W5001 Annual Meeting Minutes

Date: 9/15/2023 – 9/16/2023

Location: Nashville, TN

Chair: Shaun Golding

Chair-elect: Danielle Rhubart

Incoming Chair-elect: Jessica Schad

Secretary: Tom Mueller

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Morning of 9/15/2023

* Shaun Golding provided introductions
* John G discussed the choice of hosting at an 1890 HBCU today
* Eddy Berry and John Cromartie provided history on the organization
  + Started in the 1960/1970s
* Danielle R suggested that Eddy and John prepare a brief (half page) summary of this history for our records
  + It seems there may already be something like this in the dropbox, unsure
* Shaun detailed how W5001 is related to the RPRN
  + The RPRN is what we are calling the long-term group whereas W5001 is the five-year project
  + Shaun detailed the website (rprn.org) and what it is for
* Katherine asked for clarification on the coordinator
  + John Cromartie and Shannon discussed the role of Vicki McCracken
* Danielle mentioned how we should think about Western schedules (Vicki) when planning next year’s business meeting so they can attend
* Leif J pointed out that the group has improved in our outreach activities over the years
* John C pointed out that there has always been a bit of tension between extension member and non-extension
  + By a show of hands, there are still members who have extension positions
* Danielle R suggested that tomorrow we do some brainstorming to figure out how we engage other members
  + Noted that we happened to plan this at the same time as the annual extension meeting
* Shaun provided the outline of the day
  + Introductions
  + Danielle will give an overview of the day
  + Flash talks
  + Listening session
  + Dinner
  + Listening session debrief from 9-10 tomorrow
  + Tomorrow is business meeting from 10 onward
    - Tom will explain the reporting procedures tomorrow
      * Remember to bring up idea about webinar
  + Lunch tomorrow
* Danielle described what the listening sessions are
  + There will be stakeholder/professionals from four main areas
    - Agriculture and Food Systems
    - Economic Development and Policy and Governance
    - Environment and Natural resources
    - Health, Health Care and Disability
  + First it will be breakouts
  + Then it will be a carousel
  + We have IRB approval so we can prepare a research report from this
  + There will be another virtual listening session
  + If you want to help with the paper, reach out to Danielle. The listening session team (who coordinated this portion of the meeting and will be assembling a research report from it includes Danielle R., John G., Shaun G., Sradheer Upendram, Jason deKoff, Paige Kelley (not present), Kristina Brant (not present).
* Leif Jensen asked for more information on who is coming to the sessions
  + Danielle noted that we have multiple levels of government folks and private sector folks from the region who will be attending
* Transitioned to introductions of members
  + Danielle Rhubart – Penn State, BBH
    - Rural population health, social infrastructure
  + John Green – director of the southern rural development center
    - Rural Development, Heirs property, migration
  + Eleanor Green – Missisippi State
    - Delta scholars leadership program
    - President of Southern Rural Sociological Association
  + Mildred Warner – Cornell, City and Regional Planning
    - Local government, child and age friendly planning
    - Is ARPA funding an opening for equity?
  + Jessica Schad – Utah State University
    - Farmers and ag practices related to sense of place
    - Looks at natural resource dependent places
  + Richelle Winkler – USDA-ERS
    - Was Prof at Michigan Tech
    - Working on migration estimates by age, sex, race
    - Population aging and different types of counties
  + Tom Mueller - KUMC
    - Rural, Health, well-being and the environment
  + John Cromartie – USDA-ERS
    - Has done tons of stuff
    - Just put out a data product of ruggedness at the census tract level
      * Via congressional mandate
    - Has been on the working group on the new race categories
      * Specifically working on how to bridge these categories with the older method
  + Peter Nelson – Middlebury College
    - Urban to rural migration via gentrification
    - COVID migration
    - New NIFA project on migration
  + Hosik Min – University of South Alabama
    - Population health
    - Asian population in coastal Alabama
  + Eddy Berry – Retired from USU
  + Katherine Curtis – University of Wisconsin – Madison
    - Has an extension appointment
    - Associate Director of the Center for population and ecology
    - Spatial and environmental demography
    - Migration
  + Shannon Monnat – Syracuse
    - Directs the center for policy research (Lerner)
    - Causes and consequences of trends in health and mortality
    - Has a couple of projects funded from NIH
      * State policies
    - Leadership team on INRPHA
    - National well-being survey
      * Oversample of rural residents
      * Data is now available publicly on ICPSR
        + Can get a restricted access agreement to get state and county
      * Guaranteed two more waves
  + Alexis Santos – Penn State
    - Population health, applied demography
    - NHANES and biomarker data to create biological risk profile of rural populations
  + Leif Jensen – Penn State
    - Social and economic inequality
    - International work on gender and ag
    - Domestic work on income inequality in the United States
    - INRPHA
    - The role of social security income in ameliorating
  + Sarah Peters – Grad student at UW-Madison with Katherine Curtis
    - Places that are not being served
    - Interest in digital-physical space interactions
  + Matt Brooks – Florida State University
    - Family change in rural America
  + Yue Sun – PhD Candidate at Syracuse with Shannon Monnat
    - Spatial inequality, population health, environment and natural resources
  + Shaun Goulding – General Services Administration
    - In the evaluation apparatus
  + **Remote**
    - Matthew Foulkes – University of Missouri
      * International work programs
      * Pandemic research
    - Jacinda Dariotis – UIUC
      * Director of family resiliency center
      * How the COVID-19 pandemic has influenced youth, parents, and providers?
      * Mindfulness and how to make your behaviors match your
    - Raeven Chandler – University of Wisconsin
      * Left early

Morning of 9/16/2023

* Danielle began the debrief of the listening session
  + Tom M noted that he found it helpful
  + Sreedhar agreed and discussed the experience of Jenn from TDEC
  + Shaun G suggested that we frame research briefs around things we learn from policy session like that
  + Alexis S pointed out that all of the topical areas from the debrief had workforce issues brought
  + Sreedhar discussed some of the specific needs for workforce development in the area
  + Katherine discussed the overlap between all the topical areas
  + Richelle noted how folks would benefit from success stories and the establishment of networks
    - Maybe we put together a collection of success stories
  + John G brought up the issue of ‘what is success’
    - Is it population growth? John has been focusing on ‘stability’
  + Leif brought up the new ford plant in western TN and that it seemed that one of the stakeholders seemed unsure about whether or not they can speak freely
    - Sreedhar asked for more detail
    - Leif brought up that she didn’t want to talk about unionizing
  + Danielle noted that some folks didn’t come to the lunch and we need to figure out how to make sure people know who we are
  + Mildred noted that there is a big tension between what the econ dev practitioners are pursuing via incentives and then the critical academic view of those kind of incentives
    - Wanted us to play a role pushing against econ dev folks
  + Sreedhar talked about a recent call on Tennessee’s state population projections and how the current projections aren’t accurate and how that may have impacted people’s willingness to engage
  + Katherine Curtis discussed how we are perceived as having positions of power even if we may not think that we do
  + Sreedhar discussed how these different Tennessee groups (TDEC/Econ Dev) aren’t talking when they are working on similar issues
  + K. Curtis noted that what we can provide is the intersections of these issues
  + Danielle wants us to get the flash talks uploaded to the website
  + We will send an email to the stakeholders with a thank you, link to flash talks, and links to research briefs from various orgs
    - Jessica Schad noted that USU is trying to do this as well
    - Sreedhar is doing briefs at UT as well
  + Jessica Schad asked if we should add some peer review to the research briefs to get them to happen more
  + John G noted that the SRC is now doing peer review on their issue briefs to help extension folks
  + Danielle R had a hesitation due to the existing difficulties in even finding reviewers
  + Shannon M noted that she did peer review the older briefs
  + Katherine C noted that the process can get slowed down due to people not thinking the briefs count and also that peer review takes time, but that this group has done this in the past and it seemed to work
  + John G said that what we really need on some of these briefs are peer reviewers who are the actual consumers of briefs, not necessarily academics
    - People don’t know what a lot of our ‘common’ terms mean
  + Sreedhar has fact sheets that they can just churn out but peer review is important for other documents
  + Shaun said that maybe we need to move away from just a research brief on a paper, but more of a summary of what is out there in the form of bullets
  + Danielle R agreed and said we could make summaries on the questions that emerged yesterday
  + Leif reminded that we want to stay on the P of population
  + Jessica Schad noted that headwaters econ recently put out something on outdoor rec success stories
  + Danielle noted that we will be doing another listening session, as well as transcribing the meetings yesterday and invited people to participate
  + Peter brought up social media and that we need it to move forward
  + Tom noted that we need a webmaster
  + Alexis suggested that we try and start some kind of relationship with a group like The Conversation
    - Could do X pieces per year
  + Danielle R suggested that the exec role should be more focused on outreach, not just a webmaster
  + Richelle W brought up the Daily Yonder as opposed to the conversation
  + Shaun G brought up the idea of using students for outreach
  + Peter Nelson noted he could have students do briefs
  + Tom M and Danielle said they would like to have another exec member more than a student
  + Katherine said we should do this every year
  + Shannon M noted that we need to stick to our proposal
  + Richelle noted that we would need to make sure we have results come from this
* Shaun moved us into talking about our proposal and what is next
* Shannon clarified that we don’t have to do all these things collectively, but we can do so individually – it just needs to be in our report
* Tom will ensure that our milestones are in the report document to help people know what they should report
* What data products will we have linked to on the website? – Shaun
* Shaun G noted that we will be reaching out around rural infrastructure and enviro issues
* Peter brought up AARP as a group to interface with
* Alexis brought up engaging with youth activists on climate during our annual meetings
* Sreedhar asked about funding opportunities
* Leif noted that INRPHA is creating a website where people could go to download data on rural population health and aging
  + They have now inventoried different datasets that will be made available via their website
* Tom M noted that we could link to datasets via our website
* Shannon had a grad student compile a list of datasets with rural indicators
* Leif provided a summary on INRPHA
  + Over 250 folks on the email list
  + Funded three proposals
  + Members were grant active based on their seed grants
  + Multiple webinars were hosted
  + New PI will shift to Carrie Henning-Smith, renewal call was just issued
  + This group (W5001) was what launched INRPHA
  + INRPHA also can serve as a rationale for future WX001 awards
  + If people have ideas for the renewal grant, send them ASAP because its due very soon
  + Danielle asked if we need to find a way to think about and encourage more people to work on fertility
    - NIA is a tricky spot for that
    - Matt brooks does fertility stuff but more from a family angle
      * K. Curtis pointed out a change from fertility to family stuff
    - Alexis discussed how we might think about framing fertility as a life-course factor
* John C noted that ERS also continues to exist and has really been building back
  + ERS staff is back to pre-move levels (280 full time staff)
  + 80% are completely remote workers
  + 35 states are represented
  + Rural economy branch is thriving
  + ERS is in the middle of updating their rural classifications
    - New county classifications by late 2023
    - RUCA codes are still a ways out due to the need for the tract to tract commuting flows data
    - They applied for RDC access and were rejected because they wanted tract level data
  + Richelle is now at ERS and is finding more time for research
  + Leif asked if there are other ERS people we should be trying to fold into this group
* Richelle gave an update on Census
  + Had to step off of the Census oversight board now that she is a federal employee
  + New SF1 is out, goes by a different name
  + Detailed DHC files are coming later this month and over the next few months
  + Richelle is concerned about the quality of the age data at the smaller spatial units
    - Redistricting file had most of the privacy loss budget
  + The new net migration estimates are going to use the population estimates branch instead of the Census 2020
    - BERT is the group that is working on a non-census base for population estimates
    - They will be using the 2022 base from pop estimates instead of Census 2020
    - There has been a lot of attention to race, but not a lot on age breakdowns
    - Blended base still hold to the totals of Census 2020
  + The age data has some error built into it due to the first redistricting release
  + John G pointed out that issues related to housing are not well captured in the population estimates branch
    - Particularly related to housing permitting
  + Pop estimates gets away with this because they are not releasing ‘census data’
  + CSAC could use more representatives, so if someone wants to be involved as the rural voice – talk to Richelle
* Tom M gave an update on the report
  + Will send out email
  + You can log into NIMSS to try and change your affiliation
  + Anyone can contribute to the report
  + Katherine C and Shannon noted that graduate students can be official members
* Tom M brought up the need for a website person again
* Danielle is managing the listserv now
* Jessica Schad volunteered but was told no (she is already chair elect)
* Richelle volunteered and will serve as the communications officer
* Katherine C nominated Richelle, Tom M seconded
  + Unanimous vote confirmed the position
* Danielle will send an email in the future about the correct weekend
* John noted that they won’t give a rate unless you guarantee the block
  + Started with 20 rooms
* Katherine C suggested we pick a next place today
* Danielle suggested we go to State College
* Others suggested that we do Utah and piggyback with RSS
  + Jessica is open to being host
  + People think it would be a good idea to go to somewhere outside of SLC
  + Jessica will be host
* Kansas City is the location for 2024
* People voted on and approved Utah as the location for 2025
* **Big thanks to organizers and chairs was shared**

Business Meeting attendance:

John Cromartie

Peter Nelson

Richelle Winkler

Matt Brooks

Tom Mueller

Danielle Rhubart

Shaun Golding

John Green

Eleanor Green

Katherine Curtis

Leif Jensen

Shannon Monnat

Sarah Peters

Jessica Schad

Sreedhar Upendram

Mildred Warner

Alexis Santos