RAMSEY COUNTY GIS USER GROUP

An alliance of communities sharing Geographical Information Systems

Meeting Minutes
2:00 – 4:00 PM, January 7, 2010
Shoreview City Hall, 4600 Victoria St N

1. Introductions

Carrie Mack, Ramsey Washington Metro Watershed District
Matt Baker, City of Shoreview
Steven Hack, SEH Inc
Melissa Baker, Capitol Region Watershed District
Chad Bergo, City of Maplewood
Curt Peterson, Ramsey County
Joel Koepp, City of Roseville/City of North St Paul
Stephen Baker, Ramsey County
Etoile Jensen, URS
Chad Riley, Carver County

The meeting was called to order by Carrie Mack, Chair of the User Group

2. Feature Topic: Carver/Scott/Dakota County Shared Applications: Chad Riley, Carver County

The three county boards gave a mandate to staff in 2005 that they all needed to start working together and sharing resources to effectively use time and taxpayer dollars. In winter 2006, they collaborated to purchase an ArcIMS application from WebGIS Solutions that gave a common user interface to all 3 county public mapping sites.

Using the GoCarverGo web application's basemap as a starting point, they began development of a new ArcGIS Server basemap using the Javascript API in June 2009. Later that summer, Anoka, Washington, and Hennepin counties got in contact about using their basemap as well.

The team uses a Sharepoint website to discuss and collaborate on all facets of their combined efforts. They document all the details of their basemap symbology in a wiki as they continue to refine it.

The goal was to use the basemap in a lightweight, quick rendering parcel search application. Crime mapping, senior housing, and parks/trails applications are also in development. In order to consume MetroGIS services in their applications, they have changed from their own county coordinates to UTM Zone 15.

Chad concluded by giving a live demonstration of their in-progress ArcGIS Server applications: the parcel search (which links to property images), a crime reporting application, and a terrain application using a hillshade of the whole county and contours. He indicated that his group is very receptive to Ramsey County and/or the User Group joining up to share with the group and benefit from the work that has been done.

3. Agenda and December 2009 minutes

The minutes of last month's meeting were approved by consensus with no changes.

Chair	Vice Chair	Secretary
Carrie Mack	Matt Baker	Joel Koepp
carrie.mack@rwmwd.org	mbaker@shoreviewmn.gov	joel.koepp@ci.roseville.mn.us

4. 2010 User Group Secretary Position

Following an email vote, Joel Koepp was chosen as the new Secretary of the Users Group.

5. Ramsey County Updates: Curt Peterson and Stephen Baker

Curt handed over the discs containing the 2009 aerial photography to Joel for distribution to the Users Group. The vendor (Kucera) delivered the images in MrSID and JPG2000 format, but the physical features are still undergoing some corrections and will probably be ready for distribution by the February meeting.

Among the ongoing projects: some plats are being redrawn and rectified in the northwest corner of the County, where they are finding shifts of up to 20 feet in some places. If any User Group members find areas that look off, let Curt's office know and they will take a look.

They also have an intern in Parks and Recreation making updates to trail data in an attempt to use the National Recreation and Parks Association's database schema.

Stephen Baker updated the group on the County's conversion process from the ACS tax system to GRM. It is still ongoing and they are hoping for a March or early April complete switchover, although they have a support contract with ACS through the end of 2010 if it's needed. They are trying to get GRM to develop a single export script that can take care of the needs of the RRINFO website and the User Group's GIS extract in one process.

6. Online mapping application replacement

Curt mentioned that Bryan Fischer and Houston Engineering are working on an ArcGIS Server application for Anoka County and that the Users Group might explore that option if they have a product that works. He was in favor of contacting the Carver/Scott/Dakota partnership to see what the group might be able to use from their base map and symbology efforts.

Joel and Curt discussed the pros and cons of the Carver County approach, the possibility of using GeoMoose and the development and maintenance required.

The group talked about the different use cases (public user, County employee, etc) of the application and what kind of features it would need. There was also some discussion of how user expectations of mapping applications have evolved over time due to the effect of Google Maps and similar programs.

7. Community Announcements

Curt informed the group about the possibility of cost-sharing 2010 orthophotos through a project being run by MnGEO. The County would contribute ground control if the project goes forward.

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There was discussion of the usefulness and expense of doing aerial photography on the current cycle and the issue of 6 inch vs. 1 foot resolution. Stephen and Curt mentioned the increasing accuracy of the Pictometry product (due to competition from GeoSpan) and that it may be possible to use it for generating physical features in the future as well.

Stephen Baker briefly discussed the topic of an online mapping application that links to property images as in Dakota County's demonstration application. Ramsey County does have property images that are tied to the CAMA system by PIN. The County is also working on a $500,000 project to scan historical plats and other old documents.

He also reminded group members of the upcoming self-hosted Pictometry demonstration being given at the 90 West Plato Blvd building in St Paul on January 8th from 10:00 to 11:00 AM.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:55 PM.

Minutes submitted by Joel Koepp, Secretary