

# Imagery Committee Charter

## Justification

Aerial imagery is a critical foundational dataset supporting planning, natural resource management, emergency response, infrastructure development, and many other public services in Minnesota. Currently, imagery acquisition is largely decentralized, with state agencies, counties, and regional partnerships acquiring imagery independently. Creating an Imagery Committee will allow the Geospatial Advisory Council to guide development and stewardship of a coordinated statewide imagery strategy, beginning with a statewide needs assessment and leading to recommendations for sustainable acquisition, governance, and funding models.

## Mission Statement

The Imagery Committee exists to recommend and guide the development and stewardship of a coordinated statewide imagery program for Minnesota. The Committee will advise the Geospatial Advisory Council (GAC), the Minnesota Geospatial Information Officer (GIO), and the Minnesota Geospatial Information Office (MnGeo) on strategies, standards, partnerships, and governance needed to support a sustainable statewide imagery program.

The Committee will work with public and private stakeholders to identify statewide imagery needs, evaluate current imagery acquisition practices, and develop recommendations that support coordinated, cost-effective imagery acquisition and access across Minnesota.

The committee will primarily focus on leaf-off and leaf-on aerial imagery, while also considering related imagery products and infrastructure necessary to support statewide imagery access and distribution.

## Objectives

The Imagery Committee will support the GAC, GIO, and MnGeo by developing recommendations related to the creation and stewardship of a statewide imagery program. Activities may include:

- Assess current aerial imagery acquisition practices across Minnesota state agencies, counties, regional planning organizations, and other partners.
- Identify statewide business needs and use cases for aerial imagery and derived products.
- Assist MnGeo in developing a Request for Proposals (RFP) for a statewide imagery needs assessment.
- Review and provide input on results of the statewide imagery needs assessment.
- Evaluate opportunities for coordinated statewide or regional imagery acquisition programs.
- Recommend standards and specifications for imagery acquisition, processing, and distribution.
- Consider infrastructure needs related to imagery hosting, services, and data access.

- Identify and evaluate potential governance and funding models for a sustainable statewide imagery program.
- Consider existing imagery coordination efforts such as regional collaborative programs and state agency initiatives.
- Evaluate opportunities to coordinate imagery with other statewide geospatial datasets where appropriate.

Based on the findings of the needs assessment, the Committee may develop recommendations including:

- A Statewide Imagery Strategy
- Recommended imagery acquisition cycles and specifications
- Recommended governance and coordination structure
- Potential funding and cost-sharing models
- Guidance on imagery hosting, access, and distribution

The Committee will update the GAC quarterly and submit formal recommendations as it achieves its objectives and completes key deliverables.

## Resource Requirements and Timing

The majority of the resources required for the operation of the Committee will consist of the volunteer time. Members will participate in meetings, research, outreach, and development of recommendations related to statewide imagery coordination.

MnGeo staff may provide administrative and technical support to the Committee as available.

By acceptance of this charter, the GAC authorizes the Committee to work with the GIO and MnGeo to develop recommendations regarding the creation and stewardship of a statewide imagery program.

Committee recommendations will be reported at regular GAC meetings.

The Committee will meet monthly or as needed.

## Participants and Roles and Responsibilities

### **Chair/Co-Chair:**

GAC Member

### **Co-Chair/Vice Chair:**

GAC Member or Subject Matter Expert

The Chair and Vice Chair will coordinate committee activities, organize meetings, and communicate recommendations to the GAC.

## Membership

The Committee Chair and Vice Chair shall ensure the committee includes a diverse group of subject matter experts representing the geospatial community across Minnesota.

Membership should include individuals with expertise in areas such as:

- Aerial imagery acquisition
- Photogrammetry and remote sensing
- GIS data management
- Imagery processing and analysis
- Data hosting and geospatial services
- Program development and governance

Members should represent a broad geographic distribution across Minnesota and reflect the diversity of imagery users and producers throughout the state.

Participation from state agencies, counties, municipalities, tribal governments, academia, regional planning organizations, and private sector partners is encouraged.

Members will be expected to attend committee meetings and participate in discussions and committee activities. For consistency, the recommended commitment for committee members is two years.

Members of the Committee shall serve without compensation.

## Conflict of Interest

Committee members must avoid participating in recommendations in which they have a direct or indirect financial interest. Members shall disclose potential conflicts related to imagery acquisition contracts, vendor relationships, or other financial interests.

Members may be required to complete conflict-of-interest documentation when participating in recommendations that could influence procurement or funding decisions.

## Stakeholders

Stakeholders in the Imagery Committee include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Minnesota counties

- Municipal governments
- Regional Planning Organizations
- State agencies
- Tribal governments
- Federal agencies operating in Minnesota
- Geospatial professionals and organizations
- Surveying, photogrammetry, and remote sensing professionals
- Private imagery and geospatial data vendors
- Academic and research institutions
- Utilities and infrastructure organizations
- Members of the general public who utilize geospatial data

The Committee will consider existing imagery acquisition programs including municipal, county, regional, and state agency programs when developing recommendations.

## **Prepared by**

Minnesota Geospatial Advisory Council

## **Date Approved by the Geospatial Advisory Council**

Approved May 20, 2026