RAMSEY COUNTY GIS USER GROUP

An alliance of communities sharing Geographical Information Systems

Meeting Minutes
November 4, 2010
Shoreview City Hall, 4600 Victoria St N

1. Introductions

> Carrie Mack, Ramsey Washington Metro Watershed District
> John Moriarty, Ramsey County Parks
> Joel Koepp, City of Roseville
> Jolinda Stapleton, City of Roseville
> David Wilford, Ramsey County
> Matt Baker, City of Shoreview
> Brian Jastram, MWMO
> Deb Jones, City of Falcon Heights
> Mary Karez, Ramsey County
> Chad Bergo, City of Maplewood

The meeting was called to order by Carrie Mack, Chair of the User Group at 2:04 PM.

2. October 2010 minutes

The October 2010 meeting minutes were approved by consensus.

3. Nominations for 2011 User Group Secretary

There was a brief discussion about possible members who might be interested in taking on the Secretary position (Ger Pha of St. Paul, Melissa Baker of Capitol Region Watershed, Mark Andrle of New Brighton). So far no one has put themselves forward as a nominee.

Chad Bergo suggested that the User Group also go over its finances and adopt a 2011 budget at the December meeting. Jolinda Stapleton confirmed that a quorum is required for a vote on a new officer. Joel Koepp asked if there is an explicit rule against members who have previously served as an officer taking the position a second time (no). Chad Bergo wondered if 2 year terms in the officer positions might lessen the difficulty of finding a new person to assume the role.

The current officers will contact the suggested members and try to find someone willing to serve as Secretary.

4. Maplewood Map Applications Demo: Chad Bergo

Chad Bergo demonstrated his ArcGIS Server application for MS4 (stormwater) permitting. Each year, 20% of a city's MS4 structures must be inspected so that the entire system gets inspected every 5 years. In 2007 they had an intern start labeling all the water features in their GIS, in preparation for tying in other databases.

The application has the ability to search parcel ID, address, catchbasin ID, or manhole ID. Chad described the process of figuring out how to get feature labeling to look good and get good query results back.

Chair
Carrie Mack
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Vice Chair
Matt Baker
mbaker@shoreviewmn.gov

Secretary
Joel Koepp
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Joel Koepp commented on the speed of the application and asked if it runs on high-end hardware. The server is actually running in a virtual environment with modest specifications. Chad finished by talking about the plans for building on this application and modifying it for other city tasks.

5. Ramsey County Updates: David Wilford

David Wilford said that one major recent parcel correction was just done in Arden Hills, where a whole subdivision was out of alignment, resulting in some property lines passing through homes and parcel sizes being too small.

He asked if the User Group could think about acting as the lead for bidding and letting the 2012 aerial imagery contract. Carrie Mack replied that this process is being discussed separately with the County GIS Manager, and that the User Group would have a hard time acting in this role due to the fact that it has no attorney on retainer. They are trying to determine whether or not to change the 3 year interval of flights (possibly to 2 or 4 year intervals). Chad Bergo added that the User Group has insurance though the League of Minnesota Cities, but not attorney services, which would be a significant extra cost.

David announced that they are adding snow plow routes as a field to the street centerline data. This information used to be maintained in AutoCAD, but the staff person responsible for it is retiring. Joel Koepp said that North St. Paul has some snow plow route data, but it includes alleys, which are not in the county centerline data. Matt Baker asked if plowed trails could be added. John Moriarty said that the County Parks department currently uses hand maps and a trackless plow to manage its trails.

The Survey Department recently installed the ArcGIS 10 License Server and is having some problems with it related to license availability.

6. Community Announcements

Carrie Mack reintroduced the topic of the workgroup for the online mapping application, headed by Matt Koukol. They are looking for User Group members interested in participating. The workgroup will be evaluating what tools and functions a new map application should have, the data layers that will be offered, and considering the look and feel of the application. They will be having 2 or 3 meetings in the December to February timeframe. Interested User Group members should ontact Carrie Mack or Matt Koukol.

John Moriarty hoped the application could offer the ability to do custom annotations and map markups, to eliminate having to print out a PDF and then sketch on it by hand, which is what they currently do.

Chad Bergo suggested that the County's ArcGIS Server could serve out base layers that can be pulled into ArcGIS Desktop to do sketching or notes. Joel Koepp said that if ArcGIS Server is configured to expose data layers as WMS, they can be added to dynamic maps such as on ArcGIS Explorer Online, which would only require a web browser to do markup, rather than GIS desktop software.

Carrie Mack passed out two documents. First was a list of all the data products available to User Group members. Joel Koepp will post this on the website. Matt Baker asked if there was a full list of all the fields in the data layers (there used to be a list in the Handbook, but it is very outdated). Second was a copy of the new data license agreement between Ramsey County and the Users Group. Joel Koepp will get it looked at by Roseville's attorney, who has agreed to review it for the Users Group. The new agreement will take effect on January 1, 2011 and run through December 31, 2015.

The County's installation of the self-hosted Pictometry system is close to being finished, and they hope to have it available to User Group members by the end of the year.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:02 PM.

Minutes submitted by Joel Koepp, Secretary