

GRANT COUNTY COMPLETE COUNT COMMITTEE

July 16, 2009

The Complete Count Committee of Grant County met in the Grant County Administration Building in Room 264, Lancaster, WI on Thursday, July 16, 2009 at 10:04 a.m.

Chair John Patcle called the meeting to order.

Verification of compliance with the open meeting law was a notice in the Herald Independent and WGLR stating the date, time and place of the Complete Count Committee Meeting. Pat Schroeder, seconded by Rodney Johnson, moved that the meeting is in compliance with the open meeting law. Motion carried.

Dan Elsass, 2010 Census Partnership Specialist. Dan Elsass was present to give the newly formed committee some guide lines on how to utilize this committee as a partnership between Grant County and The Census Bureau. He first told the committee that he had a long history with the Census process; this was his third census that he has participated in. In 1990 he participated in the Census process as the City Administrator in Fitchburg, WI. In the 2000 Census he was with the UW University in the UW Extension Department. Dan is now employed with The Census Bureau as a Partnership Specialist; his territory is the Madison, WI area district.

Dan explained the importance of achieving an accurate count. The federal government uses population data to allocate funds in a number of areas within the communities. Some of these allocations include:

- Title 1 grants to educational agencies, (school districts)

- Head Start Programs

- Women, infants and Children (WIC) food grants.

- Public Transportation

- Road rehabilitation and construction

- Programs for the elderly

- Emergency food and shelter

The census data helps the private sector, state and federal government, to determine where jobs and job programs are needed. The census data helps potential homeowner's research property values, median income and other demographic information about a particular community. Businesses use population data for market research to determine locations for commercial enterprises such as food stores, pharmacies and other essential services.

Dan stressed that the census data was absolutely confidential; all Census Bureau employees are subject to a \$250,000 fine and/or 5 year prison term for disclosing any information that could identify a respondent or household.

Dan explained that the purpose of forming the Complete Count Committee is to make sure each resident is aware of the importance of an accurate census count. Some other reasons of the committee are to influence members of their communities to complete the 2010 Census questionnaires in a timely and accurate manner. Because the committee is made up of a diverse mix of people from Grant County, the purpose of the committee is to utilize the local knowledge and for each Committee member to design and implement a census awareness campaign targeted to their community.

There are a few targeted groups that The Census Bureau will need help from the local committee. The Census Bureau will need information about the following establishments in order to work directly with the managers of these Residences.

Religious sectors, (Example: Amish).

Community Group Homes.

Small based Residential Home for Mentally challenged citizens.

Dan gave some time lines that The Census Bureau will be following. He explained that the census counts are set up as blocks within the county boundaries highlighting challenging areas that have high population concerns. September/October 2009 will be a vital time to start getting the awareness information about the upcoming questionnaires. In November/December of 2009 The Census Bureau will be recruiting to fill some of the jobs that will be needed, for a 5 to 6 month session; their starting date of work on January 1, 2010; for the process of circulating the 2010 Census questionnaires. In March/April 2010, The Census Bureau will mail the questionnaires for the census to the residents. The Census Bureau would like to recruit as many volunteer workers as they can to help cut the high costs that it will take to hire all the people needed to conduct the census. April 2010 is the deadline.

The Committee felt that some very good events to promote the 2010 Census information were at the Grant County Fair on August 19 – 23, Platteville Dairy Days on September 11 – 13, and City of Lancaster Fall Festival on October 3 – 4. John Patcle was to follow up on these events.

The committee asked Dan if there would be money available through the Census Bureau to help off set the costs for the county. Dan stated that if we get the paper work in as soon as possible; there is a chance we could apply for some grant money of \$3000.00 to help with the costs. The committee also asked about postage costs, Dan would have to take that back to his supervisor to see if some assistance could be given there from The Census Bureau.

Pat Schroeder, seconded by Frank Fiorenza, Village of Potosi President, made a motion that the following people will be the appointed members of the Complete Count Committee representing Grant County, with John Patcle acting as Chair. There will be representative(s) appointed from Social Services and Aging and Disability Resources at a later date by the Chairperson. Motion carried unanimously.

Name of Organization	Your Name	Phone #	Address
Grant County Tax Lister Office	John Anderson	608-723-2666	111 S. Jefferson, Lancaster, WI 53813
Village of Dickeyville Clerk	Mary Lee Powell	608-568-3333	P. O. Box 219, Dickeyville, WI 53808
Village of Bagley Clerk	Kristine Zenz	608-996-2195	133 Packer Dr, Bagley, WI 53801
Village of Potosi President	Frank Fiorenza	608-763-2261	105 N. Main, Potosi, WI 53820

Village of Cassville Clerk	Marlene Esser	608-725-5180	100 W. Amelia, Cassville, WI 53806
Village of Muscoda Clerk	Cinda Johnson	608-739-3182	P. O. Box 206, Muscoda, WI 53573
City of Fennimore Clerk	Margaret Sprague	608-822-6119	P. O. Box 17, Fennimore, WI 53809
Town of Hazel Green Chairman	Donald Splinter	608-744-2088	928 Louisburg Rd, Hazel Green, WI 53811
Village of Blue River President	Rodney Johnson	608-537-2673	507 West St., Blue River, WI 53518
Town of Jamestown Clerk	Allan Jansen	608-748-4395	910 Bager Rd, Hazel Green, WI 53811
Town of Liberty Chairman	Patrick Schroeder	608-723-6809	3945 Hypoint Rd, Lancaster, WI 53813
Town of Smelser Chairman	Gabe Loeffelholz	608-348-9204	1497 Airport Rd, Platteville, WI 53818
City of Boscobel Mayor	Jerry Linder	608-375-5001	1006 Wisconsin Ave, Boscobel, WI 53805
Grant County Chair	John Patcle	608-723-2711	111 S Jefferson St, Lancaster, WI 53813
City of Lancaster	Jerry Wehrle	608-723-4246	206 S. Madison St, Lancaster, WI 53813
UW Extension	Paul Thares	608-723-2125	Comm. Resource Development Agent
City of Cuba City Clerk	Kathy Schultz	608-744-2152	108 N. Main St. Cuba City, WI 53807
Village of Hazel Green	Carol Stagmen	608-854-2953	P. O. Box 367, Hazel Green, WI 53811
Village of Bloomington Pres.	Rick Udelhofen	608-994-2837	720 4th St, Bloomington, WI 53804
City of Boscobel Administrator	Arlie Harris	608-375-5001	1006 Wisconsin Ave, Boscobel, WI 53805
Lancaster City Administrator	Steven Crane	608-723-4246	206 S. Madison St, Lancaster, WI 53813
Social Services			
ADRC			

A motion was made by Mary Lee Powell, Dickeyville Village Clerk, seconded by Frank Fiorenza, Village of Potosi President, that the Committee Chair appoint Linda Gebhard, Grant County Clerk, to be the designated person responsible to send all minutes/agendas and any other Complete Count Committee correspondence regarding the Census process to all the members. The County Clerk will also be responsible to send all media releases to the papers and radio stations in regard to the Census Process. Motion carried unanimously.

Discussion and questions, it was decided by the Committee that each municipality could take is upon themselves to promote the Census Process in their municipalities the best way they saw fit using their resources within reason. They can utilize The Census Bureau web site www.census.gov to download press releases and logos to use in their promotions. The official logo's used by The Census Bureau are "It's In Our Hands" (picture of a hand with colorful hand prints within the hand) and "United States Census 2010" (red print). Dan stated that the Bureau could supply "hand out" items to help promote the awareness for the 2010 Census. They have items like pencils, pens, water bottles, coffee cups, etc., that can be requested from The Census Bureau at no cost to the County.

The final conclusion was that the Committee's goals are to Volunteer, Educate, Promote, Convince and Recruit. The committee members agreed to do their part to make this partnership a success.

Adjournment: Mary Lee Powell, Dickeyville Village Clerk, seconded by Frank Fiorenza, Village of Potosi President, moved to adjourn the meeting to a Friday, day time meeting in September 2009, the actual date being picked by the call of the chair. Motion carried unanimously.