

NEXUS COMMITTEE STRATEGIC PLANNING PROJECT TEAM

MEETING NOTES

Tuesday, June 24, 2014
1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. Eastern Time

- I. Welcome and Introductions – Attending: Anita DeGumbia, GA; Lennie Collins, NC; Tom Shimkin, MTC; Ben Abalos, MTC; Shelley Robinson, UT.
- II. Public Comment – none.
- III. Project Work
 - a. Any changes to version 1.5 of the Mission, Vision and Values – team was comfortable with changes. Team will use version 1.5 in report to Nexus Committee.
 - b. Brainstorm possible projects for Vitality and Reputation goal area –

Ideas submitted ahead of time:

- Consider offering nexus seminars to private industries: accountants, CPAs, attorneys, etc.
- Advertise the program more. (Ex: VDA advertisements)
- Look towards automating VDA process between states, MTC, and taxpayer reps. Returns would still be mailed in along with required documentation. However, front end communications could be expedited tremendously if all parties involved could communicate through a secure interactive software program. I realize resources for this type of project are an issue.
- The project could use some visibility, using various organizations such as COST, IPT, etc to present a presentation to. They are always looking for speakers and topics of interest for members. This would allow people to better understand what the NNP has to offer and also get the NNP word out.
- Would it be worthwhile to have the Nexus School opened to the private sector? This may also be another good avenue for visibility. In addition, would this also be a good forum to outreach some of the programs that the NNP is doing, by using this program to showcase the tools they have available to assist the states when doing their job.

- In regards to the Voluntary Disclosure process, streamline the process starting with having taxpayers utilize a template when submitting a VDA. Some do, some don't but if they don't they are at least providing the responses to the questions we ask in their correspondence.

DISCUSSION:

Open Nexus School to the public– there has been ongoing discussion about whether to open nexus school to the public. First day is teaching about the law; second day is audit techniques. First day could be opened up without problems. Also could engage the public sector in presenting.

Membership in NNP – why are some states not members? Some states difficult to work with, some don't respond to inquiries. Engagement by some is driven by political environment. Some have different process for Voluntary Disclosure, some feel that it doesn't offer value. Some good candidates: IN, MS, WY, RI, ME. One key issue is evaluating ROI. For small states ROI varies widely from year to year. Need to identify more than just dollars that are promoted. VD is a subset of what NNP does, but it takes about 80% of nexus staff time. VDP is now only available to NNP member states.

VDP process improvement: would be a worthwhile project; potential for direct communication between taxpayers and states - requires database changes, would be expensive. GA a good study subject – have streamlined significantly in past 5 years. They have identified more up-front information so that taxpayers know what is needed up front.

Compliance leads: would be easy to provide web site link for leads, problem has been getting the states to follow up on the leads. Leads don't always bear fruit. Level of contact is low. States have hot lines for compliance leads, but usually not a lot of value. Get a sense of states' experience with hot lines and compliance leads.

Goal area covered membership, involvement of private sector, nexus repository, and added services. No other project ideas at this time. Team will flesh out the four projects discussed.

c. Brainstorm evaluation criteria for projects:

Team decided to use the following criteria for prioritizing project ideas:

- (1) State Interest: Which project considered would attract the most number of *additional* state participants to the National Nexus Program?
- (2) Feasibility: For which project would the Nexus Committee be willing to shift Nexus resources from ongoing Nexus activities, or provide additional state funding?
- (3) Impact: Which project would most boost the Commission's reputation by increased attention from the SALT press, by being unique in the SALT community including FTA, TEI, SEATA, Big 4, etc.?
- (4) Topical Urgency: What keeps state people up at night? What creates pressure from taxpayers or others? Is this project designed to address an urgent problem?

d. Discuss whether and how to engage Nexus Committee in the process –Notice to nexus committee of meeting schedule and materials, welcome to join discussion on 7/8 and 7/10.

- IV. Next Steps –Report to the Nexus Committee must be ready to post by 7/18. Elizabeth will draft project descriptions, evaluation criteria descriptions and send out for review. Team to offer comments before next meeting.
- V. Adjourn – 2:00 pm EDT