

# DELAWARE VALLEY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

## INFORMATION RESOURCE EXCHANGE GROUP

### Minutes of March 8, 2006

**Location:** DVRPC Offices, 8<sup>th</sup> Floor, 190 N. Independence Mall West, Philadelphia, PA 19106

**Attendance:**

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## **1. Introductions**

The 58th meeting of the Information Resource Exchange Group was called to order at 10:05 am by Ken Sipos, IREG Chair. Members in attendance introduced themselves.

## **2. Minutes of the meeting of December 14, 2005**

The minutes were approved without corrections or changes.

## **3. Confirmation of New Chair and Vice Chair.**

Seth Hackman from the NJ Department of Environmental Protection, Office of Information Resources Management was elected Chair and Brian Sweeney from the Chester County Planning Commission was elected as Vice-Chair for calendar year 2006. Mr. Hackman officiated the remainder of the meeting.

## **4. Presentations**

John Madera, Senior Transportation Planner for DVRPC discussed an end use of GIS in respect to sidewalks reparations. The emphasis was on making the community more walkable by having sidewalks readily available. This was done by prioritizing which sidewalks were more traveled than others, based on a point system, then ranked to show priority. The more traveled an area is the more importance was placed on fixing the sidewalk.

Greg Krykewycz, Transportation Planner for DVRPC spoke on the topic of nonmotorized accessibility to rail stations in the region, and what makes a certain stretch of road more walkable, that others. The importance is to help the public be more independent of their cars. There were multiple factors in what makes an area more desirable to use as a pedestrian.

Joseph Fazekas, Webmaster and Information Exchange Coordinator for DVRPC gave a brief introduction to web syndication, including its history, the existing standards, and the steps taken by DVRPC to launch our first two syndication services using free tools and Real Simple Syndication (RSS). Mr. Fazekas concluded by showing a number of relevant sites that offer syndication feeds. A short discussion regarding the importance of this technology followed.

## **5. Census Updates**

Whittona Burrell, Information Services Specialist from the Philadelphia Regional Office of the U.S. Census Bureau gave an update on recent activities, including preparation for the 2010 Census, Local Update of Census Addresses (LUCA) updates and improvements since Census 2000, and the 2005-2006 School District Review Program work will be finished in April 2006.

## **6. DVRPC Work Program Updates**

Mary Bell announced that the Employment Centers report is now available. Eileen Gallagher announced that she would begin updating the Committee on new DVRPC publications available in the Resource Center. Taghi Ozbeki reported that new workstations are being ordered for staff and that Norton Ghost software was acquired to assist in the setup and customization of the new PCs. Glenn McNichol reported that staff has completed ¾ of the QA/QC process for the 2005 Orthophotography and that they are awaiting corrections to the first delivery sets and final delivery of the 5' contour data. The new Orthophotography products will not be available to member governments and operating agencies until early May 2006 at the earliest. Will Stevens gave an update on county signal data collection efforts that took place at the December 2005 and January 2006 meetings for the Regionwide Transportation GIS Project. He also announced the next meeting in PA and the Intro to GIS training being held at DVRPC, both scheduled in March 2006.

## **7. Member Updates**

Due to time constrains, there were no Member Updates given at this time.

## **8. Old Business**

No old business was presented at this time.

## **9. New Business**

Will Stevens (DVRPC) discussed the new internal GIS User's Group for DVRPC staff. The Chairman announced that speaker recommendations should be forwarded to Joe Fazekas. The Chariman mentioned that Larry Thornton at NJ DEP is working with a new Geospatial Information Technology Governance Model. Lauris Olson (UPenn) opened a discussion on how agencies release information on new reports and products to the public.

## **10. Adjournment**

The IREG meeting was adjourned at 12:20 pm. The Webmasters Subcommittee reconvened at 1:00 pm.