Minnesota Geospatial Advisory Council
Committee/Workgroup Charter

Geospatial Advisory Council Data Endorsement Committee

Mission statement: To create and implement a Geospatial Advisory Council endorsement process for statewide geospatial datasets.

Benefits
- Foundational statewide geospatial data are needed for many purposes, and sometimes there is more than one dataset available for the same topic, and it is unclear which dataset is most appropriate to use. Creation of an endorsement process for statewide datasets will identify the best available.
- This process will help data users because it quickly identifies the best available data.
- This process will help data producers because it will reinforce the value of their data and provide evidence for the need for ongoing data stewardship.
- This process may increase efficient investments by reducing the creation of multiple or similar versions of the same data.
- This process may improve the quality of the data because it will bring stakeholders together to support the endorsement process and could increase the visibility of the dataset.

Objectives and Deliverables:

Objectives
- Identify key components of a data endorsement process through committee meetings and review of previous materials to include:
  - Materials related to Minnesota Spatial Data Infrastructure (MSDI) from organizations to include Minnesota Governor's Council on GIS (MGCG), GAC materials, Land Management Information Center (LMIC) and MnGeo
  - Examples of endorsement processes in place from other states, such as Montana.
  - Data endorsement process draft created by GAC Emergency Preparedness Committee's Critical Infrastructure Workgroup
- Ensure key components of a data endorsement process include definitions of and recognition of data creators, data users, and other partners.
- Define key steps of a data endorsement.
- Ensure the data endorsement process is sustainable, accounting for new data topics and sources as well as monitoring endorsed datasets for currency.
- Work with other workgroups and MnGeo to ensure an endorsed dataset is easily identifiable and accessible to the user community at large, including in the MN Geospatial Commons.

Deliverables
- Documented GAC data endorsement process
- Pilot at least two datasets through process to test and improve process.

Resource requirements and timing:

- People time
- Monthly web committee meeting
- Potential additional meetings to have presentations from other organizations.
- Deliverables likely by August 2025

Anticipated participants and their roles and responsibilities:

Name	Organization	Role in this Committee
Alison Slaats	GAC Member (MN GIO)	Chair
Stacey Stark	GAC Member (Higher Education) and U-Spatial	
Ben Timerson	GAC Member (State) and DOT Supervisor	
Kevin Trappe	Beltrami County GIS Director	

Prepared by: Alison Slaats, MnGeo, alison.slaats@state.mn.us

Date approved by the Geospatial Advisory Council: September 18, 2024