

**DELAWARE VALLEY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION  
INFORMATION RESOURCE EXCHANGE GROUP  
Minutes of October 3, 2001**

**Location:** DVRPC, Bourse Building, 111 S. Independence Mall East, 8<sup>th</sup> Floor

**Attendance:**

<b>Name:</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>E-mail Address</b>
Bob Parfet	Archdiocese of Philadelphia	<a href="mailto:rparfet@adphila.org">rparfet@adphila.org</a>
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Stan Platt	DVRPC	<a href="mailto:splatt@dvrpc.org">splatt@dvrpc.org</a>
Chris King	DVRPC	<a href="mailto:cking@dvrpc.org">cking@dvrpc.org</a>
Michael Ontko	DVRPC	<a href="mailto:montko@dvrpc.org">montko@dvrpc.org</a>
Liz Handburg	DVRPC	
Bob Wendt	LVRDC	<a href="mailto:wendt@fast.net">wendt@fast.net</a>
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Katrina Flagel	Mercer County Planning	<a href="mailto:kflagel@mercercounty.org">kflagel@mercercounty.org</a>
Fred Goodrich	Montgomery Co. Planning	<a href="mailto:fgoodric@mail.montcopa.org">fgoodric@mail.montcopa.org</a>
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Simi Octania-Pole	U of PA Cartography Modeling Lab	<a href="mailto:soctania@ssw.upenn.edu">soctania@ssw.upenn.edu</a>
Vicki Lewis	US Census Bureau	<a href="mailto:vicki.l.lewis@census.gov">vicki.l.lewis@census.gov</a>
Greg Brivic	US Census Bureau	<a href="mailto:pregpry.brivic@census.gov">pregpry.brivic@census.gov</a>

The meeting was called to order at 10:05.

## 1. Minutes of the meeting of June 14, 2001

The minutes were approved.

## 2. Presentations

### Matt West, "GIS for Conservation Planning"

Matt West gave a presentation on work performed for the GIS for Conservation Planning project and CD, which was the first CD that DVRPC has published as a separate publication and the third

OnlineMapping application added to the DVRPC website. This two year project was funded by the Willaim Penn Foundation, whose extended grant making region includes parts of Maryland and Delaware (outside DVRPC's region).

Training was conducted both in-house (by ESRI instructors) and on-site (by DVRPC staff) in order to promote the use of GIS in smaller nonprofit organizations and to help them develop a greater understanding of what can be done with GIS. The first product of this project, "*GIS Data CD Volume 1*", contains data files (in shape and ArcInfo interchange formats), structure, sources, and limitations as well as the Adobe Acrobat Reader and ArcExplorer 11.

The Online Mapping application was created from the data available on the CD. Tools include the ability to scale dependent layers, which can be identified and queried, create buffers, select by rectangle, print. The geodata is in unprojected (NAD 83) Latitude/Longitude format.

The IREG Chair suggested that IREG write a letter to the William Penn Foundation, urging them to make additional copies available to the general public.

### **Stanley Platt and Chris King, "Intelligent Transportation Systems"**

Mr. Platt discussed the various types of ITS Technology, such as Variable Message Signs (VMS), Highway Advisory Radio Broadcasts, Traffic signal control, Electronic Toll Collection, Closed Circuit TV (CCTV) and video feeds and how it is being implemented in our region. In the near future, Center City Philadelphia's transportation infrastructure will be 100% computer controlled, allowing changes to be made in signal timing via a modem from a central control center. PennDOT and NJDOT already have many ITS components installed on their facilities.

Chris King, also from DVRPC staff, talked about ITS issues with stakeholders and the sharing of information between agencies, stating that we need to walk before we run by building interagency relationships, smoothly transition technology and through low capital investments. We need 24x7 operation capability, internal agency coordination and to avoid creating a new bureaucracy to handle the data and information sharing needs of the region. Philadelphia Regional Integrated Multi-modal Information Sharing (PRIMIS) was created as a formal committee at DVRPC to help facilitate communications, training and expanding/ updating contacts. DVRPC has been doing ITS training since 1998. Eventually, PRIMIS will utilize a virtual private network (VPN) connected to a central region-wide communications database. This database will allow for interactive mapping of real-time travel conditions, catalog incidents, provide real-time information to its data-sharing partners and be a component for dissemination of information to the public. However, simple low-tech solutions are sometimes all that is needed, such as ramp designation signs at interchanges and person doors in noise walls.

### **3. Census Update**

- a. Vicki Lewes and Greg Brivic from the Census Bureau, gave an update on various Census-related products.
- b. **2000 Tiger Line File.** The 2002 update will be available in 2003. Urbanized boundary will be delineated in 2nd quarter 2002. SF2 will be available between March and July 2002. Call (301)457-4100 for Customer Service. SF3 will be available between June and September 2003. ([www.census.gov/www/tiger/](http://www.census.gov/www/tiger/))

- c. **Urbanized Areas.** Urbanized areas will be defined more uniformly - no more places (2,500 or more). 1,000 or more outside urban areas. There is now a density criteria for each block group to qualify. Detailed information about the proposed Urban/Rural criteria is located in the following Federal Register Notice: Urban Area Criteria for Census 2000--Proposed Criteria; Notice (March 28, 2001). The final criteria for the definition of Urbanized Areas from Census 2000 is expected to be released in December. Delineation is completely automated. Data products will be available in March 2002 as a separate product. Adobe Acrobat files (.pdf) may be available before the actual data CDs are available. After the Federal Register announcement, call Ryan Shore at the Census Bureau's Geographic Areas Branch at (301/457-1099) for more information. Urban/Rural delineation may or may not be available in SF2 and SF3 data products, but Ms. Lewes will look into it. ([www.census.gov/geo/www/ua/ua\\_2k.html](http://www.census.gov/geo/www/ua/ua_2k.html))
- d. **Public Use Microdata (PUMS).** Used by Lauris Olson and DVRPC for Transportation Modeling Process. PUMS is actual questionnaires with personal information stripped out. 1% and 5% samples. 1% samples are based on Metro Areas/ Counties – delineated by the SDCs. PA SDC and NJ SDC Metro Areas will be in sometime next week. ([www.census.gov/main/www/pums.html](http://www.census.gov/main/www/pums.html))
- e. **Count Question Resolution (CQR).** CQR provides an opportunity to challenge Census counts for a geographic area. Rules came out in September. Every local government in the country is getting a printed map mailed to them from the Census. Places (not mclds) in PA have already been sent out. Resolutions will not show up in the data products, only in 2001 estimates. It will be included in an errata as a new certified count, which will be available on the Census website. Not definite that it will stop in 2003. In the DVRPC region, 5 municipal counts were too low and three are too high. Corrections will be made down to the block-level. Institutional allocation are the easiest to spot (i.e. 1990 Greaterford Prison). Reallocation is preferred over adding people, unless there was an administrative error. ([www.census.gov/dmd/www/CQR.htm](http://www.census.gov/dmd/www/CQR.htm))
- f. **Traffic Analysis Zone (TAZ).** TAZ should be available through American Fact Finder by the end of October. TAZ delineation can be changed for a fee, on the 1999 and 2000 files. Contact Phil Salipeck (301/457-2454) for more information. MPO and state DOTs will receive TAZ data in the form of Journey to Work in 2003. Mr. Ontko stated that users can create their own TAZ-based file. For example, urban system funds are not cut at appropriate points so DVRPC adjusts urbanized areas and will notate this adjustment when publishing data. ([www.trbcensus.com](http://www.trbcensus.com))

#### 4. Pennsylvania State Data Center (PaSDC)

A representative from the PaSDC gave the IREG membership an update on recent activities. The affiliate meeting took place in the dark on September 10th. The conference on the 11<sup>th</sup> was cancelled due to the NYC tragedy. There have been many administrative staff changes in the past year which has made it difficult to keep up with the various ongoing projects. PaSDC is exploring technology solutions to increase communications with affiliates and to make it easier to send in quarterly reports. Only half of the affiliates attended the May 14<sup>th</sup> meeting near Hershey. A new survey for affiliates will be coming out shortly. The PaSDC is working on 10 page profiles for every geography in the state down to block group.

## 5. FY 2002 Work Program Updates

- a. **Aerial Photography.** Mike Ontko said that the 2000 aerials will become available this month. Once DVRPC is in receipt of the .tiff image files (10/19), a copy will go to each state and member government. The recipient agencies are allowed to make other copies or install the images on an intranet for internal use or for other municipalities within its jurisdiction. DVRPC will distribute images to municipalities at ½ price for counties that are unable to redistribute them. A disclaimer is included with all products. MrSID files will be available a few weeks later. Mr. Ontko said that Chester County files will require 19 CDs while Camden County will fit on 7 CDs in .TIFF format. In MrSID format, each county will fit on just one CD. An elevation model is available, but it has not been certified for accuracy. A course will be planned for how to use the 2000 aerial imagery product. Initial products will include MCD bundles as well as county CDs. The ability to order custom CDs will be available at a later time.
- b. **Region-Wide Transportation GIS.** A graph on the wall, created by the consultant on this project, showed a Technology Ramp Matrix. A common linear reference system (LRS) is the current goal, with the hopes of eventually ramping up to NSDI, a national standard, and perhaps, even more. When finished, copies will be available to the committee.
- c. **Year 2000 Land Use.** Mr. Ontko brought to the attention of the IREG membership that DVRPC's current base linework for Land Use does not match up with the new imagery base, which is more accurate than previous years. DVRPC is attempting to find a solution for getting existing Land Use compatible with the new digital imagery.

## 6. Old business / New business

There was no old presented at this time.

### **New Business**

DVRPC was questioned as to whether we would be redoing our Population Projections based upon the new 2000 Census counts. Mike Ontko replied that we would be examining the forecast in light of the 2000 counts vs. the 1997 estimates used as a base for our forecasts. Employment Projections, however, cannot be updated until the CTPP is released, which offers employment tabulations below the county level for the entire region. Reforecasting may take place in 2005.

As for the September 11<sup>th</sup> tragedy, it was pointed out how important mapped infrastructure, orthophotos, the internet and timely information is in such a situation. NJ DOT established a hotline for carpooling and ridesharing information to get into NYC. Staff have volunteered to man the phones into the night. NJTPA is reconsidering their planned and programmed transportation and infrastructure improvements.

A suggestion to discuss disaster planning and how it affects IREG agencies was tabled until the next IREG meeting, due to time constraints.

## 7. Next meeting date

Since the NJ SDC Annual Conference is scheduled for 12/06/2001, it was decided to schedule the next IREG meeting for 12/12/2001.

## **8. Meeting Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 12:10pm.