



Information Resource Exchange Group Highlights

Wednesday, June 10, 2015

The 95th meeting of the Information Resource Exchange Group (IREG) was called to order at the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission's office by Cynthia McCoy, FEMA Region III, and IREG Coordinator. Forty people were in attendance. Highlights from the March 11th meeting were available as a handout and on the internet.

Presentations

Phil Pierdomenico, Philabundance, presented his process for performing geospatial analysis using QGIS. QGIS is a free, open source software suite that is extended by a community-sourced plugin system. It can be used to create raster and vector data, edit databases, do spatial analysis, and visualize data on printed maps. Graphical modeler allows users to automate workflow operations using algorithms. Python scripts can be used to perform advanced operations. Support is provided by the community forums and developers. Software and information can be found at www.qgis.org

Ken Steif, University of Pennsylvania, presented his development of a model for predicting bike share usage. He used the data from four cities to predict the number of bicycle share trips in Philadelphia and compared the results of the model to the actual counts for the first four months of the Indego bike share program. Various indicators, such as crime, demographics, and employment, were analyzed to find meaningful correlations with ridership. The first model was developed using linear regression, but researchers found that it overestimated trips in Center City. A more advanced model uses machine learning regressions, including random forest and stochastic gradient boosting, to find a more precise fit. The goal is to develop a model that can be used by smaller cities to predict bike share usage and use it for planning and development purposes.

Lauri Dafner, Esri, demonstrated an easy way to develop online maps using ArcGIS Web App Builder. This cloud based program allows you to customize popular settings such as toggling map layers, filtering data points, zoom scales, basemap galleries, data queries, location search, and more, using the prebuilt widgets. It provides a more advanced interface than the standard web maps provided by ArcGIS Online and does not require any programming experience. More information can be found at www.esri.com/software/web-appbuilder

Information Items

- Aerial imagery was flown in May and LiDAR was flown in April. Final delivery is scheduled for the end of the year.

- PennDOT Local Asset Collection is in progress in Bucks and Montgomery counties and will start in Chester County in July.
- MACURISA full day event will be at Princeton University on June 17th.
- Pennsylvania GIS Conference will be held at Penn State June 15-17:
<http://www.pagisconference.org/>
- A new 'Getting Started with ArcGIS Pro' training has been added to ESRI's Training Catalog.
- There will be Python training at Esri for member governments sponsored by DVRPC through the Regional Transportation GIS Project.
- The GISP certification requirements are changing on July 1st.

The next scheduled IREG meeting is Wednesday, September 9th, 2015.

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