



# RAMSEY COUNTY GIS USER GROUP

An alliance of communities sharing Geographical Information Systems

Monthly Meeting Minutes

August 7, 2008

Location: Shoreview City Hall, 4600 Victoria St. N

## 1. Call to Order, Welcome & Introductions

Mike Goodnature - Ramsey Conservation Dist	Chad Bergo – City of Maplewood
Carrie Mack- Ramsey Washington WD	Joel Koepp - Roseville
Catherine Bach – Ramsey Conservation Dist	Matt Baker – City of Shoreview
Dan Carlson – SEH	Stephen Baker – Ramsey County
Dave Bauer – Rice Creek Watershed District	John Jacobson – Ramsey Co. Records & Revenue
Carla Coates – Ramsey County	

Meeting was called to order by Mike Goodnature

**2. Additions or Corrections to the Agenda** – Reminder to combine ‘Other Business’ with ‘Community Announcement and Reports.’ Change will be made to future agendas. No other comments. Meeting agenda approved, omitting “9. Other Business”

**3. Approval of July 2008 Meeting Minutes** - No changes suggested. Minutes approved by consensus.

## 4. Continuing topics

**a. Creation of 2008 formalized mission statement** – Members were emailed two options for the mission statement one week prior to the meeting. During the meeting Group consensus preferred the first statement reading “To share, develop and promote GIS data and technology collaboratively throughout Ramsey County for the benefit of its citizens, local communities, government agencies and business partners.” Not enough members were present to reach quorum, so an official vote will be conducted via email in August.

Curt Peterson had requested a search for past mission statements. This was done, and nothing was found containing the specific title “mission statement.” There was a one page summary of 2001 ‘Highest-Ranking Goals, Strategies, and Projects Defined’ document that was handed out at this meeting. This document can be used to assess the user group progress since 2001 and monitor if previous goals were/are being accomplished.

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## **b Pictometry Update – Mike, Chad and John Jacobson**

Review: The 2008 flight was due to be completed soon, but reports of its completion were not available at the time of the July meeting. Limitations in storage were brought up at the July meeting. Training may be available in September.

Report: John - Pictometry is complete and currently being deployed in Ramsey Co. Resolution of the TIFF ortho 4" tile is significantly superior to the 2003 version. Data is in Ramsey County coordinates. The file size is significantly larger than the last flight (285GB vs. 140GB respectively). The mosaic ortho TIFF images are also available (160GB). To house all of the data in one place would require a minimum of 450GB storage space. Ramsey County has loaned a portable hard drive to St. Paul that could be used to further distribute the data.

Roseville has determined that we do have enough space, so GIS members connected to the INET will be able to connect to Pictometry data without acquiring extra data storage. For those not linked to the INET, the Group discussed purchasing external hard drives. This purchase option will be further discussed at the September meeting. Chad estimated the Group could purchase a 1Terrabyte drive for about \$200-\$300.

Change analysis is an additional process available for purchase. John is trying to deploy it currently. Queries will bring up 06 and 08 imagery that can be brought up simultaneously and swiped/assessed. Site license would be per entity, not county wide. Cost is figured on a per parcel basis.

John will follow up with Mike or Jolinda to discuss delivering data via portable hard drive. Stephen Baker proposed the idea that, with time, combining all metro county Pictometry data into a single library on one server would be highly beneficial. This would take significant organization and cooperation between organizations – an effort that will have to be assessed for interest first.

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

No updates.

## **d. Topic-based meetings – discuss upcoming 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.

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Report: No updates. Group liked the idea of having Jolinda and/or Curt report on the ESRI User Conference as the September feature topic.

- 5. Ramsey County data updates** – Update CD will be mailed to Roseville and Jolinda will complete updating the county site when she returns on Monday, August 11. Mike brought CD's to give to Joel. Updates include 2008 and 2009 parcel points, but do not include 2009 manufactured homes. John explained that manufactured homes are produced and located often within the same year, so they will not show up in GIS extracts. County online mapping has current address labels, annotation and land ties. Joel reported that the county online mapping update has been slightly delayed, but will be completed within the next couple weeks.
  
- 6. Community announcements and reports**
  - a. Howard Green/Metropolitan Transit non-motorized transportation to transit/park and ride locations study (email sent to the group on 7/17/08). So far only North St. Paul has replied.
  
  - b. Roseville, Falcon Heights and Lauderdale have been awarded a Transit for Livable Communities (TLC) pathway grant. In an email to Curt Peterson, Sara Merz – Aide to Commissioner Jan Parker – reported that the review panel for TLC grants thought it was a great project and a very well-written proposal.
  
  - c. Parks and recreation is hiring a GIS intern to work on Ramsey County non-motorized transportation updates. He will be starting Tuesday August 12th. A PDF map will be available on the RCGISUG FTP site. If the pedestrian/bikeways for your community are not displayed correctly on this document please submit any corrections or updates to Curt Peterson.
  
  - d. Dave Bauer - Stormwater U course aids cities dealing with MS4 permitting requirements. This rule, set forth by PCA, requires that any entity owning a stormwater system must inspect and maintain at least 20% of the system per year. The Stormwater U meeting was attended by many public works employees. Dave proposed the idea of utilizing the RCGISUG to help with this process by economies of scale. Vendors have been approaching MS4's to bid for outsourcing this, but if it is something the User Group would like to coordinate on, it would get priority. Met

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council has been working on regional approach to this same issue. The end result would be better quality hydrologic modeling.

Chad reported that Maplewood has started to put pipe data into GIS last year with elevations on most features. Technicians have been doing inventory of stormwater ponds etc. then using their observations to manually update their GIS. Maybe 1/10 of Maplewood stormwater pipe data has been updated.

Carla reported that Mike Juniper had developed a great system, but he left without providing detailed procedural instructions. Terry Noonan is looking into it.

Joel has been working on stormwater data based on MnDot records from the Highway 36 rebuild, he's trying to tie it into North St. Paul data. Currently data is really just lines, connectivity, and directionality. Attributions are minimal.

Dave suggested putting this issue on the September agenda for further discussion within the Group. He asked that we discuss what municipalities are working on and if they or others they know are thinking about purchasing or sharing a system? Timeline: PCA will start auditing next year as a part of NPDES Phase 2.

Mike will request a report from Molly

e. Pictometry License file: Prior to the meeting, an error was reported by New Brighton regarding accessing the Pictometry application. The error stated that the license was deactivated on 7/30/08. New Brighton is not on the Metro Inet. Carrie confirmed that the software was not serving up images on the Metro Inet either, and contacted Roseville I.T. who later confirmed that the NIW license expired on the server. I.T. obtained a new license file from Pictometry so it should be recognized by the server in subsequent days. (Pictometry software successfully opened and images were made available at the time of the August Meeting Minutes release.) If members are still having problems, talk to I.T. or John can mail it out to anyone who needs it.

f. Stephen Baker: Ramsey County has an orphan website for foreclosure information. Kris Kujala with Ramsey Co. would be the main contact for city employees looking to access this data. Information is available via Excel spreadsheet. Chad asked if there was any way to get the data in an unlocked format so he can clip out Maplewood data to geocode. Stephen said to have any cities with this need to email him with their specific request.

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Note: The newer data has more fields (including zip code). Feedback is welcome as to how to make data more useful.

## 7. Topic presentation – Joel Koepp – Exporting KML Data for Google Earth

Keyhole Markup Language (KML) allows ArcGIS feature classes to be translated to an XML-based language that can be read/displayed in Google Earth. Prior to the ArcView 9.3 release, users can download an 'Export to KML' script that will add a button to the user toolbar.

ArcView 9.3 includes this functionality. Joel demonstrated the working procedure for completing the dialog box available from this script, and displayed the outcome in a Google Earth application. The script will inherit the symbology given in ArcView, so doing this prior to exporting is preferable. Other items can be zipped into the KML conversion tool including legends, credits, etc.

For more information, search "KML in ArcGIS in an ArcView Help session.

## 8. Agenda for September 2008 meeting

The following items were discussed and will be incorporated into the September Draft Agenda (subject to approval):

- Ideas/volunteers for future feature topics.
- Mission statement: review if quorum was reached in August to finalize. Discuss 2001 goals statement received in August meeting.
- JPA in need of revisions/updating. Chad & Jolinda.
- Pictometry
  1. Training
  2. Discuss final contribution.
- Rescheduling/cancellation of October meeting due to the MnGIS/LIS conference (October 1-3 in Rochester)
- Jolinda and/or Curt *may* present on the ESRI User Conference
- MS4 stormsewer requirements

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

Next meeting will be on Thursday September 4, 2008, 2:00 p.m. at Shoreview City Hall.

Minutes submitted by Carrie Mack, Secretary.