



# RAMSEY COUNTY GIS USER GROUP

An alliance of communities sharing Geographical Information Systems

Monthly Meeting Minutes

September 4, 2008

Location: Shoreview City Hall, 4600 Victoria St. N

## 1. Call to Order, Welcome & Introductions

Jolinda Stapleton - Roseville

Deb Jones – Falcon Heights

Carrie Mack- Ramsey Washington WD

Joel Koepp - Roseville

Curt Peterson – Ramsey County Public Works

Steve Lorbach - SPRWS

Stephen Baker – Ramsey County

Dave Bauer - RCWD

Meeting was called to order by Jolinda Stapleton

**2. Additions or Corrections to the Agenda** – Carrie – Motion to move item 5b, “Storm sewer mapping efforts” to the beginning of the agenda to accommodate schedules. Item approved and moved to item #4.

**3. Approval of August 2008 Meeting Minutes** - No changes suggested. August meeting minutes approved by consensus.

**4. Storm sewer mapping standards**– Dave Bauer reviewed what was discussed at the August meeting (see August minutes for more details). A Stormwater U course he attended discussed the MS4 permitting requirement stating that cities must inspect 20% of their sewer pipes per year. This requires obtaining maps of storm sewer system from the various entities that own them. Steve Kloiber from MetCouncil, has received a small grant from USGS to incorporate storm sewer data into their hydrography layer using GIS. The size of the grant did not permit for regional assessments of the data, but he received various storm sewer maps with a wide range of quality. Kloiber hopes to use information collected from this project to help create a data standard, with the intention of having it adopted at a state level, and possibly even a national level (ESRI) in time.

There is a regional need to organize this data collected from various sources and create a standard approach to managing this data. Several public and private entities have begun a collaborative effort to do so and have a goal of presenting a standard at a meeting with the Governor’s Council on Geographic Information Standards Committee. This work group, led by

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the PCA and including regional, state, and local groups, will be meeting September 18<sup>th</sup> to review a draft set of standards. This draft will be made available on the RCGISUG website under archive meeting minutes. The end result of enforcing these standards would be consistent pipe data that meets needs of member communities while easily being shared between interested parties.

Jolinda expressed that there was some concern by the Roseville Public Works Department for the User Group funding MS4 storm mapping for communities. Since the mapping has been mandated by the State, Roseville has already invested a significant amount of time and money to map and inspect their storm structures.

Jolinda brought up idea of presenting this project and the resulting issues at a separate meeting and inviting public works employees, Stormwater U attendees, GIS professionals within cities, etc. This would give RCGISUG members an opportunity to get more information and be able to comment on the data standards. This could be done as the November Feature Topic. Dave commented that the draft standards should be closer to being a more concrete standard by then.

Those interested in attending the workgroup meeting on September 18<sup>th</sup> should contact Dave Bauer directly at: David Bauer [DBauer@ricecreek.org].

## 5. Continuing topics

- a. **Creation of 2008 formalized mission statement** – An official vote was conducted via email in August and a quorum was reached to approve and formalize the statement. See the August meeting minutes for the exact text. Steve L. will post this on website just below the title. This item will herein be removed from future agendas unless otherwise noted.
  
- b **Pictometry Update – Jolinda** - The 2008 data is complete and ready for distribution planning. Steve Lorbach brought a hard drive and disks containing the data for Roseville to load onto the Metro-inet. Jolinda thought that the new photos should be up in the next few weeks. Steve reported no problems with reading obliques, but stated some trouble reading the orthophotos. He wrote a program to minimize the file size of the tiffs with no visible loss of quality. Counties completed (but not included in Ramsey County deliverable) include all metro counties with the exception of Washington Co.  
Stephen Baker discussed with Pictometry the possibility of sharing our imagery with Met

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Council. Pictometry would allow this under our existing contract. Steve questioned if there may be a way where Met Council can be a player in the distribution of Pictometry imagery in the metro area, possibly through a http page. Steve L. could minimize quality and thus minimize the necessary file space needed, so cities would have room to store it. Stephen B. suggested, however, that high and low resolutions be offered for delivery. He also suggested that we have a better delivery mechanism so we can share across licenses, and that we continue to ask Pictometry to increase accuracy of orthos so they could become a more valuable tool.

Curt stated that the next step is to take all imagery and load it to a SDE server where we could send data out to members.

Regarding RCGISUG Contribution to Pictometry, the group decided they would like to see the final product that was delivered at this meeting prior to finalizing the contribution amount. This decision will be determined at a subsequent meeting.

- c. Enterprise GIS Small Group** – Jolinda sent an email to Mary Mahoney who responded that they were not hiring a GIS manager at this time. Instead, an ESRI consultant has been hired to work as an interim GIS manager until a suitable candidate can be found. As soon as the contractor is hired, he or she should receive an invitation to the User Group meeting to discuss our interest in working with Ramsey County on an Enterprise GIS.

## 6. New items

- a. Joint Powers Agreement update – Jolinda, Chad.** A copy of the former JPA was distributed in the meeting. Jolinda read the changes for the 2008 JPA. Changes and suggested changes include the following
- i.** Small items not subject to debate (change in date, etc.).
  - ii.** Article III, Section 2, to add the language “An organization may also choose an alternative Director.”
  - iii.** Deb Jones suggested it would be beneficial to require organizations to designate a representative as part of the JPA.

Changes to the 2009 JPA will be made and sent out to voting members to sign and return.



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## 7. Ramsey County data updates – Curt P.

Due to delays resulting from the Republican National Convention update CD's were not available at the time of the RCGISUG meeting. These will be completed and delivered in CD form and on the FTP site as soon as possible. Curt reported that the database looks good, as do centerlines, anomalies with parcel points fixed, etc. Work is being done to correct ACS data to go along with it so it should be a much better release.

Regarding the work on pedestrian bike system trails, two new PDFs will be available on user group website. Although the trails should be fairly complete now, Curt asked members to download this data to assess sidewalks, trails, bike lanes, etc for accuracy. It was suggested in the Active Living meeting that this information be incorporated into the U of M, Computer Science and Engineering Dept. 'Cyclopath' Program. This beta-phase project was created so "cyclists can collaboratively add, remove, modify roads and other bike facilities block-by-block, in addition to editing points of interest and annotations on map items." For more information on Cyclopath, see [www.cs.umn.edu](http://www.cs.umn.edu) or [www.cyclopath.org](http://www.cyclopath.org). By feeding the data through this system to avid cyclists, the data can be refined and updated by those who are using the trails. Active Living members felt the Ramsey Co. data would blend well with their data and benefit from user updates. Also, people inside Ramsey County are requesting to get trail data in non-PDF format, and instead access them by a website or by reformatting the data into a shapefile for use in an ArcIMS site. Curt is working on exporting the data to a shapefile so fields can be populated.

## 8. Community announcements and reports

- a. Website hosting invoice came in. Steve L. will send to Treasurer, Chad Bergo for approval- \$47/year.
- b. GIS/LIS – October 1-3, 2008. Early registration ends September 4.
- c. Deb – The year-long Metro GIS Work Group address point data set effort continues to move forward. A \$13,500 grant has been awarded to develop a prototype point editing application for communities with fewer resources who are not GIS equipped. They are currently working on a request for proposals to come out soon, and are looking for input from the subcommittee to finalize the proposal. Parallel with national standards effort, cities would be able to map address points by their method (on building or in middle of yard, street line, etc), and include

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apartments, commercial units to create a regional dataset. A web-based application would allow owners of the data (cities or counties) to create, edit, or move data. Workshops are being held and small cities are being interviewed to assess their needs. There has been difficulty in the Metro GIS Work Group to develop an accurate scope and to have realistic goals. It is still being determined who will be responsible for the data. Curt suggested looking to the Carver County synchronization effort for answers. Their goal is to create aggregators and synchronize with each other to have updated information.

## **9. Feature Topic presentation – ESRI User Conference Review – Jolinda and Curt**

Jolinda: Attendees of the ESRI User Conference will be receiving a CD with all of the proceedings, abstracts, papers etc. Jolinda will try to pass on this information to interested members after she receives it. She also gave a synopsis of the key speakers, Jack Dangermond and Dr. Peter Raven of Missouri Botanical Gardens. The later discussed how GIS will play a role in climate change and what attendee's personal responsibilities are in this regard. Jolinda attended workshop classes including CAD in GIS, Tables and Graphs, Page Layout Tips, Top Improvements in ArcView 9.3, and Climate Change GIS in Local Government and more.

Curt: Workshops Curt attended were database and software intensive (SQL 2008 should now support spatial elements). He then handed out a list of ESRI's top 10 new things with ArcView 9.3 and reviewed each feature on a projected session of ArcView.

## **10. Agenda for October/November 2008 meeting –** Group consensus was to cancel the October meeting due to a conflicting date with the GIS/LIS conference.

## **11. Adjournment** –Meeting adjourned at 4:14

Next meeting will be on Thursday November 6, 2008, 2:00 p.m. at Shoreview City Hall.

Minutes submitted by Carrie Mack, Secretary.