



RAMSEY COUNTY GIS USER GROUP

An alliance of communities sharing Geographical Information Systems

Meeting Minutes

2:00 PM - 4:00 PM November 4th, 2016

Shoreview City Hall, 4600 Victoria Street North

1. **Call to Order and Introductions** – Meeting was called to order at 2:05
2. **Additions or Corrections to the Agenda** – Approved by consensus
3. **Approval of the September 8th Meeting Minutes** – Matt Koukol suggested to change “UWM” to “UTM” for the data zone.
4. **Secretary Vote** – Members voted to nominate Jared Haas, City of Shoreview, to the vacant Secretary Position. Tyler Thompson made the motion, seconded by Carrie Magnuson, 7 voting members present. A quorum (40% of voting members – minimum of 10) was not present so the motion is not carried.
5. **GIS Topic Discussion** – Ramsey County Assessor’s Office – Beacon Demo – There was a demonstration of the new Beacon Software that the Ramsey County Assessor’s office will be utilizing. The product, Beacon, is by Schnieder, and is based out of Iowa. They are in 25 Counties in MN at this time. Some of the features are that the product brings are:
 - a comparable search,
 - custom reports,
 - search by address
 - list the tax forfeitures

The software is completely customizable. It pulls data from the Tax, Canna(sp?), and GIS System. (Three different systems). Additionally, there is an internal database of pictures that are associate with each of the properties.

The biggest change would be the ability to search by a name function – although that would not be allowed to the public at this time though.

They are not looking to monetize this at all. They just want to ensure that open data does not erode the fees so that the assessor’s office loses too much revenue.

The County would love to look at ways to get feedback from the group. Please contact Stephen or Karen for the government access to the site.

6. **Ramsey County Updates** – Matt stated that Ramsey County is looking at putting out citizen facing apps, internal map generation and process improvements.

For the imagery discussion, they are discussing the Spring 2017 aerial flight. That have the minimum number of updates listed but does it make sense to no do all the impervious surface coverage, etc if it is not that much more?

They are also working with Ramsey County and neighboring entities on the 5 year construction map. That would be a single map for everyone’s 5 year construction plans. Then you would know who is doing what where and when, to help alleviate problems and plan better.

Chair

Brian Jastram

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Vice Chair

Niki Hill

nhill@shoreviewmn.gov

Secretary

Vacant



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At this time the impervious surface data is available on a limited basis. They are still transitioning everything to the new data and need to make sure it is resolved. If you are waiting for it or need it for a project Matt can send the data over to you.

7. **Rate Adjustment / Budget Discussion** – Brian Jastram, Chair, let the discussion. At this point there are three options for the group.
- a) Option 1 – Change the fee structure
 - b) Option 2 – Add extra projects or hardware to share amongst the group
 - c) Take a hiatus from fee(s) for a few years.

At this point is it just hard to justify a \$190,000 surplus. Matt Koukol stated that budget goals should be step one. What do we have? What do we want? Are there any big projects that the group would be willing to support that would benefit everyone?

Cycle Media does a drive of all roads to get street level photography of the entire County (Dakota County did it). We could also do a County GIS Watershed data. That data would be standardized from all sources (Cities, Watersheds, the County, DNR, etc). Nearmap would be a possible option to get more frequent updated aerials. Other project ideas or tools would also be an option. We will solicit the group to come for the December 3rd meeting so we can have the discussion and hopefully a quorum so we could potentially vote.

8. **Community Announcements** –

9. **Adjourn** – Meeting Adjourned 3:43

The next meeting will be on Thursday November 3rd, from 2 - 4pm, at the Shoreview City Hall.
Minutes submitted by Niki Hill, Vice Chair

Chair

Brian Jastram

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Niki Hill

nhill@shoreviewmn.gov

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