

D R A F T
Meeting Minutes
Delaware Population Consortium
Working Group
August 21, 2008
10:00 a.m.
Room 321
Haslet Armory
Dover, DE

In Attendance:

Derrick Lightfoot, AICP – Wilmington
Dave Blankenship – Wilmington
Kelly Crumpley – Kent Co.
Mary Ellen Gray – Kent Co.
Mike Mahaffie – OMB
Ed Ratledge – UD CADSR
Don Berry – Department of Education

Ric Kautz – Sussex Co.
Barbara Gladders – DHSS
Dan Blevins – WILMAPCO
Mike Duross – DeIDOT
Janelle Cornwell – Dover
DJ Guthrie-Carter – New Castle Co.

The meeting was called to order by Derrick Lightfoot at approximately 10:15 a.m. There was a round of introductions and a brief discussion of data-release plans for the American Community Survey.

Approval of Minutes of May 1, 2008

Dan Blevins made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Kelly Crumpley seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Discussion of 2008 Projections Series

Ed Ratledge distributed a set of 2000 to 2030 draft population projections with components of growth, races, and a set of large age groups for each county. This draft reflected recent data releases by the Census Bureau.

Ed noted that he is working to implement the use of the newest racial groups, which include races by Hispanic origin and by non-Hispanic origin, but that there are still challenges to overcome related to the small sample-size of the Hispanic-origin population in Delaware.

Ed noted that the data for Kent County shows a drop in the rate of growth that reflects the recent slow-down in building permit activity that has been reported. This does not much affect the long-term projections, but adjusts the rates of growth in several years.

In-migration into New Castle County is still down, that leads to a slight decrease in the projected 2030 total, according to Ed. He added that employment is still quite flat for New Castle County and is a problem for a few years. The age-structure data suggests a continuing drop in student-age population in New Castle County.

In Sussex County, Ed reported, growth continues at a steady pace. In-migration is expected to continue, with a mix of about 60% retirees to 40% workers as a general average. He said that the traditionally low taxes in Sussex, combined with recent decreases in housing costs, continue to make Sussex attractive to in-migrants.

Rick Kautz noted a significant drop in the rate of new births and migration into Sussex Co. in 2010. Ed suggested that it might be a result of the model inputs, but will take a look at that portion of the model.

Ed added that the recent CPS data has shown a drop in Hispanic non-citizen labor force between 2007 and 2008. That would reflect the slowdown in the construction industry and might also have an impact on natural growth in some areas.

Ed has asked for comments or questions on this draft by the ends of the first week in September (9/5/08). He says he will also start looking at the new County-level ACS data, expected soon, and other inputs.

Other Business

There was a general discussion of the projections horizon used by the Consortium. The Consortium has traditionally published projections out to 30 years from the date of the most recent decennial Census. There was some interest in considering increasing that horizon to 40 years after the 2010 census, resulting in projections to 2050.

There was a strong agreement by many on the Consortium working group in favor of continuing the Small-Area Population projections work that was started in 2007.

There was a general discussion of other data inputs that might be considered, including local assessment data, new land-use data, and other inputs. Ed noted that there is the potential for statewide reassessment in several years and that the data from that exercise would also be very useful in the projections work.

Next Meeting

A next meeting was tentatively scheduled for Thursday, September 25, 2008.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at approximately 11:30 a.m.

