

DELAWARE VALLEY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION
INFORMATION RESOURCE EXCHANGE GROUP
Minutes of September 9, 2009

Location: DVRPC Offices, 8th Floor, 190 N. Independence Mall West, Philadelphia, PA 19106

Attendance:

Name	Title	Organization	Email
Tom Denton	Asst. Director, Research & Planning	Archdiocese of Philadelphia	tdenton@adphila.org
Bob Keough	GIS Manager	Bucks County Planning Commission	rhkeough@co.bucks.pa.us
Kiersten Gauntt	GIS Specialist	Burlington County	kgauntt@co.burlington.nj.us
Dave Williams	Web Administrator	Chester County	dwilliams@chesco.org
Carolyn Oakley	Graphics Specialist	Chester County Planning	coakley@chesco.org
Bob Walker	Senior Planner	Chester County Planning Commission	walker@chesco.org
Ken Sipos	Real Estate Specialist	City of Philadelphia Pub. Property	kenneth.sipos@phila.gov
Anne Wolfe	GIS / Information Specialist	Delaware County	wolfea@co.delaware.pa.us
Mary Bell	Principal Planning Analyst	DVRPC	mbell@dvrpc.org
Nick Canzonnerri	Web Development Co-Op	DVRPC	ncanzonnerri@dvrpc.org
Charles Dougherty	Div. Director, Technical Services	DVRPC	cdougherty@dvrpc.org
Joe Fazekas	Manager, Office of Web & Creative Svcs	DVRPC	jfazekas@dvrpc.org
Brett Fusco	Transportation Planner	DVRPC	bfusco@dvrpc.org
Elizabeth He	Regional Data Analyst	DVRPC	ehe@dvrpc.org
K. Jonathan Kugel	Transportation Planner	DVRPC	kkugel@dvrpc.org
Kimberly Meyer	Sr. Graphic Designer	DVRPC	kmeyer@dvrpc.org
Taghi Ozbeki	Director, Office of Info. Technology	DVRPC	tozbeki@dvrpc.org
Guin Pascale	GIS Analyst	DVRPC	gpascale@dvrpc.org
Chris Pollard	GIS Specialist	DVRPC	cpollard@dvrpc.org
Christopher Puchalsky	Senior Engineer	DVRPC	cpuchalsky@dvrpc.org
William Mead	Principal Planner / Website Mngr.	Gloucester County Planning Dept.	bmead@co.gloucester.nj.us
Bob Wendt	Dir. Research	Lehigh Valley EDC	bobwendt@rcn.com
Katrina Placer	Senior Planner	Mercer County	kplacer@mercercounty.org
Michael McGeehin	GIS Analyst	Natural Lands Trust	mmcgeehein@natlands.org
Chris Kahn	Sr. Engineering Tech - GIS	NJ American Water	christopher.kahn@amwater.com
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Deepa Sanjeevaraya	GIS Specialist	NJ Housing & Mortgage Finance Agency	dsanjeevaraya@njhmfa.state.nj.us
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Matt Honea	Project Manager / Planner	PIDC	mhonea@pidc-pa.org
Erik Czaja	Planning Student	Rutgers University - New Brunswick	eczaja@eden.rutgers.edu
Tanya Rothe	GIS Operations Planner	SEPTA	trothe@septa.org
Michael Bing	Director	The Enterprise Center Capital Corp	mbing@theenterprisecentercapital.com

1. Presentation: “Planning Decision Support System - UPlan and Scenario Planning at DVRPC”

K. Jonathan Kugel, a Transportation Planner with DVRPC, gave a presentation on the UPlan Land Use Model. UPlan is a series of scripts programmed over GIS, which generates and adds versatility to discussion. As a decision support model, it looks at density utilizing Land Use (Utilizes DVRPC 2005 Land Use Inventory) and Feature Data in an effort to examine the development that occurs in Open Space. Although the original version's interface left much to be desired, the latest version offers a "cleaner" interface, which has been updated to ArcMap 9.3. The scenario utilizes an Allocation Area (Wooded, Vacant and Agriculture), Mask (Water, Existing Development & Protected Lands), Attractors (Clusters, Transportation Facilities & Sewers) and Discouragements (Congestion & Steep Slope) as elements for the scenario. The Land Use categories Utilized are Industrial, Residential (High, medium & lowest), Commercial (High & low density). However, as the model does not handle Infill, they apply a separate methodology and add this back into the scenario. The model runs four major land use scenarios: Trend (Board forecasted population & employment, estimated infill, calibrated parameter & unconstrained allocation), Growth (increased density & allocation constraint to future growth) Sprawl & Recentralization Scenario. Implementation is by State (NJ or PA).

2. Presentation: “Data Visualization Tools for the Web”

Elizabeth He, Database Administrator, and Nicholas Canzoneri, Web Developer, presented the various new web applications offered through the DVRPC website. Attempting to explain the utility of data visualization, Nicholas opens with a quote by John W. Tukey, "The greatest value of a picture is when it forces us to notice what we never expected to see." The historic example of a cholera epidemic was cited, in which a map was utilized to better visualize what was going on in the area, leading them to observe the unexpected, which is that these cases predominately surrounded an area where people made use of the same water source. By cutting off this contaminated supply of water they were able to greatly reduce the number of such cases. Basically, data visualization is a visual representation (Maps, charts, etc.) that assists you in seeing the numbers/data. The data presented on the DVRPC website is dynamic (up to date), interactive and utilizes multiple sources of data. The Publication Guide is an example of dynamic data. The TIP web application incorporates our data (a live database) into a Google map (Mashup). TIP projects are mapped using Latitude & Longitude (Projects without this are not mapped) and are color coded by project. You can search by County, Municipality, Keyword and Type allowing you to obtain both a description and detailed location (will illustrate limit of project), for both PA & NJ on their respective interfaces (unable to have a combined interface for both states). Municipal Data Navigator is another web application, which is an enhanced version of the original, and now includes a Fusion Chart (which changes shape for the various data), as part of the visual data. This allows you to search by County, MCD and Type providing the user a map, chart and all of the data (which you can obtain an excel version of by simply hitting a button). DVRPC is also using Google Analytics, which will indicate who is using the website and the amount of traffic (usage) day to day.

3. Discussion and Information Items

- DVRPC staff gave updates on various work program projects. Joe Fazekas reported about recently released reports, including the Long-Range Plan. Mr. Fazekas also reported on the 2010 Aerial Imagery. Taghi Ozbeki reported on DVRPC's activities on testing server virtualization and invited counties to contact him regarding the details. Chris Pollard reported on the progress of the Region-wide Transportation GIS. Mr. Fazekas also reported on the final switchover to FIPS codes from the Census MCD Codes.
- Burlington County gave an update on their fire hydrant inventory and Pictometry Online product.
- SEPTA gave an update on their inventory of bus stop amenities.
- Chester County is expected to adopt the Landscapes2 Plan in October.
- The Archdiocese of Philadelphia reported on various demographics of their parishes and parishioners.
- Gloucester County reported on funds they are seeking through various grants.
- The following events were discussed: MAC URISA Fall Meeting, ESRI 9.4 Demo.

- Bill Mead and Seth Hackman agreed to serve on the Nominating Committee for December elections for IREG Chair and Vice-Chair.
- IREG Meeting Dates for 2010 were discussed, to be finalized within the month.
- Ken Sipos from the City of Philadelphia was recognized on his retirement, for his years of service and contributions to DVRPC, the IREG Committee and its members.
- The Webmasters Subcommittee met after the meeting adjourned.
- Planning is underway for a special event to celebrate the 75th meeting of the IREG in June 2010.

The next IREG meeting is scheduled for December 9, 2009.