

# Minnesota GIS in K-12 Committee

## Mission statement

To expose Minnesota school-aged youth to GIS technology, inspire future GIS users and creators, and enhance the educational experience for students and teachers in the K-12 system.

## Objectives and Deliverables

- This first year of the K-12 Committee will be a year of exploration and discovery. We intend to take time to evaluate the landscape and envision the best options for increasing GIS in K-12 settings.
- Questions we will ask in conversation with teachers and district leaders
  - What is their knowledge of GIS?
  - How do they see the state academic standards in GIS applying to the classroom?
  - What do teachers, administrators and students need to successfully integrate GIS in the classroom?
  - How should geospatial be structured to optimize learning at each grade level?
- Potential areas of development in the future:
  - Research options and develop prototypes for data sets that are usable, findable and age/subject appropriate
  - Develop career connection opportunities
- The committee will follow these GAC Guiding Principles:
  - Promote geospatial information as a shared public resource
  - Champion collaboration among geospatial practitioners and related stakeholders
  - Educate and inform policymakers about the value and use of geospatial technology
  - Encourage geospatial education at all levels
  - Advocate for free and open geospatial data

## Resource requirements and timing

Year 1 will be exploration and fact finding. By the end of Year 1, we will have some proposals of how the GAC and other GIS partners in the state could best meet the needs of schools, teachers and students.

## Anticipated participants and their roles and responsibilities

Participants include

- Interested members of the GAC
- Interested GIS professionals in the state

- Other interested parties, including educators, administrators, and regional education service cooperatives

## 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. Current Members:

- Shana Crosson, UMN, Co-Chair
- Terry Larson, Esri, Co-Chair
- Larkin Walter, Wright County
- Dennis Tumberg, Chanhassen
- Travis Ormsby, Esri, Former Teacher
- Lindsey Savage, MnDOT
- Mary Marek-Spartz, UMN
- Jeff Bloomquist, USDA
- Jill Amundson, West Central Initiative
- Garet Madison, Nicollet County

## 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 participate in the conversations.

## 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. We anticipate starting with a full committee meeting once a month and breaking into smaller working groups that may meet more often.

## Duration:

A permanent standing committee of the Minnesota Geospatial Advisory Council.

## Report Line:

Directly to the Minnesota Geospatial Advisory Council with annual review.

## Date Approved by the Geospatial Advisory Council:

May 29, 2024