

# Steering Committee Minutes

## December 11, 2008

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Attending: Ruth Pease (for John Dorrer), Matt Graham, Ron Jarmin, Rick Wacklawek, Len Preston, Colleen Flannery, Dorothy Paugh, Greg Weeks, Jeremy Wu, Rich Froeschle, Tim Kestner, Bob Brown, George Putnam

### ***Future Meetings***

Continue with current schedule through 2009. 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday, 4 pm ET (except for face-to-face meetings).

### ***Update on MOU Harmonization Team work***

Have met twice, representatives from 4 of 5 original states and 3 additional. Co-chair Steve Saxton chosen by group. There is no crossover with steering committee members, but we will keep the steering committee up-to-date. Jeremy proposed regular meeting between Greg Weeks, Steve Saxton, himself, etc.

Steve Saxton will present the revised MOU at the Steering committee meeting in March. After steering committee approval, he will present it at workshop.

### ***Developing LED data use***

The work of the harmonization team has indicated that there are some tensions between the need to get approval from states for use of data and the desire to move forward in terms of research and improved uses of data.

In order for the program to add data sources and build on use of products, it is inevitable that there will be increased use of the data for a variety of purposes. Jeremy gave examples of a couple of internal Census Bureau research projects, and asked for the steering committee understanding of the acceptability of such research.

As with the harmonization team, the responses varied and reflected a wide variation in state laws regarding confidentiality and data use. Steering committee members agree that it was necessary to differentiate between internal census uses related to improving infrastructure, data quality and products, and tangential research activities. Also need to understand how "special sworn status" interacts with state laws that refer to Census Bureau employees.

### ***Worker Flows***

Rich Froeschle and Greg Weeks inquired about availability of worker flows, and the ability of LED to be used to following workers from job to job, both within and potentially across states.

All agreed that this was a major category of new products and particularly relevant to the current economic climate. But at this point Census has only begun prototyping this kind of research and doesn't have any reports or methodologies to disseminate.

### ***Skinning LED products***

Census has tested skinning for OnTheMap using "frames" approach - Jeremy will send example from Hawaii and send out updated Standard Operating Procedure. They recognize that frames are a problem for some states, but the process can be replicated using tables, and examples of states who have done so are included in the SOP.

### ***Technical webinar series***

Had proposed on-site regional training. Becoming difficult to do this with economic change. So a workgroup is looking at modularizing training to deliver via Webinar with an initial focus on technical issues such as data extraction and definition.

### ***March workshop planning/status***

There were 11 submissions to the Call for Presentations. At the time of the steering committee call, the submissions were out for review with 12 reviewers.

### ***Program Updates***

Patti Becker is retiring January 2.

Census has been in touch with states re. audit reports for QCEW data re trying them out.

Version 3.2 of OTM will be released on Monday. Key additions are NY data for the first time, and OTM Direct, which has only Iowa data and is a pilot of a faster way to generate data.

State legislative districts is a layer on OTM. Qualification - only if states work with Census Bureau to keep them up to date.