



# RAMSEY COUNTY GIS USER GROUP

An alliance of communities sharing Geographical Information Systems

## Monthly Meeting Minutes

June 5, 2008

Location: Shoreview City Hall, 4600 Victoria St. N

### 1. Welcome & Introductions

Jolinda Stapleton - Roseville	Chad Bergo – City of Maplewood
Mike Goodnature - Ramsey Conservation Dist	Joel Koepp - Roseville
Carrie Mack- Ramsey Washington WD	Matt Baker – City of Shoreview
Curt Peterson - Ramsey County GIS	Meghan Beakman – City of Arden Hills
Ger Pha – City of St. Paul	Mark Andrle – City of New Brighton
Catherine Bach – Ramsey Conservation Dist.	Kevin Byrne – St. Mary's U / MCAD

Meeting was called to order by Jolinda Stapleton

### 2. Additions or Corrections to the Agenda – Motion was made to move

Ramsey Co. updates (Item 6) to beginning of meeting to accommodate Curt's schedule. Motion approved, agenda item 6 is hereby moved to item 4 and remaining topics adjusted accordingly

### 3. Approval of Meeting Minutes - No suggestions, changes or comments.

Approved by consensus

### 4. Ramsey County data updates – Curt P. – The June release of parcel updates, adjustments for accuracy, plats, condominiums, etc. has been completed. Sales and permitting data on CD's were not updated and therefore not handed out, but the information will be on ftp site in coming week. They are currently working on trails in Ramsey Co. including bike lanes, routes, sidewalks etc. All cities within Ramsey County are being asked to submit updates and edits to the current database.

As a review for new attendees, cities on the Metro-inet that want access to these Ramsey County updates that should contact Curt Peterson ([curtis.peterson@co.ramsey.mn.us](mailto:curtis.peterson@co.ramsey.mn.us)).

### 5. Continuing topics

a. **Review formalized mission statement** – Jolinda reviewed this effort for new attendees. Regarding the goals/mission statement, Jolinda suggested members have one

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more month to submit their suggestions to one of the officers. Suggestions should work to reduce the “mission statement” draft sent out to members prior to and at the May meeting. Discussion at the May meeting resulted in a decision to reduce the draft document to a formalized mission statement. All suggested revisions will be discussed and another draft will be available by the July meeting (note date change).

## **b Pictometry Update – Jolinda**

Review: Pictometry software was first purchased by Ramsey County in 2006. Deliverables included imagery from both aerial and oblique flights of the County that resemble imagery from Google Earth. Unlike Google Earth, these images could be downloaded to individual PC’s and used with purchased Pictometry software where ArcGIS functions could be overlaid, created, imported, exported, edited and more. Metro-inet has had Pictometry for 2-3 years. Because Ramsey County purchased it, all members of Metro-inet can also acquire it. It should be noted that the associated files take up significant storage space (220 GB for first flight). The RCGISUG has proposed to help fund the 2008 flight. See previous meeting minutes for details.

Report: The 2008 flight has likely been done by now, but there have been no reports at the time of the meeting. Earlier reports from Pictometry stated a delay in the proposed April flight due to poor spring weather conditions. The most recent reports delayed the completion date to June or July.

Jolinda has downloaded a toolbar from Pictometry to increase functionality with ArcView. It will coordinate the x, y, position in ArcView and open the corresponding Pictometry image(s) in a separate window. Members should contact Jolinda if interested.

Jolinda demonstrated an evaluation version of Pictometry’s internet-based software (Pictometry Online 1.3). This utilizes the web in a function resembling Local Live rather than downloading images and/or software onto PC’s. This web-based program has roughly a third of the tools as the original software, but might be useful for many users. Further discussion will be needed to see if this is the direction we want to head.

Pictometry distribution for the 2008 data may require a 500GB hard drive. This could be borrowed from a member as was done in 2006 or the group may consider purchasing one for User Group use. Chad will look into pricing



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## **c. Enterprise GIS Small Group –**

Review: The Enterprise GIS Workgroup determined that it was important to get a letter to Ramsey County around the time the new GIS coordinator was hired rather than waiting until a more formal proposal document could be completed. The letter was created and reviewed by the workgroup and sent to Mary Mahoney CIO of Ramsey Co.

Report: Jolinda reviewed the Enterprise GIS project and summary letter sent to Mary Mahoney. Not much to update. No response as of yet, but reactions from those who reviewed the document were positive. Jolinda will follow up and present any updates at the July meeting.

**d. Educational Opportunities – Jan V.** Jan not present to give report. Review given regarding last months report. Suggestion made to remove this item from the agenda until August/September when school functions resume.

## **6. New Topics**

**a. Annual Fee Billing Procedures –** Invoices for member dues were mailed in April. Payment status for all members will be determined by RCGISUG Treasurer, Chad B ergo, and reminders sent to those who have not submitted dues.

Chad also reported on an accounting error that occurred with St. Paul Water Utility due to a typo error in the billing spreadsheet. Chad has discussed this with the board, and no back pay will be due. The correct billing rate will be enforced for future cycles. To avoid this type of error in the future, Chad has requested to have a board member review all billing tables after each restructuring.

## **b. Develop list for topic-based meetings – discuss presenters and schedule**

Review: The idea for utilizing the User Group meeting as a training and knowledge sharing time was brought up at the April Officers meeting. To begin this process, members were asked to think of topics they would like to see or that they could present to the group.

Report: An informal questionnaire was passed out to attending members and guests. This information sheet will gather data about members regarding what software they are using, projects they are working on, type of work they do, shapefiles created or available etc. This will also be used to generate ideas for the topic based meeting as well as for the map library discussed at the May meeting.

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Regarding the map library, Jolinda and Joel from the City of Roseville submitted a few projects. Jolinda asked that other contributors consider creating a 'Read me' file to go with projects to give further explanation.

Regarding The topic based meeting, the following ideas were suggested:

- Emergency management, (would require planning)
- Natural resources – ArcHydro
- Street level/Google Earth/Web-based mapping
- KML applications - mixing proprietary data with free web mapping
- GPS – consider having a contractor come out to demo product
- Pictometry training session
- Stormwater issues
- Stormsewer model (geometric network done on Hwy 96)
- Elevation – LiDAR (Current RCGISUG data = 2001)
- Google Sketch-up demonstration
- Green GIS by ESRI
- Tips and Tricks
- Google Earth Pro – tours to movies
- WMS – free software available through ESRI – ArcExplorer
- Python Scripting

In an effort to start these topic-based meetings as soon as possible, a tentative plan was to have Joel Koepp demonstrate KML data combining web-based mapping with ArcView files. Refer to upcoming agendas to confirm if this will occur at the July or August meetings. Other topic items decided as priority: Tips and tricks, and Pictometry training.

**c. Re-Schedule July meeting.** A motion was made to change the July meeting from Thursday July 3<sup>rd</sup> to Tuesday July 1<sup>st</sup>. This would accommodate Jolinda and any other members/visitors who would not be present. Motion seconded, approved. Meeting notice stating this change will be sent out earlier than usual to verify this.

## 7. Community announcements and reports

- a. GIS manager status: Not hired yet.
- b. Good news from public works – funding for new computers for 2008 budget.

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- c. Jolinda: county updates on website.
- d. RCGISUG website – main page has been updated for board members but 2007 needs to be changed to 2008.
- e. Comp plan progress:
  - Jolinda – Arden Hills and Roseville have asked for maps, indicating significant progress.
  - Roseville – Joel - Proposed future land use map acquired. In chapter writing stage.
  - Arden Hills – Meghan – Completing report in-house, waiting on maps. Third open house happening this month. Planning commission meeting on June 2, followed by approval in July, then Comp Plan should be completed. They are waiting on completion of the engineering chapter.
  - New Brighton – Council has approved draft, so Comp Plan is in 6-month review stage.
- f. Consider organizing a welcome meeting for new GIS Manager in July or August meeting.
- g. Kevin Byrne discussed a good resource for sample mission statements. He will email Jolinda or Carrie a link to this resource

## 8. Agenda for June 2008 meeting

- c. Combine ‘Community announcement and reports’ with ‘Other business’
- d. Emphasize revised date for July meeting (see above).
- e. Introduce topic-based presentation: Joel (see above).
- f. Remove Educational Opportunities from summer agendas.

## 9. Other business: No other business

## 10. Adjournment –Meeting adjourned at 3:25

Next meeting will be on **Tuesday July 1**, 2008, 2:00 p.m. at Shoreview City Hall.

Minutes submitted by Carrie Mack, Secretary.

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