

# NATIONAL STATE DATA CENTER STEERING COMMITTEE

Xan Wedel (KS)  
*Chair*  
Annette Watters (AL)  
*Vice-Chair*  
Pam Harris (MT) and  
Pam Schenker (FL)  
*Secretary*

Julie Hoang (CA)  
Barbara Ronningen (MN)  
Robert Scardamalia (NY)  
Jane Traynham (MD)  
Dan Veroff (WI)

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

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

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## State Data Center Conference Call Meeting Minutes Tuesday, March 4, 2008

The conference call meeting commenced at 3:00 pm Eastern Time. All Steering Committee members were in attendance except Annette Watters, Julie Hoang, Bob Scardamalia and Dan Veroff. Mark Holman, CIC representative was also on the call. CLMSO was represented by Frank Ambrose and Maria Malagon.

The agenda items for this conference call were:

- Welcome to Mark Holman, CIC SDC liaison
- RSA, JPA status, summary from participating states
- County-level population estimates and Metropolitan/Micropolitan area releases.
- April Meeting in New Orleans
  - o How is the agenda coming along?
  - o How many states have registered? Should we contact tree states to encourage participation?

### *Welcome to Mark Holman*

The committee was happy to welcome Mark to our conference calls and Mark indicated he is pleased to be CIC's representative and looks forward to working closely with both groups.

### *RSA, JPA status, summary from participating states*

#### **Alabama**

In Alabama, a statistics faculty member has done some SAS research on the provided RSA profiles. The analysis reveals that urban areas tend to separate themselves from rural areas. That is, data in RSA profiles show important, distinct things about rural areas in Alabama. Dr. Conerly is going to write up a report of about three pages that summarizes his findings, without making it a technical, academic journal-style article.

Also, interested members of the ASDC affiliate community are taking time to look at the existing RSA boundaries to make recommendations for possible changes. Any changes suggested are likely to be modest. There is not widespread dissatisfaction with the current prototype, which generally respects the boundaries of regional planning districts.

#### **Colorado**

We love the data that we have received for our RSAs. We changed the initial boundaries that were provided and submitted to the Bureau a list of revised regions that were accepted.

The demographic profiles that were sent to us are all based on our proposed boundaries and they fit nicely with our existing statistical regions. We can't wait to share this product with others.

#### **Kansas**

Formed a committee of SDC lead and coordinating agencies to work on the project. Submission to include recommendations for significant boundary changes to develop RSAs that are more useful for local research and development.

#### **Maine**

Consulted affiliate network and will submit aggregate feedback. Likely no boundary changes.

#### **Minnesota**

Surveyed the affiliates who asked for copies of the data from the RSA project. They requested better geographic alignment to accord with the regional development commission areas in Minnesota. Barring a realignment, my affiliates did not find the aggregations useful. We're working to develop a better regional structure to improve the utility of the RSA data.

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## Montana

We are very pleased with the project and look forward to receiving data in our newly proposed RSA boundaries which will better match areas in which we get frequent requests for statistics that otherwise would be unavailable. Submission will mainly consist of revisions of the proposed RSA boundaries.

## Oklahoma

There is substantial interest in this project. There are concerns about the boundaries. Submission likely to include recommendations for significant boundary changes.

## Texas

Compared all county and MSA areas provided in the 2006 ACS to the RSA county groups - to determine if the proposed groupings would be useful for those areas not currently available in the ACS. Submission will mainly consist of revisions to the proposed RSA boundaries.

## *County Level Population Estimates/Metropolitan and Micropolitan Area Releases*

Tentative release dates for County estimates are:

SDC Embargo - March 17<sup>th</sup>  
Media Release - March 18<sup>th</sup>  
Public Release - March 20<sup>th</sup>

Tentative release dates for Metro/Micro estimates are:

SDC Embargo - March 24<sup>th</sup>  
Media Release - March 25<sup>th</sup>  
Public Release - March 27<sup>th</sup>

## *April Meeting in New Orleans*

Revised agenda as of March 4<sup>th</sup>, includes increasing the time from half hour to an hour for the Geographic Programs Update, and Dr. Murdock will be unable to speak at this meeting due to scheduling conflicts.

Other Kickoff agenda items of interest:

- In the section 'Partnerships, How Will They Work', the Bureau hopes that the SDCs will take the lead and spend time in open discussion with the Regional Offices about what states will be doing and how they'll work in partnership with the Regions.
- The Census-in-the-Schools program will be a part of the panel in the 2010 Census Communications section along with Partnership, Communications and Marketing, and PIO staff.
- The Overview of the Population Estimates will be given by Tori Velkoff. Susan Schechter and possibly Debbie Griffin will present the American Community Survey Update.
- The ACS panel on the last day will hopefully include staff from the U.S. Department of Transportation, Office of Management and Budget (OMB), and Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to talk about how these agencies are (will be) using the ACS data.
- There is the possibility of a reception on Monday night after the meeting, but plans are still tentative.

## *Other Items*

There were no other items for discussion.

Conference call ended 3:35pm Eastern Time.