

DELAWARE VALLEY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

INFORMATION RESOURCES EXCHANGE GROUP

Minutes of March 8, 2000

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

Attendance:

Name:	Organization	E-mail Address
Bob Walker	Chester Co. Planning	rwalker@chesco.org
Bob Bielski	Chester Co. Planning	rbielski@chesco.org
Jake Lewandowski	West Chester University	jlewando@wcupa.edu
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John Coscia Jr.	DVRPC	jcosciajr@dvrpc.org
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Amelia B. Kressle	Census	akressle@census.gov
David Berry	Census	dbenz@census.gov
Wyndi Bullock	Census	wbullock@census.gov

The meeting was called to order at 10 am.

1) Minutes of the meeting of December 8, 1999

- a) **The minutes of the meeting of December 8, 1999 were approved.**

2) Presentations

Presentation: Dr. Arthur B. Shostak, Futurist and Professor, Drexel University Department of Sociology, “Technological Choices with Sociological Clout: A Futurist / Sociologist Ponders Choices for DVRPC Clients.”

Professor Shostak presented an interesting and lively discussion of “Futurism.” An introduction to futurism and explanation of “forecasting” was followed by a presentation of the top influences on cities in the last fifty years, and possible influences on cities in the next fifty to one hundred years. The professor introduced a vocabulary list for the next millennium, which included “avatar” (an artistic representative in cyberspace), “nanotechnology,” and “smart rooms.” Among the professor’s forecasts was a profile of the future urbanite, a person “characterized by creativity, energy, resourcefulness, and zest” and having available to them such technology as a “palmtop” (a computer/picture/phone/fax worn on one’s wrist), and an “information agent” or a reasoning, interactive, representative of one’s self in cyberspace. A short video showing theoretical picture of what the future will look like was also presented. Dr. Shostak is the author of *CyberUnion: Empowering Labor Through Computer Technology*.

Presentation: William Mead, Principal Planning Aide, Gloucester County Planning Department, “Implementation and use of GEOgraphic Town Management Systems in the Gloucester County Planning Department.”

After Dr. Shostak’s presentation, Bill Mead provided a brief show-and-tell presentation of the GEOgraphic Town Management System, a comprehensive tool for county and municipal planning departments. The system integrates parcel data, zoning, permitting and other planning information, with GIS functionality. Within the Gloucester County planning department the use of this software has automated and facilitated many tasks.

3) Census 2000 Update

Census Bureau staff gave updates on several Census 2000 programs

- a) **Statistical Areas Program—status**

The Census Bureau distributed corrected maps for the Statistical Areas Update Program to member governments for verification. There is a 30-day review period following the release in which local governments may comment on the changes.

b) LUCA Program—status

The LUCA program is complete for 1998. The 1999 special place program is collecting information until the end of March. Appeals for the LUCA program must be made directly to the Federal Office of Management and Budget (OMB).

c) Complete Count Committees—status

Complete Count Committees are working with the United Way, as well as with the Governor's offices of Pennsylvania and New Jersey. All complete count committees should continue until the end of April 2000. Currently, existing complete count committees are beginning their implementation phase.

d) Questionnaire mailing and promotional campaign—status

Census forms have been mailed and the Census Bureau is recruiting census takers. Outreach efforts continue, including "Census Sabbath" to religious communities, "Census in Schools" to Head Start and ESL, as well as other promotions via lottery tickets and other materials.

4) DVRPC Work Program Updates

DVRPC staff gave updates on elements of the DVRPC Work Program.

a) Year 2000 Aerial Imagery Acquisition

DVRPC has selected and completed negotiations with Arial Data Reduction (ADR) to provide the imagery. About 80% of the region has been flown, with the rest expected by the end of the week.

b) Region-Wide Transportation GIS Development

Final funding from Federal and State Agencies has been approved. Development of an RFP for consultant services to help design the system architecture for the GIS has begun.

c) Regional Information Network (RIN)

The DVRPC web site will have a new look, new content, and two new functional enhancements:

- Enhanced on-line mapping (the ArcView IMS will transition to Map Objects)
- Query-able databases for building permit information, forecasts and traffic counts

The enhancements should be available some time in late April.

d) DVRPC Year 2025 Forecasts

Final approval of the 2025 Regional and County level Population and Employment Forecasts has been obtained. The forecast report will be available in April.

5) New Business

a) Report from Pennsylvania State Data Center

There is a Regional Affiliate meeting on May 16th at the University of Pennsylvania. For more information or to register contact Kelly Richwine at 717.948.6081 or kvert1@psu.edu.

6) Next Meeting Date and Location

The next IREG meeting will be held at DVRPC on June 7th. Guest speakers will include John B. J. Spraga, Account Executive Northeastern Region, Docucon, Inc. and John Coscia Jr., Sr. Transportation Engineer, DVRPC.