

DELAWARE VALLEY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION
INFORMATION RESOURCE EXCHANGE GROUP
Minutes of December 6, 2006

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

Attendance:

Name:	Title:	Organization:	E-mail Address:
Tom Denton	Asst. Director, Research & Planning	Archdiocese of Philadelphia	tdenton@adphila.org
Bob Keough	GIS Specialist	Bucks County Planning Comm.	rhkeough@co.bucks.pa.us
Curt Noe	Manager	Camden County	curtnoe@camdencounty.com
Daniel Christen	Junior Planner	Chester County Planning Comm.	dchristen@chesco.org
Brian T. Sweeney	User Liaison	Chester County Planning Comm.	bsweeney@chesco.org
Bob Walker	Planner	Chester County Planning Comm.	rwalker@chesco.org
Ken Sipos	Real Estate Specialist	City of Philadelphia Pub. Property	kenneth.sipos@phila.gov
Andrew Adams	Senior Information Specialist	Delaware County Planning Dept.	adamsa@co.delaware.pa.us
Charles Dougherty	Associate Director	DVRPC	cdougherty@dvrpc.org
Joe Fazekas	Webmaster	DVRPC	jfazekas@dvrpc.org
Elizabeth He	Regional Data Analyst	DVRPC	ehe@dvrpc.org
Kim Korejko	GIS Analyst	DVRPC	kkorejko@dvrpc.org
Richard Murphy, Jr.	GIS Analyst	DVRPC	rmurphy@dvrpc.org
Chris Pollard	GIS Analyst	DVRPC	cpollard@dvrpc.org
Will Stevens	Manager, GIS	DVRPC	wstevens@dvrpc.org
Kenneth Thompson	GIS Analyst	DVRPC	kthompson@dvrpc.org
Matt West	Transportation Planner	DVRPC	mwest@dvrpc.org
Ken Wallace	Civil Engineer	FEMA (III)	kenneth.c.wallace@dhs.gov
William Mead	Principal Planner / Website Mngr.	Gloucester County Planning Dept.	bmead@co.gloucester.nj.us
Bob Wendt	Dir. Research	Lehigh Valley EDC	wendt@fast.net
Chris Kahn	GIS Analyst	M & M Solutions	ckahn@mmsolutionsllc.com
Katrina Placer	Senior Planner	Mercer County	kplacer@mercercounty.org
Scott France	Senior Planner	Montgomery County Planning Comm.	sfrance@mail.montcopa.org
Seth Hackman	GIS Specialist	NJ DEP	seth.hackman@dep.state.nj.us
Tineen Howard	Principal Planner	NJDOT	tineen.howard@dot.state.nj.us
Matt Honea	Project Manager / Planner	PIDC	mhonea@pidc-pa.org
Maryann McCann	GIS Administrator	PIDC	mmcann@pidc-pa.org
Meghan Kang	Research Analyst	Select Greater Philadelphia	mkang@selectgreaterphila.com
Whittona Burrell	Information Specialist	US Census Bureau	whittona.r.burrell@census.gov
Tom McGettigan	Economist	US Department of Labor BLS	mcgettigan_t@bls.gov

1. Call to Order and Introductions

The 61st meeting of the IREG was called to order by SethHackman, IREG Chair at 10:05 am at DVRPC. Members in attendance introduced themselves.

2. Minutes of the meeting of September 6, 2006

The minutes were approved without correction.

3. Presentations (*order changed*)

A. HAZUS-MH, FEMA's Software Program for Estimating Potential Losses from Disasters (*Kenneth Wallace, Building Sciences Engineer, DHS/FEMA III*)

HAZUS-MH, developed in 1999, is a powerful risk assessment software program built on ArcGIS 9.1 that uses GIS technology for analyzing potential losses from floods, hurricane winds and earthquakes. This software identifies hazards, the damages caused by these hazards, computes the resulting physical, economical, and social losses, and spits these results out in a user friendly report format. The software comes with a complete inventory of Federal data including demographic and building stock (at the block level,) cultural, transportation, utility, and potential high loss facility data.

Mr. Wallace used a stream branch example along the Pennsylvania - Delaware Border to demonstrate how this free tool from FEMA can be used for Risk Management Planning, including identification of risks, locating emergency shelters, resource allocation and mitigation plans. There are three levels of analysis: 1) using the software "out of the box" with existing national databases, 2) using your own additional databases with the software, and 3) modifying the program's default parameters.

Currently, there are no counties in the DVRPC region actively using HAZUS software. There was much interest in using this software from the IREG members and it was suggested that DVRPC consider a pilot program in the FY 2009 Work Program.

B. Interactive Detour Route Mapping (IDRuM) (*Matthew West, Transportation Planner, DVRPC*)

Matthew West presented the "Interactive Detour Route Mapping (IDRuM)" project he has been working on for PennDOT District 6-0. The purpose of the project is to convert existing PennDOT detour route information into a more useful format that can be displayed on any laptop computer connected to the internet. This required four steps.

The first step was to scan hard copy maps into digital format. The second step involved converting the digital scan information (raster) into digital cartography (vector) information. The third step involved bringing the vector information into Macromedia Flash, and developing interactive animations. Flash was chosen because it has good graphic abilities, is expandable, is off-the-shelf, and is fast. The fourth and final step involved publishing the information for viewing on a website.

A few design issues surfaced during the IDRuM creation process:

- ~Labor intensive
- ~Some detour routes are outdated or missing altogether
- ~"Bells and Whistles Syndrome"; the desire to constantly enhance application can delay process

The project is almost complete for Southeastern Pennsylvania. Future work could involve various things. Some data Mr. West would like to include in the application are traffic signal and fiber optic cable

locations, and ITS information. Other plans for IDRUM may include offering downloadable data, printable maps (available as pdf's,) and possible expansion into New Jersey portion of our region.

4. Voting Results for Potential FY 2008 DVRPC Work Program Projects

The Committee discussed the results on potential FY 2008 DVRPC Work Program projects, which were voted on in September and forwarded to the Board Work Program Committee for review in October. Since no new funding was secured for the important technology projects presented this year, the Committee also discussed how to impress upon the DVRPC Board the importance of our recommendations and strategies for gaining more support next fiscal year.

RESULTS:

Potential Project	# of Votes
Wireless hotspot in DVRPC Conference Room	1
Scanning older DVRPC reports	2
Directory of Delaware Valley	2
Regional photo repository	5
Compiling newer DVRPC reports	7
Online mapping project coordination	20
Open-source online GIS development	24

5. Election of CY 2007 Chair and Vice Chair

Brian Sweeney from Chester County Planning Commission was elected Committee Chair for 2007. Merrilee Torres from Burlington County Data Processing was elected Vice-Chair for 2007. The Committee thanked Seth Hackman, NJ Department of Environmental Protection for his service as Chair in 2006.

6. Census Update

Whittona Burrell, an Information Specialist from the Philadelphia Regional Office of the U.S. Census Bureau gave an update on the following recent activities:

- American Community Survey (ACS):
 - 2004 and 2005 releases complete;
 - 2005 Race and Ethnic Data Available on their website since mid-November.
- Boundary and Annexation Survey (BAS) Program:
 - Improvements:
 - Annual collection of boundary information from selected legally defined geographic areas;
 - Beginning in early 2007;
 - Population estimates and American Community Survey is driven by this;
- Local Update of Census Addresses (LUCA):
 - Critical to success of 2010 Census. Need local governments to participate in this effort because it will help collect information in 2010;
 - Improvements:
 - Single review cycle for all address sites;
 - Longer review period (from 90 days to 120 days);
 - More advance notice given to participating governments (giving them time to prepare);
 - More comprehensive communication system with participating governments;
 - LUCA mailings to highest elected officials and other interested contacts are expected to begin in January;
 - Developing a schedule for informational workshops on the LUCA program in Spring 2007 for local

- o decision makers - Bureau needs help in finding locations to hold workshops in each county;
 - o Local governments without appropriate staffing or means may ask their counties or State Data Center for assistance with staffing;
 - o The 120-day update is currently scheduled to begin in Fall 2007;
 - o A presentation on this topic will also take place at the March 7th IREG meeting;
 - o Noemi Menendez is heading the LUCA program for our region;
 - o Census Bureau staff wish to address the DVRPC Board in early 2007 to discuss the LUCA program and the importance of involvement on this project by our member government counties.
- Statistical Areas Program:
 - o Criteria for this program is expected to be released in Feb 2007;
 - o Program to begin after October 1, 2007 for the Bureau's FY 2008.

7. DVRPC Work Program Update

A. New DVRPC Data Bulletins

Some upcoming data reports, including 2035 Estimates, Elderly Characteristics, an Aging in Place report, a municipal reference guide for the American Community Survey, and an Analytical Data Report on Home Mortgage Disclosure Act (HMDA) data.

B. New DVRPC Publications

Ms. Bell reported that there were no new publications at this time.

C. Regional Online Information Network

Mr. Fazekas reported on recent Regional Online Information Network activities, including ongoing equipment upgrades, recent interactive website/intranet application development, migration to new online mapping applications using Arc 9.1 and the 2007 return of the "New @ DVRPC" eNewsletter, which visitors can sign up for at: www.dvrpc.org/announcements.htm.

D. Year 2005 Aerial Imagery

Mr. McNichol reported that the 5 foot contours have now been received for the last three counties and that a final reflight of flooded areas will take place this month.

E. Region-Wide Transportation GIS Development

Mr. Stevens reported on recent activities for the Region-Wide Transportation GIS Development project. Over sixty people were trained over six training classes which took place this Fall for Intro to ArcGIS I, Intro to ArcGIS II and Building Geo-databases. No further training classes are planned at this time. DVRPC is working to establish centerline data maintenance procedures. A Request for Qualifications (RFQ) has recently been released and an RFP will be developed for qualified candidates in first quarter 2007.

8. Member Roundtable

- Thomas Denton from the Archdiocese of Philadelphia is looking for parcel data from the surrounding counties. Contact him at (215) 587-3545 or Tdenton@adphila.org;
- Ronald Bailey has been named the new director of the Chester County Planning Commission. [August 24, 2006 Press Release](#).

9. Information Items

A. Committee Reports

a. Online GIS Subcommittee Meeting

Chris Pollard chaired the second Online GIS Subcommittee meeting, which met for over an hour immediately following the IREG meeting. Six people attended and the discussion focused on ArcIMS and ArcGIS Server and the need for better support from the vendor ESRI. It was also proposed that we explore the creation of a Regional GIS Consortium, where funds and expertise could be shared between multiple counties providing a cost savings and support network that does not exist with the current, piecemeal approach to online GIS in the Delaware Valley. The next meeting is scheduled to follow the March 2007 IREG meeting.

b. Webmasters Subcommittee Meeting

Joe Fazekas reported on the National Association of Government Webmasters Conference that he attended and that the 2007 Conference would be held in Valley Forge September 19-21. Twenty five county and municipal webmasters attending a special IREG Webmasters Meeting on October 30th, with presentations on Content Management, Online GIS and Newsfeeds using RSS and XML technologies. Due to a scheduling conflict, the Webmasters Subcommittee meeting was postponed and planned to take place in conjunction with another web-related meeting in late January or early February.

B. Recent Event Reports

- a. Pennsylvania State Data Center Affiliates Meeting – no report;
- b. National Association of Government Webmasters Conference – no report;
- c. Delaware/Maryland APA Conference – no report;
- d. Mid-Atlantic Chapter of URISA Fall Meeting held at the Eco-Complex in Bordentown, NJ – Seth Hackman was in attendance and reported that the NJ State Police gave an overview of emergency preparedness and homeland security issues. The spring meeting will be held on April 26th in conjunction of NJDEP's 20th Annual Mapping Contest at the Trenton War Memorial;
- e. Pennsylvania Planning Association Conference – no report;
- f. New Jersey Chapter - American Planning Association Conference – no report;
- g. World Town Planning Day – no report;
- h. NJ State League of Municipalities Conference – MAC URISA and NJDEP had booths at event;
- i. GIS Day – no report;
- j. ESRI Mid-Atlantic User Group Conference was held at the Union League in Philadelphia. Ken Sipos reported that the event was well-attended with approximately 20 vendors present. Next year's event is expected to be held at the Union League again;
- k. NJ State Data Center Conference was held during the previous week and was not well-attended. Addressed Construction Industry.

C. Upcoming Events

- a. TRB 86th Annual Meeting will take place at the end of January 2007. Staff from DVRPC will be in attendance;
- b. APA National Planning Conference will be taking place in Philadelphia in April 2007. DVRPC is part of host committee. Attendees will be able to take advantage of mobile workshops;
- c. Added Item: In January and February MAC URISA will be looking for committee members for their 2008 conference.

D. Digital Video Cameras

Joe Fazekas reported that DVRPC has acquired a hard-drive based digital video camera.

E. Meeting date confirmation for CY 2007

March 7, June 6, September 5 and December 5. Census Bureau will be giving the solo presentation in March. Presentation suggestions are still being taken for the other meetings.

10. Old Business

No old business was presented at this time.

11. New Business

Regarding last meeting agenda, Seth Hackman reported that NJ's Governor signed executive order #42. This order will be implemented soon and seeks to revamp and consolidate the structure of IT in the state. Please visit www.state.nj.us for more information.

Seth Hackman also informed the group that NJOIT in NJ will be interviewing local and county governments to inventory existing geographic data to add to their NJGIN site.

Wireless Philadelphia is up and running as *EarthLink Wi-Fi*. Citywide wireless broadband is available to subscribers for less than \$22 a month.

12. Adjournment

The IREG meeting was adjourned at 12:15 pm

Materials Available at the Meeting

- DVRPC Newsletter;
- US Census Bureau: *"Will Your Community Be Ready for the 2010 Census Local Update of Census Addresses Program?"* 2010 Census LUCA Program; Issued June 26, 2006;
- US Census Bureau: *"American Community Survey: A Handbook for State and Local Officials;"* Issued December 2004;
- US Census Bureau: *"Housing Units Count Too: Learn About LUCA";*
- US Census Bureau: American Community Survey Data Wheel; 2005;
- PECO: *"Communique;"* Winter 2006/2007.
- Map: [Flood Prone Areas \(DVRPC Region\)](#);
- Map: [Interactive Detour Route Mapping \(Southeastern PA\)](#);
- Map: [Schuylkill Watershed Land Prioritization Strategy \(Bucks, Chester, Montgomery\)](#).