

ROBERTSON CENTRAL APPRAISAL DISTRICT
PLAN FOR PERIODIC REAPPRAISAL

2023/2024

Table of Contents

Item:	Page:
Executive Summary	5
Plan for Periodic Reappraisal Requirement	5
Revaluation Decision	8
Tax Year 2023	
Tax Year 2024	
Performance Analysis	9
Ratio Study Results	
Appraisal Accuracy	
Appraisal Uniformity	
Analysis of Available Resources	10
Staffing for Reappraisal Year	
Proposed Budget for 2023	
Existing Practices	
Information Systems (IS) Support	
Existing Data and Maps	
Planning and Organization	11
Calendar of Key Events – 2023	
Calendar of Key Events – 2024	
Performance Objectives	
Target Completion Dates – 2023	
Target Completion Dates – 2024	
Production Standards for Field Activities	

Mass Appraisal System	12
Forms and Procedures	
CAMA System Revisions as Required	
Real Property Valuations	
Personal Property Valuations	
Noticing Process	
Hearing Process	
Data Collection Requirements by Tax Year	14
New Construction	
Remodeling	
Reinspection of Problematic Markets	
Reinspection of Universe of Properties on Specific Cycles	
Field or Office Verification of Sales Data and Property Characteristics	
Pilot Study by Tax Year	18
Test New/Revised Mass Appraisal Methods	
Ratio Studies by Market Areas	
Test Accuracy and Reliability in Market Areas	
Valuation by Tax Year	20
Market Analysis	
Model Development	
Model Calibration	
Calculation of Preliminary Values	
Test Values for Accuracy and Uniformity	
Description of Valuation Methods by Property Type	
Approaches to Value	
Special Valuation Process	
The Mass Appraisal Report by Tax Year	23
Scope of Work	
Compliant with STANDARD RULE 6-8 of USPAP	
Signed Certification by Chief Appraiser as Required	
Value Defense	23
Informal Appeals	
Formal Appeals	
Burden of Proof Evidence for Market Value and Equity	

Computer Assisted Mass Appraisal	24
ARB Appeal Procedures	25
Written Reappraisal Plan	27
Planning a Reappraisal	
Steps in a Reappraisal	
Residential, Commercial, Rural, & Personal Property 2023/2024 Reappraisal Plan	27
3-Year Cycle: Area One and Area Two	
Annual Ratio Reports	
Organization	29
2023 Reappraisal Schedule	
Scope of Work Schedule 2023 & 2024	
2023 Reappraisal Schedule	29
2024 Reappraisal Schedule	

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

TAX CODE REQUIREMENT:

INTRODUCTION

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 plan. Not later than the 10th day before the date of the hearing, the secretary 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 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 the location and market area of property, physical attributes of property such as size, age, and condition, legal and economic attributes, and the identification of 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 Robertson Central 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 Robertson Central 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 Robertson 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:

ROBERTSON COUNTY	ROBERTSON COUNTY ESD
BREMOND ISD	CITY OF BREMOND
FRANKLIN ISD	CITY OF FRANKLIN
HEARNE ISD	CITY OF HEARNE
CALVERT ISD	CITY OF CALVERT
MUMFORD ISD	
BRYAN ISD	
LEON ISD	
GROESBECK ISD	

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 1st of the year proceeding 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 1st.

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. Tax year 2023 and tax year 2024 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 7 employees of which these three have the following classifications:

- * NANCY COMMANDER RPA/RTA
- * RHONDA GARCIA RTA
- * DAWN SPILLER, RPA

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 Robertson CAD, by policy adopted by the Board of Directors and the Chief Appraiser, reappraises all property in the district every three years. The reappraisal may consist of field inspections, CAMA, or both. The reappraisal cycle is a complete appraisal of all properties in the district. Tax year 2023 is a reappraisal year and tax year 2024 is a reappraisal year. Each cycle, Notices of Appraised Value are mailed to all property owners with a value change of \$1,000 or more and any property with an ownership change.

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 of newspaper clippings that pertain to changes in property and all District staff remains alert to visual changes in properties. 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 each year.

Eagle Appraisal and Consulting Services compiles all 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 2023, the reappraisal year, this analysis is used to develop the starting point for establishing the level and accuracy of appraisal performance. In 2024, the reappraisal year, this analysis is used to develop the starting point for establishing the level and accuracy of appraisal performance. In 2023 and 2024, 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 Services 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 2023 are detailed in the 2023 budget, as adopted by the Board of Directors of the Robertson Central Appraisal District, and attached to the written biennial plan by reference. This reappraisal plan is adjusted to reflect the available staffing in tax year 2023 and anticipated staffing for tax year 2024. Budget restraints can impact the cycle of real property re-inspection and personal property on-site review that can be accomplished in the 2023-2024 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 Comptroller's Guide 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 2023 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 years 2023 and 2024. Production standards for field activities are calculated and incorporated in the planning and scheduling process. Refer to the District's timeline and schedule in the Written Plan for Periodic Reappraisal.

Eagle Property Tax Appraisal & Consulting, Inc. will begin field inspections of the District's scheduled reappraisal area on or about the first Tuesday following Labor Day in September, 2022 and will complete all inspections and schedules by April 1, 2023 for the 2023 tax year. Eagle Property Tax Appraisal & Consulting, Inc. will begin field inspections of the District's scheduled reappraisal area on or about the first Tuesday following Labor Day in September, 2023 and will complete all inspections and schedules by April 1, 2024 for the 2024 tax year.

The District shall provide to Eagle Property Tax Appraisal & Consulting, Inc. appraisers the 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 inspection procedures require the appraisers to check all information on the field cards and to update the information when necessary. All new improvements shall be measured, classed, and assigned the appropriate depreciation amount. Structures that have been demolished or removed shall be marked off the appraisal card. Properties with extensive improvement remodeling shall be identified and the field inspection shall identify and update the property characteristic data. The appraiser shall note the date of the inspection on the card and place his initials on the card. The appraiser shall take pictures, with each picture having a date, and note the picture number on the appraisal card.

Each year, Eagle Property Tax Appraisal & Consulting, Inc. will test real property market areas, by property classification. The market areas shall be 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.

The International Association of Assessing Officers' Standard on Mass Appraisal of Real Property specifies that the universe of properties shall be re-inspected on a cyclical basis of at least once every three years. The re-inspection includes, if possible, physically viewing the property, photographing, and verifying the accuracy of the existing data. A re-inspection may also consist of re-inspection by utilizing pictometry, digital and satellite imagery, various other digital options, or a combination of physical and digital information. Eagle Property Tax Appraisal & Consulting, Inc. has set the standard of physical inspection being the first choice and primary focus. When physical inspection is not possible, digital options are then used. Some appraisal districts have chosen digital inspections only. The annual re-inspection requirements for tax years 2023 and 2024 are identified and scheduled in the District's Written Plan for Periodic Reappraisal.

In addition to the three-year cycle set out by the District's reappraisal plan, Eagle Property Tax Appraisal & Consulting, Inc. will perform ratio studies annually to determine areas or categories of properties within the CAD which need to be reappraised within the current year based on 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. 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 District stays current with respect to market value in those areas where residential and/or commercial property values appear to be changing rapidly.

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. Robertson County Appraisal District contracted with the firm of Capital Appraisal Group 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 ensure 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 market value 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.

Special-use valuations (1-D-1) are recalculated each year, as required by Texas Property Tax Code, Sections 23.51 through 23.60. Each year, Eagle Property Tax Appraisal & Consulting, Inc. will gather information for the district and utilize that district's information to determine ag-use values. Sources of information include, but are not limited to, the Agriculture Advisory Board, Farm Service Agency, and USDA publications. The entire calculation packet will be provided to the district.

Personal Property Valuation

Eagle Property Tax Appraisal & Consulting performs personal property valuations only in some Districts.

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.

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

Eagle Property Tax Appraisal & Consulting, Inc. representatives conduct informal hearings with protesting property owners. If the protest cannot be settled within the guidelines set out by the District's informal hearings procedures, the property owner may elect to proceed to a formal hearing before the Appraisal Review Board.

Eagle Property Tax Appraisal & Consulting 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 Services. If valuation issues are not agreed upon at this level, the protesting property owner may elect to proceed to a formal hearing.

Eagle Property Tax Appraisal & Consulting, Inc. representatives will be present at formal ARB hearings and will present and defend the appraisals performed. Further, Eagle Property Tax Appraisal & Consulting, Inc. will provide to the District the calculations of schedules and final schedules.

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.

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:

Robertson Central 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.

Land Analysis

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 filed 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 Cities of Hearne, Calvert, Bremond and Franklin provide a listing of permits issued during the previous year. Additionally, the local newspaper's articles are kept throughout the year for reference purposes.

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 2023 and 2024 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:** The District rates conditions as very poor, poor, fair, average, good, very good, and excellent. 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. Tax year 2023 is a reappraisal year. Tax year 2024 is a 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 Robertson 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: $\text{net-to-land (all ag related income streams - all ag related expenses) / cap rate = ag value}$

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 15th). 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 Services 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 60 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 Robertson Central 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 Robertson Central 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. reinspection of problematic properties
 - D. reinspection 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.****