

ELECTRONIC RECORDING COMMISSION

Minutes – August 28, 2013

Room 151

Arkansas State Capitol

Little Rock, Arkansas

1:30 p.m.

Members in Attendance:

Laurie Westfall, Chair*

Rhonda Wharton, Vice-Chair * Alma Davis, Secretary

Pat O'Brien

Phyllis Villines*

Martha Smith *

Cheryl Wilson

Larry Crane*

Andrea Billingsly

JT Ferstl

*Present

Chair called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

Approval of Minutes

Ms. Wharton made a motion to approve the May 8, 2013, meeting minutes. Ms. Smith seconded the motion, and with no objections, the minutes were approved.

Update on the Real Estate Transfer Tax Stamp

Tom Atchley, Office of Excise Tax Administration, Department of Finance & Administration (DFA) explained, the Department is changing the Real Estate Transfer Stamp purchasing process from physical to online. Beginning September 30, 2013, anyone can request, purchase, and print Arkansas Real Estate Transfer Stamps by accessing DFA's website. The Department is communicating with Arkansas's county clerks, banks, title companies, and attorneys to inform them of this change. He explained the new process reduces risks of producing fraudulent stamps; makes it easier to correct purchasing mistakes; and simplifies the issue of "lost stamps." He noted, the change has gone smoothly and progress is positive. Mr. Atchley asked commissioners to contact his office if they encounter any problems using the new system.

In response to a request by Ms. Wharton, Mr. Atchley said a representative from DFA will update clerks on the new stamp purchasing process at the Circuit Clerks Fall Continuing Education Meeting on Friday, October 18, 2013.

Status of E-Recording

Rhonda Wharton said Brenda DeShields, Benton County Circuit Clerk, reported her office is electronically recording 50% - 55% of its cases. She noted, Mark Wingfield told her this is the highest rate he has heard nationwide.

Other Business

Ms. Westfall reminded commissioners, terms expire September 1, 2013; and asked members interested in serving again to contact the Governor's Office. The Commission's membership ratio should be seven clerks, three non-clerks.

Establish Date and Time of Next Meeting

The Commission agreed to hold their next meeting in conjunction with the Circuit Clerks Fall Continuing Education Meeting, at 11 a.m., Wednesday, October 16, 2013, at the Association of Arkansas Counties Office.

Mr. Crane motioned to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Wharton seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 2:30 p.m.