



RAMSEY COUNTY GIS USER GROUP

An alliance of communities sharing Geographical Information Systems

Monthly Meeting Minutes

April 3, 2008

Location: Shoreview City Hall, 4600 Victoria St. N

1. Welcome & Introductions

Jolinda Stapleton - Roseville

Joel Koepf - Roseville

Jan Vanderwall - Roseville Area Schools

Carrie Mack - Ramsey Washington WD

Deb Jones - Falcon Heights

Mike Goodnature - Ramsey Conservation Dist.

Chad Bergo - City of Maplewood

Chris Ulrich - Ramsey County GIS

Dave Kotilinek - City of North St. Paul

John Moriarty - Ramsey County Parks

Steve Lorbach - St. Paul Regional Water Srv

Melissa Baker - Capitol Region WD

Mark Anderle - City of New Brighton

Meeting was called to order by Jolinda Stapleton

2. Additions or Corrections to the Agenda - No changes or additions

3. Approval of Meeting Minutes - Deb Jones suggested changing the URL

listed in the Community Announcements and Reports section to

www.falconheights.org. No other changes or additions. Minutes approved by consensus pending this change.

4. Agenda Items

a. Pictometry Update – Jolinda

Review: Steve Baker (Ramsey County Assessor), John Jacobson (Ramsey Co.) reported the Ramsey Co. Commissioners approval for a 2008 Pictometry flight at the March meeting. Ramsey County is asking the RCGISUG for funding to assist in this purchase. At the March meeting, the RCGISUG had questions prior to making offer, which have since been answered by Dean Larson.

Report: Curt Peterson and Jolinda talked to Dean via email to answer the following questions (for details on these questions, see the March meeting minutes):

1. Accessing Pictometry via web server: This would be a Ramsey County function rather than Pictometry. Other options include using ArcIMS at a cost of approximately \$750, or managing data through ArcGIS server.

2. Image Compression: Pictometry will compress the files for a one-time fee of approximately \$2500 (estimate only). Dean reported that some quality would be lost in this process, but the viewable difference would not be significant. Steve Lorbach stated that he had worked to compress Pictometry images from the 2006 flight for St. Paul and it could be done in at least two ways; (a) image compression done by Pictometry in

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JPEG format to 20% of the size (\$1500) (b) Cut total Ramsey County area to smaller area, thus reducing the amount of information. This is done utilizing a function built in administrative tools packaged with Pictometry.

3. Accuracy: Pictometry used our surface data for image processing. Dean at Pictometry replied with the following statistics: Relative accuracy ~99%, Positional accuracy not tested because Pictometry does not certify orthos.

Dakota County did some testing with the following results:

Community orthos (12" resolution) - Tested 3.79 feet horizontal accuracy at 95% confidence level. (RMSE 2.19 ft)

Neighborhood orthos (6" resolution) - Tested 6.65 feet horizontal accuracy at 95% confidence level. (RMSE 3.84 ft)

Combined test (all data in one sheet) - Tested 6.01 feet horizontal accuracy at 95% confidence level. (RMSE 3.47 ft)

This is well within the National Mapping Standards.

4. Future improvements to accuracy: Pictometry indicated that they do not have plans to change the accuracy that they are doing on their end but indicated that if we can supply them with an improved elevation model it may increase the accuracy. Through a phone conversation with Jolinda, Curt indicated that the imagery was not accurate enough to replace the standard flight that the County contracts out every three years.

5. Physical feature updates: Buildings are currently done for the Assessor's Office. No other updates currently included.

Training sessions can be set up for those unfamiliar with Pictometry

Stephen Baker is willing to meet with the RCGISUG if our questions were still not answered. Group reactions support that questions have been met. Jolinda will a previously scheduled meeting and report any additional information at the May RCGISUG meeting. She proposed waiting a few months to formalize funding to Pictometry until we know more about the Enterprise project.

b. Enterprise GIS Small Group –

Review: Last month, Jolinda gave a background of the project (see previous meeting minutes for more details), reported on progress made by the Enterprise GIS Small Group progress, and opened the discussion to determine RCGISUG financial investment for



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Enterprise proposal. The concept of creating the proposal/document was to provide information to the Ramsey County Commissioners, decision makers, upper mgmt. etc.

Report: Dan Falbo (ESRI) is currently reviewing document to make the text more cohesive for desired audience. This reviewed version of the proposal should be made available by early next week (April 7th). A funding cap was decided on in the March meeting, but a quorum was not met. This decision required addition voting via email to reach a quorum. Total vote tallies are as follows: of 23 voting members, 17 approved, 1 denied vote based on not having enough information, and 5 did not respond. Quorum was met to approve financial contribution to the Enterprise project

Proposed fees would be transferred from surplus, therefore it should not immediately affect dues. If successive flights are considered in the future, this issue may change.

c. Education Opportunities – Jan V:

- * Jan is continuing to work with interested teachers to coordinate a class visit to showcase GIS-based careers. Plans are being made to take a group of students to the Ramsey County facilities, hosted by Curt Peterson sometime in May.
- ** Joel Koepp donated leftover map books from Roseville to Jan for distribution in the St. Paul Schools geography department. Jan reports these were very well received. Other members who have similar mapping products (out of date, excess, or otherwise going to go to waste), should consider donating them schools.

5. Ramsey County data updates – Chris Ulrich. Update CD's were passed out.

Annotations have been updated on the FTP site but not on CD's passed out at this meeting. Half-sections are available on the FTP site. Ramsey Co. is currently working with the Assessors Office to obtain new CAMA data. Annotation updates for Ramsey County are done quarterly.

6. Community announcements and reports

- a. Jolinda: Invoices for membership dues have gone out. Members should contact Chad Bergo if invoices have not been received. Status of paid updates will be made in a subsequent meeting
- b. Jolinda: An Officers Meeting has been scheduled for Thursday, April 10th to assess the need to update the RCGISUG directive statement, review the strategic plan, and edit the objectives statement as necessary. Issues or items that members would like board

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members to discuss at this meeting should be sent to Jolinda Stapleton, Mike Goodnature, or Carrie Mack.

c. Mapping Minnesota Communities is a workshop designed for people with little/no GIS experience who are thinking of acquiring an ArcView license. This two day program will teach mapping basics including mapmaking, geocoding, downloading census info. etc. Fees for the program are \$495.

7. Agenda for May 200 8 meeting –

Topic ideas can be sent to RCGISUG Secretary, Carrie Mack at carrie.mack@rwmwd.org.

8. Other business

a. Chad Bergo reported on foreclosure data from the Assessor's Office, stating that it was prone to many errors. Of the 1600 foreclosed properties, 1300 had improper addresses. Ramsey County Sheriff's department tracks all of the foreclosures within Ramsey County and then passes it along to the Assessor's Office. Inaccuracies occur when parcel PIN numbers are incorrectly assigned to addresses.

Maplewood is starting to geocode the RMS data daily and will be exploring cooperating with Roseville to better improve geocoding accuracy and other modules.

b. Opportunities for guest speakers, training topics, etc for future meetings are welcome and can be submitted to the officers at any time.

c. 2008 MN GISLIS Consortium Workshops: The Minnesota GIS/LIS Consortium is pleased to offer 11 half-day workshops on Thursday, May 15th at the MnDOT Training and Conference Center in Arden Hills. Look for details and registration on their website (www.mngislis.org) by linking to "GIS/LIS Events."

d. Dean Larson sent Jolinda a copy of the Ramsey County Commissioners Resolution regarding Pictometry. This new version does not have missing text on the bottom of each page as the previous copy did.

9. Adjournment –Meeting adjourned. 2:52

Next meeting will be on Thursday May 1, 2008, 2:00 p.m. at Shoreview City Hall.

Minutes submitted by Carrie Mack, Secretary.

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