

DELAWARE VALLEY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION
INFORMATION RESOURCE EXCHANGE GROUP
Minutes of June 11, 2008

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

Attendance:

Name:	Title:	Organization:	E-mail Address:
Neil Kohl	Manager, Web Operations	American College of Physicians	neilk@acponline.org
Yue Zhou	Webmaster	American College of Physicians	yuez@acponline.org
Tom Denton	Asst. Director, Research & Planning	Archdiocese of Philadelphia	tdenton@adphila.org
Megan Heckert	Bus. Devel. Manager	Avencia	mheckert@avencia.com
Merrilee Torres	GIS Specialist	Burlington County	mtorres@co.burlington.nj.us
Dave Williams	Web Administrator	Chester County	dwilliams@chesco.org
Kerry Larson	GIS Specialist	Chester County Planning Comm.	klarson@chesco.org
Brian T. Sweeney	User Liason	Chester County Planning Comm.	bsweeney@chesco.org
Ken Sipos	Real Estate Specialist	City of Philadelphia Pub. Property	kenneth.sipos@phila.gov
Jill Hall	Senior Planner	Delaware County Planning Dept.	hallj@co.delaware.pa.us
Mary Bell	Principal Planning Analyst	DVRPC	mbell@dvrpc.org
Nick Canzonerri	Web Development Co-Op	DVRPC	ncanzonerri@dvrpc.org
Laura Chisholm	GIS Intern	DVRPC	lchisholm@dvrpc.org
Charles Dougherty	Div. Director, Technical Services	DVRPC	cdougherty@dvrpc.org
Joe Fazekas	Manager, Web & Creative Svcs	DVRPC	jfazekas@dvrpc.org
Brett Fusco	Transportation Planner	DVRPC	bfusco@dvrpc.org
Victoria Harris	GIS Intern	DVRPC	vharris@dvrpc.org
Beth Houser	GIS Intern	DVRPC	ehouser@dvrpc.org
Kim Korejko	GIS Analyst	DVRPC	kkorejko@dvrpc.org
Stephanie Lipartito	Graphic Design Intern	DVRPC	slipartito@dvrpc.org
Becky Maule	Graphic Artist	DVRPC	bmaule@dvrpc.org
Glenn McNichol	GIS Specialist	DVRPC	gmcnichol@dvrpc.org
Kimberly Meyer	Sr. Graphic Designer	DVRPC	kmeyer@dvrpc.org
Chris Pollard	GIS Analyst	DVRPC	cpollard@dvrpc.org
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
Jeff Taylor	Senior MIS Technician	Gloucester County Planning Dept.	jtaylor@co.gloucester.nj.us
Sara Friedman	Communications Specialist	Greater Phila. Chamber of Comm.	sfriedman@greaterphilachamber.com
Bob Wendt	Dir. Research	Lehigh Valley EDC	wendt@fast.net
Matt Lawson	Principal Planner	Mercer County	mlawson@mercer
Nadia Barclay	Intern	Metro Phila Indicators Project	nbarclay@brynmawr.edu
Michelle Schmitt	Project Coordinator	Metro Phila Indicators Project	mschmitt@temple.edu
Mary Morrison	County Planner	Montgomery County Planning Comm.	mmorris2@montcopa.org
Seth Hackman	GIS Specialist	NJ DEP	seth.hackman@dep.state.nj.us
Deepa Rajashekhara	GIS Specialist	NJ Housing & Mortgage Finance Agency	drajashekhara@njhmfa.state.nj.us
Nicole Cross	Planner II	Philadelphia City Planning Commission	nicole.cross@phila.gov
Matt Honea	Project Manager / Planner	PIDC	mhonea@pidc-pa.org
Maryann McCann	GIS Administrator	PIDC	mmccann@pidc-pa.org
Mary Ellen McCarty	GIS Analyst	PWD - Office of Watersheds	maryellen.mccarty@phila.gov
Helena Mark	Computer Systems Analyst	Prognoz	helena.mark@prognoz.com
Philip R. Hopkins, AICP	Vice President, Research	Select Greater Philadelphia	phopkins@selectgreaterphila.com
Meghan Kang	Research Analyst	Select Greater Philadelphia	mkang@selectgreaterphila.com
Andrew Jerista		Select Greater Philadelphia	ajerista@selectgreaterphila.com
Tanya Rothe	Operations Planner	SEPTA	trothe@septa.org

1. Call to Order and Introductions

The 67th meeting of the IREG was called to order at 10:10 a.m. at DVRPC. About forty-five members were in attendance.

2. Minutes of the meeting of March 5, 2008

The minutes were approved without correction.

3. Presentations

A. Mapping Philadelphia History: Public Access to Historic Images (*Megan Heckert, Business Development Manager, Avencia, Inc.*)

Megan Heckert spoke about a website her organization created for the City of Philadelphia (www.PhillyHistory.org). The City of Philadelphia Department of Records has developed a web-based mapping application to display historic photographs from the City's archive of more than 2 million photographs. Among these photographs are streetscapes that capture children playing in the streets, horse drawn carriages, and Philadelphia's historic homes through the centuries. From historic independence hall to the docks and ferries, these images document the social history of the city since 1880. Today the department is making these photographs available on the internet with ESRI's ArcIMS technology, through an interactive web-based mapping site. In addition the department has created a portable handheld version which citizens and tourists can access on cellular phones and handheld PCs. Giving citizens access to these important historic assets provides the public an important historic resource and, through e-commerce, provides a revenue stream for the Department of Records to further their preservation efforts and enhance their technology infrastructure.

B. Connections Online Survey Results (*Brett Fusco, Transportation Planner, Office of Long-Range Planning, DVRPC*)

DVRPC had just concluded an on-line survey of regional issues that will be used to help prioritize regional goals and strategies for the 2035 Long-Range Plan ("Connections: The Regional Plan for a Sustainable Future"). Brett Fusco, a Transportation Planner in the Office of Long-Range Planning at DVRPC, reported on the preliminary findings as well as outlined the next steps in development of the Connections Plan.

C. Online MSA Comparison Tool (*Philip R. Hopkins, AICP, Vice President, Research, Select Greater Philadelphia; Helena Mak, PROGNOZ*)

Phil Hopkins from Select Greater Philadelphia introduced the project and their consultant, Helena Mak, from PROGNOZ, demonstrated the beta version of their Online Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) Comparison Tool. This tool was developed for Select Greater Philadelphia in an effort to promote our region by making various commonly-used datasets available to site selectors. This application was designed to be user-friendly and contains a wealth of data for twelve of the MSA's in our country, including Greater Philadelphia. The website cleverly uses maps and a variety of charts to display demographic data by MSA. The Online MSA Comparison Tool allows the user to customize the data outputs and also has an option to view and download the data in a report format.

4. Census Update

This item has been tabled for the next meeting, as a representative from the Philadelphia Regional Office of the U.S. Census Bureau was not able to attend the meeting.

5. DVRPC Work Program Update

A. New DVRPC Data Bulletins:

Mary Bell announced that numerous data bulletins will be released in the next few months including (but not limited to):

- *2005 Land Use Analytical Report*
- *American Community Survey (general information and select regional data; 2002-2007)*
- *Residential Building Permits, 2007 Data Bulletin*
- *Municipal Population Estimates Data Bulletin*

Ms. Bell also reported that DVRPC has started a new series called "Data Snapshots." This series focuses on location- and topic-specific demographic data. The first document, *Bucks County Senior Demographics & Transportation Statistics*, is available for download on DVRPC's website.

B. New DVRPC Publications

Joe Fazekas reminded attendees that they can search for new publications on DVRPC's website using the publication search application. The Commission is making a greater effort to provide their reports in digital format and to make them available for free download.

Ms. Bell announced the release of *Demographic Trends and Forecasts in the Philadelphia Region*, which was created for the Philadelphia Cultural Management Initiative (PCMI). This report is also available online

C. Regional Online Information Network

Mr. Fazekas announced the following:

- In an effort to enhance network performance, DVRPC has upgraded from one to two T1 lines
- DVRPC is working with an IT consultant to further improve their IT infrastructure
- An agency-wide back-up system will be implemented
- DVRPC has entered into contract for a public image campaign which includes their web interface; the contract is to run through the summer
- The Commission has launched Google Translations on their website to continue to make their information available to non-English speaking populations

D. DVRPC Google Maps Demonstration

Chick Dougherty demonstrated DVRPC's new web application, "DVRPC TIP Search and Online Mapping". This new feature allows you to search for and view TIP projects using the familiar Google Maps interface. The database of TIP projects can be searched by county or operator, municipality, keyword, or project ID. The application also allows users to zoom in to specific areas of the map. Each project is clearly marked with a color-coded "pushpin," that indicates the type of project (highway, transit, bicycle/pedestrian, streetscape, etc.). By clicking on the "pushpin," you are able to view more details about that specific project, including the full description and programming details. Other new features include real-time traffic information and satellite imagery of the region (aerial photographs of the TIP locations). The website is updated each month, following Board approval of TIP amendments. To view the new DVRPC TIP website, visit <http://www.dvrpc.org/transportation/capital/tip.htm> and scroll down to "Current TIPS."

E. Year 2005/2010 Aerial Imagery

Glenn McNichol reported that DVRPC will be holding a meeting for member governments with regard to the 2010 aerial imagery project on Monday, June 23rd at 10AM. The purpose of this meeting will be to solidify specifications for the 2010 imagery. He also mentioned that Pictometry will be hosting a technology seminar at DVRPC on Thursday, July 10th from 9AM to 4PM.

F. Region-Wide Transportation GIS Development

Will Stevens reported the following:

- On March 25th and 26th GeoDecisions met with DVRPC staff to collect web application functionality requirements. GeoDecisions will be developing a web portal that will serve web-based mapping applications to staff, member governments, and the public. Following those meetings we received, reviewed, and commented on the Web Application Preliminary Requirements document.
- The draft Regional Road Conceptual Database Design document has been received and meetings with project participants and GeoDecisions were arranged on March 31 and again on April 15. Through these discussions it was determined that developing the local LRS was not beneficial at this time. GeoDecisions presented an alternative solution that involved development of a dynamic conflation tool (DCT). A DCT requirements list was developed and another meeting was held on May 2 to further define the tools functionality. The tool will function in much the same way as an LRS would by allowing data to be exchanged and mapped between different road centerline files. The tool will also function as a QA/QC aid in file cleanup and maintenance.
- Mr. Stevens recently received and provided comments on the draft Regional Road Physical Database Design document and has received and is reviewing the draft Edge-Matching Rules document.
- GeoDecisions has been testing the new ArcGIS 9.3 to determine how it may affect our web application and DCT development efforts.
- The group is also trying to coordinate with two efforts at NJ OGIS (boundary file update and the road centerline feasibility study).
- The Historic Resources GIS project members met with DVRPC staff and county staff to learn how historic resources are currently being used and how to improve their use in future projects.

6. Member Roundtable

A. Archdiocese of Philadelphia

Tom Denton reported that they recently obtained a new printer. The Archdiocese has been working to get their monthly mailings online in an effort to make the documents readily available. After sharing data, PhillyCarShare is looking to use some of their facilities as pods. Various reports and information are available on the Archdiocese's website, archphila.org.

B. Lehigh Valley Economic Development Corporation

Bob Wendt reported that their distribution rate is still very strong, especially from Canadian firms.

C. American College of Physicians (ACP)

Neil Kohl, the Manager of Web Operations for the ACP introduced himself to the Committee. The ACP is a non-profit medical specialty society consisting of 125,000 physician members. Their

primary mission is to improve public health by giving physicians the tools they need to practice better by publishing books, peer review journals, and run scientific meetings.

D. DVRPC

Glenn McNichol reminded attendees that DVRPC has an Oce TDS400 b/w large format (36" wide) printer that they are offering to the first interested party. This is the printer we used to print our 2000 aerials. It is a printer only, not a printer/scanner. If you are interested, contact Glenn McNichol at 215-238-2819.

E. Temple University

Michelle Schmitt, Project Coordinator at Metropolitan Philadelphia Indicators Project (MPIP) at Temple University, announced that on June 20th they will be launching an online municipal data tool. The user will have the ability to query various demographic themes, including, but not limited to, employment, health, and education data. The application can be found at www.temple.edu/mpip.

F. Burlington County

Merrilee Torres announced that one GIS vacancy has been filled at Burlington County, but others may be available soon. Send resumes to Merrilee if interested. The County recently upgraded to ArcGIS 9.2 including ArcServer. The County GIS Department is now helping their Health Department map animal intakes, at an astounding rate of 700 animals a month. The new NJ wastewater management rules have prompted Burlington County's Water Resource Coordinator to work with the GIS department. The Coordinator is exploring the idea of doing a build-out analysis on areas that aren't currently sewer serviceable.

G. Greater Philadelphia Chamber of Commerce

Sara Friedman announced that the top one-hundred list of major employer list for the region has been updated. To date, it is not available on the website, but is available upon request (email Sara at sfriedman@greaterphilachamber.com). Select Greater Philadelphia is looking for feedback on the list. In the future, they are also looking into compiling a list of top employers by county.

7. Information Items

H. 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

I. Recent Event Reports

- a. Joe Fazekas reported that in April, eight- to nine-thousand people attended the APA Conference in April in Las Vegas, Nevada

J. Upcoming Events

- a. **National Association of Government Webmasters Conference** – September 10-12 (Chicago, IL)
- b. **ESRI LiDAR Workshop** – June 24-25 (Chesterbrook, PA)

- c. **MAC URISA LiDAR Symposium** – October 23rd (Rutgers EcoComplex, Bordentown, NJ)
- d. **APA Audio Workshop** – June 25 (DVRPC Main Conference Room, Philadelphia, PA)

8. Old Business

No old business was presented at this time.

9. New Business

No new business was presented at this time.

10. Adjournment

The IREG meeting was adjourned at 12:00