

ELECTRONIC RECORDING COMMISSION

Minutes – December 12, 2012

Room 151

Arkansas State Capitol

Little Rock, Arkansas

10:30 a.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 10:30 a.m.

Approval of minutes

Mr. Crane made a motion to amend the September 19, 2012, minutes so the asterisks reflect members present rather than absent; and to approve the minutes with this change. Ms. Wharton seconded the motion, and the minutes were approved as amended.

Status of E-Recording

- Ms. Westfall referred to Exhibit C and noted Benton is doing very well at 55%.
- Sheri Thomas read the list of counties currently e-recording court records; and will send the report to commissioners.
- Ms. Wharton said Faulkner County could not afford to purchase equipment and software required for e-recording; so they delayed the upgrade for at least another year.

Other Business

- Ms. Wharton said the Automated Systems Grant Fund Committee met in October and awarded \$240,000. She noted, only nine agencies applied for grants; they fulfilled every grant request; and had money left over because of receiving fewer applications than usual. She explained the committee expanded the grant program beyond real estate to allow courts to apply for grants for Contexte.
- Mr. Crane stated e-recording will expand more quickly in the court records sector than real estate records. The Arkansas Supreme Court supports e-recording and Pulaski County is the pilot program for managing a county's entire court system with e-records. He explained, Pulaski County has used the program for about a year; and is pleased with its progress. In March, the county will require document e-recording. He noted this is a major change for Arkansas, because 20-25% of court filings in Arkansas come through Pulaski County, so about 3,000 lawyers in the state will be certified to file electronically.

Establish date and time of next meeting

- Ms. Wharton suggested inviting administrative officers of the courts to share their thoughts on e-recording progress in the courts.
- Ms. Westfall suggested inviting someone from the Department of Finance & Administration to update the commission.
- Ms. Westfall stated the next meeting date was tentatively set for May 8, 2013, at 10:30 AM in Room 151 of the State Capitol.

Mr. Crane motioned to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Wharton seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 11:00 a.m.