

DELAWARE VALLEY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION
INFORMATION RESOURCE EXCHANGE GROUP
Minutes of December 12, 2007

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
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Jim Knudson	Deputy CIO, Environment	Commonwealth of PA	jknudson@state.pa.us
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Mary Bell	Principal Planning Analyst	DVRPC	mbell@dvrpc.org
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Will Stevens	Manager, GIS	DVRPC	wstevens@dvrpc.org
Kenneth Thompson	GIS Analyst	DVRPC	kthompson@dvrpc.org
William Mead	Principal Planner / Website Mngr.	Gloucester County Planning Dept.	bmead@co.gloucester.nj.us
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Sara Friedman	Publication Specialist	Greater Philadelphia Chamber of Commerce	sfriedman@greaterphilachamber.com
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Lauris Olson	Soc. Science Bibliographer	Univ. of Penn. Library	olson@pobox.upenn.edu

1. Call to Order and Introductions

The 65th meeting of the IREG was called to order at 10:10 a.m. at DVRPC. Forty-six members were in attendance.

2. Minutes of the meeting of September 5, 2007

The minutes were approved without correction.

3. Presentations

A. Geospatial Technologies from the Commonwealth Viewpoint - Vision and Opportunities *(Jim Knudson, State Geospatial Technologies Coordinator, PA Office for Information Technology)*

Mr. Knudson gave an overview of the Pennsylvania Office for Information Technology's vision and priorities regarding geospatial technologies, as well as the various programs and opportunities that are currently available for information sharing within the State. He also discussed his Office's ongoing and future endeavors within the Commonwealth.

B. Housing Resource Center and Smart Growth Locator *(Marge Della Vecchia, Executive Director & Michael Gumpert, NJ Housing Resource Center Project Manager, New Jersey Housing and Mortgage Finance Agency)*

Ms. Della Vecchia explained that the New Jersey Smart Growth Locator (www.njlocator.gov) is an award-winning web-based address search tool that helps determine whether a property is in a Smart Growth Area and also helps administer policies, regulations and funding programs connected to Smart Growth Areas. Created in 2004 by the Housing and Mortgage Finance Agency, the Locator was designed in order to take the guesswork out of Smart Growth. Several state agencies, including Board of Public Utilities, the Economic Development Agency, the Office of Smart Growth, and the Department of Transportation, now rely on this tool to help with their day-to-day tasks. This web-based application uses HTML and javascript on a Windows server infrastructure, and also incorporates GIS programming (ArcIMS and ArcSDE). The NJ Location Assessment Tool (accessible through the [NJ Business Portal](http://www.njbusinessportal.com) website) is the next iteration of the Smart Growth Locator, and incorporates a wealth of data from various state departments (environmental, demographic, and economic).

Mr. Gumpert demonstrated the New Jersey Housing Resource Center (HRC) website (www.njhousing.gov) which is also an award-winning site. The HRC provides potential and existing residents with a searchable registry of affordable and accessible housing units (both for rent and sale) throughout the state. Among many other property features, the site user has the option to narrow down eligible units based on accessibility features – a feature that is not available on other leading property search websites. The registry, which is continuously updated, is a free site for sellers, renters, and buyers, and contains a mapping feature and a Median Family Income calculator. The HRC website also serves as a clearinghouse for any housing-related question a person may have.

5. Census Update

This item has been tabled for discussion at the March 2008 meeting.

6. DVRPC Work Program Update

A. New DVRPC Publications

Joe Fazekas announced that eighteen reports have been released since the September meeting and are available on DVRPC's website through the [Publications Directory](#). A number of reports have been made available for free download on this site as well.

Mary Bell announced that "Rating the Region" had recently been published. This document compares Philadelphia with other Metropolitan Statistical Areas in the country. Copies of "Rating the Region" were made available at the meeting.

B. Website Redesign/Updates

Mr. Fazekas reported that DVRPC is in process of reviewing their website in order to make improvements. They are looking at other MPO/COG websites to get ideas for a new design and are always looking for suggestions on how to enhance usability.

Some new features on DVRPC's website include an A-Z Index, and a quick-glance feature of the meeting calendar on the homepage, showing the next three meetings. Improvements have also been made to the XML feed, with recent additions of announcements from 2004 and 2005. A new database-driven RFP page will be released shortly.

C. Regional Online Information Network

Mr. Fazekas announced the following:

- DVRPC released an RFQ, looking for suggestion and recommendations on how to improve their IT infrastructure
- In an effort to improve office sustainability practices, DVRPC now has recycled paper in the majority of their printers, and has purchased and installed five printers that have internal duplexing
- Taghi Ozbeki will give presentation on DVRPC's backup strategy at the March 2008 IREG meeting

D. Year 2010 Aerial Imagery

Glenn McNichol announced that staff held a meeting for member governments with regard to the upcoming 2010 aerial imagery project on November 14, 2007. The purpose of this meeting was to review our mutual experiences with previous imagery acquisition efforts with an eye toward how the 2010 project should be structured, and to explore different options for the forthcoming project. Input from member governments was sought as to their evaluation of the usability of the current imagery and what, if any, changes they would like to see made in the process or products for the next round of imagery acquisition.

The next meeting pertaining to the 2010 imagery project will be held sometime in the late spring or early summer of 2008.

E. Region-Wide Transportation GIS Development

Will Stevens reported the following:

- GeoDecisions has been selected as the vendor to create a multi-county, linear-referenced, addressable road centerline that will be compatible with the DOT's. They will also develop transportation-related web-based applications. Most of the interviews with member governments and GeoDecisions have been conducted, and follow-up questions were recently sent out.

- NJOIT has hired Fountains Spatial to conduct a feasibility study looking into developing a single road centerline file for the entire state of NJ that would meet the needs of the various government organizations in the state. The study is expected to be complete by May 2008.
- NJOIT is in the process of updating the state-wide county and municipal boundary file. This file will be used to edge-match parcel data collected from each county. A draft of this new boundary file is expected to be completed in early January, 2008.
- DVRPC is in the process of creating a geographic historic resource inventory used in Transportation Planning for the nine county region. Discussions have been held with the National Park Service, NJ Historic Preservation Office, PA Historic Museum Commission, and Chester County Department of Parks and Recreation.

7. Member Roundtable

Lauris Olson (olson@pobox.upenn.edu) from the University of Pennsylvania Library, announced that the Library is looking into a back-up mechanism for their electronic publications by either paying a vendor or using the LOCKSS system. Mr. Olson also requested that participants email him examples of issues that effect Islamic groups in our region, in an effort to increase communication between Islamic groups and policy makers.

8. CY 2008 Nominating Committee

The IREG is looking for volunteers to join Ken Sipos and Brian Sweeney in choosing the Chair and Vice-Chair for 2008. Participants were asked to contact Joe Fazekas (jfazekas@dvrpc.org) if they were interested.

9. CY 2008 Meeting Date Confirmation

March 5th, June 11th, September 3rd, and December 10th have been selected as IREG meeting dates for 2008. If there are any conflicts, please contact Joe Fazekas (jfazekas@dvrpc.org).

8. Information Items

A. Committee Reports

a. Online GIS Subcommittee Meeting

Chris Pollard reported that the meeting has been postponed until March 5, 2008

b. Webmasters Subcommittee Meeting

Joe Fazekas invited interested parties to attend the next meeting, immediately following the IREG meeting

B. Recent Event Reports

- Ken Sipos reported that the MAC-URISA fall workshop, "Best Practices for Developing Geographic Information Models" was well-attended

C. Upcoming Events

- The 14th Annual MAC-URISA Conference, previously held at Rutgers University, will be held at Mount Laurel, NJ at the BCC Enterprise Center from April 7-9, 2008, and will be changing to a 2-day conference, 1-day workshop format. Paul Caras urged participants to visit MAC-URISA's website, www.macurisa.org, where registration and conference information can be found. The deadline for presentation abstracts is Friday, December 14th.
- The TRB 87th Annual Meeting, Washington, DC will be held January 13th through January 17th, 2008
- Added Item: The ESRI Transportation Special Interest Group meeting will be held in Chester County on February 19, 2008

9. Old Business

No old business was presented at this time.

10. New Business

Joe Fazekas announced that the Draft DVRPC Work Program (FY 2009) was approved, and is available for download from DVRPC's website. Mr. Fazekas also urged participants to be sure their contact information with DVRPC is up to date.

11. Adjournment

The IREG meeting was adjourned at 12:20 pm

Materials Available at the Meeting

- MAC URISA: Flyer for the 14th Regional GIS Conference
- US Census Bureau: *"Complete Count Committee Program: On the Road to the 2010 Census"*, Issued May 2007
- US Census Bureau: *"The U.S. Census Bureau: At Work for You"*, Issued December 2005
- NJOIT: *"New Jersey 2007 Orthoimagery Project"*
- APA: *"InfoTEXT" Winter/Spring 2007*
- DVRPC: *"Rating the Region: The State of the Delaware Valley"*, December 2007

