Minnesota Geospatial Advisory Council Meeting

March 20, 2024

10:00AM – 12:00PM

(Meeting will be recorded for transcription purposes only)

In-Person Option: None *(online-only)*

Online Option: Via Microsoft Teams

Agenda

1. Call to Order (Chair)   10:00   10 min
   a. Introductions
   b. Approval of Agenda
   c. Approval of Meeting Minutes from December 20, 2023

2. Review and Accept Committee Summaries / Year-End Reports (All)   10:10   15 min

3. GAC 2024 Workplan and 2023 Accomplishments (Albrecht)   10:25   0 min

4. Review and Approve Outreach Committee Charter (Albrecht [for Bontrager])   10:25   5 min

5. K12 Workgroup formation and recruitment (Crosson/Larsen)   10:30   10 min

6. Priority Project Wrap Up (Maddox)   10:40   20 min

7. Break and Networking   11:00   10 min

8. Initiatives in Minnesota related to United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) (Kne/Amundson)   11:10   10 min

9. PLSS Update (Veraguth/Thurnau)   11:20   5 min

10. MnGeo Updates (Wakefield [for Slaats])   11:25   5 min

11. MN GAC priority projects and initiatives updates (Maddox)   11:30   20 min

12. Announcements or Other Business (All)   11:50   10 min

13. Adjourn   12:00

GAC Committee and Workgroup Reports

3D Geomatics

Goals for 2024

Successes from 2023

Barriers

Next task

Request for assistance

Data Acquisition Workgroup

Education Workgroup

Hydrogeomorphology Workgroup

Vegetation Workgroup

Awards Committee

Goals for 2024
- Increase awareness of the Geospatial Certificate and nomination process; solicit nominations for the Geospatial Certificate

Successes from 2023
- Implemented new nomination process with draft review before final submission so the committee can provide more useful feedback for nominations

Barriers

Next task
- Solicit nominations for 2024 Geospatial Certificate

Request for assistance

Emergency Preparedness Committee

Goals for 2024

Full Committee/Leadership Team
- Conduct at least three meetings of the full committee during 2024
- Conduct at least four meetings of the leadership team (Chair, Co-chair, and Project Team chairs)
- Continue efforts to cleanup committee's online presence and bring efficiency to its IT infrastructure
- Randy Knippel to serve as EPC liaison to the [Metropolitan Emergency Managers Association](#) (MEMA) by attending that association's monthly meetings

Critical Infrastructure Assessment (CIA) Project Team – MGAC PRIORITY
- Conduct at least three meetings of the Project Team during 2024
- Document a long-term workflow to keep fire, law enforcement verified annually by MN counties
- Document a long-term workflow to maintain the critical infrastructure resource list on the MnGeo website
- Coordinate with and contribute to GAC committee to establish National data relationships (Alison Slaats)
- Coordinate with and contribute to GAC workgroup to conduct outreach related to core critical infrastructure layers
- Provide critical infrastructure data status review for the MN State Hazard Mitigation Plan

Geospatial Assistance (GA) Project Team (currently inactive)
- Conduct at least three meetings of the Project Team during 2024
- Complete charter and work plan and receive approval from the EPC Leadership Team
- Develop first draft of procedures to help emergency managers understand steps for requesting aerial imagery and/or GIS support from federal, state and private assets

Underground Utilities Mapping (UUM) Project Team – MGAC PRIORITY
- Conduct at least four monthly meetings of the Project Team during 2024
- Complete development of a statewide system (fuzionview.org) which can aggregate diverse utility geospatial data and make same available for testing by select utilities and others
- Deliver at least one presentation about overall team efforts at an established community appropriate conference (or webinar)
- Publish at least one article about the Project Team in a publication of importance to the industry
- Continue efforts to develop project champions in the underground utility and regulatory communities

U.S. National Grid (USNG) Project Team – MGAC PRIORITY
- Conduct quarterly meetings of the USNG Implementation Work Group
- Complete development of the USNG Institute's three sponsored websites
- Develop documentation for USNG map production
- Assist other government entities with publication of USNG maps for their areas of responsibility
- Complete USNG map and mapbook publishing application on USNG Center (www.usngcenter.org)
- Continue development of USNG instructional videos
  Conduct workshops and presentations

Successes from 2023

Full Committee/Leadership Team
- Met or exceeded meeting goals for the year; held four quarterly admin/educational meetings, and four leadership team meetings
- Completed first phase of the EPC's public facing website (mgacepc.org)
- Continued efforts to cleanup committee's online presence and bring efficiency to its IT infrastructure
- Developed award certificate program and began recognizing a volunteer each quarter
- Conducted highest attended EPC meeting since inception; 43 attendees in December 2023
- Continued to grow EPC YouTube channel, both in subscribers and views; now averaging approximately 1,900 views per year

Critical Infrastructure Assessment (CIA) Project Team – MGAC PRIORITY
- Met or exceeded meeting goals for the year; held four quarterly admin/educational meetings
- Continued efforts to develop a long-term workflow to maintain a critical infrastructure resource listing on the MnGeo website
- Coordinated with and contributed to GAC committee working to establish National data relationships

Geospatial Assistance (GA) Project Team (inactive in 2023)

Underground Utilities Mapping (UUM) Project Team – MGAC PRIORITY
- Met or exceeded meeting goals for the year; held four quarterly admin/educational meetings, and 11 UUMPT Leadership Team meetings
- Coordinated acquisition of $225,000 to support development of FuzionView software
- Continued development of a statewide system (fuzionview.org) which can aggregate diverse utility geospatial data and made same available for testing by MnDOT and WSB Engineering
- Commenced development of promotional website and professional outreach materials for the project
- Delivered numerous presentations at major conferences across Europe, Canada and the U.S.; both online and in-person
- Continued efforts to develop project champions in the underground utility and regulatory communities

U.S. National Grid (USNG) Project Team – MGAC PRIORITY
- Met or exceeded meeting goals for the year; held three quarterly admin/educational meetings, and four USNG Institute Leadership Team meetings

- Continued development of the USNG Institute's three sponsored websites
- Conducted multiple workshops and presentations in the U.S.

Barriers

Next task

Request for assistance
- Through access of the below-described resources, it is believed the EPC has all items necessary to successfully commence and complete operations as envisioned during this calendar year:
  - Committee members primarily rely on resources available to them through their employer, with their employer's endorsement:
    - Time commitment
    - Software and hardware
    - Expenses
  - EPC's dedicated Zoom, YouTube, Twitter, Facebook, Eventbrite and Mail Chimp accounts
  - EPC's developed WordPress based online collaborative system for supporting back office administrative functions
  - SharedGeo funding and resources

Other

Roles and Responsibilities

Role	Name	Affiliation
Chair - EPC	Steve Swazee	Executive Director, SharedGeo
Vice Chair - EPC	Randy Knippel	GIS Manager, Dakota County
Chair - Critical Infrastructure Assessment (CIA) Project Team	Stacey Stark	Associate Director, U Spatial
Chair - Geospatial Assistance (GA) Project Team (inactive)	Brian Huberty	Retired USFWS remote-sensing expert
Chair - Situational Awareness Sharing Initiative (SASI) Project Team (pending)	Steve Swazee	Executive Director, SharedGeo
Chair - Underground Utilities Mapping (UUM) Project Team	Barb Cederberg	COO, Gopher State One Call
Chair - U.S. National Grid (USNG) Project Team	Randy Knippel	GIS Manager, Dakota County

Project Teams vary greatly in size but must have a minimum of five participants to be approved by the EPC Leadership Team. It is anticipated that in 2024, more than 50 individuals will be participating in EPC Project Team activities.

Dependencies and Interrelationships
- Other MGAC committees/work groups that depend on this committee's success or vice versa: None known
- Describe any relationships that exist with other committees/work groups: Contributing to Nationwide and Commercial Data Assets
- Other: Through the legislation enacting the MGAC, this Committee occasionally requires the following support from MnGeo:
  - Administrative assistance
  - Hosting of EPC products
  - Promotion of EPC efforts with the state's interagency

Risks
- List risks which could impede the Project Team's ability to successfully accomplish its goals.
  - Volunteer support and engagement erodes
  - Stakeholders refuse to support efforts
- List steps which can be taken to mitigate the risks?
  - Ensure the EPC's Project Teams have solid leadership, as well as access to responsive and effective administrative support
  - Use outreach to highlight the value of Project Team efforts to stakeholders, team employers/participants, Minnesota government and the public

Additional Comments
- Although not an official Project Team, the 20 plus individuals who have volunteered to be available to assist other GIS personnel during disasters have now formally agreed to review and update the Geospatial Emergency Management Specialist (GEMS) training program previously created by the EPC's Education Work Group in 2010. This effort was planned to get underway in January 2022, but to date no action has occurred.
- In 2024, in addition to considerable manhours, SharedGeo anticipates it will donate at least $500 to the EPC to pay for direct administrative costs (Zoom, etc.)
- Chair Swazee firmly believes the extent of EPC activities clearly demonstrates the need for a dedicated, full-time support employee assigned to MnGeo. This concept was previously discussed during creation of legislation which brought into existence the MGAC and MnGeo. It is believed the return on investment through use of GIS as a force multiplier in the Emergency Service Sector to save lives and reduce suffering in Minnesota would far exceed the additional expenditure required to create the position.

Outreach Committee

Goals for 2024
- Continue to implement updates to MN GAC Hub sites, including content transfer standards and publication guides for GAC Committees
- Support outreach efforts of the GAC Committees, including the Outreach Committee Open Data Subcommittee and Success Stories Workgroup

Successes from 2023
- Open Data Subcommittee
    - Committee members identified as gac/foundational datasets workgroup point of contact
    - Committee members coordinated outreach efforts and opt-in agreements with active engagements at county levels and as officially recognized as agreements with the GAC
    - Clarification of outreach methodology and presentation of recent developments at the GIS/LIS conference
- Success Stories Workgroup
    - Workgroup members identified sources for geospatial stories, clarification of target audiences, and methods for outreach
    - Identified a need for standardized story-sharing guidance and templates for deliverables
    - Began development of hub site for content sharing and story-linking

Barriers
- With low membership numbers, there is risk that key objectives will not be met.

Next task
- Work with other GAC Committees to increase collaboration and coordination to promote outreach efforts
- Look for presentation opportunities to promote free and open data
- Look for newsletters, blogs, and other forms of media to promote free and open data
- Continue to collect success stories and share with stakeholders
- Develop branding for the resources we create, create one-page documents on the value of GIS and free and open data for stakeholder use

Request for assistance
- Continued support for administration of the MN GAC Hub Sites

Open Data Subcommittee

Goals for 2024
- *Mission:* The Open Data subcommittee's mission is to promote public sharing of county parcels, address points, road centerlines, and emergency service zones data openly and shared to the state for cohesive statewide data. The committee is working with counties to opt-in to sharing data. Once an agreement is reached, the available data will be added to statewide feature classes accessible publicly on the MN Geospatial Commons.

- We are asking counties to opt-in to the composite datasets to be a partner in the process, to maintain healthy relationships between the community, the GAC, and MnGeo, and to be respectful of the effort and intentions for those who do the work of producing the data.
- Goal of each committee member to contact/add at least one new county to the opt-in dataset each 6-week meeting cycle.

Successes from 2023
- 18 active workgroup participants promoting Open Data sharing
- Session presentation promoting benefits of Open Data at the 2023 MN GIS/LIS Consortium Conference
- Development of an Open Data Fact Sheet
- Out of 87 Counties in Minnesota
  - Open Data: A total of 55 Minnesota Counties have adopted Open Data to date
  - Parcels: A total of 50 Minnesota Counties are contributing to the opt-in statewide composite dataset available on the MN Geospatial Commons
  - Address Points (New in 2023): 32 Minnesota Counties have committed to contributing to the opt-in statewide composite dataset available on the MN Geospatial Commons
  - Road Centerlines (New in 2023): 31 Minnesota Counties have committed to contributing to the opt-in statewide composite dataset available on the MN Geospatial Commons

Barriers

Next task
- See Goals for 2024

Request for assistance

Geospatial Success Stories Workgroup
See above committee report and related priority project report in the meeting slides.

Parcels and Land Records Committee

Goals for 2024
- Continue progress on GAC priorities through subcommittees

Successes from 2023
- Passage and implementation of PLSS Monument Grant Program Development of PLSS Point Standard

Barriers
- Volunteer time

Next task
- Finalize PLSS Point Standard
- Aid MnGEO in developing PLSS Monument Grant Program
- Extend PLSS Monument Grant program

Request for assistance

Boundary Alignment Subcommittee

See above committee report and related priority project report in the meeting slides.

Remonumentation (i.e., PLSS Legislative Subcommittee)

Goals for 2024
- We are working on obtain permanent funds to keep the PLSS grant program going.

Successes from 2023
- In 2023 we received $9.7 Million dollars from the State Legislature.

Barriers
- Election year
- Bonding year
- State budget forecast is negative for next year.

Next task
- We have bills in the House and the Senate that are waiting for a committee hearing.

Request for assistance
- Outreach to legislators

PLSS Preservation Committee

Goals for 2024

- Award $9.1 million in grants to Minnesota Counties
- Monitor and track grant projects
- Request applicant feedback on application experience & review for quality improvements
- Revise and improve program processes and eligibilities for anticipated future RFPs
- Continue outreach to counties and geospatial community

Successes from 2023

- Developed first RFP
- Outreached to several organizations and the geospatial community
- Developed Foundant Grant Management Solution
- Opened first application window and received 70 Letters of Intent (LOI) from 65 counties
- Developed evaluation process and related forms
- Developed quarterly progress reports for grant projects

Barriers

- We need permanent funding and the budget and political climate is not favorable. Need MNIT support to include a line item for funding the program in the governor's next budget.

Next task

- Develop review panel for grant applications
- Review completed grant applications
- Advise GIO on grant award recommendations
- Work through procurement and finance process to award grant contracts

Request for assistance

- Contact your local representatives and let them know why funding this program is vital to Minnesota and the geospatial community.

Standards Committee

Goals for 2024

- Maintain domains and tempates for existing GAC standards
- Work with stakeholder groups to modify remaining original Governor's Council on Geographic Information (GCGI) standards to the GAC format and have adopted by the GAC.
  - Codes for Identifying Watersheds
  - Codes for Identifying Lakes and Wetland Basins

Successes from 2023

- Evaluate GAC standards for inconsistencies in language within and between standards. Make revisions where appropriate to bring standards into consistency. This included:
  - Parcel Data Standard
  - Road Centerline Data Standard
  - Address Points Data Standard
- Updates to GAC standard domains as proposed by state and county stakeholders.
- Work with subject matter experts on revisions to lake and wetland basin ID standard
- Added clarification to Parcel Data Standard for situs address and taxpayer address fields

Barriers

Next task

- Finalize updates to Lakes and Wetlands ID standard
- Continue maintaining GAC domains
- More minor changes to standards to increase consistency between them

Request for assistance

Contributing to Nationwide and Commercial Data Assets Workgroup

This is a standalone workgroup not associated with a committee.

Goals for 2024

- Raise awareness of the need for shared data.
- Identify major consumers of shared data.
- Identify, document, and recommend requirements and processes for MnGeo to share aggregated statewide datasets compiled from local authoritative data.
- Identify appropriate open licensing.

Successes from 2023

- Met with Esri and Google to discuss sharing authoritative data.
- MnGeo currently working with Esri to provide authoritative data through Community Maps program.
- MnGeo contacted the National Address Database (NAD) to request their use of the opt-in statewide address point data. This will be included in NAD's April data release.

Barriers

- Not all data producers share their data freely and openly.

Next task

- Complete process for sharing data one dataset (road centerlines) with Esri to prove out process
- Continue work with Google.
- Continue conversation with Gopher State One Call to suggest they use statewide data to reduce work for counties.

Request for assistance

Minnesota Geospatial Advisory Council

Outreach Committee Charter

Updated for Review November 30, 2023

Mission: Promote the value and importance of the geospatial infrastructure by facilitating geospatial story telling and actively engaging public policy makers and stakeholders.

Objectives/Visions: As a committee of the Minnesota Geospatial Advisory Council, the Outreach Committee will promote the priorities of the Council. Examples of the Committee's work include:

- Tell geospatial stories in venues where they can inform and influence policy makers and others seeking to improve government operations, economic development, and quality of life in Minnesota.
- Create a foundation for open data in Minnesota by connecting with local government representatives to increase the availability of free geospatial data for all Minnesotans.
- Develop and provide guidance for content maintenance of esri hub sites for the GAC and its committees.
- Promote the work of the GAC and its committees through social media outreach.

Duration: A permanent standing committee of the Minnesota Geospatial Advisory Council.

Report Line: Directly to the Minnesota Geospatial Advisory Council with annual review.

Membership: Members shall be drawn from the Minnesota Geospatial Advisory Council and larger geospatial community. The committee will maintain a list of members that will be reviewed and revised as needed, including the chairs of any subcommittee or workgroups.

Member Responsibility: Each member is responsible for active participation in the committee meetings and activities. Members not able to actively participate may be asked to resign their position on the committee. People need not be members of the committee to contribute a story.

Schedule: The committee will do most of its work via email and online meetings. Face-to-face meetings will be held as needed and could be held in conjunction with one of the advisory council meetings. Meetings will be held on an as-needed basis to connect the working groups or for discussion of committee-wide decisions.

Priority Project Wrap-Up

This is a snapshot of the information shared during Priority Project Wrap-Up. GAC rankings are specific to the responsible committee (where applicable). For more details on the scoring that determines GAC Rank or for information on priority owner or champion, please reach out to GAC leadership.

Project or Initiative Name	Status	GAC Rank	Committee
Lidar Data	Active	1	3D Geomatics
Hydro-DEMs	Active	2	3D Geomatics
Culvert Data Standard	Active	3	3D Geomatics
Publication of Open Foundational Datasets	Active	1	Contributing to Nationwide and Commercial Data Assets WG
Underground Utilities Data Sharing Team	Active	1	Emergency Preparedness
Critical Infrastructure Data Workflow	Active	2	Emergency Preparedness
U.S. National Grid Materials	Active	3	Emergency Preparedness
MnGeo Image Service Improvements	*On Hold*	1	Image Service Sustainability
Statewide Imagery Program	Recruiting	2	Image Service Sustainability?
Parcel Data	Active	1	Outreach
Road Centerline Data	Active	2	Outreach
Address Points Data	Active	3	Outreach
Success Stories for Geospatial Technology	Active	4	Outreach
Remonumentation of all Section Corners	Active	1	Parcel and Land Records
Updated & Aligned Boundary Data	Active	2	Parcel and Land Records
Statewide Survey Records Inventory	**New**	3	Parcel and Land Records
Statewide County Boundary Dataset	**New**	4	Parcel and Land Records
More fully attributed statewide parcel data	**New**	5	Parcel and Land Records
Planned Land Use Data Standard	Recruiting	1	Standards
Parks Data Standard	Inactive, Potentially Retire?	2	Standards
Snow Emergency Parking Data Practices	Inactive, Potentially Retire?	3	Standards
Street Parking Restrictions Data Standard	Inactive, Potentially Retire?	4	Standards
Recreational Trails Data Standard	Inactive, Potentially Retire?	5	Standards
Fire Hydrant Data Standard	Inactive, Potentially Retire?	6	Standards
K-12 GIS Resources Group	Recruiting	1	*TBD*
Geospatial Commons Advisory Group	*Pending*	1	*TBD*
State-hosted GIS Servers with Feature Services	*Pending*	2	*TBD*
Geodata Archive Implementation	Active	1	*TBD*
Basemap Services	Inactive, Potentially Retire?		
NG9-1-1 Geospatial Forum	Removed		
Strategy Team for All Types of Imagery	Inactive, Potentially Retire?		
Statewide Future Planned Land Use	*Tabled until Planned Land Use Data Standard Complete*		
State Business License Data	Inactive, Potentially Retire?		
Inventory of MN GeoData Assets	Inactive, Potentially Retire?		
Summary Crime Data	Inactive, Potentially Retire?		

Proposed Priorities for Retirement

1. Parks Data Standard
2. Snow Emergency Parking Data Practices
3. Street Parking Restrictions Data Standard
4. Fire Hydrant Data Standard
5. Recreational Trails Data Standard
6. Basemap Services
7. NG9-1-1 Geospatial Forum
8. Strategy Team for All Types of Imagery
9. State Business License Data
10. Inventory of MN GeoData Assets
11. Summary Crime Data

Proposed Priorities to Put On-Hold

1. Geospatial Commons Advisory Group
2. State-hosted GIS Servers with Feature Services
3. MnGeo Image Service Improvements
4. Statewide Future Planned Land Use

Proposed Priorities for 2024

1. Lidar Data
2. Hydro-DEMs
3. Culvert Data Standard
4. Publication of Open Foundational Datasets
5. Underground Utilities Data Sharing Team
6. Critical Infrastructure Data Workflow
7. U.S. National Grid Materials
8. Statewide Imagery Program
9. Geodata Archive Implementation
10. Statewide Parcel Data
11. Statewide Road Centerline Data
12. Statewide Address Points Data
13. Success Stories for Geospatial Technology
14. Remonumentation of all original federal Section Corners
15. Updated & Aligned Boundary Data
16. Statewide Survey Records Inventory
17. Statewide County Boundary Dataset
18. More Fully Attributed Statewide Parcel Data
19. Planned Land Use Data Standard
20. K-12 GIS Resources Group