



# RAMSEY COUNTY GIS USER GROUP

An alliance of communities sharing Geographical Information Systems

## Monthly Meeting Minutes

December 4, 2008

Location: Shoreview City Hall, 4600 Victoria St. N

### 1. Call to Order, Welcome & Introductions

Jolinda Stapleton – City of Roseville

Carrie Mack- Ramsey Washington WD

Mike Goodnature – Ramsey Conservation Dist.

Deb Jones – Falcon Heights

Charles Roberts – Arden Hills

Meagan Beekman – Arden Hills

Jan Vanderwall – Roseville Schools

Dan Sullivan – iLOOKABOUT

Jim O’Loughlin – Allied Information Systems

Matt Kocian – Rice Creek Watershed District

Matt Baker – City of Shoreview

Curt Peterson – Ramsey County

Joel Koep – City of Roseville

Liesa Miller - MnDOT

Mark Andrie – City of New Brighton

Brian Jastram – Mississippi Watershed Mgmt. Org.

John Jacobson – Ramsey County

Greg Finzell Rondo CLT

Meeting was called to order by Jolinda Stapleton

### 2. Additions or Corrections to the Agenda – Jolinda, Carrie – No comments to agenda.

December agenda approved by consensus.

### 3. Approval of November 2008 Meeting Minutes - Carrie - No comments or changes suggested.

November meeting minutes approved by consensus.

### 4. Feature Topic – Upgrade Options for CivXplorer – Jim O’Loughlin, President of Allied Information Systems and Suzanne Flige (joining remotely) presented an upgrade option to the current product. The current web application ([www.ramseygis.org](http://www.ramseygis.org)) is an ArcIMS based product, while the system Suzanne is currently working on is based on MapServer (<http://mapserver.gis.umn.edu>). She has been looking for alternative to ArcIMS, and felt that MapServer had reached a maturity level that made it viable as a commercial product. Using many of the same basic CivXplorer functionalities in the current system, Allied Info wanted to add in more functionality with a new “web 2.0” feel. Suzanne gave a demonstration of a client web mapping interface currently using the upgraded system. Upgrades include the following:

- Various levels of administrators with permissions and viewable maps available at each level. ‘Community administrators’ could then assign user access to manage subscribers.

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- Welcome page - completely customizable, and can include information ‘about us,’ disclaimers, info on data sources, etc.
- Customizable tools, menus, pop-up help and base maps.
- Search function that includes drop-down menus, range of values, examples listed, and other items to make searching more successful, customized, and flexible.
- Ability to link to other tables for creating reports. This includes related tables, links to photos (as hover-over functionality), hyperlinks to outside sources, etc.
- Creation of mailing labels, configured to client preferences. Analysis can be run on owner/resident to remove overlaps and redundancy.
- Advances in selection functionality, annotation, and the ability to set user preferences.
- Ability to bring up imagery from other vendors including oblique “bird’s eye,” views, Google maps, etc.
- Central search page allowing the user to enter an address, and receive a list of appropriate websites to show information for that location (county, city, other vendor, etc), and provide a link to that data source.

Jim introduced Dan Sullivan, with iLOOKABOUT ([www.ilookabout.com](http://www.ilookabout.com)), and gave a background of their work prior to and at the companies. They provided an outlook of applications and functionality that they are hoping to develop in the future.

User Group members commented on useful applications for their organization and discussed the possibility of changing data distribution methods with the upgraded CivXplorer to allow for geodatabase support. Most questions will have to be discussed with Suzanne directly (no longer joining remotely). **Members should send comments/questions to Jolinda who will summarize them and contact Suzanne directly.** If the User Group is interested, Jolinda will then discuss price quotes with Jim and/or Suzanne.

## 5. Continuing topics

- a. Pictometry Update** - John Jacobson commented that Pictometry is up and running in Ramsey Co. offices and summarized the issues discussed last month regarding a 4 ft. displacement found in the aerial photos. While Pictometry is still looking into it, John is hoping to get a new data set or at least corrected portions. Pictometry had found that a conversion function/application was the cause for the positional inaccuracy. While the error has been identified on their part, Curt was not sure of schedule of replacement.

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Jolinda commented that those who access Pictometry via the Metro Inet are still unable to access the data due to server conflicts, but I.T. indicated repairs were in process and that the new version should work and be ready for download soon. To date I.T is not sure if they will store both current and 2006 imagery. John commented that they store both versions and are hoping data storage space continues to decrease in price as future data sets are obtained.

- b. Enterprise GIS Update** – Jolinda reviewed the November meeting when the group was introduced to interim GIS Manager, Tom Kreykes, last month. (See meeting minutes from last month for details.) Following the November meeting, Jolinda emailed Tom details of the User Group including the current JPA, a list of members, the draft enterprise proposal, and strategic planning documents. Tom replied that he would review and get back.

Regarding Kreykes meeting with the department, Curt commented that there was definite interest in seeing GIS advancements for business use. He reported that Tom gave up to 3 different architectures for the Enterprise system: 1. Production. 2. Test development. 3. Redundant backup of database for security purposes. Curt reported that the proposed system appeared suitable but there was some concern with county practices concerning ESRI license management. There is likely enough of a mix of license types (single, concurrent, etc) that better management and monitoring is needed. ESRI currently does not support VM wear for its concurrent license software, so the County may need to dedicate a standard server to support ESRI concurrent software licenses.

## 6. New items

- a. **2009 Election for RCGISUG Secretary** – Matt Baker was nominated for the open position of 2009 RCGISUG secretary. Jolinda opened the floor for additional nominations, but none were brought forth. Joel Koepp motioned to appoint Matt Baker, Deb Jones seconded. Motion carried unanimously. Having enough members present to reach quorum, no subsequent voting was required.

- 7. Ramsey County data updates – Curt P.** New half sections, sales and permitting, parcels, and attributes are all complete and available on the FTP site. Centerline (TLG) data has not been received from Met Council yet, but will be posted on the FTP site when it is. **If User Group members are not able to access the ftp site, they should contact Curt Peterson.** Curt added



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that pin number correlations have been analyzed to produce better match ups. He asked members to look for errors and report them to him.

Jolinda commented that the monthly updates were also completed for the website.

## 8. Community announcements and reports

- a. Greg Finzell from Rondo Community Land Trust ([www.rondoctl.org](http://www.rondoctl.org)) attended and provided additional data to Jolinda's discussion last month regarding the interest of a group of non-profit neighborhood organizations to become a Paying Affiliate Member (PAM). Some of the current interested parties were members of the User Group under the name of St. Paul Consortium. (see item 7d from November minutes). Greg explained the mission of RCLT, 'working to create and preserve homeownership for low-to-moderate income households in Ramsey County.' The group is trying to develop relationships with lenders on a foreclosure-prevention program to work with clients before they have to vacate their house, and working on resetting mortgages, etc. A seven-member subgroup of the RCLT and collaborative organizations are working with Jolinda to discuss the possibility of renewing member services after a lapse due to low staffing, low available fees, and large changes in staffing within the organizations. They feel that the information available through the User Group will better help their non-profits serve the people of Ramsey Co.

Jolinda suggested Greg develop an itemized list of consortium organizations, their goals, needs, shareable data etc. The User Group will use this summary to discuss how/if these groups still fit the rules and regulations for this type of membership and decide then if the group is to be reinstated. Jolinda also requested a copy of the Paying Affiliate Member JPA signed by the consortium previously. Jolinda confirmed that she would continue to be the User Group liaison for Greg's group to work with.

Concerns voiced from the group:

- Potential leakage to commercial sector. Response (Greg): They will make it clear to potential members and make sure all groups understand.
  - Determining if U Plan qualifies: Greg commented that U Plan expressed interest in being a part of the consortium seeking PAM. This will be included in the group summary provided to Jolinda and assessed.
- b. Liesa – MnDOT has set up a website for construction projects occurring between 2008-2012. The site ([www.dot.state.mn.us/maps/construction](http://www.dot.state.mn.us/maps/construction)) will use mile points/segments in



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- the metro to indicate estimate of traffic impact, estimated start/end dates, name of construction engineer, and name/contact info of public affairs person. This link is not accessible from the MnDOT site as it was not intended for general public use. It is a limited dataset, but organizations can get estimate traffic impact, estimated start/end dates, etc.
- c. Extending aerial photo flight, Matt Kocian, RCWD. Curt explained that Ramsey Co. and the User Group have a contract to obtain color aerial photography for spring 2009 and the cost is split 50/50. Curt indicated that a subcontract could be complicated. He stated that Washington County has been willing to share photography, and perhaps Anoka County would too. If approved, members of the User Group could acquire the data through the collaboration. If not approved, Curt suggested discussing the issue of adding to the flight with Dave Claypool. Curt will contact Anoka Co. to see what photography they have and if they are willing to share data. (Photo sharing with Anoka was confirmed within a week of the meeting. Contact Curt for acquiring photography).
  - d. RCWD is acquiring LiDAR data, Matt Kocian, RCWD. District engineers working with metro vendor were able to acquire LiDAR at reduced rate. The flight is complete and accuracy assessments of data will be completed in house (at RCWD). Matt is hoping to have 2' contours/grid soon. Curt asked if data could be shared with the User Group for Ramsey Co. portions. Matt was unsure of sharing rights, but said that USGS will likely be acquiring the data. Data will have the same acquisition as the Red River Valley LiDAR data. 1/9 arc second.
  - e. Rescheduling for January meeting. Normal schedule would put meeting on New Years Day. **Monthly meeting rescheduled for following week, January 8<sup>th</sup>.**

**8. Agenda for January 2009 meeting** – Feature topic presentation: TBD **If you have suggestions for feature topics that you or someone else could present, please contact an officer.**

**9. Adjournment** –Meeting adjourned at 3:51pm

Next meeting will be on Thursday **January 8, 2008**, 2 p.m – 4 p.m.. at Shoreview City Hall.

**Note change in date due to conflict with New Years holiday.**

Minutes submitted by Carrie Mack, Secretary.

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