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CamaUSA/GRM Interface Committee

Conference call meeting convened at 8:30 AM on 1/27/2010

Members on the call included Michael Cebulla, Kevin Pullis, Gary Grossinger, Cheryl Grover, Angie Johnson, Michelle Bolen and Farley R. Grunig.

Others on the call included Lana Johnson and Lucy Garding, both representing ACS.

Agenda

The tentative agenda was reviewed. Item 3F was added for discussion concerning including income approach generated values in the CamaUSA extract file. Item 4e was added for discussion concerning class code 320, golf courses, with buildings.

ACS Enhancement 2006.04 Change Request 4 (2a/2b detail)

This change request is at beta. Mike reported that the only issue identified to date in beta test is a missing "s" in one of the tags. The tag for woods and timber acres currently is missing the "s" at the end of acres. ACS will fix and send out the new beta release.

Limiting 2a/2b detail information to agricultural records

The original design for this Change Request provided that the CamaUSA extract file is to include the sitevaluetype for all records regardless of the property tax classification. Manatron had been contacted before the design was approved to verify that this was acceptable. It was. However, the testers have noted that this results in agricultural sitevaluetype information on non-agricultural sites in GRM. It is anticipated this will cause confusion for those utilizing public access and may also be confusing for county staff. Motion by Gary and seconded by Michelle to request a design and estimate from ACS for modifying the CamaUSA export file process to exclude all 2a/2b land detail sitevaluetype information and tillable land information for non-agricultural records from the CamaUSA export file. Non-agricultural records will be identified by having any GRM classification code that is not in the 200-299 series. Motion carried. This will be Enhancement 2006.04 Change Request 8. When ACS has the design and estimate ready it will be distributed to the members for review. If there are no questions or issues requiring a meeting, a vote will be taken by email on whether or not to proceed with programming.

Farley will email Jeff Watkins to confirm that using the 200 to 299 GRM class code reference in the ACS extract file process is not an infringement on Manatron's proprietary information.

ACS Enhancement 2006.04 Change Request 5 (change date)

Mike has been beta testing and reported that this change is functioning as requested for roll types R and P. For roll type M Stearns County is of the opinion the program should be modified. Carver County disagreed. Gary will survey the counties to determine if a programming change is needed or if the Carver County methodology is acceptable to the users.

ACS Enhancement 2006.04 Change Request 7 (water influence code)

Angie has beta tested. This change is working correctly. She is ready to sign off on the beta test.

ACS Enhancement 2009.16 (lost functionality)

Lucy has been waiting for answers to her emails sent last week concerning information that appeared to be missing from the file Steve Holthaus had created and also for answers concerning certain assumptions that will be used in programming the CamaUSA import.

Michelle had spoken with their GIS vendor. The special assessment information being questioned by Lucy is not needed in the CamaVIEW file. The special assessment fields should be blank in the file.

Lucy was informed that the special assessment fields will not be included in the Steve Holthaus file. The other fields Lucy had identified as missing from the Steve Holthaus file will be added. Lucy's assumptions for processing are correct. The homestead code description field that is sometimes blank in the current version of the Steve Holthaus file will be changed to always be filled. If the homestead code is zero then the homestead code description field will be "non-homestead". If the homestead code is one through nine then the homestead code description field will be "homestead". If this is not possible, then Steve will be asked to work with Lucy to find a satisfactory resolution.

Gary will work with Steve to get the updated file to Lucy.

Sending CDown files to a scheduler

Discussion on being able to send the program to create CDown files to the scheduler in the same manner currently available for the program to create the CamaVIEW files. Kevin will prepare an enhancement request to present to the CamaUSA Advisory Committee meeting at their February 17, 2010, meeting.

ACS Enhancement 2009.15 (orphan CLAS report)

Lana reported that Dan Weber is beta testing. He thought he would be done testing today.

Including Income Approach generated values in the CamaUSA extract file

The original design for 2006.04 made no provision for including values generated by the Income Approach in the CamaUSA extract file. ACS is requested to prepare a design and estimate to modify the program creating the CamaUSA export file to include Income Approach generated values in the same manner as Income Approach generated values are processed in the CamaUSA to ACS PTS value transfer program. This will be Change Request 9. When ACS provides the design and estimate it will be distributed to this committee for review. If there are no questions or issues requiring a meeting, a vote on the proposal will be taken by email.

Lana, Lucy and Michelle left the meeting at this time.

Manatron Fault 0937 (water influence codes other than L)

The solution provided by ACS has been beta tested by Angie and approved. Motion by Gary and seconded by Angie to cancel this Manatron fault. Motion carried.

Manatron Fault 0944 (enable corrections processing box default)

This has been accepted by Manatron, however, to the best of the committee's knowledge the fix has not been included in any of the Manatron releases to date.

Manatron Fault 0946 (changes included in ADE)

Mike has provided Jeff with the list of all changes that should cause the record to be included in the ADE. Angie asked if a change in number of records would cause inclusion in the ADE. This was not on the list sent to Jeff. Mike will add and send the new list to Jeff.

Manatron Fault 0947 (inactive homestead modifiers)

No response from Manatron on this issue. Farley will email Jeff. Motion by Angie and seconded by Cheryl to file an enhancement request with the MCCC Manatron CCB if Manatron denies this fault. Motion carried.

320 Golf Course classification code

Code 320 + improvements is not currently valid in Manatron's mapping. This coding combination is used by multiple counties. Farley will write a fault for adding this coding combination to the GRM mapping.

Review of Jeff's spreadsheet of interface issues

Based on the brief descriptions included in the spread sheet the committee was unsure of the problems except for the issues that were already being tracked by this committee. The others were not issues raised by the current interface beta testers. Some of the TFS numbers could not be found on the active fault list. The testers were not aware of issues that were not already being tracked with Kevin's spreadsheet. Farley will contact Dennis Freed and request the complete documentation for the TFSs in question. This information will be distributed to the committee for review. If there are issues that need to be addressed then faults will be filed.

Review of the interface issues discussed at the last assessor training

Manatron representatives at the meeting were taking notes of the issues. Few, if any, related to the interface. Farley will contact Jeff for a copy of Jeff's notes from the meeting to determine if there were any issues that should be addressed by this committee. It was noted that Marty had left before the end of the training and was not available to discuss the issues.

Possible GRM Enhancements

It was noted that Marty had mentioned in his comments at the full user group meeting that he was waiting for input on possible enhancements to GRM. This committee noted that it is difficult to know what enhancements to request when the users have not had at least one tax cycle with the completed product on which to base their requests. Enhancement requests will follow as users become more familiar with the software and its current limitations.

Notice to Counties that aren't actively testing the CamaUSA/GRM interface

Farley will compose a notice for committee review to notify all of the counties that will be using the CamaUSA/GRM interface that they need to get started with their testing and implementation **NOW!** Angie noted that there is significant clean-up required before they will be able to successfully transfer values. Mike noted that there are also set-up and rule issues that need to be addressed in GRM. If counties don't get started immediately they will run out of time for getting values transferred.

Import to GRM incorrectly clearing values

Angie noted that the issue of the transfer zeroing out values in GRM has reappeared. This was the issue where if the CamaUSA export file only contained land value for a parcel then the import to GRM was changing the building value to zero. Or if the file contained only building value for a parcel then GRM was changing the land value to zero. This had been fixed by Manatron. However, the fix is no longer functioning. Stearns has not encountered this problem resurfacing. Carver is at release level

8.06.07.1064 in both training and production. Stearns is at 806.10.1033 in test and 806.07.1063 in production.. Angie will contact Manatron national support. Farley will send Angie the old fault report in case it needs to be resubmitted.

Spring and Fall Mini Abstracts not working

Angie reported that, contrary to Jeff's comments at the Full User Group meeting, neither the Spring Mini Abstract program nor the Fall Mini Abstract program are currently functioning in GRM. Jeff has told her that she will need to wait for release of the new versions. Farley reported that the Legislative Committee had given a due date of 2/1 for the Spring Mini. Manatron had originally assigned a 3/1 date but were unaware of the ways the counties use this report in addition to the meeting the state reporting requirements.

Transfer to Production files

Angie and Mike are both on the cusp of transferring values to production as soon as ACS completes the tag correction. Carver County had an issue that required transferring two mobile homes to the production files. Angie did the transfer to the test files and it was successful. However the transfer to the production files failed. She has logged the issue with Manatron National Support.

Value Transfer Comments

Prior year new construction is now being correctly cleared from the new year files.

Plat deferment values will need to be manually maintained after transferring values to GRM.

Mike suggested that a list of things that aren't working and things that the users need to be sure to do should be put together for distribution at the 2/17 CamaUSA meeting. Testers should send their lists to Farley and he will consolidate into a single list.

Motion by Cheryl and seconded by Mike to adjourn. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 10:20 AM.

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