



RAMSEY COUNTY GIS USER GROUP

An alliance of communities sharing Geographical Information Systems

Monthly Meeting Minutes

May 1, 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

Curt Peterson - Ramsey County GIS

Dave Kotilinek - City of North St. Paul

Liesa Miller - MnDOT Metro District

Ger Pha - City of St. Paul

Mike Goodnature - Ramsey Conservation Dist.

Meeting was called to order by Jolinda Stapleton

2. Additions or Corrections to the Agenda - No suggestions.

3. Approval of Meeting Minutes - No suggestions. April meeting minutes approved by consensus.

4. Agenda Items

a. Review of officers meeting: The Board met on April 10th to discuss formal and informal documents for the RCGISUG Strategic Overview, mission/goals statement, plans, direction, etc.

i. Strategic Overview: The Strategic Overview was last revised in 2004. A draft version of the Strategic Overview using the same format as the 2004 version was emailed prior to the meeting, and hard copies were passed out. Priorities for funding and focus for the group were discussed. Group consensus was that the Enterprise GIS project should be at the top of this list while Pictometry items possibly need more discussion. Regarding a formal vote to change the Strategic Overview, general group consensus was made to refer to this document as "2008 Work Plan" rather than "strategic overview." The final status/name of this document will be formalized with the group edits at the June meeting.

ii. Mission Statement/ Goals and Objectives: The draft Mission Statement was provided prior to the meeting, and hard copies were passed out at the meeting. Revisions to the previous versions were made and several bullet points were summarized to make the document more concise. Suggestions were made to alter the document to emphasize an actual mission statement providing a finite statement

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indicating a goal or result that the group is striving for. Some suggested verbiage included increasing access to data, acquiring the data itself, improving data dissemination, enhancing GIS in Ramsey County, etc. This mission statement could then be followed by a brief history of the group and our goals/objectives.

b. Member Project Library:

Background: In order to better understand the depth and range of GIS projects that member organizations are creating, we would like to assemble a collection of examples on a single DVD. Once assembled, this project library will be presented to the group and used to determine training needs, presentation topics, and discussion points. Members were asked to burn a CD with a final map output (preferably PDF, JPEG or Word format (Word documents for background data). Specifically we are looking for projects that showcase what member organizations do, how GIS is used to influence their decision making within the organization, or teach a particular tip or trick for ArcView, Pictometry or other software.

Report: No projects were submitted at this meeting, but the concept was talked about in greater depth. The purpose would be to create a collection of current work in order to better develop relevant topics for member or outside groups to conduct an informal presentation about. This could include member/non-member focus topics (ex: septic, crime, emergency management, environmental management, educational opportunities, etc.) and take place one or two times per year. Ideas for topic-based meetings will be addressed at the June meeting. Time will be made for meeting attendees to share tips and tricks at any meeting for 5-10 minutes at beginning or end of monthly meetings.

c. Pictometry Update – Jolinda

Background: Ramsey Co. Commissioners approved a 2008 Pictometry and asked the RCGISUG for funding to assist in this purchase. At the March meeting, the RCGISUG had questions prior to making offer, and at the April meeting, these questions were answered. It was proposed to wait a few months to formalize funding for Pictometry until we know more about the Enterprise GIS project. See previous meeting minutes for more details.

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Report: Curt and Jolinda met with, Ramsey Co. Records and Revenue, Pictometry representatives, and others to discuss changes in Pictometry, software, etc. Issues summarized below

1. Delivery date: Proposed flight has not been made due to poor weather in March and April. New delivery date is estimated at late June or early July.
2. Included this year: MRSID files (4" orthos for entire county). Pictometry will provide a free ArcView extension allowing users to access Pictometry obliques for parcel views.
3. Pictometry can clip the images to make data bundle smaller. A small fee would be charged for cities, etc requesting this.
4. The need for a centralized server was discussed at the meeting.
5. ArcGIS extension: Curt has the extension and could put on the user group FTP site. Also has how to manual/tutorial goes with it.
6. Training: Pictometry is willing to do in-person training or compose a webinar for installing the extension or other training needs.
7. Outlook: Pictometry is working with ESRI software development department to eventually coordinate work with SDE and ArcGIS server.

d. 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 Enterprise proposal. Quorum was met to approve financial contribution to the Enterprise project.

Report: Dan Falbo (ESRI) was currently reviewing document to make the text more cohesive for the desired audience. Unfortunately he was not able to complete this assessment due to time constraints. He did give feedback regarding the document:

1. He highly encourages the RCGISUG to make this collaborative effort.
2. The proposal could be enhanced by focusing on policy issues, technology exchanges, and in linking multi-jurisdictional participation to a business needs.
3. Discuss as a group governance scenarios on how the group would like to have a voice in the collaborative.



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The group will look for local contacts with technical writing experience to review the full document. It was suggested by Jan Vanderwall that the small group could focus on developing a 2 page letter based on the executive summary (changing '07 date to '08) rather than working to submit the entire proposal. This document will be brought to the entire RCGISUG prior to being mailed out.

e. Education Opportunities – Jan V. The class tour scheduled to visit the Ramsey Co. offices had to be deferred until the fall semester due to scheduling conflicts.

5. Ramsey County data updates – Curt P. Ramsey Co now has new sales and permit data on CD's and FTP site. New annotation is also included. Roseville has been updating annotation twice a year. Ramsey County is working on the pedestrian bike system layer, parcel updates, plats, subdivisions, etc. Regarding plat inventory, Ramsey County is looking at getting plats online hopefully within the next couple months. Current plat inventory dates back to mid 1970s with previous versions not yet scanned. Also half-sections and corner/elevation markers should be on the Ramsey County Surveyors Office website within next two weeks with all names and half sections linked to a PDF image.

6. Community announcements and reports

- a. Jan passed out a 1972 Open Space report given to him by a retiring member of the Public Works Commission.
- b. Active living: Curt passed out large print out of Ramsey Co. Pedestrian Bike system. He asked the group to look at areas they are working in to check for errors/inconsistencies. Active living maps printed and sent out for review to cities and other agencies
- c. Capital Region is now a formal member. Melissa Baker will be the primary contact.
- d. RCGISUG member invoices should have been received. Please contact Chad or Jolinda if they have not.
- e. GIS/LIS spring conference is May 15th. Deadlines for registration are soon.

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- f. Minnesota County GIS Association membership is now open. The MN GIS/LIS e-newsletter had a brief article on this. Curt indicated that the group has been around for a while, but their membership tends to focus on rural/outstate/non-metro issues.
- g. Roseville Schools Golf Tournament is July 15th at Tanners Brook. Save the date.
- h. Jolinda demonstrated the Hennepin County Property Locator website (<http://gis.co.hennepin.mn.us/HCPropertyMap>) and Dakota Co. foreclosure data (<http://gis.co.dakota.mn.us/ve/foreclosures/map.html>) to show how other counties are using oblique imagery.

7. **Agenda for May 2008 meeting** –

- a. Decide on subjects for Topic-Based agenda items.
- b. Consider adding a review of how Comprehensive Plans are progressing. This could also be a potential subject for topic-based agenda items.
- c. Welcome meeting for new GIS Technology Coordinator for Ramsey County – pending hiring.
- d. Consider adding review of Virtual Earth, Google Earth, Google Street View and other web-based photo sources.
- e. Rescheduling for July meeting. It has been suggested by Jolinda Stapleton to reschedule the July meeting from July 3rd to July 1st to avoid conflict with the holiday weekend.

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

8. **Other business:** No topics mentioned.

9. **Adjournment** –Meeting adjourned. 3:52

Next meeting will be on Thursday June 5, 2008, 2:00 p.m. at Shoreview City Hall.

Minutes submitted by Carrie Mack, Secretary.