**ND Census 2020 Complete Count Committee**

**Government Subdivision**

**July 10, 2019 - 9:00 am**

**Members Present:** Stephanie Dassinger, Renae Bloms, Brent Ekstrom, Darrell Nitschke, Kathy Strombeck, Terry Traynor, Kayla Verhelst and Joleen Leier.

**Member Introductions**

Stephanie welcomed everyone and explained open meeting laws.

Asked everyone to introduce themselves and tell what office they are in and where they are located.

**Update on Executive Committee Meeting**

Stephanie asked if anyone was able to volunteer at State Fair.

Executive Committee has met twice. They have been discussing an RFP for a media contract. We are looking to hire advertising or media firm to assist with the outreach.

The Legislature gave $1 million-line item in Commerce’s budget for Census 2020. We are not allowed to pay anyone, but can reimburse travel and copying, etc.

Aaron and Jody have been hired for Census. They are completing local counts in North Dakota. Aaron is working in the East and Jody is in the West. A tribal liaison will be hired for the tribal areas.

**ROAM Census Map**

Using the following link will take you to the ROAM Census Map. This map will show us the lowest response rate: <https://gis-portal.data.census.gov/arcgis/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=64f6a4d47e864b9699af6ce6338d49bd>

**Review Timeline**

We need to focus on promoting participation locally.

March 12 – Will start collection response; mainly electronic. Will start with postcards being mailed to everyone’s address with instructions directing people only to complete survey online. They will receive a follow-up mailing. Finally, they will receive the long form to complete. If no response at that point, a person is then sent out, which is expensive.

April 1, 2020 - Census Day. Determine if people are residents of a particular location.

May 2020 – Follow-up.

December 31, 2020 – final counts submitted to President.

Not sure of the duration of employment for employees to obtain the count. Looking to hire 1,000 people to go door-to-door to get responses. Please communicate to people to go online and complete the survey.

Where are the surveys located? I believe the Census will communicate that information with us. Don’t know currently. Stephanie will provide information to us as soon as we get it. Will need local leaders to help fill the positions of surveyors.

ND Census office has looked at where the difficult populations are for survey results. Tribal, Bakken regions, Snow birds, federal military, college students and recently arrived immigrants. If a person spends more than half of their time in North Dakota, they are considered a North Dakota resident and should be part of the ND Census.

If ND student lives in Fargo and attends Moorhead College, that student is still a ND resident because he/she is living in ND. If a MN student lives in ND and goes to school in ND for 9 months, that student would count for ND Census. Basically, where you sleep 6 months and 1 day in a year is where you count for Census.

How will the Census be taken on the campuses? Education committee will be working on that.

When determining where you live, it was discussed to not use the terminology “resident” so that it may be clearer.

There are questions with income taxes. When you earn income in ND, you are taxed here. A MN resident working in the oil field would pay ND taxes, but would get credit in MN.

**Brainstorming**

**Ways to reach each of our constituent group** –

* Events, publications
* County officials need to get word out to their citizens. If we could come up with some verbiage to add to the County/City meeting minutes it would go in the newspaper. Could use this verbiage to use in day-to-day business.
* Create a two-sided, one-pager. One side would inform people about what they need to do, this would be something they could take with them after the meeting.

Do we have anything now to distribute? Stephanie has Census materials but nothing like a one-pager. She will check with the main Census office.

As a group we need to decide what will go on that one-pager.

Who is the point of contact at the US Census Bureau? Our contact is Kevin Iverson at the ND Department of Commerce. He will then make the contact with the US Census Bureau. Stephanie will distribute timeline and information on how much each missed person is worth to the state. Stephanie will check with Kevin for info he has and will forward to this group.

**Ways to help our constituents reach their residents** –

* 2010 had insert in all property tax statements. Ideas: insert in utility bill, vehicle registration, letter to the editor, verbiage for minutes, create video,
* Do the air force bases have their own process to obtain census information? We need to work with the air bases for that information. Students living in dorms and people in nursing homes are counted a certain way.
* An issue was discussed when meeting with city auditors. Electronic counts may be issue with some people not having the ability to respond electronically. Can communities have someone go out with ipads or have people at the library and have someone help there to respond to the Census. Need to work with the library to set up a time for someone to be at the library to assist with the Census count. Purchase of ipads would be an extra cost and then what do you do with them afterwards. Maybe get someone from library to be part of the committee. Library should be first contact.
* AARP and other organizations do free tax preparation. Is there something created there that we could tap into? Believe AARP is on the nonprofit subgroup.
* The nursing home association would be another option. Nursing home residents are automatically counted. More of the issues are people in assisted living and senior apartments. Ideas were to communicate with property managers for these facilities, hang posters and work with activity directors.
* Seniors that don’t own homes, is there a way they can log on and complete information without having an actual postcard with personal identity. Kathy will check with Kevin.

If you want Census at events, let Stephanie know so she can forward to state chairs. Joleen will work on minutes. Stephanie will send out doodle for future meeting. Stephanie will send out information on what to use with their constituents.