DELAWARE VALLEY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION
INFORMATION RESOURCE EXCHANGE GROUP
Minutes of September 3, 2003

Location: DVRPC, Bourse Building, 111 S. Independence Mall East, 8th Floor

Attendance:

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(Over)

The IREG Meeting started at 10:10 am.

1.   Minutes of the meeting of June 4, 2003

The minutes were approved without corrections or changes.

2.   Presentations

James Query, Director of GIS for the City of Philadelphia, gave the first presentation on "Unified Land Records System (ULRS)". Currently, there are many standalone address-based databases sitting in multiple departments that cannot be integrated.   For example, two major agencies, the Records Department and the Board of Revision of Taxes (BRT), had their own databases. The Records Department maintains real estate ownership parcels and BRT holds real estate tax parcels. Those databases cannot be linked together because they lack a common address system. In order to have an accurate and consistent real estate inventory database, the City of Philadelphia's Mayor's Office of Information Services began work on ULRS, a single land parcel database that will link and consolidate various address-based databases from multiple departments of the City. The major developments in this system are: 1) Create a seamless parcel database; 2) Enhance and update registry map; 3) Develop a Master Address System to integrate the base map of real estate parcels with other important geographic data; and, 4) Build Web Services to publish and manage the set of master address indexes. These services enable the user to develop applications that integrate databases from different agencies. For example, in an emergency situation like the snowstorm back in March, the City developed a temporary application that uses data from several sources in minimal time. The ULRS project started 2 years ago. A seamless parcel database will be completed by the end of 2003.

The second presentation included two speakers from various agencies on the topic of getting better economy information with Local Employment Dynamics (LED) program.

Julia Lane, the Director of the Local Employment Dynamics Program at the Census Bureau in Washington DC, gave an overview of the Local Employment Dynamics (LED) program, which is a collaborative program with State Labor Market Information Agencies. The LED program integrates state administrative data and Census data products and provides dynamic employment and demographic data at the county and sub-county levels. At the Census Bureau, person and household records are held in the demographic dataset, and business records are held in the economic dataset. LED gets the link record data from the states, enabling them to link the two datasets together to improve local labor market information. Currently, only 27 states participate in this program and Pennsylvania is one of those states. During the presentation, Julia launched the LED testing website http://lehd.dsd.census.gov/ to show how to access the data from Internet.

Keith Bailey is the Partner Outreach and Program Support Supervisor within the Center for Workforce Information and Analysis in Harrisburg. He continued on the topic by presenting Quarterly Workforce Indicators (QWI). Using data provided by the LED program, QWI produces quarterly dynamic local economy performance data, such as where jobs are, for what kind of workers, and how much workers can expect to make and employers expect to pay them.   During the presentation, Keith showed how to use the QWI data to explain or prove facts. The first example was quarterly dynamic data for summer youth new hires, by county. Because of the current economic situation, society is concerned about older workers taking job opportunities away from summer youth. However, the data indicates that summer youth new hires did not drop off suddenly from year 2001.   Another example is Demographic Workforce Measures for General Medical and Surgical Hospitals. The data shows that the average earnings for workers who leave the health industry are decreasing, which explains why the health industry is a driving topic lately. This program is still in an early stage of development. More input is needed from the data users.

3.   Census Update

a. **Summary File 4.** The last of the SF4 data for DVRPC's Extended Data Service Area (Maryland) was released by the Census Bureau on June 25th.
 (www.census.gov/Press-Release/www/2003/SF4.html)

b. **American Community Survey (ACS).** No new information was reported about the status of this program (www.census.gov/acs/www/)

c. **Public Use Microdata Sample (PUMS).** Most state data for PUMS 5% were released (NJ on 8/13/03, PA on 8/20/03 and DE on 9/3/03) Maryland data is scheduled for release on 9/24/03.
(www.census.gov/Press-Release/www/2003/PUMS5.html)

d. **2002 Economic Census.** 2002 Economic Census forms were due back in February 2003. The data will be released in 2004. (www.census.gov/epcd/www/econ2002.html)

e. **2002 Population Estimates**
DVRPC has published Data bulletin #77: 2000-2002 Municipal, County, and Regional Population Estimates in July 2003. (www.dvrpc.org/data/dbs/db77.htm)

f. **2002 Building Permit data**
DVRPC has published an Updated Data Bulletin #72, which adds 2002 Residential Building Permits by Permit-Issuing Places (28-County Service Area) to the 2000 and 2001 data series. (www.dvrpc.org/data/dbs/db72_update.htm)

4.   DVRPC Work Program Updates

a. **Census Transportation Planning Package (CTPP).** DVRPC is in the process of correcting the Census Bureau's CTPP file for this region. The adjusted CTPP files will be available for download on the DVRPC website as soon as the data is ready.

b. **Year 2005 Aerial Imagery Acquisition.** A meeting of the 2005 Imagery Acquisition Committee was held on July 22nd, 2003. After a brief summary of the December 2002 meeting, the status of existing imagery programs in and around the DVRPC region was reviewed. Collaboration with other agencies seeking to acquire ortho-rectified aerial imagery for the region was discussed, as well as imagery specifications for the 2005 product. Lastly, a preliminary timetable for the project was presented.

c. **Region-Wide Transportation GIS Development.** Most project participants continue to focus on making significant upgrades to their GIS capabilities through hardware and software purchases. Training options for ArcGIS software are being explored. New contracts have been sent to NJ participants that extend from July 1, 2003 until June 30, 2005. PA contracts expire June 30, 2004. A major focus of future efforts will be adding NJDOT's and PennDOT's LRS information to participants' road centerline files. Chester County is developing an application to automate this task and has also developed a draft transportation database design. The next meeting, which will include both states, will be held at DVRPC on September 26th.

d. **Year 2000 Land Use File.** Most of the work has been completed. However, DVRPC is still waiting for a few corrections from the counties. Work will be completed by the end of September, and a Data Bulletin will shortly follow thereafter.

e. **Regional Online Information Network.**   DVRPC has started work on a redesign of their website. Concurrently, software and hardware updates will also be taking place. Additional functionality, such as authenticated log-ons for special projects and member governments, will also be built into the revamped site.

5.   Information Items

a. The next IREG Meeting will take place on Wednesday, December 10, 2003. The 2004 IREG Meeting dates will be on Wednesdays (March 3, June 2or9, September 8, and December 8) unless meeting conflicts are brought to the attention or Mr. Fazekas in the next few weeks.

b. DVRPC will be sending out a survey to all IREG Committee members sometime in October. Your cooperation in this effort will be much appreciated.

c. TUGIS 2004, Towson University's annual GIS conference will be held in March 2004. The deadline for submissions to present is November 7th. This year's topic: GIS and Homeland Security. (http://cgis.towson.edu/tugis2004)

6.   Old Business

No old business was presented at this time.

7.   New Business

No new business was presented at this time.

8.   Adjournment

The IREG meeting was adjourned at 12:05 pm. The Webmasters Subcommittee met immediately after the meeting adjourned.