



TEXAS ETHICS COMMISSION MEETING Workshop Minutes

February 13, 2015, 8:33 a.m.
Sam Houston Building, Room 865
201 E. 14th St., Austin, Texas 78701

**COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:**

Paul W. Hobby, Chair; Chase Untermeyer, Vice Chair; Hugh C. Akin, Jim Clancy, Wilhelmina Delco, Tom Harrison, Bob Long, and Tom Ramsay.

COMMISSIONERS NOT PRESENT:

None.

STAFF PRESENT:

Natalia Luna Ashley, Amy Barden, Jessie Haug, Patty Williams and Patti Shannon.

MINUTES

This meeting was recorded. These minutes are a summary record of the Commission's actions at the meeting. For a detailed record of discussions and statements made by persons speaking at the meeting, please consult the audio recordings on file at the Commission's office.

Agenda Item 1: Call to order; roll call.

The meeting was called to order by Chair Hobby. Natalia Luna Ashley, Executive Director, called the roll. All Commissioners were present.

Agenda Item 2: Introduction and comments by the Chair.

Chair Hobby stated that the Commission is scheduled to go live with the new electronic filing software at the end of next month. The old software and the new software cannot run in parallel, so Natalia Luna Ashley, Executive Director, had suggested a 30-day grace period for the most obviously affected filers, which are those who have to file on the first deadline after the software rollout - April 6, 2015. Special elections make a blanket grace period impossible.

Agenda Item 3: Presentation on the new electronic filing system project by RFD & Associates, Inc.

Eric Dietz with RFD & Associates, Inc., gave an overview of the project's status; Tom Lynch, Scott T. Glover, and Leah Leveridge, all with RFD & Associates, Inc., provided assistance. The new software is scheduled to be released at 12:01 a.m. on March 31, 2015. College interns have tested the system, and found it very easy to use. Different interns will test the system again in late February. Chair Hobby suggested a series of press releases to describe the process. The Commissioners had various questions and comments regarding the new electronic filing system and how it would relate to the various filers. Those questions were addressed by Natalia Luna Ashley, Executive Director; RFD & Associates, Inc. staff; and Jessie Haug, Director of Computer Services. Ms. Ashley said that

training is being planned around the state; four locations are set and four more are being scheduled. There will also be online videos.

Agenda Item 4: Commissioners discussion and possible action on the new electronic filing system.

Commissioners made comments about the new system and some of its functions, including its ability to prevent hacking and how it handles filers that file reports with errors. Chair Hobby moved that filers who have an April 6, 2015, filing deadline be given a 30-day grace period; second by Vice Chair Utermeyer. **Motion passed by a vote of eight ayes.**

Agenda Item 5: Communication to the Commission from the public.

None.

Agenda Item 6: Comments by the Commissioners.

None.

Agenda Item 7: Adjourn.

Motion by Commissioner Ramsay to adjourn; second by Commissioner Long. **Motion passed by unanimous consent.**

Commission meeting adjourned at 9:32 a.m.