

**D R A F T**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**Delaware Population Consortium**  
**October 29, 2009**  
**10:00 a.m.**  
**Room 219**  
**Haslet Armory**  
**Dover, DE**

**In Attendance:**

Janelle Cornwell – Dover  
Ed Ratledge – UD CADSR  
Don Berry – Education  
Kelly Crumpley – Kent Co.  
Mike Duross – DeIDOT  
Barbara Gladders – DPH  
Dan Blevins – WILMAPCO

Mike Mahaffie – OMB  
Owen Robatino – NCC  
Terry Pepper – DSHS  
Marlena Gibson – DSHA  
Derrick Lightfoot – Wilmington  
Ed Simon – DEDO  
Jeff Montgomery – News Journal

The meeting was called to order by Janelle Cornwell at approximately 10:05 a.m.

**2009 Projections Series**

Ed Ratledge handed out a final draft of the 2009 Delaware Population Projections Series and led a discussion of what the projections show and how they were developed. It is important to note that this projections series now goes out to 2040 instead of just to 2030.

Ed noted that the labor force projections were benchmarked to the Local Area Unemployment Series (LAUS) from the federal government's Current Population Survey (CPS). Jobs by place of work are benchmarked to the Current Employment Survey (CES). Jobs by residence are derived from the two. This has been an issue of some discussion in the work of the technical committee during 2009.

Ed pointed out that the net commuting data seems to show an increase in commuting to jobs outside of Delaware. He pointed to the loss of many auto manufacturing jobs in recent years as a cause of a loss of in-commuting, though he points out that, since many auto workers were living in neighboring states, the loss of revenue from those jobs was somewhat reduced for Delaware.

He noted that the Consortium will need to take a close look in the next year at the impacts of the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission (BRAC) – which is bringing increased jobs to neighboring parts of Maryland – and of changes at Dover Air Force Base, which also may lead to increased employment.

Ed also pointed to some “bumps” in the age distribution data, especially in the very “out years” towards 2040. The American Community Survey data and the 2010 Census data

will both help to smooth this part of the data. Barbara Gladders pointed out that at 2040 it appears that the largest single cohort of the population will be the 85 and older group. This is likely due to the progress of the baby boomer bubble through the years and is partly due to the rising life expectancy among this group.

Ed pointed out that since the labor-force projections are derived from the age-structure of the population, there are some interesting changes in projections of workers in the out-years; older persons tend to work less. The labor-force data are also impacted by the influx of college-age persons.

In Kent County growth projections remained positive, if somewhat slowed from past years' projections series. Kent County appears to be a bedroom community for many workers in surrounding counties and states and continues to see new growth.

New Castle County's growth pattern appears to be slow for the coming years, due to job losses and the strength of Kent County in absorbing new households. The 2009 projections reflect a slight reduction in out-year totals. Ed explained that this is due to a reduction in jobs that appears to have returned New Castle County to about the same level of jobs as in the late 1990s. He said it may be a slow recovery in terms of jobs for the county.

Sussex County is still growing, though at a slightly slower rate than previously forecast. Ed reminded the Consortium that the DPC projections reflect growth in year-round households and not in second homes and vacation rentals. That market currently has a glut and has slowed, but that may not be the case for new year-round housing units. He explained that it is difficult to separate the two in projection models, since there is little data that indicates whether new units are temporary or year-round.

He also noted that about half of the in-migration into Sussex County is of retirees and that that has led to a slight cushion in jobs data, since retirees need services.

Among the major cities for which the Consortium provide projections, Dover shows the most growth, due in large part to annexation. Newark is constrained for annexation and so shows a slower pace of growth. Wilmington's projected population holds steady, though given the slow to flat growth projected for New Castle County, this is seen as a positive sign. Ed noted that many big cities and metro areas around the nation are showing declines in population.

**A motion was made by Dan Blevins to approve the draft projections.** It was seconded by Kelly Crumpley and passed with all members in attendance voting in favor, with the exception of Derrick Lightfoot, who voted "present."

#### **Election of Officers**

**Ed Ratledge nominated Barbara Gladders to serve as Vice Chair for 2009 – 2010.** Don Berry seconded the nomination and Ms. Gladders was unanimously approved.

**Ed Ratledge nominated Mike Mahaffie to serve as Secretary for 2009 – 2010.** Kelly Crumpley seconded the nomination and Mr. Mahaffie was unanimously approved.

With the end of this annual meeting, the Chair of the Consortium passes from Janelle Cornwell to Jim Galvin, who had been Vice-Chair.

**Other Business**

Ed Ratledge suggested that the Delaware Population consortium technical working group meet more often in the next few months to discuss matching the race and Hispanic origin structure used in the projections to changes made in recent years by the Census Bureau. A meeting involving Census staff to discuss this idea was suggested and will be scheduled in the coming months.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:08 a.m.