

UELRR Advisory Committee Meeting

Meeting of October 8, 2008

MINUTES

The UELRR Advisory Committee met in conjunction with the LATA Conference at the Holiday Inn in Gonzales, LA on Wednesday, October 8, 2008 at one o'clock p.m. (1:00 p.m.)

Committee Members present were: Chairman, Mark West, Cynthia Bridges, Cynthia Boudreaux, Henri Louapre and Roy Austin.

Chairman West declared the meeting duly convened at 1:06 p.m.

Cynthia Bridges made a motion to adopt the minutes from Advisory Committee meeting of September 25, 2008 and the committee all approved the motion with one change, correct spelling of Mr. Domangue's name. Minutes were adopted.

The following agenda items were discussed by the committee:

- 1.) System went LIVE on October 1, 2008 – Update from RAMware.
 - Banking Questions
 - A lot of activity
 - Larger companies asking for ACH Credit
 - 300 registered users – more than returns filed (Returns aren't due until the 20th)
 - Marketing is going well – Picked up by the Associated Press after system went live
 - Very positive feedback
 - LED is interested in promoting Parish E-file
- 2.) Lafourche Parish – ACH Credit Update
 - Mr. Domangue's office has sent all of their banking information.
 - Had a conference call with Mr. Domangue and their bank and this increased Mr. Domangue's confidence with the ACH Credit process.
- 3.) St. Bernard Parish Return - Update
 - Telling taxpayers that they cannot file on the system.
 - Debra is meeting with the Sheriff today to have the new return approved. Return has 16 lines and the UTC calls for 26 lines on the return. Can hopefully be resolved with today's meeting.
 - Debra has been working with RAMware and has been very cooperative in getting this matter resolved. Entire collection system needs to be changed. Handout of new return supplied to the committee.

4.) Validation of Account Number and Filing Frequency – Update

- The taxpayers information is sent to a web service who then sends a message to the taxpayer to verify the account information and filing frequency per return.
- In discussing the cost of this, Rick Medesskie offered that maybe there should be a not to exceed amount of about \$2800 per parish for a one time fee of using this keeping in mind that each parish will have different needs that will affect cost. Cynthia Bridges added that she is still proposing including the cost into the state's budget request for about \$2500 for about 60 parishes. Cynthia will check the budget and report back. Rick will check with the software vendors.
- Pilot program (Jefferson)
- Could take longer to implement if parishes don't have internal IT Staff to help
- Questions were posed to Rick about parishes entering wrong account information into the system and he said that the information would be rejected. Most are putting in the state's tax ID number.

5.) Orleans

- Subcommittee met yesterday to discuss the interest calculation. Orleans believes their home rule charter should rule over the UTC which states that interest should be calculated daily rather than monthly. The committee has requested a copy of the legal opinion drafted by Orleans. Ms. Romy Samuel informed the committee that the city attorney has not signed the opinion yet but will send it as soon as it is signed.
- Roy Austin asked that the city please try to provide the opinion to the committee by October 17, 2008. Cynthia Boudreaux seconded Mr. Austin's request. Ms. Samuel will send the opinion to Secretary Bridges and Chairman West.
- System is currently calculating the interest monthly.
- Negligence Penalty – After 60 days and the system is calculating
- West suggests that we allow the negligence penalty until the uniform paper return is finished and then re-address at that time. Ms. Samuel stated that it is in their law to be able to collect this penalty as they collect for the school board and RTA systems and it will cost the city extra resources and cost to make the changes required to change to the daily interest calculation.

6.) Joint Effort Statement on Website

- Promotions
- Business and Industry joint cooperation.
- Cynthia Bridges will work up something to circulate to the committee at the next meeting.

7.) Dedicated Telephone Line for Parish E-file Help Desk

- Parish E-file Technical Support for Locals and Businesses
- Should be operational by next week
- Technical support will give any additional phone numbers if needed.

Other topics discussed were that the Hotel/Motel feature will be operational this month. Putting a Parish E-File link on the LATA website was discussed and agreed upon. The rates from the Parish E-File website will be used to keep the numbers up to date. Also, the URL address may be changing to Parish E-file.gov but will still be able to access if .com or .org are entered.

The next Advisory Committee Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, November 13, 2008 at 10:00 a.m., at the Louisiana Department of Revenue.

There being no further agenda items or public comments Chairman West made a motion to adjourn the meeting and the committee seconded the motion. Chairman West then carried that the meeting be adjourned at 2:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Mark West, Chairman