# RAMSEY COUNTY GIS USER GROUP
An alliance of communities sharing Geographical Information Systems

Monthly Meeting Minutes

November 6, 2008

Location: Shoreview City Hall, 4600 Victoria St. N

## 1. Call to Order, Welcome & Introductions

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| Jolinda Stapleton – City of Roseville | Steve Lorbach – St Paul Regional Water Serv. |
| Carrie Mack- Ramsey Washington WD | Matt Baker – City of Shoreview |
| Mike Goodnature – Ramsey Conservation Dist. | Curt Peterson – Ramsey County |
| Chad Bergo – City of Maplewood | Joel Koep – City of Roseville |
| Ger Pha – City of St. Paul | Chris Ulrich – Ramsey County |
| Meagan Beekman – Arden Hills | John Moriarty – Ramsey County Parks |
| Carla Coates – Ramsey County | Dan Falbo – ESRI |
| David Claypool – Ramsey County | Tom Kreykes – ESRI |
| Mary Mahoney – Ramsey County | Dave Kotilnek – North St. Paul |

Meeting was called to order by Jolinda Stapleton

## 2. Additions or Corrections to the Agenda – Jolinda, Carrie – No comments to current agenda. Agenda for November meeting approved by consensus.

## 3. Approval of September 2008 Meeting Minutes - Carrie.  No changes suggested.  September minutes approved by consensus.

## 4. Continuing topics

a. **Pictometry Update - Jolinda**   Imagery was received in September, and though Ramsey County Department of Records and Revenue have been using the imagery, limitations have been found in the data and in the INET that will slow the release to the rest of the INET users.   Curt Peterson commented that he found distorted areas in the Ortho Photography, likely from mosaic problems.  He also noticed a 4' northward shift in some areas.  Dave Claypool added that the orthophotography also had accuracy limitations.  Dave and Curt will work with Pictometry on these problems.  Pictometry *may* offer to repair photos with incorrect positional accuracy and/or mosaic problems.  If the accuracy of Pictometry ortho's

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improve greatly, it may influence the User Group's decision to replace standard orthophotography flights with Pictometry data.

Jolinda stated that the INET release date has been set back because the Pictometry image warehouse was not working with the Windows 2008 server. I.T. is still working on this and plans to resolve this issue soon. Though 2008 data is not yet available, the previous oblique and ortho images are still functional in Pictometry.

Dave Claypool commented that Ramsey County will be seeking a RFP (Request for Proposal) for the spring 2009 aerial photography flight. He suggests the User Group switch from a 3 year to a 2 year rotation. The national imagery program will do a flight every 2 years regardless of our purchase cycle. Dave suggested the Group explore the option to update the 2009 Photography and Physical Features and then plan a migration to a two year update cycle. Jolinda commented that the User Group funding is based on 3 year cycle for aerial photo updates, so the Group would need to assess if changing to a 2 year cycle would affect User Group membership fee's. The spring 2009 flight Dave discussed (6" pixel, 12" accuracy) would be a part of the previously agreed on 3-year cycle. Dave mentioned that they are open to discussing the idea of member groups adding onto the flight contract that Ramsey County is running.

b. **Enterprise GIS Update –** Jolinda reviewed the effort for those who may be less familiar with the program and introduced Mary Mahoney from Ramsey County.

**i.** Introduction of interim GIS Manager, Tom Kreykes – Mary explained the Enterprise project from the perspective of Ramsey County, saying that they wanted to seek opportunities to take collaborative community work and leverage it with technology. In February, the Ramsey County Board approved a program to develop an enterprise approach to managing the infrastructure of county GIS data and hiring a GIS manager to oversee the planning, development and maintenance of the program. The subcommittee interviewed several prospective GIS Managers, but suspended the efforts after a suitable candidate was not found. Not wanting to delay the program because of this setback, Ramsey County hired an interim GIS Manager through ESRI. Tom Kreykes, who started in early October, has started a work plan that will be reviewed by internal GIS staff on November 17th . Mary added that goal of the governance group was to find a steward of the data who would be in charge of managing all of the data, data updates, etc. to be sure that the most recent and

accurate data is distributed.  Ramsey is going to be doing additional recruitment for GIS manager who will take over Tom's interim position when hired.

**ii.** <u>Ramsey County efforts and goals – Mary Mahoney, Tom Kreykes -</u>   Tom explained that his role at ESRI Services Group and now within Ramsey County will focus on planning a server based technology, building infrastructure, and bridging technical knowledge with sales to build solutions.  He continued that his experience working on a developed methodology for enterprise planning process will result in defining objectives and needs, organizing infrastructure, identifying gaps and recommending solutions for Ramsey County.  He then plans to build the program in test & development environment.  Infrastructure analysis will begin as early as Friday, (November 7) and include talking to database and system administrators about hardware/software needs.

Tom is very interested in understanding needs for Ramsey Co and its constituents.  He invites all questions and comments that would better define the needs of the User Group member organizations.  Jolinda stated that the Group would be interested in giving input and will forward our JPA, current member list and project information, and documents regarding our online mapping system to give Tom an idea of what our objectives and data needs are.  **Please send your comments to Tom Kreykes directly at tkreykes@esri.com.**


**c. Update on storm sewer mapping standard efforts** – Carrie Mack reported that a multi-agency group, led by Mike Trojan, met at the PCA on September 18th to go over a draft standard for stormwater system data.  Other members at the table were MnDOT, Mosquito Control, PCA, MN Governors Council on GIS, and others.  She reported that those present were insistent on referring to the standards as a 'data *exchange* standard' rather than implying agencies had to change the way they collect, store or utilize the data.  She reviewed the progress of the meeting including the group review of the objective, scope, applicability, implementation and maintenance, geographic representation, and definitions portion of the document.  The group will continue reviewing the attributes section of the document at the next meeting on November 13th.

Carrie said that this information was also relayed at a recent Public Works Forum meeting where the overwhelming implication from those present was that the User Group should be playing a greater role in development of this standard and in implementing a training procedure.

Dave Kotilnek reported that he recently met with an MS4 where the preference for data collection/storage was in ArcGIS format.  He also met with League of Cities to discuss the effort and the basis for creating the standard which lies heavily in emergency response. The User Group has not defined our role in the process but while the consensus of the Group is to cooperate with standard, further discussion will determine the level of group involvement.  Dave Bauer from Rice Creek Watershed District may be able to present on this topic early next year.

5. **New items**

   a. **2009 Nominations for RCGISUG Secretary –** Jolinda reviewed current and historical officer members.  She is currently requesting nominations and/or volunteers for the Secretary position for 2009.  Dave Claypool followed Jolinda's request for involvement by stating that the RCGISUG was the first user group to be formed in this manner and that it is an important, independent and unique group that has greatly benefited from having various organizations at the helm.  Please contact Jolinda to volunteer/nominate before the December 4th meeting.

   b. **Error in Joint Powers Agreement – Jolinda -** Review of the initial JPA by Maplewood City Council revealed an error: it stated "the Agreement shall be in force through December 31, 2012" when it should have read 2011.  Jolinda mentioned that Roseville has already had their JPA signed and their City Attorney approved the change without having to go through City Council review because the three year term was stated elsewhere in the JPA.   Please contact Group Secretary, Carrie Mack, for a revised JPA if you did not already receive one over email.  These should be returned to Chad Bergo as soon as possible.  Group member fees will be mailed out and due in early 2009.

6. **Ramsey County data updates – Curt P.**

   Software upgrades were made to ArcInfo and MS Access causing compatibility issues and slowing the data update progress.  Parcel points were not available on ftp site at the time of the meeting but will be posted in the proceeding days.  Sales and permitting data will be posted after they are received.

   Curt also brought up the topic of the large Rice Street reconstruction project saying there will be a meeting on Tuesday Nov 18th at Little Canada City Hall and on  Nov 20th from 6-8 at the Shoreview City Hall to discuss traffic control and other issues.  Active Living and

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other groups are planning to attend these meetings to promote "complete streets" that allow for motorized and non-motorized transportation to safely coexist.

Bike and pedestrian trail information will be added to the FTP site. **Members should download and review these trails for accuracy.** This data was also added to the county online mapping program (www.ramseygis.org). Despite difficulties in adding this data, Curt has received very positive feedback on it. Jolinda mentioned that when adding this layer to the county online mapping site, it caused some problems and the site did not work for two days. Jolinda worked with Suzanne Fliege from Allied Information Systems to resolve the problems. The User Group was billed $825 for the time. Chad Bergo verified that the bill has already been paid.

7. **Community announcements and reports**

   a. Curt reported that FEMA will be discussing their floodplain mapping on December 16<sup>th</sup> from 2-3pm at the Ramsey County offices. FEMA has invited city officials to see their data collection process, which included using RCGISUG data, and results. An open house will follow the discussion from 5-7pm.

   b. Curt reported that Ramsey County is working on the 2009 Ramsey County maps. He handed out extra 2007 maps for members to have and asked that any errors or omissions be reported to him.

   c. Jolinda brought a CD of presentation summaries from the ESRI Users Conference. Members should contact her if they are interested in borrowing it.

   d. On Monday Nov 3, Jolinda attended a meeting of a St Paul consortium with a variety of non-profit and community organizations including District 7 planning, Greater Frogtown Development, Energy Cents (www.energycents.org), etc. These groups are trying to collaborate to share resources and are looking to possibly join the User Group. They will submit a list of members and the extent of data that they wish to receive. At that time, RCGISUG will review the membership type they are eligible for and determine costs. Dave Claypool stated that each individual case needs to be assessed to determine applicability and need for non-profit and community organizations. He continued by stating that some organizations have excessive funding that would exclude them from the no-fee access for non-profit policy. Other smaller community groups and non-profits that are underfunded are more likely candidates for this. The Group then discussed developing limitations as associate members, not voting

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members, in order to keep costs down while allowing a core group of people to manage the collaborating groups.  Jolinda has offered to be a liaison between this St. Paul consortium and the User Group to work through this process.

    e.  Chad announced an available upgrade to ArcPad 7.0.1

8. **Agenda for December 2008 meeting –** Suzanne Fliege from Allied Information Systems will tentatively present on an upgrade option available for online mapping programs.

9. **Adjournment** –Meeting adjourned at 3:55pm

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

Minutes submitted by Carrie Mack, Secretary.