

NATIONAL STATE DATA CENTER STEERING COMMITTEE

Bob Coats (NC), *Chair*
Mary Craigle (MT), *Vice Chair*
Amy Bittner (WY), *Co-Secretary*
Charles Rynerson (OR), *Co-Secretary*

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

Allen Barnes (AZ)
Patty Becker (MI)
Sue Copella (PA)
Todd Graham (MN)
Dan Veroff (WI)

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

State Data Center (SDC) Steering Committee Conference Call Tuesday, November 12, 2014 2:00 pm EST

Participants:

Steering Committee (SC):	Customer Liaison and Marketing Services Office (CLMSO):	Special Guests from Census Bureau:	Census Information Centers (CIC) Liason:
Amy Bittner Allen Barnes Charles Rynerson Bob Coats Todd Graham Dan Veroff Patty Becker Mary Craigle	Tom Edwards Toni Hall Samantha Proctor Barbara LaFleur	None	Melanie Poulter

The meeting started at 2:00 PM EST

Discussion of Annual Meeting

- Due to the budget situation, a decision has not yet been made about whether the annual meeting scheduled in April will be in-person or virtual.
- Todd: [If there is no funding for an in-person meeting] I support the idea that we might hold our own meeting with states paying their own way. But the attendance may be very small.
- Charles: What about a hybrid? Some people who could pay their own way could attend in person, and those who didn't have travel funds could attend virtually.
- Amy: The FSCPE meeting is set up that way. Although the Bureau pays for members to attend, some people can't come, and there is a virtual feed for those who can't be there in person.
- Bob: The earliest that we will hear something about the meeting will be the middle of next month. Maybe not then. [Tom addresses this later in today's conference call].

CLMSO staff joined the call at 2:15.

- Bob: Steering Committee members should reach out to our tree states regarding agenda topics for the annual meeting. We want to give feedback to CLMSO by the end of the year. Ask tree states if they want to hear more information about some of the presentations given during the

Steering Committee meeting. Also ask about Steering Committee nominations and Gustafson award nominees.

Legislative boundaries in the 5 year ACS

- Mary had a concern about the upcoming ACS 5-year data release because it won't reflect the new boundaries recently approved in Montana. She asked that someone at the Census Bureau help her with a news release about the info. She will send CLMSO a draft of language explaining the situation.

Expanded embargo access

- Barbara was able to reach all but 3 SDCs (MI, SD, VA) regarding updating coordinating agencies contact info. Steering Committee members will work to try and reach the 3 non-responders. If they are unreachable, the Census Bureau will move forward on the expanded embargo access.

Boundary Quality Assessment and Reconciliation (BQARP)

- Discussion about BQARP was initiated by Bob because he had a local meeting about it. It doesn't seem like information about BQARP has made it to the SDCs. In addition, there seems to be some conflicting information about the timeline for submitting information.
- A question was asked about who is the Boundary and Annexation Survey (BAS) coordinator for each state. BQARP is a facet of BAS. There is a FAQ that includes the schedule for each state.
- Patty: Why not put a message on the listserv to send to all SDCs?
- Bob: [Before we do that] we want to get a consistent message from the Bureau that we can send to the network.
- Dan: If the Geography Division knows who in each state is the contact [for BAS/BQARP], it would be good for the SDCs to be notified about who it is.
- Tom will ask for information to share with SDC network.

Annual meeting

- Bob: Any news?
- Tom: Nope.
- Bob: Hopefully we will hear something by the middle of next month.
- Tom: My guess is that the call [whether the meeting is in-person or virtual] will be made by sometime in January. Given resolution of the budget, we should have a decision by then.

- Allen: What are the dates for the Annual Meeting?
- Dates for annual meeting are April 13-15. CLMSO had tentatively changed them to the end of April so as not to start on a Monday, but it conflicted with the Population Association of America (PAA) meeting. It may be preferable to meet at the end of the week, but the rooms are booked later the week of April 13th, so Toni will reserve the space for Monday-Wednesday, the 13th-15th.
- Could the Census Bureau accommodate a hybrid meeting where people who could afford could attend in person and others could attend virtually? What about funds for new SDCs to participate in a Boot Camp?
- Tom will look into all these questions.

CIC Report, Melanie Poulter

- The CIC business meeting was held in October. Momi Fernandez was reelected as chair, Melanie vice-chair, and Mark Holman and Bruce Wade secretaries.
- Reengaging the CIC network is a priority. The first quarterly CIC newsletter is coming out. The website is being beefed up. A survey was to network members, and it got a good response. A key response was the need for an in-person conference.
- We are working to develop a set of core competencies for CICs, i.e. good knowledge of Census tools and products. We are also updating the CIC action plan. Work needs to be done on helping CIC's to better promote Census data and sharing these products with the Census Bureau.
- Suggested topics for the annual meeting include the Alternative Questionnaire Experiment (AQE), rural children and Hispanics, ways that people are conveying Margins of Error (MOEs), data visualization training, and showcasing CIC and SDC projects. They have also talked about having a CIC town hall discussion as a part of the annual meeting.
- In late August, we took nominations for the Steering Committee. We had voted to reduce the number of seats on the Steering Committee from nine to seven, and we will be voting on two positions.

Final miscellaneous topics

- CLMSO is doing an internal PSA for promoting the work that the SDCs do. CLMSO is asking for pictures of SDCs in action. If SDCs have pics they should send them to Toni Hall in CLMSO.
- Bob will send a message to the listserv [it was sent immediately after the conference call] asking for action photos.
- Todd: What is the deadline for the Gustafson award?

- Bob: We could wrap up nominations by the end of January or early February, allowing a month to review and make a decision.

The meeting ended at 3:10 PM EDT