

DELAWARE VALLEY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION
INFORMATION RESOURCE EXCHANGE GROUP
Minutes of March 5, 2008

Location: DVRPC Offices, 8th Floor, 190 N. Independence Mall West, Philadelphia, PA 19106

Attendance:

Name	Title	Organization	Email
Bob Keough	GIS Manager	Bucks County Planning Comm.	rhkeough@co.bucks.pa.us
Kiersten Gauntt	GIS Specialist	Burlington County	kgauntt@co.burlington.nj.us
Stacey Stanley	GIS Specialist Trainee	Burlington County	sstanley@co.burlington.nj.us
Merrilee Torres	GIS Specialist	Burlington County	mtorres@co.burlington.nj.us
Noemi Mendez	Geographer	Census Bureau	noemi.mendez@census.gov
Tre Rials	Research Analyst	Center City District	trials@centercityphila.org
Brian T. Sweeney	User Liason	Chester County Planning Comm.	bsweeney@chesco.org
Bob Walker	Senior Planner	Chester County Planning Comm.	rwalker@chesco.org
Kenneth Sheppard	Real Estate Specialist	City of Philadelphia Pub. Property	kenneth.sheppard@phila.gov
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Justin Dula	Senior Planner, Transportation	Delaware County Planning Dept.	dulaj@co.delaware.pa.us
Joe Fazekas	Manager, Office of Web & Creative Svcs	DVRPC	jfazekas@dvrpc.org
Joseph Hacker	Manager, Office of Bike, Ped. & Transit	DVRPC	jhacker@dvrpc.org
Chris Henrick	Intern	DVRPC	chenrick@dvrpc.org
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John Madera	Senior Transportation Planner	DVRPC	jmadera@dvrpc.org
Glenn McNichol	GIS Specialist	DVRPC	gmcnichol@dvrpc.org
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Chris Pollard	GIS Analyst	DVRPC	cpollard@dvrpc.org
Will Stevens	Manager, GIS	DVRPC	wstevens@dvrpc.org
William Mead	Principal Planner / Website Mngr.	Gloucester County Planning Dept.	bmead@co.gloucester.nj.us
Jeff Taylor	Senior MIS Technician	Gloucester County Planning Dept.	jtaylor@co.gloucester.nj.us
Bob Wendt	Dir. Research	Lehigh Valley EDC	wendt@fast.net
Katrina Placer	Senior Planner	Mercer County	kplacer@mercercounty.org
Seth Hackman	GIS Specialist	NJ DEP	seth.hackman@dep.state.nj.us
Matt Honea	Project Manager / Planner	PIDC	mhonea@pidc-pa.org
Maryann McCann	GIS Administrator	PIDC	mmcann@pidc-pa.org
Meghan Kang	Research Analyst	Select Greater Philadelphia	mkang@selectgreaterphila.com
Andy Ferry	GIS Manager	SEPTA	aferry@septa.org
Tanya Rothe		SEPTA	trothe@septa.org
Marlen Kokaz	GIS Director	Univ. of Penn. Cart.Modeling Lab	mkokaz@ssw.upenn.edu
Tom McGettigan	Economist	US Department of Labor BLS	mcgettigan_t@bls.gov

1. Call to Order and Introductions

The 66th meeting of the IREG was called to order at 10:10 a.m. at DVRPC. About forty members were in attendance.

2. Minutes of the meeting of December 12, 2007

The minutes were approved without correction.

3. Election of CY 2008 Chair and Vice Chair *(order changed)*

Merrilee Torres from the Burlington County Data Processing Office was elected Committee Chair for 2008. Megan Kang from Select Greater Philadelphia was elected Vice-Chair for 2008. The Committee thanked Brian Sweeney from Chester County Planning Commission for his service as Chair in 2007.

4. Presentations

A. 2005 Metropolitan Bicycle Travel Survey Findings

(John Madera, Senior Transportation Planner, DVRPC)

Mr. Madera presented the findings from the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission's first-ever metropolitan bicycle travel survey - the most comprehensive look at bicycling ever conducted in the region and possibly the largest of its kind ever conducted in North America. The goals of the survey were to generate data on the characteristics of adult bicyclists and bicycle trips, and to ascertain bicyclists' travel behavior, attitudes and desires. Mr. Madera explained the survey design and procedures; and presented the principal findings of an analysis of the data collected during the survey. Conducted in the autumn of 2005, the survey collected trip data through roadside interviews of bicyclists intercepted at pre-selected sites; and user data through the distribution of mail-back questionnaires to intercepted bicyclists, attachment to parked bicycles, and through leaders of club rides. Trip characteristics recorded included length; duration and purpose; use of multiple modes; helmet use and riding behavior; and gender of rider. User characteristics included age, race gender, and socioeconomic status; bicycle ownership; estimated monthly usage by purpose and in combination with transit; safety habits and attitudes; and facility and policy preferences. Unique to this survey, data was collected on bicyclist crash experience during the previous 12 months. Tabulated responses for the sample and by travel analysis "area type" in which the bicyclists were intercepted were presented and explained.

An electronic copy of the report *Bicycling in the Delaware Valley in 2005: Use, Safety, and Demographics* is available for download from DVRPC's website (www.dvrpc.org).

B. Regional Analysis - Data Across Borders

(Janel Bisacquino, GIS Director, Stony Brook- Millstone Watershed Association)

Ms. Bisacquino spoke about the challenges she faces as the GIS Director at the Stony Brook-Millstone Watershed Association (www.thewatershed.org) – a regional organization in Central New Jersey that covers five counties and twenty-six municipalities. The *Smart Growth Planning and Management Project for the Sourland Mountain Region* presented such a challenge. A goal of the project was to get input from users of the region, as well as property owners. In order to effectively reach as many community members as possible, Ms. Bisacquino created a website where she posted the project's analytical plan, post-meeting PowerPoint presentations and surveys, future meeting dates, and a link to an interactive map using Google Map's interface. This map (the "Community Map") was created by Wansoo Im at Vertices, and allows community members to place points on the map, with the ability to add comments/descriptions and to categorize the location by type (Park/Preserve, Historic Landmark, Natural Feature, Worship Notes). The website can be found at <http://www.thewatershed.org/sourlands/>.

Another task that presented challenges for Ms. Bisacquino was conducting a build-out analysis for the *EPA Targeted Watershed Grant Project: Municipal Assessment Program*. For this analysis Ms. Bisacquino wanted to estimate future pollutant loading in waterways to predict what may occur under newly amended ordinances secured by the project against the estimated pollutant loading that may have

occurred without these modifications to local ordinances. Problems occurred during the data compilation phase. Some municipalities and/or counties have little GIS-initiative, resulting in the lack of data to use in the analysis. Because of this issue, in the end, out of the dozens of analyses that were conducted for the study, Ms. Bisacquino was only able to determine the net change in pollutant load for one region, the "Spruce Run Reservoir".

Following are websites Ms. Bisacquino recommended:

- <http://publicnoticeads.com/NJ/search/searchnotices.asp> - NJ Press Association. Allows you to search for public notices anywhere in the state of New Jersey
- <http://www.vitalgov.net/public.asp> - Vital Online Data Search Service. Contains New Jersey tax assessment information
- <http://docs.google.com> – Google Docs. In a multi-user, real-time environment, allows you to create, modify, and save documents, spreadsheets and presentations online
- <https://www.logmein.com> – LogMeIn. "Gain the power and freedom to access your PC or Mac from anywhere, anytime"
- <http://www.2shared.com> – 2shared. Provides free storage for files, giving you the option to share those files with others

5. Census Update

Noemi Mendez, a Geographer from the Philadelphia Regional Office of the U.S. Census Bureau, gave an update on the following programs for the upcoming 2010 Census:

- Local Update of Census Addresses (LUCA):
 - About a third of the region is participating in the program
 - Submissions are currently being received
 - Next phase (address canvassing) is expected to begin in early 2009
- Redistricting Data Program:
 - Census Bureau is currently working with state governments to delineate voting and state legislative boundaries, which will be incorporated in the TIGER database
- Participant Statistical Areas Program (PSAP):
 - Beginning this summer (2008), designated participants will have the opportunity to suggest modifications for block groups, census tracts, census county divisions, and census designated places boundaries
 - Final criteria is currently available for the census county divisions and census designated places
- The Philadelphia Regional Office has moved locations and is now located at 1234 Market Street, Philadelphia

6. DVRPC Work Program Update

A. New DVRPC Publications

Joe Fazekas announced that a variety of reports have been released recently, including:

- *Taming Traffic: Context-Sensitive Solutions in the DVRPC Region*
- *1980 - 2005 Travel Trends in the Philadelphia Central Business District*
- *Bicycling in the Delaware Valley in 2005: Use, Safety, and Demographics*
- *Rating the Region: The State of the Delaware Valley*

- *Municipal Implementation Tool 14: Safe Routes to School*
- *Brownfields Resource Guide*

B. Regional Online Information Network

Mr. Fazekas announced the following:

- DVRPC has just completed an upgrade from Oracle version 9i To 10G; the next step is to install ArcServer
- In an effort to enhance network performance, DVRPC will be upgrading from one to two T1 lines
- The Commission's homepage has added new functionality in an effort to bring "buried" web items and updates to the forefront
- DVRPC has entered into contract for a public image campaign which includes their web interface; the contract is to run through the summer

C. 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. Interviews with member governments have been completed, final database requirements have been submitted, and GeoDecisions has begun to design the database structure. There will be a Regionwide Transportation GIS Group meeting with on March 31st where the vendor will present an alternate solution that utilizes their new dynamic conflation tool.
- Upcoming meetings with DVRPC staff will be conducted to discuss potential web applications
- DVRPC is in the process of creating a geographic historic resource inventory. Meetings with Chester County, NJ and PA state representatives have been held, and a meeting with DVRPC staff will be held next week to discuss this project. This project will also be discussed at the upcoming Regionwide Transportation GIS Group meeting.

7. Member Roundtable

No contributions were presented at this time.

8. Information Items

A. Committee Reports

a. Online GIS Subcommittee Meeting

Chris Pollard reported that the next meeting will be held immediately after IREG adjourns.

b. Webmasters Subcommittee Meeting

Joe Fazekas invited interested parties to attend the next meeting, immediately following the Online GIS Subcommittee Meeting

B. Recent Event Reports

- a. Joe Fazekas reported that several staff from DVRPC attended the Transportation Research Board (TRB) 86th Annual Meeting (1/21-25)

C. Upcoming Events

- a. **NJ TransAction Conference & Expo** – April 2-4 (Atlantic City, NJ)

- b. **14th Annual MAC URISA Regional GIS Conference** – April 7-9 (Mount Laurel, NJ). Seth Hackman reported that the early bird registration deadline has been extended to March 7th. Merrilee Torres urged participants in the interactive expo to submit abstracts.
- c. **100th Annual APA National Planning Conference** – April 27th (Las Vegas, NV)
- d. **16th Annual Pennsylvania GIS Conference** – May 14-15 (Camp Hill, PA)

9. Old Business

No old business was presented at this time.

10. New Business

Joe Fazekas announced that DVRPC is extending their survey deadline to early April for the 2035 Long Range Plan (*Connections – The Regional Plan for a Sustainable Future*), in the hopes to obtain 10,000 survey responses. DVRPC's Executive Director, Barry Seymour, will be appearing on "Comcast Newsmakers" to promote the effort.

Mr. Fazekas reminded participants to RSVP for each IREG meeting they plan on attending.

Topics for possible presentations for the June 11th IREG meeting include:

- DVRPC's back-up strategy
- Results from the *Connections – The Regional Plan for a Sustainable Future* survey
- Bucks County's Regional GIS Consortium

11. Adjournment

The IREG meeting was adjourned at 12:10 pm

Materials Available at the Meeting

- MAC URISA: 14th Regional GIS Conference Brochure
- US Census Bureau: "*Geography Counts...Make the 2010 Census Work for You*", Issued May 2007
- US Census Bureau: "*The 2010 Census Redistricting Data Program*", Issued January 2005
- DVRPC: "DVRPC News", Fall 2007