

DELAWARE VALLEY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION
INFORMATION RESOURCE EXCHANGE GROUP
Minutes of September 5, 2007

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

Attendance:

Name	Title	Organization	Email
Bob Keough	GIS Specialist	Bucks County Planning Comm.	rhkeough@co.bucks.pa.us
David Rickert	GIS Specialist	Burlington County	drickert@co.burlington.nj.us
Stacey Stanley	GIS Trainee	Burlington County	sstanley@co.burlington.nj.us
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Brian T. Sweeney	User Liason	Chester County Planning Comm.	bsweeney@chesco.org
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Steve Guyardi	Web Development Co-Op	DVRPC	sguyardi@dvrpc.org
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William Mead	Principal Planner / Website Mngr.	Gloucester County Planning Dept.	bmead@co.gloucester.nj.us
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Tineen Howard	Principal Planner	NJDOT	tineen.howard@dot.state.nj.us
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Steve Spindler	Cartographer	Steve Spindler Cartography	steve@bikemap.com
Marlen Kokaz	GIS Manager	Univ. of Penn. Cart.Modeling Lab	mkokaz@ssw.upenn.edu
Deb Ritter	Tech Administrator	Upper Dublin Township	dritter@upperdublin.net

1. Call to Order and Introductions

The 64th meeting of the IREG was called to order at 10:10 a.m. at DVRPC. Forty-five members were in attendance.

2. Minutes of the meeting of June 13, 2007

The minutes were approved without correction.

3. Presentations

A. Overview of the Cartographic Modeling Lab and Recent Activities (*Marlen Kokaz, GIS Director, University of Pennsylvania Cartographic Modeling Lab*)

The Cartographic Modeling Lab (CML) was established in 1990 in an effort to further the understanding, utility, and application of GIS as a research resource among researchers and municipal agencies. It is a joint venture of the School of Design and the School of Social Policy and Practice at the University of Pennsylvania. The CML specializes in Geographic Information Systems (GIS) applications and spatial research, and, using these tools, pursues a threefold agenda that balances research, social policy analysis and opportunities for teaching and training. The CML's capabilities are: data integration, data summary and display, modeling neighborhood effects, spatial regression, clustering ("hot spot") analysis, surface interpolation, and data distribution (via intranet and internet).

Ms. Kokaz described one of the CML's current projects, entitled the Neighborhood Information System (NIS). The NIS, a web-based project (www.cml.upenn.edu/nis), connects citizens and researchers to data about Philadelphia and is comprised of the following sub-projects:

- parcelBase (contains tax parcel information on all properties in Philadelphia)
www.cml.upenn.edu/nis/pBase.htm
- neighborhoodBase (uses the same GUI as parcelBase, but aggregates parcel data to a neighborhood level) www.cml.upenn.edu/nis/nBase.htm
- crimeBase (contains nine years of data from the Philadelphia Police Department and has the ability to create charts, maps, tables, and trend charts from selected criteria)
www.cml.upenn.edu/nis/cBase.htm
- muralBase (an inventory of the 2,700 + murals throughout Philadelphia)
www.cml.upenn.edu/nis/mBase.htm
- PhillySiteFinder (uses zoning data to locate underutilized properties available for development)
<http://cml.upenn.edu/sitefinder/>
- schoolBase (contains student demographic data as well as attendance, test score, and program enrollment data)

Ms. Kokaz touched on some other projects that the CML has worked on:

- TRAMAH (collaboration between researchers at University of Pennsylvania and Johns Hopkins University that allows users to locate accessible trauma centers in the country)
<http://maps.amtrauma.org/CML.TraumaCenters.Web/>
- Penn Land Acquisitions (collaboration between the University of Pennsylvania Archives and Records Center and the CML that maps University of Pennsylvania Land Acquisitions since 1870) <http://venus.cml.upenn.edu/ucarchives/>
- University City Indicators Report (worked with University of Pennsylvania's Division of Facilities & Real Estate Services to show neighborhood indicator trends in the University City District)
http://cml.upenn.edu/project_areas/uc_indicators.htm

- Evacuation Modeling (using SimWalk, created an evacuation model for the Franklin Fields Stadium during the a graduation ceremony)
- SNAKS (Student Nutrition and Kids program that examines the food availability/selection on the route from a child's home to school and the correlation between that and their BMI)

A demonstration was then given on the CML/GeoSim project "Virtual University City" (www.virtualuniversitycity.com). Similar to the application developed for the Center City District, this interface creates a digital model of the urban landscape for a large portion of Philadelphia's University City neighborhood. This product provides potential residents, university applicants, and developers with a realistic and current view of the area by allowing the user to virtually walk, drive, or fly through University City. Virtual University City also allows you to search for available real estate in the area, as well as for commercial properties of interest.

B. DVRPC Website Redesign Process

(Joseph Fazekas, Webmaster, Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission)

Mr. Fazekas gave an overview of the history of the DVRPC Website Development, from its beginnings in 1994 to the present day efforts to reorganize and improve the website, and to add a fresh design to the site. Many recent improvements and additions were also touched upon.

C. Brief Demonstration of the Municipal Data Navigator

(Steven Guyardi, Web Developer Co-op, Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission)

Mr. Guyardi briefly demonstrated the newly developed Municipal Data Navigator showing members in attendance the different types of data available and the various options available for each dataset. DVRPC welcomes requests for additional data to be added to this application, which should be directed to Mr. Fazekas.

4. Potential FY 2009 DVRPC Work Program Projects

Please see the handout and discuss these items with your DVRPC Board Representative, if you are a member agency.

5. Census Update

Noemi Mendez, a Geographer from the Philadelphia Regional Office of the U.S. Census Bureau, gave an update on the following recent activities:

- Local Update of Census Addresses (LUCA):
 - Technical training calendars for Eastern PA and NJ were made available
- Employment:
 - Regional Census Center for the 2010 Census will open in early 2008 at 1234 Market Street, Philadelphia
 - Hiring has begun (approximately 30 positions to be filled), and the Census Bureau is looking for qualified candidates

6. DVRPC Work Program Update

A. New DVRPC Data Bulletins

Joe Fazekas announced that the “Municipal, County, and Regional Population Estimates, 2000-2006” and the “Housing Units Authorized by Residential Building Permits: 2000-2006” data bulletins, as well as the “Regional, County, and Municipal Population and Employment Forecasts, 2005-2035” analytical report had recently been released.

B. New DVRPC Publications

Mr. Fazekas urged everyone to visit the [DVRPC Publications website](#) for information on recently released documents.

C. Regional Online Information Network

Mr. Fazekas announced the following:

- DVRPC has obtained a new GIS server and will be updating related GIS software to version 9.2;
- The Commission has upgraded their email server to Exchange 2007;
- The equipment for the backup strategy has been implemented and a desktop/laptop backup option is being investigated. Taghi Ozbeki may potentially give a presentation regarding this strategy at an upcoming 2008 IREG meeting;
- DVRPC has developed a license plate survey application for NJ similar to the one used by PennDOT;
- TIP-related data will be migrated from Access databases to Oracle.

D. Year 2005 Aerial Imagery

William Stevens reported that the MrSID imagery, from areas that were re-flown in Spring, 2007, has not yet been received. Once it has, each member county will receive a final delivery. DVRPC is still waiting on a custom plotting application for the Map Sales division. In the Fall there will be a kick-off meeting for the 2010 flight. Mr. Stevens also reported that NJ will hopefully be receiving their 2007 imagery in March/April of next year. The imagery will be 4 band colors (natural color with infra-red), have 12-bit clarity and will come in JPEG 2000 format. Because of funding problems, PA MAP will only be flying their imagery and will not be receiving LiDAR imagery, as originally planned. The ortho-imagery will be 1ft. pixel resolution and natural color.

E. Region-Wide Transportation GIS Development

Mr. Stevens reported that the 2008 contracts are out. There will be a kick-off meeting with Geo-Decisions and participants on September 19th from 1:30-4:30 at DVRPC where the methodology, scope and expectations from the vendor will be discussed; follow-up meetings will be arranged afterward. Geo-decisions will provide many products including, but not limited to, a region-wide linear-referenced road network with address ranges, scripts for internal updates of data, and a possible traffic counting application. Project scheduled to run until January 1, 2009. Also, the Septa rail line GIS file is in the fine-tuning stage.

7. Member Roundtable

- Kevin McCullough from the [Pennsylvania State Data Center](#) announced that their 2007 Users Conference, “Building Pennsylvania Communities: Using Data to Plan the Future”, will be held in Hershey, PA on September 13, 2007. Also, the 2007 Pennsylvania Abstract will be released in October.
- Doug Schliefer of NJ Office of GIS reported to the committee that LiDAR is being flown, in the hopes that in 2 to 3 years, they will have statewide continuous coverage. A number of IMS map services will be pushed out this fall. The municipal boundary update is still in progress, in the hopes that it will

be completed early next year. Also, a feasibility study to merge attributes and linework from commercial and NJDOT road networks is underway and should be concluded in 2008.

- Merrilee Torres, from Burlington County, announced the following:
 - The County is in the process of updating their parcels;
 - Two municipalities have borrowed GPS units in order to collect storm water outfall data;
 - Burlington County is in the process of creating a new official county map and is working with the military to collect road data. Steve Spindler Cartography is contracted to create the map;
 - They are in the process of migrating to ArcGIS 9.2 (using Microsoft SMS);
 - The Emergency Management Office is mapping tennis courts in an effort to have information on locations where animals could be corralled in the event of an emergency;
 - The County is planning on registering LUCA and has been doing historical data;
 - The Data Sharing Agreements will be expiring at the end of 2007 and the county will be sending out new agreements in October for (effective for January 2008 through December 2012);
 - Due to a grant the county has received, they will be purchasing Pictometry/other oblique imagery and the flight will be done in 2008;
 - Burlington County, in coordination with BCC, will be holding a full-day “GIS Day” event on November 14th at the Mount Laurel BCC campus.

8. Information Items (*change of schedule*)

A. Upcoming Events

- a. Added Item: Seth Hackman announced that MAC URISA has a new website design and now contains up-to-date membership information, as well as information about the three NJ User Groups. The 14th Annual MAC-URISA Conference, previously held at Rutgers University, will be held at Mount Laurel, NJ at the BCC Enterprise Center from April 7-9, 2008, and will be changing to a 2-day conference, 1-day workshop format. Merilee Torres announced that there will also be an Interactive Expo at this event and is looking for presenters.
- b. Added Item: MAC-URISA Fall meeting and URISA workshop will be held on October 11th at the Rutgers Eco-Complex in Bordentown, NJ. It is a full-day event, with the URISA workshop (“Best Practices for Developing Geographic Information Models”) being taught by Doug Adams from Towson, MD.
- c. National Association of Government Webmasters Conference is being held in Valley Forge from September 19 – 21.

B. 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 (around 1 p.m.), following the Online GIS Subcommittee Meeting. The [National Webmaster’s Conference](#) will be the focus of discussion.

9. Old Business

No old business was presented at this time.

10. New Business

No new business was presented at this time.

11. Adjournment

The IREG meeting was adjourned at 12:20 pm.

Materials Available at the Meeting

- Potential FY 2009 Work Program Recommendations;
- MAC URISA: Flyer for the 14th Regional GIS Conference;
- US Census Bureau: *"Will Your Community Be Ready for the 2010 LUCA Program?"*, Reissued June 2007;
- US Census Bureau: LUCA Technical Training Calendars (for Eastern PA and NJ) as of August 22, 2007;
- US Census Bureau: LUCA Technical Training registration form;
- US Census Bureau: *"Complete Count Committee Program: On the Road to the 2010 Census"*, Issued May 2007;
- DVRPC: [Analytical Report #14](#), *"Regional, County, and Municipal Population and Employment Forecasts, 2005-2035"*;
- DVRPC: [Data Bulletin #85](#), *"Housing Units Authorized by Residential Building Permits: 2000-2006"*;
- DVRPC: [Data Bulletin #86](#), *"Municipal, County, and Regional Population Estimates, 2000-2006"*.