

Minnesota Geospatial Advisory Council Meeting

May 29, 2024
11:00 AM - 2:00 PM

This meeting will be recorded for transcription purposes only.

Meeting Options

- **Virtual:** Online via Microsoft Teams
- **In-person:** Blazing Star Room (*ground floor*), [Centennial Office Building](#), 658 Cedar Street, Saint Paul, MN

Agenda

1. Call to order (Albrecht)	11:00	10 min
a. Introductions		
b. Approval of Agenda		
c. Approval of Meeting Minutes from March 20, 2024		
2. Review and accept Committee and Workgroup Reports (Albrecht)	11:10	5 min
3. Review and approve K-12 Committee Charter (Crosson / Larson)	11:15	10 min
4. Non-profit sector outreach event (Fendos)	11:25	10 min
5. NAIP 2023 status update (Bloomquist)	11:35	5 min
6. Statewide lidar status update and Q & A (Vaughn / Sjerven)	11:40	25 min
7. <i>Break and networking</i>	12:05	30 min
8. MnGeo updates (Slaats)	12:35	20 min
9. Review and approve GAC 2023 Accomplishments and 2024 Work Plan (Albrecht)	12:55	30 min
10. Priority projects and initiatives updates (Maddox)	1:25	20 min
11. St. Cloud State University Letter of Support (Albrecht)	1:45	5 min
12. Announcements or other business (All)	1:50	10 min
13. Adjourn (Albrecht)	2:00	

Committee and Workgroup Reports

3D Geomatics Committee

Most Recent Successes

- Goodhue County data are 3DEP certified. The point cloud is available for download through the [National Map Downloader](#) and [NOAA Data Access Viewer](#).
- Missouri River Big Sioux and Central Mississippi LABs passed final vertical accuracy. Data are available through the National Map Downloader.
- Minnesota River West LAB hard drives are being delivered to partners.
- Minnesota River East LAB acquisition was completed in March 2024 (areas recollected due to 2023 flooding).
- Red River LAB acquisition completed in May 2024.

Next Activities / Tasks

- Coordination with MnGeo on data architecture, storage, and derived products process.
- Minnesota River East LAB passed vendor QC and is ready for lidar calibration.
- Acquisition Workgroup members Joe Sapletal and Jennifer Corcoran work with MnGeo staff to keep the Lidar Acquisition Status maps updated.
- Jennifer Corcoran is leading an effort to update the Lidar Plan.

Barriers

None

Request for Assistance

None

Awards Committee

Most Recent Successes

- Updated dates and information on GAC website.
- Sent out first call for nominations for 2024 via MnGeo GovDelivery.

Next Activities / Tasks

- Continue to solicit nominations.

Barriers

None

Request for Assistance

None

Emergency Preparedness Committee

Most Recent *Successes*

Full Committee / Leadership Team

1. Full committee meetings during reporting period (2/3): April 4 (peak attendance: 62); June 6 (planned)
2. Leadership team meetings during reporting period (2/4): February 12, May 2
3. IT infrastructure development: Ongoing.
 - o EPC website currently tracking to have over 3,000 page views this year, up from 2,000 in 2023 (<https://mgacepc.org/>)
 - o EPC YouTube channel now at 6,800 video views since inception (https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC3hwp5_9t3BkiTt-hyALArg)
4. EPC liaison to the [Metropolitan Emergency Managers Association](#) (MEMA): Ongoing

Critical Infrastructure Assessment Project Team

1. Project Team meetings during reporting period (3/6): January 25, April 15, June 10 (planned)
2. Document a long-term workflow to keep fire, law enforcement verified annually by MN counties: Ongoing
3. Document a long-term workflow to maintain the critical infrastructure resource list on the MnGeo website: Ongoing
4. Coordinate with and contribute to GAC committee to establish National data relationships (Alison Slaats): Meeting held on May 17
5. Coordinate with and contribute to GAC workgroup to conduct outreach related to core critical infrastructure layers: No activity this period
6. Provide critical infrastructure data status review for the MN State Hazard Mitigation Plan: Ongoing

Underground Utilities Mapping (UUM) Project Team

1. Project Team meetings during reporting period (2/4): March 14, June 13 (planned)
2. Complete development of a statewide system which can aggregate diverse utility geospatial data and make same available for testing by select utilities and others: Software product, FuzionView (fuzionview.org), currently rated at 74% complete.
3. Deliver at least one presentation about overall team efforts at an established community appropriate conference (or webinar): To date six presentations have been completed.
4. Publish at least one article about the Project Team in a publication of importance to the industry: No activity to date, however a professional writer has been retained by the project for publication of articles later this year.

5. Continue efforts to develop project champions in the underground utility and regulatory communities: Chair Cederberg and Vice-Chair Swazee continue active outreach efforts, most recently at the Common Ground Alliance Annual Conference, Colorado Springs, CO

U.S. National Grid (USNG) Project Team

1. Project Team meetings (USNG Implementation Work Group) during reporting period (3/4): January 24, April 24, June 19 (planned)
2. Complete development of the USNG Institute's three sponsored websites: Ongoing
3. Develop documentation for USNG map production: No progress this period
4. Assist other government entities with publication of USNG maps for their areas of responsibility: No progress this period
5. Complete USNG map and mapbook publishing application on USNG Center (www.usngcenter.org): Ongoing
6. Continue development of USNG instructional videos: No progress this period
7. Conduct workshops and presentations: MN GIS/LIS Annual Conference and Illinois GIS Association Conference are planned for later this year.

Next Activities / Tasks

Full Committee / Leadership Team

Continue working toward achievement of 2024 Work Plan goals.

Critical Infrastructure Assessment Project Team

1. Continue working toward achievement of 2024 Work Plan goals.
2. Clean up and reorganize Critical Infrastructure Data resource web page.
3. Continue information sharing discussions with HSEM.
4. Begin developing a process for official endorsement of data sets.

UUM Project Team

Continue working toward achievement of 2024 Work Plan goals.

USNG Project Team

Continue working toward achievement of 2024 Work Plan goals.

Barriers

Full Committee / Leadership Team

Lack of dedicated funding needed to support current vision of basic EPC outreach operations. Payment for web hosting, website, Zoom, and other administrative services is currently being provided by SharedGeo. Approximates \$500/year.

Critical Infrastructure Assessment Project Team

Lack of dedicated funding to support development of accurate and current infrastructure data which is essential for emergency preparedness and response. Discussions underway with MnGeo about potential ways to fix this issue.

UUM Project Team

Being handled dynamically by Project Team as they occur.

USNG Project Team

Being handled dynamically by Project Team as they occur.

Request for Assistance

Full Committee / Leadership Team

As has been previously reported over the past decade, Chair Swazee firmly believes the extent of EPC activities clearly demonstrates the need for at least one 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.

Critical Infrastructure Assessment Project Team

See barriers above.

UUM Project Team

Nothing specific to the MGAC at this time.

USNG Project Team

Nothing specific to the MGAC at this time.

Additional Comments

UUM Project Team

- In addition to meetings of the Project Team, the UUMPT Leadership Team has been meeting at least once a month. Software development personnel and data providers have been meeting at least twice a week.
- Project funding currently pledged at \$300,000. A grant request has been submitted to PHMSA for an additional \$100,000.
- The U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO) has asked for a presentation on FuzionView so they can determine if the software can be used to aggregate geospatial data for abandoned oil field gathering pipelines. Presentation will occur on June 3.

USNG Project Team

In addition to the national USNG Implementation Work Group meetings which are principally sponsored by this Project Team, the members of this project team participate in the quarterly meetings of the U.S. National Grid Institute: March 12, May 14.

Outreach Committee

Most Recent Successes

Open Data Subcommittee

- May 1st Open Data Discussion between GAC Open Data Workgroup members, MnGeo, MCGISA, SECB GIS Workgroup. Topics included:
 - Why open data is a priority?
 - Explaining the GAC opt-in process
 - What happens to the data MnGeo collects?
 - Benefits of open data to all
- The following number of Minnesota counties are contributing to the opt-in statewide composite datasets available on the MN Geospatial Commons:
 - *Parcels*: 50
 - *Road Centerlines*: 31
 - *Address Points*: 32

Success Stories Workgroup

The workgroup has been meeting with the Minnesota Geospatial Information Office (MnGeo) and Minnesota IT Services (MNIT) to understand the capacity in which this workgroup can communicate with the public to achieve its goals.

Next Activities / Tasks

Open Data Subcommittee

Continuing to meet every 6 weeks.

Success Stories Workgroup

Will continue to work among the workgroup and with MnGeo and MNIT to meet goals.

Barriers

None

Request for Assistance

Open Data Subcommittee

Need more participation in outreach to county data producers.

Parcels and Land Records Committee

Most Recent Successes

- See Boundary Alignment and Remonumentation reports.

Next Activities / Tasks

- Continue work on Boundary Alignment and Remonumentation.

Barriers

None

Request for Assistance

None

PLSS Preservation Committee

Most Recent Successes

On May 1, 2024, MnGeo announced the recipients of PLSS Monument Grants. 34 counties will be receiving grant funding to restore, maintain, and update PLSS monuments. MNIT developed a Press Release celebrating the event. We have also updated the Grant Information Page with award and selection process information.

Next Activities / Tasks

We will be working towards completing the MNIT procurement process so counties can begin work. We hope work can begin in May/June.

Barriers

Funding was not sufficient to cover the demand / requests from all the counties.

Request for Assistance

Increase and permanent funding of the PLSS Monument Grant Program.

Standards Committee

Most Recent Successes

None - it's been quiet in the Standards Committee lately.

Next Activities / Tasks

1. Work with stakeholder groups to continue modifying remaining original Governor's Council on Geographic Information (GCGI) standards to the GAC format and work towards adoption by the GAC. This will involve review and possibly changes to these standards.
 - a. Committee leaders are working with subject matter experts on a revised draft of the Lakes and Wetland Basins ID Standard
2. Facilitate the creation of usage guides for key GAC standards.

Barriers

None

Request for Assistance

None

Contributing to Nationwide and Commercial Data Assets

Most Recent Successes

1. Successfully shared Centerlines and Address Points from 10 counties with the Esri Community Maps Program as a pilot through MetroGIS. This data is now being used in the Esri World Geocoding Service.
2. Met with Esri to discuss their change to TomTom for centerline data, their preliminary process to improve TomTom centerline data, and plan to use those centerlines in all Esri basemaps. The Esri Topographic basemap is the only one with local community maps submitted centerlines. The other basemaps and navigation/routing system use TomTom (formerly HERE) data.
3. Members of the CANDO workgroup, DPS, and MnGeo met with Gopher State One Call (GSOC) on March 27 to share information about the CANDO workgroup and that MnGeo is now publishing opt-in statewide datasets of parcels, address points, and street centerlines. GSOC is interested in using these datasets, because it could mean using a standardized dataset for multiple counties instead of using individual datasets from counties in different formats. Additionally, this could mean less work for counties in preparing the data for different organizations.

Next Activities / Tasks

1. Continue working with Esri on the Community Maps Program.
2. Expand the number of counties included in submission of data through the Community Maps Program.
3. Continue to work with Google to share our authoritative data.
4. Continue working with Gopher State One Call (GSOC) to use opt-in statewide datasets.

Barriers

1. Availability of statewide address point and centerline data that can be shared.

Request for Assistance

None

K-12 Committee Charter

(See attachment on next page)

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 Johnson, 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.

GAC 2023 Accomplishments and 2024 Work Plan

(See attachment on next page)

Minnesota Geospatial Advisory Council 2023 Accomplishments and 2024 Work Plan

Report Date: May 29, 2024

Chair and Vice Chair: Heather Albrecht (*Chair*), Britta Maddox (*Vice Chair*)

Resources:

- [Geospatial Advisory Council \(GAC\) Mission and Guiding Principles](#)
- [GAC Committees and Workgroups](#)

Accomplishments from 2023

- Elected new leadership and appointed [GAC members](#) (some new, with several returning) for the fiscal years of 2024 and 2025 (July 2023 - June 2025 term).
- Conducted the annual Minnesota geospatial priorities survey and prioritization process, expanding opportunity for community input.
- Reprioritized geospatial projects and initiatives based on community feedback, assigning owners and champions to each priority.
- Facilitated an “Open Data” session at the MN GIS/LIS Consortium Annual Conference and created an [Open Data Fact Sheet](#).
- Approved the [PLSS Preservation Committee](#) revised charter.
- Re-energized the Outreach Committee including new leadership and adoption of a new charter.
- Authorized the Outreach Committee (via the [Open Data Subcommittee](#)) to focus on the opt-in data sharing process for statewide composite foundational datasets such as address points, parcels, and road centerlines.
- Established the [Contributing to Nationwide and Commercial Assets \(CAN DO\) Workgroup](#) to encourage national vendors to accept local data as authoritative and integrate it into their products to improve services to Minnesotans.
- See individual [committee and workgroup webpages](#) for committee- / workgroup-specific accomplishments.

Work Plan for 2024

Planned Activities and Deliverables

- Quarterly meetings of the GAC that are open to the public.
- Quarterly GAC Leadership Team meetings, approximately one month prior to the GAC meeting, to set the GAC meeting agenda and begin meeting preparations.
- Support the GAC committees and workgroups, who advance the priorities set by the GAC and the GIS community. See the [committee and workgroup webpages](#) for their individual 2024 workplans.
- Adopt [geospatial project and initiative priorities](#) for 2024 based on priorities feedback and assessment completed in 2023.
- Transition to a bi-annual geospatial community priorities survey to align GAC priorities with member terms. Surveys would take place at the beginning of each GAC member term, informing work to be done during the two-year term.
- Establish an Executive Team to guide GAC operations in coordination with the Leadership Team.
- Establish a new committee for GIS in K-12 Education.
- Transition the GAC online presence to an Esri Hub site, with individual Hub sites for the various GAC committees and workgroups, editable by committee members.
- Minnesota Chief Geospatial Information Officer (GIO) and GAC Chair attend the National States Geographic Information Council Annual Conference to learn how councils are productive in other states and bring this information back to the GAC.
- Establish a replacement for retiring GAC member Commissioner Victoria Reinhardt. Commissioner Reinhardt has long supported the GAC legislatively, which may have increased support and funding for priority projects. *We wish her well in her retirement!*

2024 Goals

- Promote and facilitate progress on the priority geospatial projects identified by the GAC in 2023 / 2024 and continue effort to measure progress on GAC priorities.
- Increase outreach to the geospatial and related communities through the formal efforts of the Outreach Committee and less formally by GAC members coordinating with their sectors.
- Continuous improvement of reporting structure for GAC committees, workgroups, and priority projects.
- Foster GAC member-committee relations and opportunities for engagement:
 - Increase sector reports and committee presentations during the GAC meetings.
 - Increase member participation within committees and workgroups.
- Align GAC Executive Team with committee chairs and create opportunities for engagement.

Looking Ahead to GAC Term 2026 / 2027 (July 2025 - June 2027)

- Addition of GAC Member Orientation:
 - Establish a bi-annual GAC member orientation to coincide with the beginning of GAC two-year terms.
 - Host an orientation for GAC members prior to the first GAC meeting of the two-year term beginning July 2025.
- Set GAC two-year term priorities by December of the first term year.

Roles and Responsibilities

- *Chair:* Heather Albrecht
- *Vice Chair:* Britta Maddox
- *GAC Members:* Appointed [fiscal year 2024 / 2025 members](#)
- *Minnesota Chief GIO Ex-Officio Non-Voting Member:* Alison Slaats
- *Leadership Team (acts as an executive group to develop agendas, identify strategic items, etc.):*
 - Chair Albrecht
 - Vice Chair Maddox
 - Secretary Tanya Mayer
 - Advisor Kari Guerts
 - Board representatives:
 - Victoria Reinhardt
 - Pat Veraguth
 - Jill Amundson

Resources

No significant resource commitments for the GAC are needed beyond the time and talent of its members.

Council Needs

The GAC relies on Minnesota Geospatial Information Office (MnGeo) staff for scheduling and hosting meetings, creating minutes, and performing other administrative functions.

Dependencies and Interrelationships

Committees and Workgroups: The GAC is completely dependent upon the committees and workgroups that do most of the actual work of the GAC. The GAC must also stay in touch with a wide group of stakeholders in the geospatial community to be able to represent their interests. Most GAC members represent a specific sector, though a few are at-large members.

Risks

A change in legislation or lack of MnGeo support could negatively affect the ability for the GAC to accomplish goals as could inability of GAC leaders to commit the significant time required for this council to be successful.

Additional Comments

None

Date approved by the Geospatial Advisory Council: May 29, 2024 *(anticipated)*

DRAFT