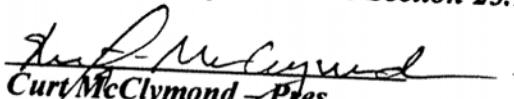


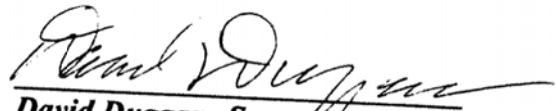
STEPHENS COUNTY APPRAISAL DISTRICT  
201 S ROSE/ PO BOX 351  
BRECKENRIDGE, TX 76424  
254 559-8233 PHONE  
254 559-2897 FAX

9-28-14

RESOLUTION

*The Board of Directors of the Stephens County Appraisal District does hereby adopt by resolution the 2015/2016 reappraisal plan for Stephens County. This plan meets the requirements of Tax Code Section 25.18.*

  
Curt McClymond - Pres.

  
David Duggan - Secretary

**STEPHENS COUNTY APPRAISAL DISTRICT**

**PLAN FOR PERIODIC REAPPRAISAL**

**2015/2016**

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## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

### **TAX CODE REQUIREMENT:**

Passage of Senate Bill 1652 amended Section 6.05 of the Texas Property Tax code by adding Subsection (i) to read as follows:

- (i) To ensure adherence with generally accepted appraisal practices, the board of directors of an appraisal district shall develop biennially a written plan for the periodic reappraisal of all property within the boundaries of the district according to the requirements of Section 25.18 and shall hold a public hearing to consider the proposed plan. Not later than the 10<sup>th</sup> day before the date of the hearing, the secretary of the board shall deliver to the presiding officer of the governing body of each taxing unit participating in the district a written notice of the date, time, and place of the hearing. Not later than September 15 of each even-numbered year, the board shall complete its hearings, make any amendments, and by resolution finally approve the plan. Copies of the approved plan shall be distributed to the presiding officer of the governing body of each taxing unit participating in the district and to the Comptroller within sixty (60) days of the approval date.

### **Plan for Periodic Reappraisal Requirement:**

Senate Bill 1652 amends Section 25.18, Subsections (a) and (b) to read as follows:

- (a) Each appraisal office shall implement the Plan for Periodic Reappraisal of property approved by the board of directors under Section 6.05(i).
- (b) The plan shall provide for the following reappraisal activities for all real and personal property in the district at least once every three years:
  1. identifying properties to be appraised through physical inspection or by other reliable means of identification, including deeds or other legal documentation, aerial photographs, land-based photographs, surveys, maps, and property sketches;
  2. identifying and updating relevant characteristics of each property in the appraisal records;
  3. defining market areas in the district;
  4. identifying property characteristics that affect property value in each market area, including:
    - a. the location and market area of property;
    - b. physical attributes of property, such as size, age, and condition;
    - c. legal and economic attributes; and
    - d. easements, covenants, leases, reservations, contracts, declarations, special assessments, ordinances, or legal restrictions;

5. developing an appraisal model that reflects the relationship among the property characteristics affecting value in each market area and determines the contribution of individual property characteristics;
6. applying the conclusions reflected in the model to the characteristics of the properties being appraised; and
7. reviewing the appraisal results to determine value.

### **SCOPE OF RESPONSIBILITY**

The Stephens County Appraisal District has prepared and published this reappraisal plan and appraisal report to provide the Board of Directors, taxing entities, and taxpayers with a better understanding of the district's responsibilities and activities.

The Stephens County Appraisal District is a political subdivision of the State of Texas created effective January 1, 1980. The provisions of the Texas Property Tax Code govern the legal, statutory, and administrative requirements of the appraisal district. The Board of Directors, elected by the taxing units within the boundaries of Stephens County, constitutes the district's governing body. The chief appraiser, appointed by the Board of Directors, is the chief administrator and chief executive officer of the appraisal district.

The appraisal district is responsible for local property tax appraisal and administration for all taxing entities in the county. The taxing entities are as follows:

Stephens County

Breckenridge ISD

Stephens County Hospital District

City of Breckenridge

Each taxing unit sets its own tax rate to generate revenue to pay for such things as police and fire protection, public schools, road and street maintenance, courts, water and sewer systems, and other public services. Property appraisals and estimated values by the appraisal district allocate the year's tax burden on the basis of each taxable property's market value. The appraisal district also determines eligibility for various types of property tax exemptions such as those for homeowners, the elderly, disabled veterans, charitable or religious organizations and agricultural productivity valuation.

Except as otherwise provided by the Property Tax Code, all taxable property is appraised at its "market value" as of January 1 of the tax year. Under the tax code, "market value" is defined as the price at which a property would transfer for cash or its equivalent under prevailing market conditions if:

- exposed for sale in the open market with a reasonable time for the seller to find a purchaser;
- both the seller and the buyer know of all the uses and purposes to which the property is adapted and for which it is capable of being used and of the enforceable restrictions on its use, and;

- both the seller and buyer seek to maximize their gains and neither is in a position to take advantage of the other.

The Texas Property Tax Code defines special appraisal provisions for the valuation of residential homestead property (Sec. 23.23), productivity (Sec. 23.41), real property inventory (Sec. 23.12), dealer inventory (Sec. 23.121, 23.124, 23.1241, nominal (sec. 23.18) or restricted use properties (Sec. 23.83) and allocation of interstate property (Sec. 23.03). The owner of real property inventory may elect to have the inventory appraised at its market value as of September 1<sup>st</sup> of the year preceding the tax year to which the appraisal applies by filing an application with the chief appraiser requesting that the inventory be appraised as of September 1<sup>st</sup>.

The Texas Property Tax Code, under Section 25.18, requires each appraisal office to implement a plan to update appraised values for real property at least once every three years. The district's policy is to conduct a general reappraisal of taxable property every year. Appraised values are reviewed annually and are subject to change. All properties are appraised every year. Tax year 2015 and tax year 2016 are reappraisal years.

The appraised value of real estate is calculated using specific information about each property. Using computer-assisted mass appraisal programs and recognized appraisal methods and techniques, the appraisal district compares that information with the data for similar properties and with recent cost and market data. The district follows the standards of the International Association of Assessing Officers (IAAO) regarding its appraisal practices and procedures, and subscribes to the standards promulgated by the Appraisal Foundation, known as the Uniform Standards of Professional Appraisal Practice (USPAP) to the extent they are applicable.

### **PERSONNEL RESOURCES**

The office of the Chief Appraiser is primarily responsible for overall planning, organizing, staffing, coordinating, and controlling of the appraisal district operations.

The district's appraisers are subject to the provisions of the Property Taxation Professional Certification Act and must be duly registered with the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulations.

The appraisal district staff consists of 4 employees with the following classifications:

TLDR RPA/RTA/RTC  
OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR  
CLERK  
CLERK

All personnel that are performing appraisal work are registered with the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation and are required to take appraisal courses to

achieve the status of Registered Professional Appraiser within five years of employment as an appraiser. After they are awarded their license, they must receive additional training as required to maintain certification. Failure to meet these minimum standards results in termination of employment.

Additionally, the chief appraiser ensures that personnel receives on-the-job training to ensure quality and uniformity of appraisals of all types of property and monitors appraisal activity to ensure that standardized appraisal procedures are being followed by all personnel.

#### **REVALUATION DECISION (REAPPRAISAL CYCLE):**

The Stephens CAD, by policy adopted by the Board of Directors and the Chief Appraiser, reappraises all property in the district every year. The reappraisal may consist of field inspections, CAMA, or both. The reappraisal year is a complete appraisal of all properties in the district. Tax year 2015 is a reappraisal year and tax year 2016 is a reappraisal year. Each year, Notices of Appraised Value are mailed to all property owners in the District regardless of any changes that may or may not have occurred.

Additionally, every tax year the District inspects and appraises new construction and adds those properties to the appraisal roll. The district also inspects and reappraises properties that have been remodeled or demolished, properties with additions, properties with fire damage, or properties with any change or damage. These changes are found through building permits issued by the city. However, since building permits are not required for properties outside the city limits, District staff maintains a file that pertains to changes in property and all District staff remains alert to visual changes in properties. These notes are attached to field notes as inspections are performed. Throughout the year, notes are made on those visual changes and all information is provided to the field appraiser. The field appraiser will also conduct detailed field inspections of properties if requested by the owner and reappraise these properties as necessary. Notices of Appraised Value are mailed to all property owners with an increase of \$1000 or more each year.

Eagle Appraisal and Consulting compiles all valid sales by school district. Problematic areas are further researched and may indicate the use of market modifiers. The use of these modifiers is the predominant method of adjusting sales for location and time. Values throughout the county may be adjusted by use of market modifiers during the reappraisal year.

## **PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS:**

Performance Analysis – the equalized values from the previous tax year are analyzed with ratio studies to determine the appraisal accuracy and appraisal uniformity overall and by market area within property reporting categories. Ratio studies are conducted in compliance with the current *Standard on Ratio Studies* of the International Association of Assessing Officers. Mean, median, and weighted ratios are calculated for properties in reporting categories to measure the level of appraisal accuracy. The mean ratio is calculated in each reappraised category to indicate the level of appraisal accuracy by property reporting category. In 2015, the reappraisal year, this analysis is used to develop the starting point for establishing the level and accuracy of appraisal performance. In 2016, the reappraisal year, this analysis is used to develop the starting point for establishing the level and accuracy of appraisal performance. In 2015 and 2016, any reporting category that may have been excluded from reappraisal due to lack of data to support reappraisal will be tested and analyzed to arrive at an indication of uniformity or equity of existing appraisals.

Sales ratio studies are used to evaluate the District's mass appraisal performance. These studies not only provide a measure of performance, but also are an excellent means of improving mass appraisal performance. The District uses ratio studies not only to aid in the reappraisal of properties, but also to test the State Comptroller's Property Tax Division Annual Property Value Study results.

Eagle Appraisal and Consulting usually begins ratio studies in late January or early February, with all sales reports being compiled by school district. Within the boundaries of the districts, the ratios are analyzed to identify comparable neighborhoods. Outliers and questions that were not identified in the field are reviewed and analyzed. Field cards indicating the results of field inspections of the sold properties are available for each individual sale to further aid in making decisions regarding outliers.

Outliers are characterized as having low or high ratios. They can result from an erroneous or unrepresentative sale price, an error in the appraisal, or a mismatch between the property sold and the property appraised.

Remaining sales are then correlated to indicate comparable neighborhoods within each school district. The sales from each comparable neighborhood are grouped (stratified) according to classification. The median ratio indicated by the sales is then compared to the desired ratio. The coefficient of dispersion is also studied to indicate how tight the ratios are in relation to the measures of central tendency. The median and coefficient of dispersion are good indicators of the types of changes to be made if any are necessary. The use of market modifiers is the predominant method of adjusting sales for



location and time to indicate market values. Market modifiers are methods of adjusting property to equal the market without changing the schedules.

#### **ANALYSIS OF AVAILABLE RESOURCES:**

Staffing and budget requirements for tax year 2014 are detailed in the 2015 budget, as adopted by the Board of Directors of the Stephens County Appraisal District, and attached to the written biennial plan by reference. This reappraisal plan is adjusted to reflect the available staffing in tax year 2015 and anticipated staffing for tax year 2015 or tax year 2016. Budget restraints can impact the cycle of real property re-inspection and personal property on-site review that can be accomplished in the 2015-2016 time period.

Existing appraisal practices, which are continued from year to year, are identified and methods utilized to keep these practices current. In the reappraisal year, real property appraisal depreciation tables are tested against verified sales data to ensure they represent current market data. Personal property density schedules are tested and analyzed based on renditions and prior year documentation. Due to lack of sales of personal property in the district, the Eagle Appraisal & Consulting provides a guide that is utilized to appraise personal property and for testing and analysis purposes.

Information Systems (IS) support is detailed and system upgrades are scheduled. Existing maps and data requirements are continually updated and kept current.

The Texas Legislature amended the appraisal review board appeal process by allowing arbitration in addition to filing suit in District Court with certain limitations. It is anticipated that the number of arbitration requests will increase as the public becomes more informed of this option. Time and effort expended on arbitration cases is a good indicator that additional recourses as well as an increase in staffing may become necessary as the arbitration process evolves.

All appraisal companies may face arbitration or lawsuits in any appraisal year.

Existing appraisal practices, which are continued from year to year, are identified and methods utilized to keep these practices current are specified. Current cost schedules for residential and commercial real properties are derived and updated from Marshall and Swift Valuation Service. Marshall and Swift Valuation Service is a national based cost manual and is generally

accepted throughout the nation by the real estate appraisal industry. In a reappraisal year, real property appraisal depreciation tables and cost new tables are tested against verified sales data to ensure they represent current market data. Personal property density schedules are tested and analyzed based on rendition and prior year protest hearing documentation.

Changes in legislation involving appraisal districts may occur in 2015 when the legislature is called into session. These new laws may require adjustments to the budget, staffing, and programming.

#### **PLANNING AND ORGANIZATION:**

A calendar of key events with critical completion dates is prepared for each area of work. This calendar identifies key events for appraisal, clerical, customer service, and information systems. A calendar is prepared for tax years 2015 and 2016. Production standards for field activities are calculated and incorporated in the planning and scheduling process.

Eagle Appraisal & Consulting will begin the field inspections in September of 2014 and will complete all inspections and schedules by April 1, 2015 for the 2015 tax year.

Eagle Appraisal & Consulting will begin the field inspections in September of 2015 and will complete all inspections and schedules by April 1, 2016 for the 2016 tax year.

Eagle Appraisal & Consulting will begin the field inspections in September of 2016 and will complete all inspections and schedules by April 1, 2016 for the 2017 tax year.

#### **MASS APPRAISAL SYSTEM:**

Computer Assisted Mass Appraisal (CAMA) system revisions are completed by the Information Systems Software Provider. System revisions and procedures are performed by the Provider. Stephens County Appraisal District contracted with the firm of Southwest Data Solutions for these services.

Appraisal information for each area of work, maps for each area of work, and appraisal cards showing sketches and pictures of the properties included in the area of work will be provided by the District to the field appraisers.

The District anticipates devoting some programming time to allow for the development of new reports to help manage and edit the information provided by the field appraisers.



## **Real Property Valuation**

Revisions to cost models, income models, and market models are specified, updated, and tested each tax year.

Cost schedules are tested with market data (sales) to insure that the appraisal district is in compliance with Texas Property Tax Code, Section 23.011. Replacement cost new tables as well as depreciation tables are tested for accuracy and uniformity using ratio study tools and compared with cost data from recognized industry leaders, such as Marshall & Swift.

Land schedules are updated using current market data (sales) and then tested with ratio study tools. Value schedules are developed and tested on a pilot basis with ratio study tools.

## **Personal Property Valuation**

Density schedules are tested using data received during the previous tax year from renditions and hearing documentation. Valuation procedures are reviewed, modified as needed, and tested. The Personal Property Appraisal Guide provided by Eagle Appraisal & Consulting is utilized heavily in the appraisal of personal property in the district.

## **Noticing Process**

25.19 appraisal notice forms are provided by the IS Provider. The Provider reviews and edits for updates and changes required by legislative mandates. The district publishes, in the local newspaper, information about the notices and how to protest. The district makes available the latest copy of the Comptroller's pamphlet *Taxpayer's Rights, Remedies, and Responsibilities*.

## **Hearing Process**

Protest hearing scheduling for informal and formal Appraisal Review Board hearings is reviewed and updated as required. Standards of documentation are reviewed and amended as required. The appraisal district hearing documentation is reviewed and updated to reflect the current valuation process and requirements. Compliance with House Bill 201 is insured.

District staff conducts the initial informal hearing with a protesting property owner. If the protest cannot be settled within the guidelines set out for District staff, and informal hearing appointment is set for a meeting between the protesting property owner and staff members of Eagle Appraisal and

**Consulting.** If valuation issues are not agreed upon at this level, the protesting property owner may elect to proceed to a formal hearing.

Evidence in compliance with HB 201 may be requested by the property owner or the property owner's agent and will be made available at least 14 days prior to the scheduled protest hearing.

#### **DATA COLLECTION REQUIREMENTS:**

Stephens Co Appraisal District cost and value schedules include land, residential improved, commercial improved, and personal property. Data sources currently used by the District include cost information from Marshall and Swift Valuation Service, cost data obtained from local contractors, and renditions provided by the property owners. Marshall and Swift Valuation Service is a national based cost manual and is generally accepted throughout the nation by the real estate appraisal industry. This cost manual is based on cost per unit or square foot and also uses the unit in place method. The unit in place method involves the estimated cost by using actual building components. This national based cost information service provides the base price of buildings by classification with modifications for equipment and additional items. The District's schedule is then modified for time and location.

Field and office procedures are reviewed and revised as required for data collection. Activities for each tax year include new construction, demolition, remodeling, re-inspection of problematic market areas, re-inspection of the universe of properties on a specific cycle, and field or office verification of sales data and property characteristics. On properties that have transferred ownership, the District will verify the sales price and individual property characteristics as of the date of the sale through field inspection and office research.

Renditions are confidential sources and cannot be used for specific information. However, data from renditions may be compared with data obtained from cost manuals and used to test schedules for accuracy.

Data on individual properties is also collected from the field, compiled, and analyzed. Buildings and other improvements are inspected in the field, measured, and classified. The appraiser estimates the age and condition of the improvements. This data is used to compile depreciation tables. Any notes pertaining to the improvements are made during inspection.

Residential land valuation analysis is conducted prior to neighborhood sales analysis. The value of the land component to the property is estimated based on available market sales for comparable and competing land under similar usage. A comparison and analysis of comparable land sales is conducted based on a comparison of land characteristics found to influence the market price in the neighborhood. Computerized land tables store the information required to consistently value individual parcels within neighborhoods given known land characteristics. Specific land influences are considered, where necessary, and depending on neighborhood and individual lot or tract characteristics, to adjust parcels outside the neighborhood norm for such factors as access, view, shape, size, and topography. The appraisers use abstraction and allocation methods to insure that estimated land values best reflect the contributory market value of the land to the overall property value.

### **Area Analysis**

Data on regional economic forces such as demographic patterns, regional locational factors, employment and income patterns, general trends in real property prices and rents, interest rate trends, availability of vacant land, and construction trends and costs are collected from private vendors and public sources and provide the field appraiser a current economic outlook on the real estate market. Information is gleaned from real estate publications and sources such as continuing education in the form of IAAO classes and other approved classes.

### **Neighborhood and Market Analysis**

Neighborhood analysis involves the examination of how physical, economic, governmental and social forces and other influences affect property values. The effects of these forces are also used to identify, classify, and stratify comparable properties into smaller, manageable subsets of the universe of properties known as neighborhoods. Residential valuation and neighborhood analysis is conducted on various market areas within the district. Analysis of comparable market sales forms the basis of estimating market activity and the level of supply and demand affecting market prices for any given market area.

### **Highest and Best Use Analysis**

The highest and best use of property is the reasonable and probable use that supports the highest present value as of the date of the appraisal. The highest and best use must be physically possible, legal, financially feasible, and productive to its maximum. The highest and best use of residential

property is normally its current use. This is due, in part, to the fact that residential development, in many areas, through use of deed restrictions and zoning, precludes other land uses. Residential valuation undertakes reassessment of highest and best use in transition areas and areas of mixed residential and commercial use. In transition areas with ongoing gentrification, the appraiser reviews the existing residential property use and makes a determination regarding highest and best use. Once the conclusion is made that the highest and best use remains residential, further highest and best use analysis is done to decide the type of residential use on a neighborhood basis. In areas of mixed residential and commercial use, the appraiser reviews properties in these areas on a periodic basis to determine if changes in the real estate market require reassessment of the highest and best use of a select population of properties.

### **New Construction/Demolition**

The appraisers performing reappraisals in the field have field cards that contain specific information regarding the property being appraised. These cards contain brief legal descriptions, ownership interests, property use codes, property addresses, land size, and sketches of improvements as well as detailed information of any improvements.

Appraisal field inspections require the appraisers to check all information on the field cards and to update the information when necessary. New construction field and office review procedures are identified and revised as required. Sources of building permits are confirmed. The City of Breckenridge provides a listing of permits issued during the previous year. The Assessor/Collector of the Stephens County is a valuable source of information regarding new construction and demolition in the area.

Local contractors and builders are another source of cost data utilized by the District. Local contractors provide cost data on new structures that is compared to cost information obtained from Marshall Swift Valuation.

### **Remodeling**

Properties with extensive improvement remodeling are identified and field inspections are scheduled to update property characteristic data. Permits issued by the city and visual sightings by District staff are key components in this area. Copies of permits are provided by the District to the field appraiser. Notes made throughout the year as remodeling projects are observed are provided by the District to the field appraiser.

### **Re-inspection of Problematic Market Areas**

Real property market areas, by property classification, are tested for low or high ratio sales and/or high coefficients of dispersion. Market areas that fail any or all of these tests are determined to be problematic. Field inspections are scheduled to verify and/or correct property characteristic data. Additional sales data is researched and verified.

### **Re-inspection of the Universe of Properties**

The International Association of Assessing Officers' *Standard on Mass Appraisal of Real Property*, specifies that the universe of properties should be re-inspected on a cycle of 3 years. The re-inspection includes physically viewing the property, photographing, and verifying the accuracy of the existing data. The field appraiser has an appraisal card of each property to be inspected and makes notes of changes, depreciation changes, remodeling, additions, etc. The annual re-inspection requirements for tax years 2015 and 2016 are identified and scheduled in the written reappraisal plan.

### **Field or Office Verification of Sales Data and Property Characteristics**

Sales information is received from various sources. These sources include conversations with local real estate appraisers, agents, and brokers. Also, from deed transactions, the District mails out sales surveys to sellers and purchasers in an effort to obtain additional sales information that may not be otherwise discovered.

These sales are compared to the existing data on the field cards and changes are made as indicated. These changes include age and condition as well as any improvements made to the property before the sale takes place. When sales information indicates a difference in the improvement's square footage, the buildings are remeasured.

Sales information must be verified and property characteristic data contemporaneous with the date of sale captured. The sales ratio tools require that the property that sold must equal the property appraised in order that statistical analysis results will be valid.

### **PILOT STUDY BY TAX YEAR:**

New and/or revised mass appraisal models are tested each tax year. Ratio studies, by market area, are conducted on proposed values each tax year. Proposed values on each category are tested for accuracy and reliability. Actual test results are compared with anticipated results and those models not performing satisfactorily are refined and retested. The procedures used for model specification and calibration are in compliance with USPAP, STANDARD RULE 6.

Residential valuation schedules are cost-based tables modified by actual sales with the cost reflecting the actual replacement cost new of the subject property, market research indicates that the common unit of comparison for new residential construction as well as sales of existing housing is the price paid per square foot. The value of extra items is based on their contributory value to the property. This value may be estimated by the price per square foot or a value of the item as a whole. This data is extracted from the market by paired sales analysis and conversations with local appraisers and brokers. These schedules are formulated from the Marshall and Swift Valuation Service Residential Handbook.

The residential schedule is based on quality of construction, size of structure, condition of structure, contributory value of extra items, and land value. Each of these variables has a direct impact on the cost as well as the value of a property. Following is an example of each of the variables and how they may affect market value.

1. **Quality of construction:** Residential construction may vary greatly in quality of construction. The type of construction affects the quality and cost of the material used, the quality of the workmanship, as well as the attention paid to detail. The cost and value of residential property will vary greatly, depending on the quality of construction. The District's Appraisal Manual contains an expanded description of classifications used and is attached by reference.
2. **Size of structure:** The size of a building also has a direct impact on its cost as well as its value. The larger the building, the less the cost per square foot. The District's schedules are graduated in size increments, depending on market conditions. Marshall and Swift Valuation Service also supports this size factor. The District's Appraisal Manual contains an expanded description of size increments and square footage breakdown's and is attached by reference.
3. **Condition of improvements:** Upon physical inspection appraisers, using their own judgment of age and condition of the structure, applies a depreciation factor. This factor is based generally on one (1) percent for each two years of age. Properties that, in the opinion of the appraisers, are unlivable are not appraised according to the



schedule. Rather, they are appraised at salvage value or are marked as no value at all.

4. **Age of Structure:** The District's field appraiser assigns an approximate effective age. This method is supported by conversations with local appraisers and builders who estimate the economic life of residential properties to be approximately 50 years. Properties in the age 51 and over bracket are given the maximum amount of depreciation unless remodeling or very good upkeep has allowed the structure to maintain a longer life. The effective age and chronological age may or may not be the same depending on the condition of the structure. This depreciation factor is generally based on one (1) percent for each two years of age.
5. **Extra items:** Extra items are valued according to their contributory value to the whole. Examples of extra items include covered porches, patios, screened or enclosed porches, storage buildings, swimming pools, etc. The District's Appraisal Manual contains more specific information regarding extra items and is attached by reference.
6. **Land Value:** The District values land based on market transactions. Units of comparison depend on how the property is purchased and marketed. Large acreage tracts are usually purchased based on the price per acre. Commercial tracts are purchased based on the price per square foot, and residential properties are purchased based on price per front foot. Depth factors are used to modify values according to market indicators. Land prices vary throughout the District, therefore, their values are dependent upon homogenous areas. Land schedules for residential, commercial, agricultural, and industrial properties are available upon request from the District.

Inspections of property are made by exterior perspective, so the interior finish as well as interior components are assumed and are not adjusted. All financing for comparable sales is considered typical to the market. The final estimate of value is a correlation of the comparable sales after net adjustments have been deducted from the sales price to equal the subject property. The value by this method is estimated by the appraiser and is not a function of the computer.

#### **VALUATION BY TAX YEAR:**

Using market analysis of comparable sales and locally tested cost data, market area specific income and expense data, valuation models (Cost Per Square Foot Schedules) are specified and calibrated in compliance with supplemental standards from the International Association of Assessing Officers and the Uniform Standards of Professional Appraisal Practice. The calculated values are tested for accuracy and uniformity using ratio studies. Performance standards are those as established by the *IAAO Standard on Ratio Studies*. Property values in all market areas are updated each

reappraisal year. *Note: The district will describe its valuation methods by property types.*

**RESIDENTIAL REAL PROPERTY**

Sales Comparison Approach to Value  
Cost Approach to Value  
Income Approach to Value

**SPECIAL INVENTORY RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY**

Sales Comparison Approach to Value  
Cost Approach to Value  
Income Approach to Value

**MULTIFAMILY RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY**

Sales Comparison Approach to Value  
Cost Approach to Value  
Income Approach to Value

**COMMERCIAL REAL PROPERTY**

Sales Comparison Approach to Value  
Cost Approach to Value  
Income Approach to Value

**VACANT REAL PROPERTY**

Sales Comparison Approach to Value  
Cost Approach to Value  
Income Approach to Value

**INDUSTRIAL REAL PROPERTY**

Sales Comparison Approach to Value  
Cost Approach to Value  
Income Approach to Value

**UTILITIES**

Sales Comparison Approach to Value  
Cost Approach to Value  
Income Approach to Value

**MINERAL INTEREST**

Sales Comparison Approach to Value  
Cost Approach to Value  
Income Approach to Value



## **SPECIAL VALUATION PROPERTIES**

**Agricultural Use**  
**Wildlife Management**  
**Timber Use**

## **BUSINESS TANGIBLE PERSONAL PROPERTY**

**Sales Comparison Approach to Value**  
**Cost Approach to Value**  
**Income Approach to Value**

## **INDUSTRIAL TANGIBLE PERSONAL PROPERTY**

**Sales Comparison Approach to Value**  
**Cost Approach to Value**  
**Income Approach to Value**

### **Sales Comparison Approach to Value**

The sales comparison approach to value is utilized by grouping or clustering sales within the specified neighborhoods and classification of properties. The sales are then tested against appraised values to indicate a ratio for the neighborhood. A neighborhood is a grouping of complementary land uses affected equally by the four forces that influence property value: social trends, economic circumstances, governmental contracts and regulations, and environmental conditions. These factors have an impact on the value of properties within this grouping and in turn on properties being appraised.

Individual neighborhood boundaries within the District vary according to market indications and the type of property being appraised. The boundaries of these neighborhoods may be physical, geographical, or political in nature. Generally, residential neighborhoods consist of individual subdivisions or clusters of subdivisions that contain similar properties located within the same school district. Commercial neighborhoods may be smaller areas within a city, an entire city, or rural area. Industrial neighborhoods may include the entire District. Defining neighborhood boundaries depends on the subject of the appraisal assignment.

If sufficient sales are not found, then sales from competing neighborhoods are found and appropriate adjustments are made in the form of market modifiers. These modifiers are applied to cost schedules to indicate mass appraisal values for a given neighborhood. Therefore, the sales comparison approach is actually blended with the cost approach to create a hybrid of these two approaches to value.

### **Cost Approach to Value:**

The District uses a hybrid cost model developed from Marshall and Swift Valuation Service. The cost model categorizes and values property by class, age,

condition, and extra items. Depreciation is derived by age/condition and any additional depreciation that may be necessary. Land value is added to indicate a preliminary market value for like properties within the subject neighborhoods. After cost schedules, depreciation, and land values are applied, then a market modifier may be necessary to adjust the values to actual market conditions. These modifiers apply to improvements only and do not adjust land values. Therefore, the cost approach to value is actually a hybrid of the sales comparison and cost approaches to value.

#### **Income Approach to Value:**

The income approach to value or rent multipliers are currently not a reliable indicator of value for residential mass appraisal reports unless rents are specified. Databases or data sources for income producing residential properties are not available in the Stephens County area. Therefore, the income approach to value is not used in the **residential** mass appraisal report but is used for other types of properties.

**Additional information concerning approaches to value for specific types of properties, such as minerals, utilities, industrial, railroads, pipelines, industrial personal property, etc. may be found in the Plan provided by the Appraisal Company that performs those appraisals and is attached to this plan by reference.**

#### **Special Valuation Process:**

Agricultural Use: Market value for agricultural property is established by acceptable appraisal methodology.

The District also values agricultural property by the income approach as set forth in the Texas Property Tax code. This is a special valuation process as there are parameters set forth in the Code regarding capitalization rates. Income and expenses for each different category of agricultural use is estimated from surveys, actual rental data obtained by property owners as well as conversations with local governmental agencies. The formula used is set out by the Texas Property Tax Code and is as follows:  $\text{net-to-land (all ag related income streams - all ag related expenses) / cap rate} = \text{ag value}$

#### **THE MASS APPRAISAL REPORT:**

Each tax year, the required Mass Appraisal Report is prepared and certified by the Chief Appraiser at the conclusion of the appraisal phase of the ad valorem tax calendar (on or about May 15<sup>th</sup>). The Mass Appraisal Report is completed in compliance with STANDARD RULE 6 – 8 of the *Uniform Standards of Professional Appraisal Practice*. The signed certification by the Chief Appraiser is compliant with STANDARD RULE 6 – 9 of *USPAP*. This written reappraisal plan is attached to the report by reference.

### **VALUE DEFENSE:**

Evidence to be used by the appraisal district to meet its burden of proof for market value and equity in both informal and formal appraisal review board hearings is specified and tested. *Note: The appraisal district identifies the evidence to be used in informal and formal hearings by property type and the steps to be taken to insure compliance with House Bill 201.*

**RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY  
SPECIAL INVENTORY RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY  
MULTIFAMILY RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY  
COMMERCIAL REAL PROPERTY  
VACANT REAL PROPERTY  
INDUSTRIAL REAL PROPERTY  
UTILITIES  
MINERAL INTEREST  
SPECIAL VALUATION PROPERTIES  
BUSINESS TANGIBLE PERSONAL PROPERTY  
INDUSTRIAL TANGIBLE PERSONAL PROPERTY**

Informal hearings are conducted by phone, mail, or in person by District appraisers. Appraisers may present sales data or data specific to the property in defense of the District values. If the taxpayer wishes to pursue a dispute further, the appraiser or District staff will guide them through the initial phase of the formal protest procedures.

When taxpayers are scheduled for formal hearings, they receive an ARB procedures pamphlet and a copy of the *Taxpayer's Rights, Remedies, and Responsibilities* published by the State Comptroller's office. If protest hearing evidence is requested, the appraisal district has 14 days prior to the protest hearing to make its evidence regarding value disputes available. Information provided, as appropriate, may include but is not limited to: comparable sales and applicable schedules, depreciation tables, a copy of the discount cash flow model developed to calculate the current inventory value, income and expense information derived from the market that has been accumulated and developed into charts containing general data, applicable appraisal reports and research data applicable to the property, etc. **At no time, except as provided by the Texas Property Code, will any confidential income, expense, sales, or other information received from taxpayers on specific accounts be released.**

### **COMPUTER ASSISTED MASS APPRAISAL SYSTEM**

Eagle Appraisal and Consulting field appraisers will submit appraisal cards reflecting changes and notes made during the field inspection to appraisal district

staff for data entry. Pictures will also be taken by the field appraiser and submitted on a timely basis for downloading by appraisal district staff.

Appraisal district staff will be responsible for entering all name and address changes received by phone, letter, or from the front counter. Staff will also be responsible for entering any exemption changes, as well as any supplemental changes. Staff is responsible for backing up computer files and maintaining changes to the maps.

The software providers are responsible for providing training and assisting appraisal district staff concerning use of existing and new programs.

### **ARB APPEAL PROCEDURES:**

After the Appraisal Review Board hears and determines all timely filed protests, the District mails, by certified mail with return receipt, the ARB orders containing the Board's decision on the protest to the property owners. Property owners have 45 days after receiving a Board Order to either file suit in District Court or to file a request for arbitration. Information on procedures for appealing an ARB order is included in the order along with a Request for Binding Arbitration form.

## **PLANNING A REAPPRAISAL**

Variation in reappraisal requirements requires Stephens County Appraisal District to carefully plan its work before beginning any reappraisal. Although the planning process may vary in specifics, it should involve five (5) basic steps:

1. Assess current performance.
2. Set reappraisal goals.
3. Assess available resources and determine needs.
4. Re-evaluate goals and adjust as necessary.
5. Develop a work plan.

## **STEPS IN A REAPPRAISAL**

The International Association of Assessing Officers (IAAO) textbook, Property Appraisal and Assessment Administration, lists ten steps in a reappraisal. These steps outline those activities performed by Stephens County Appraisal District for the completion of periodic reappraisals. Activities are listed below in the order in which they occur:

1. Performance Analysis:
  - A. ratio study
  - B. equity of existing values
  - C. consistency of values with market activity

2. Revaluation Decision:
  - A. statutory – at least once every three years
  - B. administrative policy
3. Analysis of Available Resources:
  - A. staffing
  - B. budget
  - C. existing practices
  - D. information system support
  - E. existing data and maps
4. Planning and Organization
  - A. target completion dates
  - B. identify performance objectives
  - C. specific action plans and schedules
  - D. identify critical activities with completion dates
  - E. set production standards for field activities
5. Mass Appraisal System:
  - A. forms and procedures revised as necessary
  - B. CAMA (computer assisted mass appraisal) system revisions as required
6. Conduct Pilot Study
  - A. test new/revised appraisal methods as applicable
  - B. conduct ratio studies
  - C. determine if values are accurate and reliable
7. Data Collection
  - A. building permits and other sources of new construction
  - B. check properties that have undergone remodeling
  - C. re-inspection of problematic properties
  - D. re-inspection of universe of properties on a cyclic basis
8. Valuation:
  - A. market analysis (based on ratio studies)
  - B. schedules development
  - C. application of revised schedules
  - D. calculation of preliminary values
  - E. tests of values for accuracy and uniformity
9. The Mass Appraisal Report
  - A. establish scope of work
  - B. compliance with Standards Rule 6 - 7 of USPAP
  - C. signed certification by the chief appraiser as required by Standards Rule 6-8 of USPAP
10. Value Defense:
  - A. prepare and deliver notices of value to property owners
  - B. hold informal hearings
  - C. schedule and hold formal appeal hearings

\*\*Note—the burden of proof (evidence) of market values and equity falls on the appraisal district.\*\*

# **Stephens County Appraisal District Residential, Commercial, Rural, and Personal Property 2015/2016 Reappraisal Plan**

This plan for reappraisal was written by Stephens County Appraisal District in conjunction with Eagle Appraisal and Consulting Services, Inc. and utilizes the Eagle Appraisal and Consulting Services, Inc. methodology and is in compliance with USPAP requirements.

Pursuant to Section 25.18 of the Texas Property Tax Code, the Stephens County Appraisal District has established the following physical inspection plan to provide for the inspection of all property within the district at least once every three (3) years. The plan establishes a two-fold approach:

1. **Three-Year Cycle:** The CAD is divided into three areas. Each year, all real residential and commercial property within one of the areas will be reappraised or physically inspected, data updated and photographed, regardless of any ratio study/report findings. These areas are identified as follows:
  - a. **Area One:** For the tax year 2015, all properties to include (1) an approximate 5 mile deep strip along the southern boundary of Stephens county beginning with the southeast corner of the county & extending to the southwest corner, (2) properties within proximity of Possum Kingdom Lake lying south of FM 1148, east of FM 3253 & north of Park Road 33, and (3) properties surrounding Hubbard Creek Lake that lies west of State Hwy 183 & north of FM 576. This includes all rural land, rural improvements, and residential properties that fall in the boundaries of Stephens County in the above areas.
  - b. **Area Two:** For the tax year 2016, all properties within the city limits of the City of Breckenridge. Field inspections shall include all residential, commercial, industrial, personal properties, and minerals within the boundaries of the city limits of the City of Breckenridge.
  - c. **Area Three:** (A) For the tax year 2017, all rural properties in Stephens County to exclude properties described in a. (1,2,3) in Area 1 and properties that lie within the city limits of Breckenridge as described in Area 2. This includes all rural land, rural improvements, and residential properties that fall in the boundaries of Stephens County in the above areas.



**\*\*Note:** all income producing personal property within the CAD is appraised on an annual basis, regardless of its location.\*\*

2. **Annual Ratio Reports:** In addition to the two year cycle stated above, ratio studies shall be performed annually to determine areas or categories of properties within the CAD which need to be reappraised within the current year based on sales ratios. Any areas or categories whose ratios are above or below statutory requirements shall be reappraised in the current year regardless of the area in which they are located.
3. **Market Areas Defined:** Breckenridge CAD has 3 specific market areas:
  1. City of Breckenridge
  2. Hubbard Creek Lake
  3. Possum Kingdom Lake

This two-fold approach will insure not only that all residential and commercial property within the CAD is reappraised at least once every three years, but also that all other categories within the CAD are reviewed annually so that the appraisal district stays current with respect to market value in those areas where residential and/or commercial property values appear to be changing rapidly.

### **Organization**

Field inspections are carried out by the field appraiser as directed by the chief appraiser. The field appraiser physically inspects areas required by the reappraisal cycle, checks all existing data, works building permits, takes photographs of improvements, draws plans of new improvements for entry into computer, rechecks any property on which a question or problem has arisen. Other duties may be required and will be executed upon direction of the chief appraiser.

Data entry of field work notes and sketches is performed by appraisal district staff.

The chief appraiser performs market analysis. Sales data is gathered throughout the year from deed records, sales confirmation letters from property owners, and other sources. The market data is analyzed, sales data is confirmed, outliers are identified, existing classification system is reviewed, market schedules are reviewed and updated as necessary, and final market schedules are applied to the universe of properties.

## **2015 Reappraisal Schedule**

### **Ongoing throughout the year:**

1. As property changes are noted, mail homestead applications and special-use valuation applications.

### **September, 2014:**

Begin on-site inspections

### **Mid December, 2014:**

1. Begin planning sales ratio studies for all areas within the CAD.
2. Gather current sales data from sales confirmation letters deed records, and other sources.

### **January to March, 2015:**

1. Mail personal property renditions, exemption applications, and any other required forms.
2. Complete field inspections as provided by the reappraisal plan area.
3. Begin running sales ratio reports. Compare with CAD values and sales evaluations.
4. Continue working with the Comptroller's Office regarding the ratio study.
5. Identify necessary schedule adjustments.
6. Begin update of the USPAP report (Mass Appraisal Report).
7. Begin working renditions.

### **March through April, 2015:**

1. Continue running sales ratio reports.
2. Refine sales analysis and mass appraisal schedules.
3. Statistically test schedules.
4. Complete data entry of all reappraisal and maintenance changes.
5. Assist field appraiser with reappraisal functions as needed.
6. Finalize all field work and data collection activities.
7. Execute mass appraisal/maintenance activities as required.
8. Prepare for mailing 2015 Notices of Value.
9. Mail appropriate letters concerning homesteads, special-use appraisals, etc.
10. Continue working renditions.

### **May through June, 2015:**

1. Mail notices of value.
2. Hold informal hearings.
3. Respond to property owners' inquiries, protests, and questions from notice mailings.
4. Mail notices of ARB hearing appointment letter.
5. Mail protest hearing reminder letters.
6. Provide certified estimated values to taxing units.
7. Hold ARB hearings.



8. Mail ARB certified change/no change orders.
9. Mail appropriate ARB pending decision letters.
10. Mail appropriate penalty letters on non-rendered personal property.

**July, 2015:**

1. Complete the process of mailing certified ARB orders.
2. Enter into computer all changes as ordered by ARB and notify other CADs if the ordered change falls into an over-lapping area.
3. ARB approval of appraisal records by July 20<sup>th</sup>.
4. Certification of appraisal records and values to taxing units by July 25<sup>th</sup>.

**As needed throughout the year 2015:**

1. Handle any outstanding protests by scheduling ARB hearings.

Additionally, work outside of the appraisal process must be completed on a timely basis. Stephens County Appraisal District is a small district with limited staff, therefore departments are not designated. District staff must complete, in a timely manner, the work assigned by the chief appraiser, or office manager. The work schedule, in addition to the above scheduled calendar, is as follows:

**Daily:**

1. Back up daily data entries.
2. Tax master maintenance (name, address, legal, value, etc.) data entry.
3. Drawing maintenance data entry.
4. Maintain prorated accounts.
5. Maintain exempt frozen accounts.
6. Mobile home changes data entry.
7. Residential, commercial, personal property, industrial, mineral changes data entry.
8. Agricultural changes data entry.
9. Send appraisal roll changes/tax roll changes to appropriate taxing units, if the changes affect the current tax roll.
10. Download pictures provided by the field appraiser.

**Weekly:**

1. System backup.
2. PC servers backup.

**As Needed:**

1. Make changes for supplemental accounts and update tax master.
2. Update previous years' tax masters.
3. Programming changes.
4. Create new reports.

5. Mail letters on properties receiving over-65 exemption where the property owner is now deceased.
6. Homestead letters.
7. Notices of change.
8. Maintain records retention (scan, store, etc.)

While the scope of work is not limited to the scheduled tasks, the District has endeavored to identify the **main** yearly tasks. To further pinpoint scheduled tasks, the following calendar has been implemented for District staff, but the work is not limited to the tasks contained in this calendar:

**January, 2015 and 2016:**

1. All personal property renditions are mailed.
2. Obtain building permits issued by city and code the appropriate parcel for inspection by a field appraiser.
3. Continue with data entry of completed field work cards.
4. Prepare and key in data on all splits and combines.
5. Prepare monthly reports.
6. Prepare renditions to be mailed.
7. Maintain records management program.
8. Mail various applications.
9. Mail new special-use (agricultural) applications due to change of ownership.
10. Notify the tax assessor/collector of each taxing unit of any changes which require a refund.
11. Hold an ARB meeting to receive the supplemental records, complete the Statement of Officer form, administer Oaths of Office, elect officers, etc.
12. Prepare and have available for inspection by the BOD and the ARB the 25.25b change reports.
13. Publish the quarter-page ad on availability of exemptions, rendition requirements, special appraisals, and tax deferrals.
14. Publicize the uniform procedure to appraise inventory.
15. Approve or ratify contracts with vendors.
16. Enter data on new abatements.
17. Schedule BOD meeting and include executive session if necessary.
18. Notify appropriate tax units and other persons of any completed abatements and provide preliminary estimates of value in order for them to determine abatement percentages.
19. Obtain "cap rate" to be used in 2015 appraisals.
20. Request license information from Texas DPS to obtain birth date information to automatically grant over-65 homestead exemptions.
21. Submit updated current year appraisal roll to each tax unit.
22. Continue data entry of name/address changes, splits and combines, subdivision information, and personal property into the current file.
23. Complete "end-of-year clean-up" in the computer and set the computer to accept current year information.
24. Train District staff on the use of any changes to computer programs.

25. Develop new reports as needed.
26. Continue to obtain deed changes and key in ownership changes and parcel boundary changes and create new accounts as needed.
27. Continue to provide assistance to property owners and the general public by answering phone calls and assisting with walk-in customers, real estate agents, landmen, etc.
28. Update and maintain maps.
29. Process and sell digital parcel data as requested.
30. Maintain website.
31. Send sales information and deed transfer information to State Comptroller's Office by February 1.
32. Work with Eagle Appraisal and Consulting Services, Inc. to determine possible dates for Ag Advisory Council meetings and set those meetings up.
33. Eagle Appraisal will continue field work for current year.

**February, 2015 and 2016:**

1. Continue keying in recheck notes.
2. Continue downloading pictures provided by field appraiser.
3. Proof changes keyed in.
4. Continue data entry of sketches/drawings.
5. Set up new business accounts.
6. Research returned mail.
7. Maintain records management program.
8. Prepare all changes for the ARB meeting.
9. Start ordering process for appraisal notices and other forms.
10. Prepare for possible appeal of Comptroller's ratio study. Begin accumulating sales information to prepare appeal.
11. Notify tax assessors/collectors of any changes which require refunds.
12. Maintain website and update it with any new forms, schedules, deadlines, etc.
13. Require the BOD, ARB, and chief appraiser to sign affidavits regarding delinquent taxes.
14. Set up ARB meeting to approve all changes, approve supplemental accounts, and hold hearings on substantial error motions.
15. Ensure that all lawsuits have complied with Section 42.08 payment requirements.
16. Review revisions needed for ARB programs and documents and order necessary supplies.
17. Present preliminary ratio study results to the BOD.
18. Submit updated current year appraisal roll to each taxing unit.
19. Continue data entry of changes and updates.
20. Prepare for annual mailouts.
21. Continue to obtain deed records and make changes to appropriate parcels.
22. Continue with customer service (phone calls, walk-ins, etc.).
23. Continue to maintain maps.
24. Eagle Appraisal will continue field work for current year.

**March, 2015 and 2016:**

1. Continue work on appeal of Comptroller's ratio study, if necessary.
2. Continue updating USPAP (Mass Appraisal Report).
3. Continue data entry of field work.
4. Continue downloading pictures provided by field appraiser.
5. Continue to research returned mail.
6. Maintain records management.
7. Prepare recap of values for supplemental accounts for the ARB and prepare supplemental logs for the ARB.
8. Prepare and key-in new tax agent codes and update changes to existing agent codes.
9. Prepare and mail reminders to those who failed to return homestead applications and/or agricultural applications.
10. Order envelopes for bulk mail-outs.
11. Notify tax assessors/collectors of changes that require refunds.
12. Prepare and mail-out letter to agents requiring them to update the accounts they represent and inform them of fiduciary requirements to protest.
13. Be sure that new ARB members are signed up for the mandatory training course.
14. Process rendition extension requests and print and mail letters granting or denying those requests.
15. Submit updated appraisal roll to each tax unit.
16. Update all schedules provided by Eagle Appraisal & Consulting Services, Inc.
17. Continue to obtain and process deed records.
18. Continue to provide customer service assistance.
19. Continue to maintain maps.
20. Eagle Appraisal will complete field work for current year.

**April, 2015 and 2016:**

1. Complete data entry of changes.
2. Begin preparation of Notices of Value.
3. Mail Notices of Value by May 1 or as soon thereafter as possible.
4. Begin compiling information for evidence packets for property owners filing protests and requesting evidence.
6. Continue data entry processes.
7. Continue to research returned mail.
8. Continue to maintain records management.
9. Prepare change logs for the ARB and BOD.
10. Consult with software provider for mailing Notices of Value.
11. Continue to obtain sales information.
12. Notify each tax assessor/collector of changes that require a refund.
13. Update website to include new information and current year protest forms.
14. Prepare and submit 25.25b reports to the BOD and ARB.
15. Continue to receive and process rendition extension requests and prepare and mail letters granting or denying the requests.
16. Mail letters to taxing units requesting new abatement contracts/TIF Zones for the

current year. (This information is to be sent to the Comptroller's Office before July 1.)

17. Submit updated appraisal roll information to each tax unit.
18. Print Notices of Value.
19. Print edits before notices are mailed.
20. Continue to develop reports as needed.
21. Continue to obtain deed records and make changes as indicated.
22. Continue to provide customer service to the general public.
23. Continue to maintain maps.

**May, 2015 and 2016:**

1. Mail Notices of Value.
2. Continue to work renditions and new personal property accounts.
3. Begin working with property owners regarding proposed values and protests filed.
4. Appraisers hold informal hearings with protesting property owners.
5. Provide evidence to property owners submitting evidence requests for protest hearings.
6. Prepare monthly reports.
7. Continue to research returned mail.
8. Continue to maintain records management.
9. Notify taxing units' tax assessors/collectors of appraisal roll changes that require refunds.
10. Process and determine requests for additional 15 days to file renditions (May 30<sup>th</sup> deadline) and mail determinations.
11. By May 15<sup>th</sup>, submit preliminary estimates of value to taxing units.
12. By May 15<sup>th</sup>, submit appraisal records to ARB.
13. Ensure that all new ARB members have attended mandatory training course and that certificates of completion are on file.
14. Publicize protest procedures and deadlines in ¼ page ad in local newspaper.
15. Update parcel information on new improvement values due to expired abatements and percent changes.
16. Begin scheduling protest hearings and mail Notice of Protest letters and reminder letters as necessary.
17. Provide updated appraisal roll information to each taxing unit.
18. Mail, as necessary, preliminary ARB change letters, no change letters, unable to contact letters, and homestead letters.
19. Prepare new reports as needed.
20. Obtain deed records and process changes.
21. Update maps to reflect changes of ownership, splits, combines, etc.
22. Continue to provide customer service to general public.

**June, 2015 and 2016:**

1. Mail penalty letters on non-rendered personal property accounts.
2. Continue working with property owners regarding proposed values and appraisers continue to hold informal hearings.

3. Continue to provide evidence to property owners submitting evidence requests for protest hearings.
4. Prepare monthly reports.
5. Continue to research returned mail.
6. Continue to maintain records management.
7. Notify taxing units' tax assessor/collectors of any appraisal roll changes that require refunds.
8. ARB hearings to begin or continue as needed.
9. Mail ARB certified orders on change, no change determinations.
10. Ensure that school districts have a certified estimate of value and that all units have an estimate of value.
11. Submit abatement contracts executed and reinvestment zones established by taxing units in prior year to the Property Tax Division (must be done by July 1<sup>st</sup>).
12. Prepare proposed AD Budget for the following year and submit to BOD.
13. Continue to schedule protest hearings and mail letters and reminder letters as necessary.
14. Prepare folders for hearings.
15. Post hearing agendas as necessary.
16. Submit appraisal roll changes to each taxing unit.
17. Submit sales information to State Comptroller's Officer by June 1.
18. Obtain deed records and process ownership changes, splits, combines, etc. and ensure that maps are updated to reflect these changes.
19. Continue to provide customer service to the general public.

**July, 2015 and 2016:**

1. Mail all approvals/denials on rendition penalty waiver requests, ARB certified orders and any other necessary correspondence.
2. Continue ARB hearings if necessary until all protests have been heard.
3. Prepare monthly reports.
4. Continue to research returned mail.
5. Continue to maintain records management.
6. Ensure that all ARB changes have been keyed into computer.
7. By July 20<sup>th</sup>, ARB approves the appraisal records for the current year.
8. Check appraisal roll and values for substantial errors.
9. Provide certified values and recaps to all taxing units by July 25<sup>th</sup> and print certified rolls for each unit.
10. Notify taxing units' tax assessor/collectors of appraisal roll changes that require refunds.
11. Prepare and submit 25.25(b) quarterly reports to BOD and ARB.
12. Begin working on the reappraisal calendar for the following year.
13. Obtain deed records and make ownership changes, splits and combines, and update parcels and maps to reflect the changes.
14. Continue to provide customer service to the general public.



**August, 2015 and 2016:**

1. Prepare appraisal cards for the appropriate reappraisal area for the field appraisers, attaching permits and recheck notes.
2. Prepare reports for the State Comptroller's Office.
3. Prepare monthly reports.
4. Continue to maintain records management.
5. Re-check appraisal roll for substantial errors.
6. Generate report of sales information on sales that occurred January 1 through the end of July.
7. Begin fieldwork to examine sales, or note these sales for Eagle Appraisal and Consulting appraisers to examine when fieldwork begins in September.
8. Field examinations continue through April of the following year.
9. Notify taxing units' tax assessors/collectors of appraisal roll changes that require refunds.
10. After certification of rolls, send to Texas Department of Economic Development a listing of all sites with values greater than or equal to \$100 million, in compliance with Section 23.23 of the Texas Property Tax code.
11. Contact entities on primarily charitable organization exemptions to see if renewal of exemption is needed.
12. Have BOD schedule the budget hearing.
13. Publicize the budget and budget hearing date.
14. Submit updated appraisal roll to each taxing unit.
15. Compile all necessary information for the calculating of tax rates and begin calculation process.
16. Obtain deed records and make ownership changes, splits and combines and update parcels and maps to reflect changes.
17. Continue to provide customer service to the general public.

**September, 2015 and 2016:**

1. Complete tax rate calculations, publish effective rates, and assist taxing units in adopting tax rates.
2. Order or print tax rolls.
3. Eagle Appraisal and Consulting Services, appraisers will begin field work.
4. Begin working on any arbitration cases.
5. Begin working on September 1 inventory parcels.
6. Prepare Property Value Reports for State Comptroller's office.
7. Begin data entry of changes made by field appraisers and download new pictures taken by field appraisers.
8. Prepare monthly reports.
9. Continue to maintain records management.
10. Run listing of all category A1s where mailing address and physical address are the same, but no homestead exemption is granted in order to mail property owners a homestead application in the following year.
11. Notify each taxing units' tax assessor/collector of changes to the appraisal roll that require a refund.
12. BOD must adopt the following year's budget by September 15.

13. Send State Reports to the Property Tax Division.
14. Obtain deed records and make ownership changes, splits and combines, and ensure that parcels and maps are updated to reflect the changes.
15. Continue to provide customer service to the general public.
16. Mail tax statements.

**October, 2015 and 2016:**

1. Eagle Appraisal and Consulting Services field appraisers will continue field inspections.
2. Begin working with the Comptroller's office regarding the ratio study.
3. Mail completed Reports of Property Value to the State Comptroller's office.
4. Continue to key in changes made by field appraisers.
5. Continue to download new pictures taken by the field appraisers.
6. Prepare monthly reports.
7. Continue to maintain records management.
8. Notify each taxing units' tax assessor/collector of appraisal roll changes that requires a refund.
9. Prepare and submit 25.25(b) change report to BOD and ARB.
10. Notify appropriate taxing units of any current year lawsuits.
11. Obtain deed records and make ownership changes, splits and combines and update parcels and maps to reflect those changes.
12. Continue to provide customer service to the general public.

**November, 2015 and 2016:**

1. Eagle Appraisal and Consulting appraisers will continue field work.
2. Continue working with the Comptroller's office regarding the ratio study.
3. Continue keying in changes made by field appraisers and downloading pictures.
4. Prepare monthly reports.
5. Continue to maintain records management.
6. Prepare new homestead exemption applications for mail-out during the first part of January.
7. Prepare renditions for mail-out during the first part of January.
8. Notify each taxing units' tax assess/collector of appraisal roll changes that require a refund.
9. BOD appoints the following year's Ag Advisory Council at a regular meeting.
10. BOD appoints ARB members for the following year at a regular meeting.
11. Submit updated appraisal roll information to each taxing unit.
12. Obtain deed records and make ownership changes, splits and combines, and update parcels and maps to reflect those changes.
13. Continue to provide customer service to the general public.

**December, 2015 and 2016:**

1. Eagle Appraisal and Consulting field appraisers will continue field work.
2. Continue to key in changes provided by the field appraisers and download new



- pictures.
3. Continue to work on arbitration cases and lawsuits.
  4. Continue working with the Comptroller's office regarding the ratio study.
  5. Prepare monthly reports.
  6. Prepare all homestead exemption applications to surviving spouse of deceased for mail out on January 1<sup>st</sup>.
  7. Notify each taxing units' tax assessor/collectors about any changes to the appraisal roll that requires refunds.
  8. Submit updated appraisal roll information to the taxing units.
  9. Obtain deed records and make ownership changes, splits and combines and update parcels and maps to reflect those changes.
  10. Continue to provide customer service to the general public.
  11. Continue to maintain records management.

### **2015 Reappraisal Schedule**

The same timetable and duties apply in each year. The field appraiser shall physically inspect all property in as described in Area 1. The chief appraiser and CAD staff shall continue to complete the same duties and reappraisal steps as outlined for 2015.

#### **2015 Anticipated Work Areas and Target Dates:**

Eagle Appraisal & Consulting field appraisers will begin work on properties specified in Area 1 of the plan upon receipt of the field worksheets from the CAD beginning on or around September 1, 2014.

The first area to be inspected for the tax year 2015 is identified as: an approximate 5 mile deep strip along the southern boundary of Stephens's county beginning with the southeast corner of the county & extending to the southwest corner, Target date for completion of this section is October 1, 2014.

The second area to be inspected for the tax year 2015 is identified as properties within proximity of Possum Kingdom Lake lying south of FM 1148, east of FM 3253 & north of Park Road 33. Target date for completion of this section is November 30, 2014.

The third area to be inspected for the tax year 2015 is identified as properties surrounding Hubbard Creek Lake that lies west of State Hwy 183 & north of FM 576. This includes all rural land, rural improvements, and residential properties that fall in the boundaries of Stephens County in the above areas. Target date for completion of this section is April 1, 2015.

### **2016 Reappraisal Schedule**

The same timetable and duties apply in each year. The field appraiser shall physically inspect all property in as described in Area 2. The chief appraiser and CAD staff shall continue to complete the same duties and reappraisal steps as outlined for 2015.

#### **2016 Anticipated Work Areas and Target Dates:**

Eagle Appraisal & Consulting field appraisers will work on properties specified in Area 2 of the plan upon receipt of the field worksheets from the CAD beginning on or around September 1, 2015.

The properties to be inspected are all properties within the city limits of the City of Breckenridge. These properties are to be inspected alphabetically by housing additions and abstract. Target date for completion of this quadrant is April 1, 2017.

### **2017 Reappraisal Schedule**

The same timetable and duties apply in each year. The field appraiser shall physically inspect all property in as described in Area 2. The chief appraiser and CAD staff shall continue to complete the same duties and reappraisal steps as outlined for 2015.

The first area to be inspected for the tax year 2017 is identified as all rural properties in the North Half of Stephens County, to exclude properties surrounding Hubbard Creek Lake and Possum Kingdom Lake beginning at the northern county boundary extending south to State Hwy 180. Target date for completion of this half of the county is December 31, 2016.

The second area to be inspected for the tax year 2017 is identified as all rural properties in the South Half of Stephens County, beginning at State Hwy 180 and extending south to the boundary line. Target date for completion of this half of the county is April 1, 2017.

New construction, remodels, and problematic areas may be worked on days that are deemed to be bad weather days (roads impassable) in rural areas. Any other properties in the county that have been identified as needing to be inspected in the previous tax year, will be inspected during a time from January 1 to April 1.

\*\*\*\*\*Note: the above areas and times may be changed due to weather, availability of staff, and/or other unforeseen circumstances.\*\*\*\*\*

APPROVED ON THIS 28 DAY OF Aug, 2014.

*Just McCombs*  
BOD CHAIRMAN

*Robert Dwyer*  
BOD SECRETARY

8-28-14  
DATE

8-28-14  
DATE