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CamaUSA/GRM Interface Committee

Conference call meeting convened at 11:00 AM on 3/11/2010.

Members in attendance included Michael Cebulla, Gary Grossinger, Cheryl Grover, Angie Johnson, Michelle Bolen and Farley R. Grunig. Kevin Pullis was unable to attend.

Also in attendance Lana Johnson, Lucy Garding, and Nikki Pfannenstien representing ACS.

Review ACS Design and Price Quote for Enhancement 2009.16

This is the enhancement to replace the functionality lost when the CamaUSA user is no longer a user of the ACS tax system. The ACS design is proprietary and is not included with these minutes. Anyone desiring a copy of the design should contact ACS. Cost as designed of \$21,000.00. ACS reviewed the design. Questions submitted by Kevin in writing we reviewed. These questions included:

The original enhancement request included the functionality to manually maintain the new file ACS would be creating to contain the data imported from GRM. The design as presented by ACS does not include the ability to manually maintain the file. ACS explained that their design did not contain a single file for all the data. Instead several files were being created to mimic the ACS tax system files previously accessed by CamaUSA. Because tax system files were not maintainable through CamaUSA in the past, this functionality was not included in the design. Making the files manually maintainable would significantly increase the cost of this enhancement. The cost of making the files manually maintainable now compared to adding this functionality later would not be significantly different. Consensus of the committee is to forego the manual maintenance feature initially. If experience with the process proves that manual maintenance of the files is desirable then this functionality will be added in the future as a separate enhancement.

The original enhancement request included the functionality to be able to access the information imported from GRM through the Data Extract process in CamaUSA. This functionality is not included in the design presented by ACS. Again, this functionality was not included due to the file structure ACS will be using. Tax system files were not accessed by Data Extract in the past and the new files will not be under this design as presented.

The purge option listed in the design was by year. Again, the original enhancement request anticipated a single file containing the information imported by GRM. If a parcel was deleted in Cama USA then it was anticipated the information relating to that same parcel should be deleted from the GRM information file. However, because ACS will be using a different file structure than anticipated by the request, the ability to delete individual parcels will not be necessary.

The file structure created by CamaUSA will contain multiple years of information if the user imports multiple years from GRM. If the export file from GRM contains multiple years of data in a single file then the CamaUSA functionality will import the multiple years in a single processing. The limitation of how many years can be imported in a single processing will be determined by how many years of information can be populated to the flat file of GRM data that CamaUSA is accessing.

The Committee questioned why the design as presented did not include the list of programs this enhancement will allow to continue to function. Committee and ACS agreed this list should be added.

ACS requested the definition of "AccessYear" as used as a field definition in the flat file created by Steve Holthaus. This is the file ACS will access to populate the CamaUSA files created for this enhancement. Is AccessYear equivalent to ACS Assessment Year or to ACS Payable Year? Farley will contact Steve for clarification. (As per clarification from Steve, it is Assessment Year.)

Motion by Angie and seconded by Michelle to proceed with programming Enhancement 2009.16 for a cost of \$21,000 based on the design provided by ACS provided said design is modified to include a list of the CamaUSA programs this enhancement will enable to continue to function. Motion carried. Farley abstained. ACS will send Gary, Chair of the CamaUSA Advisory Committee, the formal approval for his signature.

Lana requested a decision from this Committee concerning a proposed fix to an issue with the Copy function in CamaUSA. The import file from GRM does not contain the choice code or an equivalent field. When a record is created in CamaUSA as the result of the import from GRM the classification and homestead fields are populated but the choice code remains blank. The Copy function in CamaUSA checks the classification code, homestead code, and choice code fields as part of the programs process. If the choice code field is blank the copy function generates a different result than if the choice code is not blank. When the transfer is executed from ACS tax to CamaUSA the choice code field is automatically maintained. To resolve the problem two options were considered. One would be to modify CamaUSA to ignore the choice code field when executing the Copy function. The other option would be to populate the choice code field with default information when the transfer from GRM to CamaUSA is executed. Because this issue only impacts counties utilizing GRM, the decision was made by consensus to correct the problem using the option that would only impact GRM users.

The choice code field will be zero filled when the import from GRM to CamaUSA is executed.

Lana reported, to the best of the knowledge of ACS, Enhancement 2006.04 and all Change Requests attached to it have been completed and are ready for general release. Lana requested the Committee authorize general release. Motion by Gary and seconded by Angie to authorized general release of Enhancement 2006.04 together with all Change Requests attached to Enhancement 2006.04. Motion carried.

Lana, Lucy, and Nikki left the meeting.

Review of Jeff Watkins' list of Manatron TFS with no MN Fault

TFS 3504

According to Jeff's 1/28 email this TFS is on hold and will require a Change Order. Farley has contacted Jeff for clarification if a Change Order is a Manatron internal document or if it is the same as the Change Request submitted by the users. This TFS was created because the users wanted an error report to be generated when the update to GRM from another vendor cama system was executed and there was a mismatch between the ClassCD, ComponentType and/or ValCD. This is similar to a report currently generated when CamaUSA updates to the ACS tax system. If Jeff responds that a Change Request from the users is required, Farley will prepare a Change Request for review by the Committee and then submit it to Manatron.

TFS 3567

Similar to TFS 3504 in that this is another edit of the import to GRM process. In this case the request is to edit the Ste Description field to insure that it is not imported as blank. If Jeff responds that a Change Request from the users is required, Farley will prepare a Change Request for review by the Committee and then submit it to Manatron.

TFS 4135

Jeff reported this item has been closed. Kevin confirmed that it has been closed.

TFS 5863

This TFS would add additional parameters to the CVI to optionally delete sites if they are not in the import XML. Due to issues currently being experience with CVI, this TFS should remain on hold. No Change Request will be filed at this time. If in the future, when the CVI rules are working and stabilized, the functionality covered by this TFS is deemed to be desirable a Change Request will be submitted.

Michelle left the meeting.

TFS 6457

The Committee is not 100% certain if they understand this TFS correctly. However it appears to relate to an issue with CamaUSA even though the notes mention City of St. Cloud – not a CamaUSA user. Angie explained that if you maintain an override value for land only in CamaUSA and the record has a non-agricultural classification, the import to GRM will fail. GRM will generate an error message indicating that a Green Acres land value is required. However, Green Acres is not applicable on a non-agricultural record. Farley will write up a Change Order based on Angie's explanation.

TFS 8726

Jeff reported this item as now closed.

TFS 9028

Jeff reported this item as now closed.

TFS 17785

Jeff reported this item as now closed.

The next meeting of the Committee will be held when there are sufficient issues to warrant a meeting.

No further business.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Farley R. Grunig, for the CamaUSA/GRM Interface Committee