

## Minutes: May 11, 2006 LED Steering Committee Conference Call

Members Present: Becky Rust, Wande Reweta, Henry Jackson, Erica McEntarfer, John Dorrer, Jeremy Wu, Cynthia Swain, George Putnam, Karen Leahy, Al Tupek

Agenda items and discussion:

1. LED Training – The LMI Institute is considering organizing an LED training class. In Greg’s absence, Henry reported that Tim Norris, from Washington State, is on the LMI Institute Board. Tim or Greg can give us the status of this training at a later date.
2. Quarterly Production of QWI’s
  - 2.1. Timetable to implement Standard Operating Procedure 4000.1 (QWI Production Schedule) - according to this procedure the QWIPU (QWI Public Use file) will be delivered by the end of the same quarter that the QCEW and Wage files are received by Census, provided that the states submit those files by Day 7 of the quarter, subject to acceptable data quality. The effective date of SOP 4000.1 is July 1<sup>st</sup>. The very similar SOP 4000.0 was sent to SITCONS a while ago. Jeremy would like the Steering Committee to give SOP 4000.1 to each member state. It’s important for states to realize that if they send their data to the Census Bureau late, they will not get their QWIs back on time. Some states may not know they are late, which the SOP will make clear. Some may not have complete control over when data is submitted. The Census Bureau is working on a website that shows the status of this process: when data is received from each state, how processing is going, when QWIs are completed and put on the web. It is being tested.
  - 2.2. Basic Production Status Report – This will be provided by the website mentioned in 2.1. The website may be done by our next conference call.
3. On The Map
  - 3.1. Potential of Skinning On the Map for states – The Census Bureau never committed to this but is looking into it. Jeremy has no timetable. This is one among many tasks to expend resources on. The Steering Committee would like to have an impact on the prioritization of LED projects. Cynthia will compile a list of projects for discussion during our next conference call.
  - 3.2. Research interests for On The Map - All QWI data is reestimated so as to be longitudinally consistent, i.e. you can compare 2002 to 2003. The On The Map project produces estimates that are longitudinally consistent; there is no need to rerun previous years when producing estimates for a current year. The exception is if there is either a data universe change or a methodological change that occurs between the released years. Then longitudinal inconsistency would result, and previous years would have to be rerun using the new universe/methodology.

This is relevant as we are planning to move from a 'state-only' data universe for the OTM to an expanded universe including other partner states.

After this conference call, Erika supplied further information:

“Regarding the compatibility of QWI and OTM, there is a working group at LEHD researching this issue right now. Although the OTM is based on QWI data, different disclosure methodologies are used; this group is studying changes that could be introduced to ensure consistency between the two estimates. Lars Vilhuber has agreed to be the intermediary between that group and the Technical Subcommittee, to keep them updated on the progress.”

This is a research and resource issue. George, as the leader of the Technical Subcommittee, will talk with Lars and keep the Steering Committee and his Subcommittee apprised. He will make recommendations as appropriate.

- 3.3. Process to consider the addition of 2005 Q2 data – The price of processing 2005 data may be scaled to the size of the state. States can not skip years. ETA could decide to fund On The Map in whole or in part. The Steering Committee should go to the states and request support. State directors could put pressure on ETA. Maine and Illinois are trying to get funding for their On The Map data from the Defense Economic Adjustment Program.
- 3.4. Process to consider the addition of 2001:Q2 (pre/post 9/11 analysis) – Greg needs to bring both 3.3 and 3.4 issues to the 15 On The Map states to discuss.
4. Steering Committee Membership – Last October, when the terms of half the members of the Steering Committee expired, the committee resolved to temporarily extend them. This coming October, the terms of the rest of the members will expire. Several months ago, the Steering Committee decided to use the same process as the WIC to elect new members or re-elect old members by email. To ensure continuity, we need to take care of those regions with members whose terms were up last Oct, so we don't end up electing/re-electing all members next Oct. Greg was working on this and can update us later.
5. Technical Subcommittee - Greg will update us on this later.
6. Program Update
  - 6.1. Mississippi has completed the MOU making them a member of the LED partnership. Louisiana is in the pipeline. Massachusetts has verbally agreed to join. Greg is working on Alaska and Jeremy is working on NY.
  - 6.2. The BRAC conference was successful. Over 100 people visited the Census Bureau's booth.

6.3. The Federal Highway Administration and Oregon LED people participated in a conference call to discuss the Administration using Oregon's 2002 and 2003 Origin Destination data. The Census Bureau is setting up a virtual Research Development Center so the Federal Highway people can see and test the data. Henry said states must be able to opt out of going this direction. Jeremy said that in this case, Oregon was behind this effort. LED data is public use data. Any organization can get it by request.

## 7. Other

7.1. Last summer, it was planned that Industry Focus would take the place of QWI Online. That has changed. QWI Online will not be discontinued; both tools will remain available.

7.2. New variables like race will be added to the QWIs eventually. They are being worked on slowly and there is no timeline yet.

7.3. Cynthia will send the email list of recipients she wants to mail past minutes, to the Steering Committee for feedback.

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