

DELAWARE VALLEY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

INFORMATION RESOURCES EXCHANGE GROUP

Minutes of June 16, 1999

Location: DVRPC, Bourse Building, 111 S. Independence Mall East, 8th Floor

Attendance:

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|--------------------|-----------------------------|--|
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| Craig Totaro | The Reinvestment Fund | |
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| Louis Quinones | Camden Empowerment Zone | CZEC@hotmail.com |
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| Robert Keough | Bucks County Planning | |
| Ira Goldstein | The Reinvestment Fund | |

The meeting was called to order at 10 am.

1. **Minutes of the meeting of March 10, 1999**

- a. The minutes of the meeting of March 10, 1999 were approved.

2. **Presentations**

Thomas W. Pederson, Executive Director, Cartographic Modeling Laboratory, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA, "ESRI's MapObjects in Action: Stand-Alone, Internet, and Intranet Applications."

Mr. Pederson's presentation was postponed due to technical difficulties. The presentation will be rescheduled for the next IREG meeting.

Joseph F. Hacker, IV, Ph.D., Senior Transportation Planner, Delaware County Planning Department, Media, PA, "Innovative Use of Common Data in the Service of Planning Issues."

Dr. Hacker presented an overview of several spatial analyses that can be applied to planning problems using common, publicly accessible data, such as that from the U.S. Census Bureau web site. The examples shown used Arc/View GIS and attribute files, but could be done just as effectively using only a spreadsheet and paper maps. The analysis, which draws on previous work performed by sociologist William Julius Wilson and urban researcher Mark Alan Hughes, posits that problems of equity can be more readily identified and addressed through spatial analysis rather than by singling out populations by racial, ethnic, income, or employment strata. That is, geographic areas and the populations within them are subject to problems of spatial equity or spatial disadvantage.

Dr. Hacker's analysis has specifically looked at the issues surrounding welfare-to-work transition in the Delaware Valley. Of particular interest has been the allocation and balance of jobs and housing, as well as child-care centers, an often overlooked element of the successful welfare-to-work equation. Identification of spatially disadvantaged areas is done with a series of tract-level indicators taken from the Census, such as auto ownership. These data are then applied to map overlays. The key is that although the analysis reveals some significant patterns, the entire procedure, from data gathering through data preparation and display, is relatively simple. The emphasis is on the analysis of existing data rather than creating new data. However, indicators must be chosen very carefully to ensure accuracy in analysis. Dr. Hacker will be presenting the full results of this analysis at the Transportation Research Board Annual Meeting in January 2000.

3. **Census 2000 Update**

Census Bureau staff gave updates on several Census 2000 programs.

a. Statistical Areas Program-- status

- i.** Completed maps for the Statistical Areas Update Program have been received by the Census Bureau for all counties except Burlington, which will be submitted this week. Census has completed its review and update of several counties. Census Geographers have been working with DVRPC Transportation Planning staff to provide updated maps for the Traffic Analysis Zone (TAZ) revisions. Maps reflecting the new boundaries will be submitted to member governments by Census through DVRPC in fall 1999. Local governments will have a 30-day review period during which they may recommend further changes to the new boundaries.

b. Funding for Census 2000-- status

- i.** A temporary spending bill was passed by Congress to allow census activities to continue past June 30, 1999. However, Congress has rejected the additional funding request by the Clinton Administration for the decennial count. There is now a projected \$1.8 billion deficit for the decennial count meaning that some elements of the Bureau's plan may have to be reduced or eliminated.

c. LUCA Program-- status

- i.** The LUCA program continues. Maps showing new addresses and numbers of units are being distributed to some participants. Appeals for the LUCA program must be made directly to the Federal Office of Management and Budget (OMB).

d. Complete Count Committees—status

- i.** Several committees have been established, and early local outreach offices have started to operate. Key committees are in Camden County and City, Gloucester County, and Philadelphia, where the Mayor's Office has designated a full-time staff person for Complete Count activities.

e. Census Transportation Planning Package (CTPP) 2000-- status

- i.** Census geographers have been working with DVRPC Transportation Planning staff to complete the TAZ updates.

4. **DVRPC Work Program Updates**

DVRPC staff gave updates on elements of the DVRPC Work Program.

a. Year 2000 Aerial Imagery Acquisition

- i. Seven proposals for the Year 2000 Aerial Imagery Acquisition project have been received. Staff expects to begin reviewing the proposals soon.

b. Region-Wide Transportation GIS Development

- i. Development of an RFP for consultant services to help design the system architecture for the GIS has begun.

c. Regional Information Network (RIN)

- i. The consultant contract for web design services has been completed and the new DVRPC website debuted on April 1. The new site features improved navigation and graphics, and the home page features a Java applet that vertically scrolls announcements. Future enhancements will progress toward a database-driven site.

d. DVRPC Year 2025 Forecasts

- i. The 2025 Forecasts have been approved by the RTC and RCC. The DVRPC Board will review the forecasts at its June 24 meeting.

5. New Business

a. Reports from Pennsylvania and New Jersey State Data Center Annual Affiliate Meetings

- i. Joel Fontane reported on the PSDC and NJSDC meetings, both recently attended by DVRPC staff and member government representatives. The conferences provided valuable information on Census 2000 activities, the Economic Census, which is transitioning away from the Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) codes to the North American Industrial Classification System (NAICS), and the American FactFinder, a Java-based data access tool.

b. Appointment of New IREG Vice-Chair

- i. William S. Bauer, Jr., the current IREG Vice-Chair, has left his job at the NJ Office of State Planning and moved to the Department of Education. Therefore, the position of Vice-Chair is now vacant. The position should be filled by a New Jersey representative. Nominations will be accepted for Vice-Chair at the next meeting.

6. Next Meeting Date and Location

The next IREG meeting will be ~~either~~ September 8 ~~or~~ 15. Speakers will include the rescheduled Tom Pederson, as well as a representative from the F.W. Dodge division of McGraw-Hill.