

UELRR Advisory Committee Meeting

Meeting of September 10, 2009

MINUTES

The UELRR Advisory Committee met at the Louisiana Department of Revenue on Thursday, September 10, 2009 at ten o'clock a.m. (10:00 a.m.)

Committee Members present were: Chairman, Mark West, Cynthia Boudreaux, Henri Louapre, Roy Austin (by phone) and Ted James (on behalf of) Cynthia Bridges.

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

Board Member Cynthia Boudreaux made a motion to adopt the minutes from Advisory Committee meeting of May 14, 2009, the motion was seconded by Henri Louapre and the committee all agreed. Minutes were adopted.

The following agenda items were discussed by the committee:

- 1.) Rick's Report – Status of a Modified Taxpayer Interface intended for Multi-Parish Filers
 - Doing research on a single consolidated return for all parishes. Each parish would be able to receive their return as normal without having to make changes to their collection system. Idea is to have rows instead of columns on the return.
 - Exemption lines – 16 A, B and C
 - TIFS – issues as far as reporting. Suggested reporting on a separate form. Chairman West, Rick Mekdessie and Niles Bollinger will talk to Carl Meche regarding the TIFS. Chairman West would like to discuss with some of the leaders at LATA and report back to the committee as he does believe that the committee has legal authority to make some of the changes proposed.
 - Non-Compliance – do not abide by the UTC

- 2.) Jefferson Parish
 - Hoping to mandate online filing for certain taxpayers that meet a certain threshold (\$5K).
 - Greg Rupert was concerned with the safeguards of the computer system and any faults it might have with regard to increased usage.
 - Greg Montagnino (LDR) provided a response to Jefferson Parish's inquiry. Chairman West provided Mr. Rupert with a copy of Mr. Montagnino's response and Greg Rupert was satisfied with the response.
 - Rick Mekdessie inquired of the view that business and industry had on this. Roy Austin responded that maybe some businesses may just not want to file electronically. Henri Louapre added that there are still some mom and pop businesses that are not computerized. Mr. Louapre also suggested giving taxpayers incentives to file online.

- Chairman West put in a call to Mr. Bob Rainer to get a legal stand point on Jefferson Parish's law felt it could be done and also added that it should be done by ordinance.

3.) Terrebone Parish

- Requested a change to Delinquent Penalty rate of 5% per month or \$10 whichever is greater.
- Chairman West suggested that the committee not adopt this change right now and that this should be approached from a systematic standpoint.
- Do they have statutory authority to do this or an ordinance? If the parish does have an ordinance then we need to look at the statute to see if Terrebone can do it.

4.) Change Notifications

- Previously the committee adopted a policy that any changes to the system at the local level needed to be submitted via a change request form to the committee for approval.
- Debra gets the notification and submits it for approval. Stacy Garrett of IT asked that Debra send the change request to both Rick Mekdessie and Niles Bollinger so that LDR stays in the loop on these requests as well.
- Rick Mekdessie offered to make a presentation at the Annual LATA Conference after Cyndi Boudeaux asked about where the form is on the website and Henri added that maybe we should inform the taxpayers about the form and the policy with regard to system changes.
- Some discussion with regard to the Second Amendment Holiday came up and Chairman West expressed some concern with regard to their sales tax return having some fields left blank.
- Layaway purchases also came up with regard to the sales tax holidays as well and how it should be reported. Chairman West asked if this should stay on the return for one month or leave it on the return every month. Rick will work on it.

5.) Public Comments

- RAMware has changed their name to E-Gov Systems.
- Rick also gave updated numbers for the system.
- Wal-Mart is on the system now and Rick is working with their IT Department.

The next Advisory Committee Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 11, 2010 at 10:00 AM, and will be at the Louisiana Department of Revenue, 2nd Floor Calcasieu Room.

There being no further agenda items or public comments Cyndi Boudreaux made a motion to adjourn the meeting and the committee seconded the motion. Chairman West then carried that the meeting be adjourned at 11:17 AM.

Respectfully submitted by:

Mark West, Chairman