Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission
Information Resource Exchange Group

Highlights from meeting of Wednesday, June 1, 2011

The 79th meeting of the Information Resources Exchange Group (IREG) took place on Wednesday, June 1st 2011 at DVRPC. Over 2 dozen people were in attendance. Highlights from the March 2nd meeting were available as a handout and on the internet.

Presentation
"The Role of GIS in Emergency Planning"
Tracy Tisbo, GIS Program Manager from the City of Philadelphia's Office of Emergency Management (OEM) gave an overview of OEM, Emergency Planning, and the role of GIS in her office's work. OEM has about 20 employees centrally located just north of Old City. They are responsible for ensuring the preparedness of the City of Philadelphia for emergencies of any kind. The PA Emergency Management Services Code mandates that each municipality prepare and maintain an emergency operations plan for the prevention and minimization of injury and damage caused by disaster.

Their work covers diverse areas such as emergency plans, hazard-specific plans, operations planning, education, information, mitigation, modeling of risks and hazards, and web mapping as a means of interaction with the public.

Philadelphia has a large population with special needs in a highly dense urban population with critical infrastructure and sensitive facilities. This adds to the complexity and requires a more detailed planning process. The Emergency Operations Plan is the guiding document for all agencies. It presents a collection of strategies and procedures, and assigns roles and responsibilities to organizations to manage emergency incidents. The Component Emergency Plans defines individual aspects, such as human services, health & medical, recovery, transportation & infrastructure, and hazard specific issues. The Evacuation Plan focuses on evacuation routes, rallying points for high-rise buildings communities with unique needs (such as the sports complex or refineries in South Philadelphia) and regional cross-border evacuations. Critical information from these plans are communicated to the public via public evacuation maps at local libraries and senior centers, and a new Adobe Flex-based interactive map on the web at: http://oem.readyphiladelphia.org/Map and www.phila.gov/ready .

Discussion
"Technology in the Office Environment: What is used, who decides, and why?"
The featured discussion was on Technology in the Office Environment. Various members shared their agency's policies, procedures and details on purchasing, virtualization, backups, software, social media, laptops and mobile devices, and remote access.

DVRPC Work Program Updates
Joe Fazekas highlighted some of the latest publications released by DVRPC and announced that the Draft TIP and Conformity reports would soon be available on the DVRPC website for public comment. Joe also shared links for Census 2010 and ACS 2005-2009 5-year estimate data, which have been downloaded and are now queryable in the DVRPC enterprise database. Data is available for PA and NJ at the state, county, municipal, census tract, and block group levels.

Glenn McNichol reported on the conclusion of Year 2010 Aerial Imagery work and this summer's focus on developing 2010 Land Use, thanks in part to a number of summer interns in the GIS Department.

Information Items
- The 80th IREG meeting will be held on September 7th and will take place offsite at PennDOT in King of Prussia.
- Government Web Professionals of NJ will have their next meetings on June 3rd (Burlington County), August 12th (Monmouth County) and October 7th (Cumberland County)
- The New Jersey State Data Center Affiliates meeting will take place on Thursday, June 9th at Rutgers University in New Brunswick. DVRPC staff will be making a presentation on the Census Data lookup tool created in-house using online mapping.