With all due respect and as delicately as I may respond....all non-appropriated ag commodity Boards & Commissions are over-burdened with multiple "response requests", "surveys" and other 'non-mission' mandates and so-called modernization efforts by the State, throughout the year. Thus taking valuable time and effort away from core functions of those Commissions. Due to limited producer dollars, these commissions cannot (and should not) hire additional staff to deal with the ever-growing bureaucracy. Sadly, there appears to be no relief when contacting the requesting agency or legislative personnel....since they have been hired for that very function....in other words, their job depends on this sort of activity. A "common sense" policy or "exemption" option needs to be considered for Ag boards and commissions due to their specific missions, funding sources and limitations.

Back to the core mission....The Oklahoma Peanut Commission has an excellent track record spanning five decades, addressing the needs and challenges facing the state peanut producers; and is recognized nationally for its leadership and effectiveness. No other agency duplicates its efforts. The Commission is a non-appropriated agency....voluntarily funded by producers and governed by volunteer leaders that give of their time, talents and often their resources on behalf of the farmers they represent. During its history, the Commission has been lead by only two Executives.

PRIVATE ALTERNATIVES:

Are any of the services which are performed by the agency also performed in the private sector in Oklahoma? (No) In other states? (No) Has the agency been approached by any foundation, for-profit or not-for-profit corporation with efforts to privatize some of the functions of the agency? (No)