

UELRR Advisory Committee Meeting

Meeting of November 13, 2008

MINUTES

The UELRR Advisory Committee met at the Louisiana Department of Revenue on Thursday, November 13, 2008 at ten thirty a.m. (10:30 a.m.)

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

Chairman West declared the meeting duly convened at 10:42 a.m.

Cynthia Boudreaux made a motion to adopt the minutes from Advisory Committee meeting of October 8, 2008, Henri Louapre seconded and the committee all approved the motion. Minutes were adopted.

The following agenda items were discussed by the committee:

1.) Status Update on System from RAMware

- Everything is going well
- Making progress with banking issues. One parish (Grant)
- E. Feliciana Parish won't be able to handle on-line transactions
- RAMware held a training class as a refresher course on November 5, 2008 and had 20 participants. Will have another refresher training course at the LATA Annual Conference in December.
- Rick added that they will be contacting the CPA Society to hold a taxpayer training to help get the word out.
- Number looking good
- ACH Credit – Most are doing it right. About 10% filed on-line.
- Chairman West asked Rick about monitoring whose is actually using the system. Rick believes it can be done and added that the system could also be used for auditing as well if needed.
- RAMware polled Administrators for feedback about the system. Account validation was a main concern by responders. Questions were posed to Rick about parishes entering incorrect bank numbers and he said that banking issues are usually resolved by the bank and isn't necessarily reported to us.

2.) Occupancy (Hotel/Motel) Tax Update

- Went online as of November 1st (all but two parishes).
- Only parishes went live.

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

- Jefferson Parish Application is ready.
- Waiting for approval from the committee to turn it on. Chairman West asked about any negative side to turning it on and whether it would affect any other parishes if we turn it on. Rick assured the committee that it wouldn't affect them because it is only Jefferson's system. Will look at trying to help smaller parishes.
- Cynthia Bridges brought up the cost, saying that because the state is looking at major budget cuts she won't be able to include the cost in the Department's budget request and that the parishes may have to pay for their own system.
- Cynthia Boudreaux made a motion to allow Jefferson to be used as a pilot for the account validation and the committee all agreed.

4.) Orleans

- As of today, the legal opinion has not been received by the committee. Orleans confirmed today that the opinion is still awaiting signature by the City Attorney.
- Cynthia Bridges suggested that maybe the committee ought to submit something in writing since we have only had verbal communications with Orleans thus far. Henri made a motion that the committee send Orleans a notice informing them that the interest will be adjusted effective a certain date in accordance with the UTC if the committee does not receive a response in the near future. February 1st deadline was agreed upon after discussion. Letter will be signed by both Secretary Bridges and Chairman West. Christina Loftus will draft the letter.
- System is currently calculating the interest monthly.
- Negligence Penalty – After 60 days and the system is calculating
- Mark West made a chart of calculation assumptions to see if Orleans did change their interest calculation if they would really be losing money. West's chart was calculated three ways; daily (UTC), monthly and a side by side comparison of the UTC daily and Orleans' monthly calculations.
- Christina Loftus of LDR posed a question regarding Orleans' home rule charter. In that discussion, it was decided that LDR will have their attorney, Christina Loftus, investigate the home rule charter and will email the committee members with our findings as to its validity.

5.) Joint Effort Statement on Website

- About Us Link (legislation)
- Testimonials
- LATA Logo

The floor was opened up for discussion and other topics discussed were that the Parish E-File Information Cards should be made smaller to fit into envelopes. Jesse showed the committee the new information card and said that they should be coming in soon. The 800 number is live and is on the website. Push cards are being sent to new registrants and people who have user errors. Henri filled out 3 returns and asked about a default file date. He also had an issue with whether pennies should be rounded up. The Uniform Paper Return was discussed and Rick suggested waiting a while before introducing new changes.

The next Advisory Committee Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, December 11, 2008 at 8:30 a.m., and will be held in conjunction with the LATA Annual Conference in Lafayette, LA at the Hilton Lafayette on W. Pinhook Road.

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 12:11 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Mark West, Chairman