

Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission Information Resource Exchange Group

Highlights from meeting of Wednesday, December 08, 2010

About 30 members were in attendance.

Election of CY 2011 Chair and Vice Chair

Thomas Denton from the Archdiocese of Philadelphia was elected as Chair and Tanya Flynt from SEPTA was elected as Vice Chair.

Presentations

"Tour of the NewsWorks.org Website"

Don Henry, Senior Web Producer/Project Manager, NewsWorks.org, a regional news portal and community interaction site spearheaded by WHYY, which was launched November 15th. Develop a site that people can talk about issues that are pertinent. Interactive blog focusing on interesting stuff from around the region. Many opportunities to participate, using crowdsourcing to select news content. News is covered in the traditional sense, but enhanced by... Covering the greater Philadelphia area, with hyperlocal mini sites in 3 areas Germantown/West Oak Lane, Roxborough/Chestnut Hill, Digital divide still exists. NJ is covered, but signal reaches out to Princeton, so expansion is hopeful to these areas, especially with the current funding issues with NJN. 6th Square is the interactive part of the site, the virtual square like Philly's existing 5 (Washington, Rittenhouse, Center, Franklin, Logan). Mindmap - interesting people from the community to answer these questions. Essay (Op-Ed) area. Top 10 lists. Multimedia video (YouTube), slideshows, audio. .Graphic design done in-house DMBG Delaware open source Joomla. Syndication and radio newsroom, using a correspondence model w/training in the Dorrance H. Hamilton Public Media Commons, deals w/various partners, Committee of Seventy, Plan Philly, University of the Arts. Unlike ad-based news media, non commercial news portals like NewsWorks can focus on issues that perhaps do not get enough 'eyeballs' for revenue-based model. RSS XML Newsfeeds, Tumblr for syndication and getting the word out. The site's loyalty system awards points for various registered users that contribute to the site. It is hoped that tangible awards for participation are in the near future. Mobile website strategy is in the works. The site runs well on Android and iPhone, so you only see the mobile version for Blackberry. App development is being discussed. Time on site and return visit analytics are really good.

Deb Boyer from Azavia developed CivicAtlas component of the site. Information news on a neighborhood basis, providing information about services, similar to the defunct Connect 211 site using info provided from the Delaware Valley Association for the Education of Young Children (DVAEYC). Maps.newsworks.org. Topics include: Arts & Culture, Health & Safety, Libraries, Job Training, Food Banks. Due to the density of services in the City, results are grouped for added usability. Plan your trip is a nice feature that maps the routes between your address and selected service providers. Unfortunately, only driving and walking directions are available, since transit info is only shared with Google and not Google products for third party application development

"Overview of FEMA Floodplains Update"

Jon Janowicz and Alex represent the National Flood Insurance Program. New work initiating along the Mid-Atlantic and older work just being completed. Status of mapping products. Collaboration on Digital Elevation Model 5 foot contours used DVRPC 2005 contours used for suburban Philadelphia updates. New product called Risk MAP (Mapping Analysis & Planning) communities to asset floodhazards. Mapping identifies the hazards of the floodplain, developing land in the floodplain appropriately. Analysis getting to the dollars and sense to what is your exposure to the hazards . Planning what you can do to reduce your exposure to these hazards. Risk MAP is a philosophy for communities to achieve risk reduction. Paper map inventory into digital maps for Region III and good parts of Region II. Creating non regulatory products Digital Flood Insurance Rate Map (DFIRM). Changes since the last map. Older products are not comparable due to the level of accuracy. Identifying mitigation targets. Primary tool used for establishing dollars exposure is HAZUS (developed through the National Flood Insurance Program) used to identify multiple hazards, such as earthquakes, floods and wind. The software is driven at the GIS community, as an add-on to GIS. Version 5 was just released on December 7th. Risk MAP just starting the investment in the Mid-Atlantic \$12 million for studies, with half going towards coastal re-engineering, for the Chesapeake Bay and open coast. Region III is doing Delaware Bay and Region II is completing open coast of NY and NJ. Pilot projects for Risk MAP to develop depth grids, changes since last map to have some products to show. - Scranton PA, 4 projects in MD and WV. Three large-scale projects that will take 5 years include Lycoming County PA, and studies in VA and MD. Through the map modernization, looking for a vehicle for making the newest generated products available, since they are not online yet. Many products are distributed by request only. The old Zone A floodplain

was defined in the past as crude as windshield surveys, but now the improved Zone A flood zone is an engineered floodplain. SEPA counties are all completed. Jon discussed various county updates and when they can be expected.

Alexander Nemeth went through the various data delivery options available. Old paper maps are no longer available.
DFIRMs

DVRPC Work Program Updates

Will Stevens reported on the 2010 Aerial Imagery. Four pilot areas, each with three distinct histograms, were received and reviewed by DVRPC and LVPC. It was determined that the unadjusted histogram provided the most flexibility for on-screen and printed analysis and will be used to process imagery for the DVRPC region. He also reported on the Region-wide Transportation GIS project. FY2011 contracts were sent out last month for signatures. Three GIS courses were held at ESRI in June and more will be scheduled for this year. Suggestions are welcome. Lastly, he discussed the GeoDecisions contract. For the Regional Data Model: GeoDecisions delivered the final regional dataset which is available to project participants from DVRPC's ftp site. The updated Dynamic Conflation Tool (DCT) is now available. Although work still remains in completing attribution, DVRPC will be working with each county to develop plans to complete this work. For the Traffic Count Request Application: DVRPC has received and installed the final application code and is awaiting technical documentation from GeoDecisions. DVRPC will be scheduling training session on the use of the app with appropriate DVRPC and County staff.

Information Items

- Next IREG meeting will be held on March 2, 2011.
- Government Web Professionals of NJ will have their next meeting on February 1, 2011.
- MAC URISA Conference will be held in Atlantic City from October 2-6, 2010.
- ESRI-MUG Conference will be held at the Union League from November 29 - December 1, 2010.