



# RAMSEY COUNTY GIS USER GROUP

An alliance of communities sharing Geographical Information Systems

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## Meeting Minutes

2:00 – 4:00 PM, February 3, 2011  
Shoreview City Hall, 4600 Victoria St N

### 1. Introductions

Matt Baker, City of Shoreview  
Melissa Baker, Capitol Region Watershed District  
Chad Bergo, City of Maplewood  
Brian Jastram, Mississippi Watershed Management Organization  
Deb Jones, City of Falcon Heights  
Joel Koepp, City of Roseville/City of North St. Paul  
Matt Koukol, Ramsey County  
Carrie Mack, Ramsey Washington Metro Watershed District  
Curt Peterson, Ramsey County  
Jolinda Stapleton, City of Roseville  
Chris Ulrich, Ramsey County  
Jan Vanderwall, Roseville Area Schools

Meeting was called to order by Matt Baker at 14:07.

### 2. Additions or Corrections to the Agenda

Item 6-Pictometry 2011 moved to Item 4. Agenda approved by consensus.

### 3. Approval of January 6, 2010 Meeting Minutes.

Minutes approved by consensus with minor typo changes.

### 4. Pictometry 2011

Curt Peterson presented the group with two handouts: 'Ramsey County Aerial Photography' and 'County Coordinated Aerial Flights'. Of the 7 metro counties, Ramsey County is the only county not currently participating in the 2011 Pictometry flight.

Ramsey County Aerial Photography: This handout outlines what Ramsey County currently has for aerial and oblique imagery. Aerial photography exists for 1940, 1953, 1974, 1985, 1991, 2003, 2006, and 2009. Oblique photography exists for 2008.

County Coordinated Aerial Flights: This handout outlines the flight schedule for the 7 metro counties from 2003 through 2019. For 2013, four counties (Carver, Dakota, Scott, and Washington) currently have aerial photography flights proposed/planned. The question was posed to the group: Is Ramsey

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County and the User Group better off waiting until 2013, instead of 2012, to conduct the aerial flight and planimetric updates in order to take advantage of volume discounts?

Curt asked if anybody in the group was committed to the 3 year cycle for aerial photography and if it would be possible to deviate from this schedule. The Joint Powers Agreement (JPA) for User Group members requires a 3 year obligation. This 3 year obligation was originally used as the timeline for aerial photography and planimetric updates. There were questions as to how the JPA would be affected.

Jan Vanderwall asked what the benefits of conducting joint flights would be. Matt Koukol responded that there would be a volume discount of over \$8,000 if we choose to participate in the 2011 oblique flight with the larger group. Jolinda Stapleton asked if we were confident that Pictometry still wouldn't be able to package the obliques and physical features update. The response was that the accuracy currently is not there to do the planimetric updates.

Matt presented the User Group with a handout, 'Ramsey County 2011 Pictometry Flight', which summarized funding efforts and costs for the 2011 flight.

Ramsey County 2011 Pictometry Flight: The Ramsey County Enterprise GIS Division is attempting to secure \$70,000 which has recently become available, to join the multi-county 2011 Pictometry Flight. The product would be the same as what was produced in 2008: 6" orthomosaic of the county and 12" oblique images.

The base cost of the 2011 flight is \$83,816. If we agree to a 6-year agreement (which includes an 'opt-out' clause for subsequent flights) we will receive a discount of \$9,973.50. A volume discount of \$8,381.60 also applies because more than 5 counties are participating. In addition, a shared tiles discount of an estimated \$5,000 also applies. Bringing the total cost of the flight down to approximately \$60,461.

It is uncertain if the request will be funded partially or in full. If funded partially, Matt would like the User Group to consider funding the difference, up to one half of the total cost of the contract. At this time, Matt is moving forward on developing a contract with the vendor to be as prepared as possible if the funding request is approved.

Ramsey County Department of Public Records and Revenue has expressed interest in capturing oblique imagery at least every 3 years. Ramsey County Public Works is interested in maintaining a 3 year cycle on ortho imagery and planimetric production. While it may not be desirable to merge these data acquisition into a single product, a staggered 3 year cycle is similar to what is being proposed in other counties. It is hoped that for future flights, Ramsey County may be able to match the flight schedules of other counties on either ortho or oblique products to obtain discounts.

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Jan asked if the User Group's Fund Balance would be ok if the group decided to partially fund the flight. Chad Bergo responded yes it would. Deb Jones noted that if the aerial flight schedule and planimetrics update was pushed back to 2013, there would be a 4 year gap in traditional aerial imagery. Deb posed the question, would this 4 year gap be a problem? The overall response of the group was no.

Matt expressed that he wanted the User Group to be briefed on the situation and determine what the next steps are if the funding request is only partially funded. The User Group determined that if a vote on partially funding the flight is necessary before the next meeting, a special meeting would be called.

## 5. Joint Powers Agreement Update

Chad Bergo presented a copy of the JPA to the group. He would like to solicit suggestions for revisions to the JPA by User Group Members to be reviewed at the April 2011 Meeting. Some potential revisions include: eliminating non-profit organizations and addressing a specific year agreement (i.e. 3 year agreement). An email will be sent to User Group Members asking for comments.

## 6. Data Distribution

The idea of a free data distribution model was brought up after a request was received for county park data by a researcher at the University of North Carolina. The data could not be disseminated without a decision by the User Group because the park boundary data was jointly funded.

It was noted that when the User Group first started, Ramsey County wanted to generate revenue from the data created. The County's fee schedule is now designed to recoup the costs of producing the data and other organizations are now following this model. There was discussion by group members as to what data should be shared freely and what should not. It was noted that there needs to be an incentive for organizations to join and maintain their membership with the User Group.

Matt Koukol is going to develop a list as to what data he believes should be distributed freely and what data will require a fee. He will bring these lists to the next meeting for the User Group to discuss.

## 7. Ramsey County Data Updates and Enterprise GIS

Data Updates: The monthly data disc was passed to Roseville. Chris Ulrich asked that if there were any issues with the data to contact her ([christina.ulrich@co.ramsey.mn.us](mailto:christina.ulrich@co.ramsey.mn.us)).

Interactive Map Review Workgroup: Matt Koukol handed out a meeting summary of the first workgroup meeting which was held on January 27, 2011. The purpose of the workgroup is to prepare recommendations for the content and style of two separate web mapping applications. The first viewer will be a less involved data viewer designed to meet the needs of the majority of users

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without being overly complex. The second viewer will be more robust, containing more data and functionality.

The workgroup went through the list of data and tools available on the current system and determined what should be included in the light and full application and what should be left out. New data and functions were also considered. Features were also proposed as part of either the Base Map or Data Layers. This information was summarized into a list included with the handout. The workgroup also discussed generating themes (i.e. environmental) which would appeal to more users.

Discussion of the form and function of the applications will occur at the next workgroup meeting. If there are any comments/suggestions on the list or if somebody is interested in joining the workgroup, contact Matt ([matt.koukol@co.ramsey.mn.us](mailto:matt.koukol@co.ramsey.mn.us)).

## 8. Community Announcements

Matt Baker asked the User Group if there was still interest in having 20-30 minute project presentations at future meetings. A recommendation was proposed to have User Group members take 10-15 minutes at future meetings to informally present on projects they are working on. Send Matt ([mbaker@shoreviewmn.gov](mailto:mbaker@shoreviewmn.gov)) an email if you are interested in discussing a project.

## 9. Agenda for March 3, 2011 Meeting

A quorum may be needed to vote on allocating funding for the 2011 Pictometry flight.

## 10. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 15:40.

The next meeting will be on Thursday March 3<sup>rd</sup>, from 14:00-16:00, at the Shoreview City Hall.

If you would like a copy of any of the handouts distributed at this meeting please contact Melissa Baker ([melissa@capitolregionwd.org](mailto:melissa@capitolregionwd.org)).

Minutes submitted by Melissa Baker, Secretary.

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