DELAWARE VALLEY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

INFORMATION RESOURCES EXCHANGE GROUP

Minutes of June 17, 1998

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

Attendance:

Name:	Organization	E-mail Address
Joe Fazekas	DVRPC	jfazekas@dvrpc.org
Mark Gatti	DVRPC	mhgatti@dvrpc.org
Joel Fontane	DVRPC	jfontane@dvrpc.org
Mike Ontko	DVRPC	montko@dvrpc.org
Rich Roisman	DVRPC	rroisman@dvprc.org
Charles Dougherty	DVRPC	cdougherty@dvrpc.org
Jill Hammond	Chester County Planning	
Fernando Armstrong	Census Bureau	
Jim Parry	SJTPO	sjtpo@algorithms.com
Eileen Gallagher	DVRPC	egallagher@dvrpc.org
Mary Anne Crockett	Census Bureau	crockett@census.gov
Aaron Klibaner	Montgomery Cnty Planning	akilbane@montcopa.org
Lauris Olson	University of Pennsylvania	olson@pobox.upenn.edu
Susan Hauser	Delaware County Planning	timothy@dca.net
Warren Huff	DRBC	whuff@drbc.state.nj.us
Gary Jastrzab	Philadelphia City Planning	gary.jastrzab@phila.gov
Ken Sipos	Philadelphia Public Property	kenneth.sipos@phila.gov
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Susan Weber	NJDOT	susanweber@dot.state.nj.us
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Ray Civatte	Conectiv	ray.civatte@conectiv.com
Vicki Lewis	Census Bureau	vlewis@census.gov

The meeting was called to order at 10am.

1. Minutes of the Meeting of February 24, 1998:

i. The minutes of the meeting of February 24, 1998 were approved.

2. Introductions:

i. Fernando Armstrong, New Regional Director, Census Bureau, Philadelphia Regional Office. "Introduction and What's Happening at the Bureau."

(1) New Census Bureau Regional Director Fernando Armstrong gave an introductory presentation to the group, highlighting his continuation of several ongoing initiatives in preparation for Census 2000. Mr. Armstrong reiterated the need for increased staffing requirements for a successful census and stated that large-scale recruitment efforts are under way. Among the most important staffing needs are for LUCA (Local Update of Census Addresses) trainers and partners to work with local governments and non-governmental organizations during the process. More staff are needed both at Regional Census Centers and local offices.

(2) Sampling in Census 2000: There is pending litigation on the issue of using statistical sampling in Census 2000 that may ultimately be resolved in the United States Supreme Court. The final decision on the constitutionality of sampling will shape the approach, structure, and staffing needs of Census 2000; it is estimated that without sampling, the Bureau will need 25% more field and office staff to complete the census than with sampling. At this time, the Bureau is organizing for Census 2000 as if sampling will be used.

(3) Census 2000 and Welfare-to-Work: In any Census 2000 scenario, the Bureau intends to hire as many qualified former TANF (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families) recipients as possible, as part of the Welfare-to-Work initiative. One problem is that most Bureau field jobs require access to an automobile; however, many office jobs are available for those transitioning off welfare.

3. Presentation

i. Donna Gregory, Sales Consultant, State and Local Government, Oracle Corporation. "Oracle the Company and Oracle's Vision into the Future."

Donna Gregory gave a one hour overview of Oracle 8, also discussing several add-on applications that are meant to extend the functionality and performance of enterprise-wide databases and data warehouses. These applications allow the storage and retrieval of audiovisual data, geospatial data, and full text documents. Discoverer 3.0 is a "wizard"-based front-end interface that allows end users to create and execute simple database queries without having advanced knowledge of how the system works (a developer still needs to customize the environment via programming).

Some of the other features found in Oracle 8 include extended object support and custom object creation for developers, parallel server support to prevent crashes, true open cross-platform and cross-processor architecture, and support for a standard system configuration as well as a network computing architecture (e.g., "thin-client"). Oracle Corporation provides a full range of consulting solutions and training as well as software development.

4. IREG Expansion:

i. More Internet and Technology Presentations

Joel Fontane proposed that future IREG meetings include more technology-based presentations to share more cutting-edge technology with the group. Future presentations could include specific examples of Internet-based applications.

ii. New Membership

Joel Fontane proposed expanding IREG membership to include regional Webmasters and IT Managers. Concurrent with any expansion would be an assessment and updating of current membership, mailing lists and the IREG Directory. Suggestions for new members are welcomed. It was the consensus of the Committee to expand the scope and membership of IREG to include regional Webmasters and IT Managers.

5. Aerial Imagery Update

i. NJ DEP 1995-91 Digital Ortho Quarter Quads

Mike Ontko announced that the NJ DEP DOQ CD-ROMs are in the production phase. Soon the entire state will be available. The CD-ROMs are released in the order they are completed. The images are not ordered by flight line nor by county. An index will be available to identify the coverage on each CD. not by coverage; however, the data are indexed. The six or seven CDs will be available for $30 per CD.

ii. DVRPC Year 2000 Imagery Acquisition Project-- Meeting of June 30, 1998

Mike Ontko announced a DVRPC Year 2000 Aerial Imagery Committee meeting on Tuesday, June 30, 1998, at 10:30am at DVRPC. At this meeting a consensus will be reached on imagery characteristics and estimated costs will be addressed, as well as proposals to share the cost of image acquisition among interested parties. Several utilities have also been invited to the meeting.

6. **DVRPC Work Program Updates:**

    i. **Year 2000 Statistical Areas Program**

    Mike Ontko discussed the Census Bureau's Year 2000 Statistical Areas Program, in which Census boundaries, such as tracts, are redrawn for accuracy. Vicki Lewis stated that the first update is almost completed for Pennsylvania; a New Jersey update will be released soon. Training for the redrawing process is available; Alan Silverman stated that the session he attended was excellent.

    ii. **1997 Building Permit Data**

    Joe Fazekas reported that the 1997 building permit data is currently being compiled. A Data Bulletin showing 1996 and 1997 building permit data for the 28-County Service Area will be released soon and will be available on the DVRPC website.

    iii. **DVRPC 1995 Land Use Project**

    Mike Ontko reported that the 1995 and updated 1990 land use CD-ROMs for the 9- County region have been completed and sent to member governments. The files are in   ESRI ArcInfo export format (*.e00). A 1995 land use Data Bulletin is now in process;   following its publication, an Analytical Data Bulletin analyzing changes in regional land   use over an as-yet undetermined time frame will be prepared.

    iv. **ArcView Training and Beyond**

    DVRPC hosted four (4) packed day-long sessions of ESRI-certified ArcView training; a total of 80 people received training. There are still individuals who requested training who could not attend the previous sessions; more classes will be scheduled if a minimum of 40 attendees can be assured.

    v. **Regional Information Network (RIN)**

    The on-line GIS application developed using ArcView Internet Map Server has been   tested and is ready to go on-line once the server upgrades are completed.

    vi. **DVRPC Year 2020 Interim Forecast Revisions**

    Joel Fontane reported that the 1997 base population and job estimates will be reviewed by the DVRPC Board Policy Committee and will go before the DVRPC Board at its June 25 meeting. There will be a Forecasting Committee meeting in mid-July to begin work on year 2025 forecasts.

7. **Information Items**

Rich Roisman, DVRPC's new Database Developer, was introduced to the group. Rich will be assisting with IREG activities.

8. **Old Business**

   None.

9. **New Business**

   None.

10. **Next Meeting**

The next IREG meeting will be Wednesday, September 16, 1998 at 10am at DVRPC. The guest speaker will be David Kersge, Chief Economist, Dun and Bradstreet Corporation.