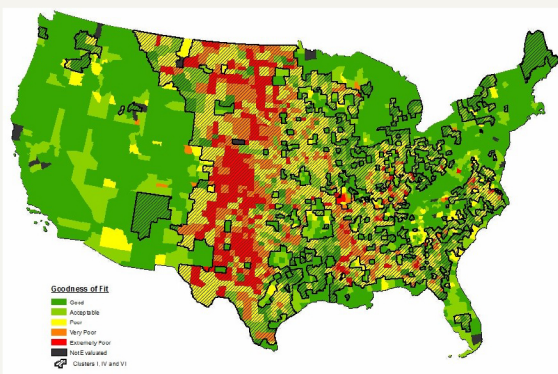# *Updates from Shippensburg*
Spring 2016
"Mapping, modeling, and monitoring land cover in the Delaware River Basin"

Supported by the William Penn Foundation

US-IALE Meeting in Asheville, NC!

This month, our team presented at the US Regional Association of the International Association for Landscape Ecology (US-IALE) in Asheville, NC. At this meeting, we had to opportunity to learn about modeling efforts being done both in the US and abroad. We were also able to meet with program partners and present our most recent work. Alfonso Yáñez Morillo gave a poster on his work with SLEUTH, and Dr. Claire Jantz presented a project overview and summary of recent workshop findings (see workshop summary and next steps, below):
The SLEUTH Wizard: Python scripts to automate the SLEUTH urban growth model and Developing future land use scenarios for the Delaware River Basin.

DRB Project team with collaborators and friends at US-IALE. Clockwise (from bottom left): Alfonso Yáñez Morillo, Paul Marr (Shippensburg University), Claire Jantz, Scott Drzyzga, Antonia Price, Jennifer Cartwright (USGS), Peter Claggett (USGS), and Joshua Barth.
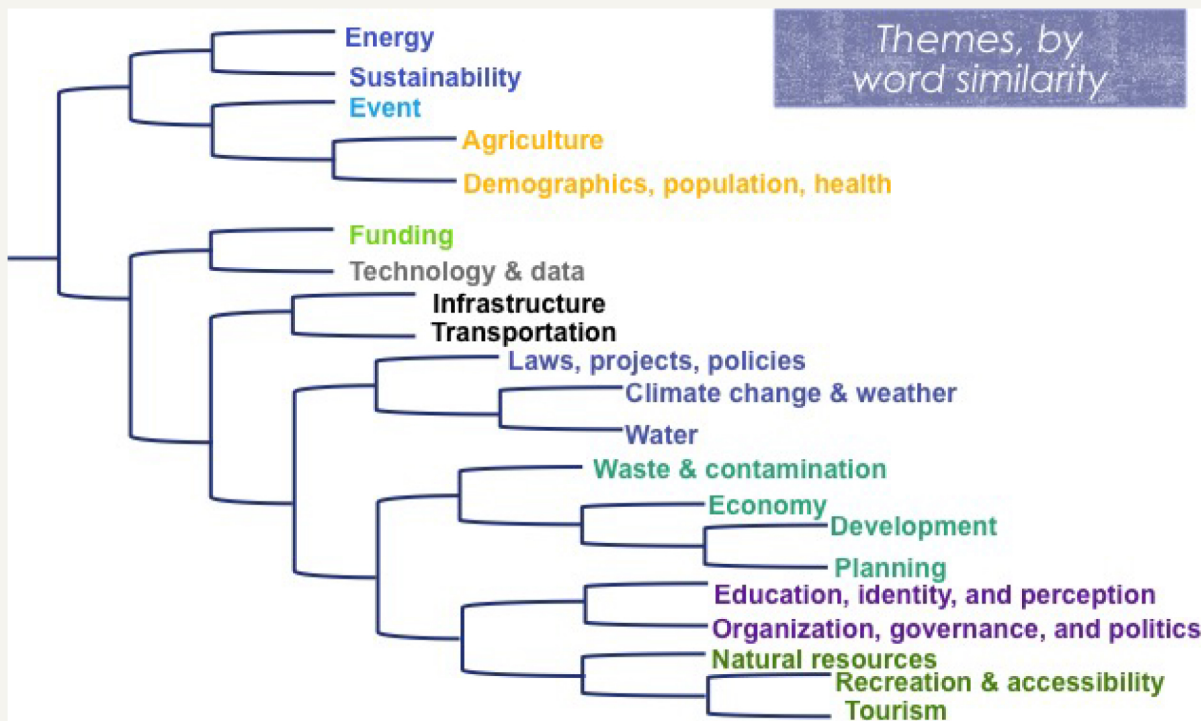
Updates from SAL

Jarlath's team with the Spatial Analysis Lab (SAL) has just released the second round of the Delaware land cover data. Contact us or read SAL's blog post to learn more about this latest release. They plan to release draft data for some Pennsylvania counties this week, and are currently recruiting local reviewers from those counties. Contact SAL for more details, or to volunteer to be a data reviewer.

DRB2070 Workshop Summary and Next Steps

We held our fifth DRB2070 workshop last month just outside of Dover, Delaware. To date, our workshops (in Philadelphia, Narrowsburg, Reading, Washington/Harmony, and Dover) have attracted 60 attendees from all over the Delaware River watershed. Participants identified current strengths and weaknesses of and within the basin, and they offered what they foresee as future opportunities and threats.

We are using NVivo, powerful data-mining software, to analyze all of our participants' comments and map annotations. Our exploratory data analysis has revealed several themes that ran through participant conversations. In the graphic below, the major themes were clustered into groups based on the similarity and frequency of words people used to talk about them. For example, the themes "infrastructure" and "transportation" were clustered into the same group because those words and their variants tended to occur together in the same conversation. On the other hand, the themes indicated by "Energy" and "Tourism" were hardly ever used together during the same conversation.

Themes, by word similarity

Participant Survey and Scenario Development

What we are learning from the workshop data will inform our next step in scenario development: a survey that will be disseminated basin-wide to gather additional, quantitative feedback. This values-gathering process will help us determine the direction of our future land use scenarios. We need your input throughout this process, so stay tuned for opportunities to stay involved!

Visit Us in 2016!

Along with the Center for Land Use and Sustainability at Shippensburg University, we will be attending the following conferences in 2016. Make sure to stop by and learn more about our work!

- April 14: Pennsylvania Association of Environmental Professionals (PAEP) General Section Program in Shippensburg, PA
- April 21: Society of Women Environmental Profressionals (SWEP) 2016 "Making Environmental Connections" Conference in Summerdale, PA
- May 16-18: Pennsylvania GIS Conference in State College, PA
- June (TBD): Science of Sourcewater workshop
- October (TBD): 4th Annual Delaware River Watershed Forum in Trenton, NJ
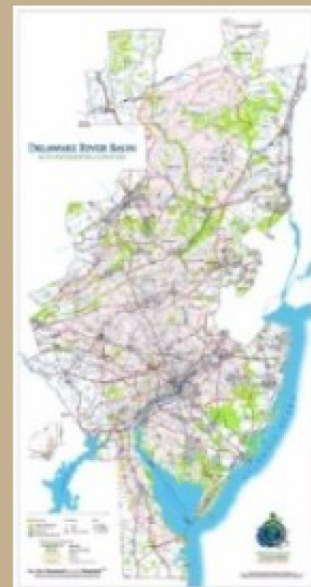
Next Time...

In our next newsletter, we will be sharing results from some work that Alfonso and Joshua have been doing to model drivers of growth and estimating storm surge with forecasted sea level rise. This is the more quantitative side of our scenarios approach and will complement the input we've gotten from our workshops and soon-to-be-launched survey.

DRB Maps Available

Alfonso, our research analyst, has created fantastic maps of our 43 county study area to guide DRB2070 workshop discussions.

These large format (30"x57"), highly detailed maps (scale: 1:350,000), are also available for purchase! Glossy or laminated prints are $40, with shipping included.

Contact us for more information!

Steering Committee Update

[Click here](#) to view the minutes from our February 11, 2016 steering committee meeting.

Check it Out!

We were just featured in the Water Resources Association of the DRB Winter 2016 newsletter!

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www.drbproject.org

Stay informed about our project though our newsletters, website, and social media!

Facebook   Twitter   Website   Email

DELAWARE RIVER BASIN Land Use Dynamics SHIPPENSBURG UNIVERSITY

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