

# NATIONAL STATE DATA CENTER STEERING COMMITTEE

Bob Coats (NC), *Chair*  
Mary Craigle (MT), *Vice Chair*  
Terry Jackson (GA), *Co-Secretary*  
Charles Rynerson (OR), *Co-Secretary*

*Representing a Network of 1,800  
SDC/BIDC Data Centers and Affiliates  
Nationwide*

Allen Barnes (AZ)  
Amy Bittner (WY)  
Sue Copella (PA)  
Cliff Holley (MS)  
Dan Veroff (WI)

*We Bring Value-Added Census Data and Education to the User*

## State Data Center (SDC) Steering Committee Conference Call Tuesday, May 14, 2013 2:00 pm EST

### Participants:

| <b>Steering Committee:</b>                                                                                                 | <b>Customer Liaison and<br/>Marketing Services Office<br/>(CLMSO):</b>                                                             | <b>Special Guests<br/>from Census<br/>Bureau:</b> | <b>Census<br/>Information<br/>Centers (CIC)<br/>Liason:</b> |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|
| Allen Barnes<br>Amy Bittner<br>Bob Coats<br>Sue Copella<br>Mary Craigle<br>Terry Jackson<br>Charles Rynerson<br>Dan Veroff | Tom Edwards<br>Toni Hall<br>Terri Nelson<br>Barbara Lafleur<br>Kathy Conklin<br>Kendall Johnson<br>Samantha Proctor<br>Ti-Anna May |                                                   | Melanie Poulter                                             |

- The meeting started at 2:00 PM EST

### Communication Protocol

- The question was asked about coordination of communications and requests between the SC, the SDCs, the USCB Regional Offices, and USCB headquarters staff. Most of the discussion centered on inviting speakers to SDC events. Barb brought up an example of a HQ staff person being invited to speak at an SDC and CLMSO being unaware of it. Kendall warned that other divisions might expect to be reimbursed by DUB for travel, for which there is no budget.
- Amy asked if carbon copy on Email was sufficient or if requests had to be handled by DUB to other points in headquarters.
- Sue said she preferred to route all requests through Barbara for the sake of communication and convenience.
- Kendall said the bottom line is that they need to know about requests into headquarters so they can anticipate questions and requests from other units and so that they can assist where appropriate. She said it is imperative that they be kept in the loop, and in those instances where the SDC does not have a relationship with a specific USCB staff member, please let CLMSO contact them.
- SC members mentioned that there may be more situations that just speaker invitations in which SDCs may contact HQ staff, and CLMSO likely does not need to be involved in all of them; Tom suggested that guidelines might need to be written.

- In summary, it was generally agreed that requests from the SC to headquarters staff would be copied to inform CLMSO about these. Requests and communications to RO staff would not necessarily require a copy except where it might subsequently involve headquarters staff, or as a simple matter of courtesy to let DUB know what we are doing.
- CLMSO requested that we table this discussion for final resolution after they have has an opportunity to discuss it internally with their entire group to make sure we cover all considerations.

#### Pop Quiz Application

- There was a question from the SC and discussion about the timing and deadline of the request for PopQuiz content.
- Bob reported that the data that the SDCs provided was just what they were looking for. Two of the four questions are done, and waiting for approval. User testing is scheduled for June or July, and may involve selected SDCs. The release date will be after the testing, date TBD. It will be rolled out on Android first, then iPhone.
- We learned that the USCB Regional Offices were given the assignment at the same time as the SDCs but that they were given extra time to respond, thus delaying the programmers.

#### Alteryx Status

- The feedback from the SDCs on Alteryx was also valuable. The decision on whether to move forward with Alteryx is being delayed by budget concerns and current vacancies in management at the Commerce Department.
- Sam Aherrera suggested that the SC send a letter or email to Steve Jost and Steven Buckner to ask about the current status of Alteryx. [Bob has drafted a letter and plans to send it the week of May 20<sup>th</sup>].

#### ACS Case Studies

- There was a discussion about the focus of the American Community Survey case studies that the SC had collected and that Mary had compiled and published on the SDC website. Mary has sent an email to the SDC listserv announcing the ACS and dashboard examples.
- Bob asked if there is a difference between applications of ACS and case studies; Tom responded that they are one and the same.
- This request is coming from Tasha Boone, for use in the stakeholder plan, and is specific to SDCs. The previous [November 2012] request for ACS examples was sent by Seth Amgott of PIO, and included examples from beyond the SDC network.
- Tom wanted to be sure that we had collected not just general uses of ACS data but specific cases of how the SDCs in particular were using ACS data.
- Mary confirmed that the collection contained cases of both types and that she had tested all of the related links within the last few weeks.

- Allen asked if there is a way that we can find out what kind of impact our contributions are having; Tom responded that needs to be written into the stakeholder plan — they need to let the SDC network know how our input is being used.
- Tom said he would meet with PIO and ACSO to make sure that they have examined the information previously collected by the SC/SDCs.

#### Stakeholder Legislative Outreach

- This was a discussion about avoiding political entanglement in political fight and legislative initiatives to end the American community survey and other USCB surveys.
- Bob noted that he had seen an assessment claiming a less than 2-percent chance of such legislation being successful.
- Tom was not as skeptical that it couldn't be successful and urged that we all take the threat seriously.
- Amy asked if other Census Bureau units, such as for Agricultural Survey, Economic Survey, etc. have asked for stakeholder support in response to legislation inimical to USCB operations.
- Tom's response was that he did not know.

#### Annual Meeting

- The budget issues relating to a decision on the format of the annual SDC meeting have not yet been resolved. The SC discussed proposing virtual quarterly meetings if the USCB onsite annual meeting is cancelled.
- During this conference call, Kendall received an email saying that Tom Mesenbourg had received the letter that the SC sent in support of the annual meeting.

#### Other Issues

- Other issues that were slated for discussion but not covered included
  - o Clarification of the SDC affiliates email subscription list
  - o Gustafson Award
  - o Steering Committee elections
  - o Melanie gave us a brief CIC report that was cut all too short by our time overrun on the previous topics. The CICs have also been discussing alternatives for the annual meeting.
- The meeting ended at 3:05 PM EST