

Minnesota Geospatial Advisory Council Meeting

September 10, 2025
11 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Meeting Attendance

Members

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Alison Slaats , MNIT MnGeo | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Michael Krueger , City of Moorhead |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Amy Harrigan , MnDOT | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Michelle Clasen , Washington County |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Britta Maddox , Anoka County | <input type="checkbox"/> Mitch Bergeson , US Geological Survey |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Carla Coates , MN GIS/LIS Consortium MN DPS | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pat Veraguth , Douglas County |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> David Brandt , MetroGIS Washington County | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Quentin Ikuta , National Indian Carbon Coalition |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dennis Tumberg , City of Chanhassen | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rama Mohapatra , MN State University, Mankato |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gerry Sjerven , Minnesota Power | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rick Schute , City of St. Paul |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Heather Albrecht , Hennepin County | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ryan Bonney , Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Jessica Fendos , LOGIS | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ryan Stovern , St. Louis County |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kari Geurts , MNIT DNR | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Shana Crosson , U-Spatial - UMN Twin Cities |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kendis Scharenbroich , Pro-West & Associates | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Stacey Stark , U-Spatial - UMN Duluth |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mary Mortensen , Met Council | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tanya Mayer , Metropolitan Council |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Matt Goodman , St. Louis County Sheriff's Office | |

Meeting Support Staff Attendees

Megan Sisko, *MNIT MnGeo*; Sally Wakefield, *MNIT MnGeo*

Non-Member Attendees

Abby Stamm, <i>MDH</i>	Clayton Watercott, <i>Metro Transit</i>	Erich Borchardt, <i>MNIT MDA</i>
Akiko Nakamura, <i>MnDOT</i>	Connor Plagge, <i>City of Brainerd</i>	Jamie Schulz, <i>MNIT DNR</i>
Alissa Stark, <i>MNIT DNR</i>	Cory Richter, <i>Ramsey County</i>	Jason Ewert, <i>MNIT MPCA</i>
Andrea Borich, <i>MPCA</i>	Curtis Carlson, <i>MNIT MnGeo</i>	Jennifer Corcoran, <i>MN DNR</i>
Andrew Lundgren, <i>St. Louis Co.</i>	Diana Flores Castillo, <i>MnDOT</i>	Jennifer Tworzyanski, <i>MN OSA</i>
Brian Anderson, <i>TEKsystems</i>	Dustin Schmieg, <i>TEKsystems</i>	Jesse Reinhardt, <i>Hennepin County</i>
Brian Matheson, <i>MNIT</i>	Eric Kopras, <i>City of Woodbury</i>	Karen Majewicz, <i>UMN-TC</i>
Christy Christensen, <i>McLeod Co.</i>	Eric Solo, <i>Lake of the Woods County</i>	

Kevin Trappe, *Beltrami County*
Kiah Sagami, *Houston Eng.*
Kory Thurnau, *MnGeo*
Linse Lahti, *MN DNR*
Mark Kotz, *GAC Standards*
Committee Chair
Matt McLees, *Scott County*
Matt Taran, *City of Burnsville*
Michael Ginsbach, *MPCA*
Mike Koutnik, *Michael A.*
Koutnik Consulting

Molly Shoberg, *MN DNR*
Nancy Rader, *Private Citizen*
Nate Rose, *Crow Wing County*
Noel Valentin, *DNR*
Norman Anderson, *MNIT*
MnGeo
Pamela Oslin, *MESB*
Preston Dowell, *St. Louis County*
Randy Knippel, *Private Citizen*
Rasha Elnimeiry, *MN DHS*
Reddy Mekala, *MN DHS*

Richard Davis, *MN PUC*
Rick Moore, *MNIT DNR*
Ryan Mattke, *UMN-TC*
Sarah Voje, *EOR, Inc.*
Sean Vaughn, *MNIT DNR*
Shauna Bridger, *MNIT MnGeo*
Sheila Steffenson, *1Spatial*
Steven Moe, *Polk County*
Tony Monsour, *Scott County*
Valquiria Quirino, *MPCA*
Will Craig, *UMN-TC*

Meeting Options

- **Virtual:** Online via Microsoft Teams
- **In-person:** Room 2000 (Skjegstad), [Stassen Building](#), 600 N Robert Street, Saint Paul, MN

Meeting Materials

- [Agenda packet](#)
- [Presentation slides](#)

1. Call to order

Vice Chair Britta Maddox called the meeting to order and conducted roll call of Geospatial Advisory Council (GAC) members. Prior to this, Megan Sisko reviewed in-person meeting logistics. Attendees were reminded that the meeting will be transcribed (but not recorded) by Microsoft Teams to assist with the minutes, and that attendees should refrain from sharing private information.

Minnesota Geospatial Information Office (MnGeo) meeting support staff and in-person guests introduced themselves verbally, and virtual guests placed their name and organization in the Teams chat.

Maddox reviewed the meeting agenda, then called for a motion to approve it. Kari Geurts moved to approve the agenda, and Tanya Mayer seconded. Motion passed by general consent.

- **Motion:** Approve the agenda (Geurts / Mayer) – **Motion passed**

Maddox called for a motion to approve the previous meeting minutes. Carla Coates moved to approve the agenda, and Ryan Bonney seconded. Motion passed by general consent.

- **Motion:** Approve [last meeting minutes](#) (from 5/21/2025) (Coates / Bonney) – **Motion passed**

2. Review and receive Committee Reports

Vice Chair Maddox recognized receipt of the committee reports in the meeting agenda packet and explained that moving forward the council will receive the reports rather than motion to approve or accept them.

3. Member roles and expectations review

Each council member introduced themselves with their name, sector that they represent, organization, and optionally time of service on the GAC thus far, if applicable.

4. Overview of the GAC

Minnesota Chief Geospatial Information Officer and GAC member, Alison Slaats, provided an overview of the GAC, reviewing the GAC's mission, establishing statute, organization within MNIT, a brief history, guiding principles, represented sectors and organizations, and accomplishments. Slaats closed the overview with a call for members to advise MnGeo on its programmatic work, guide and define priorities for Minnesota's geospatial community, and envision, design, and create change in the GAC's shared geospatial work.

5. Member roles and expectations review

Vice Chair Maddox reviewed the primary responsibilities and expectations of GAC members, including sector representation, and meeting and committee participation. Maddox then reviewed the expectations for each of these responsibilities. Maddox also reminded members of the policies and standards of conduct that they should abide by. Maddox referred members to the new GAC Operations Handbook.

6. Executive Team overview and appointments

Vice Chair Maddox provided an overview of the GAC Executive Team, explaining the functions of the team and noting its primary purpose to provide leadership, inform strategy, and ensure effective operations. Maddox highlighted the three positions needing member nominations for this team: Chair, Vice Chair, and Secretary (the Minnesota Geospatial Information Officer, Alison Slaats, is an ex-officio member).

Maddox nominated Tanya Mayer for GAC Chair and invited additional nominations. After no additional nominations, Maddox moved to make Tanya Mayer Chair of the GAC. The motion was seconded by David Brandt and passed by general consent. Maddox clarified that the Chair leads the GAC, not just Executive Team.

- **Motion:** Make **Tanya Mayer** Chair of the GAC (Maddox / Brandt) – **Motion passed**

Tanya Mayer accepted nomination as Chair of the GAC.

Maddox called for nomination of a Vice Chair. Tanya Mayer moved to nominate Britta Maddox as Vice Chair. The motion was seconded by Stacey Stark and passed by general consent.

- **Motion:** Nominate **Britta Maddox** as Vice Chair of the GAC (Maddox / Brandt) – **Motion passed**

Britta Maddox accepted nomination as Vice Chair of the GAC.

Maddox explained the role of the Secretary and called for a nomination. Michael Krueger self-nominated to become Secretary. Tanya moved to nominate Michael Krueger as Secretary. The motion was seconded by David Brandt and passed by general consent.

- **Motion:** Nominate **Michael Krueger** as Secretary of the GAC (Mayer / Brandt) – **Motion passed**

Michael Krueger accepted nomination as Secretary of the GAC.

7. Leadership Team overview and appointments

Vice Chair Maddox provided an overview of the GAC Leadership Team, explaining the functions of the team and noting its primary purpose to collaborate with the Executive Team to help refine council strategy, operations, and meeting planning. Maddox shared that Heather Albrecht (who was not yet present) agreed via email to join the Leadership Team in the Past Chair position and called for nominations for the three Advisor positions needing member nominations.

Maddox nominated Stacey Stark as an Advisor on the Leadership Team, and Ryan Stovern and David Brandt self-nominated to become Advisors on the Leadership Team. Maddox moved to appoint David Brandt, Ryan Stovern, and Stacey Stark as Advisors on the Leadership Team. The motion was seconded by Matt Goodman and passed by general consent.

- **Motion:** Appoint **David Brandt, Ryan Stovern, and Stacey Stark** as Advisors on the GAC Leadership Team (Maddox / Goodman) – **Motion passed**

Stacey Stark accepted nomination as Advisor on the Leadership Team.

Maddox summarized the FY2026-27 GAC Leadership Team to include:

1. Executive Team members
2. Heather Albrecht, *Past Chair*
3. David Brandt, *Advisor*
4. Ryan Stovern, *Advisor*
5. Stacey Stark, *Advisor*

8. Break and networking

Vice Chair Maddox put the meeting on break, asking attendees to return at 12:35 p.m.

9. Committee introductions and recruitment

Vice Chair Maddox introduced the GAC's 11 committees, two of which are ad-hoc. Maddox invited committee leaders to each speak to their committee.

1. **3D Geomatics Committee:** Gerry Sjerven reviewed the mission, priorities, and next steps of the 3D Geomatics Committee.

Mission: To identify and promote the need for planning, funding, acquisition, and management of three-dimensional geomatic data and derived products.

2. **Archiving Committee:** Ryan Mattke reviewed a brief history of the committee, its mission, priorities, and work plan, highlighting the need for a Vice Chair that is a GAC member.

Mission: Dedicated to establishing Minnesota as a national leader in geospatial data preservation. By advising the state geospatial community on best-in-class archiving practices, shaping forward-thinking policies and procedures, and fostering collaboration across sectors, the committee ensures

that Minnesota's valuable geospatial data is not only preserved but leveraged to drive innovation and benefit future generations.

3. **Awards Committee:** Ryan Stovern reviewed the mission and process of the Awards Committee.

Mission: To promote awareness of the Governor's Geospatial Certificate Award, review nominations, and submit recommendations to MnGeo.

4. **Emergency Preparedness:** Vice Chair Britta Maddox provided an overview of the Emergency Preparedness Committee and put a call out for new members.

Mission: To help bridge the gap between GIS and Emergency Management.

5. **K12 Education:** Shana Crosson reviewed the mission, priorities, and operations of the committee.

Mission: 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.

6. **Outreach Committee:** Megan Sisko provided an overview of the Outreach Committee on behalf of committee chair Jessica Fendos. During this overview, Sisko reviewed the committee's mission, structure, featured works, current progress, and [recruitment survey](#).

Mission: To connect the community with the GAC using strategic communication resources.

7. **Parcels and Land Records Committee:** Pat Veraguth reviewed the mission, subgroups, and priorities of the committee, including a recent award received from the National States Geographic Information Council. Veraguth also described ideal candidates for committee and subgroup volunteers, and how closely the committee works with the PLSS Preservation Committee.

Preston Dowell explained how the pending Cadastral Point Data Standard is a precedent for aligning boundary data.

Mission: To promote research, education, implementation, and distribution of statewide guidelines surrounding the digital mapping of cadastral-related data; works to promote and facilitate the development and sharing of data throughout the state, region, and nation; and advises MnGeo.

8. **PLSS Preservation Committee:** Kory Thurnau explained the mission of the committee and needs of the Public Land Survey System (PLSS) and its impact on GIS, land ownership and rights, etc. Thurnau also described ideal candidates for committee volunteers.

Mission: To aid the Minnesota Geospatial Information Officer (GIO) in establishing criteria for the PLSS Monument Grant Program, evaluate and prioritize PLSS Monument Grant applications, review grant work, and report grant performance measures with respect to [Minnesota Statutes 381.125](#).

9. **Standards Committee:** Mark Kotz explained that the standards committee is the process for establishing standards, but that they do not create the standards themselves, instead relying on subject-matter experts to bring a standard forward to run through the standards process. Kotz stressed the need for a GAC member Vice Chair and reviewed the expected tasks of this position.

Mission: To administer and support a process that allows the MN geospatial community to create and modify geospatial standards.

10. **Contributing to Nationwide and Commercial Data Assets:** Sally Wakefield reviewed the purpose of the committee on behalf of committee chair David Brandt.

Mission: To share local authoritative data with nationwide and commercial assets.

11. **Data Endorsement Committee:** Kevin Trappe reviewed the purpose of the Data Endorsement Committee, current members, and the data endorsement process that they are working to establish.

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

Megan Sisko shared a link in the chat for attendees to learn more about the committees and their subgroups: <https://www.mngeo.state.mn.us/committee/index.html>

10. Greater Minnesota Regional Government seat definition

Alison Slaats opened discussion regarding the Greater Minnesota Regional Government sector seat by providing a recap of a related discussion that occurred at the May GAC meeting. Slaats reiterated the question of whether the GAC should broaden the definition of the seat to allow for more participation, and explained the options that were last explored:

- Option 1: No change – leave the seat definition as is
- Option 2: Expand the definition (and if so, determine what the definition and title of this role should be)

Matt Goodman highlighted the value to having a Regional Government representative specifically since someone in this role would have a unique perspective and need, explaining that they are not authors or custodians of GIS data but have a great need for standards that allow aggregation of data. Goodman expressed that changing the definition would be a loss.

Attendees discussed options for fulfilling this seat as defined. Nancy Rader shared that recruiting was easier when the regional development organizations were more involved in GIS, but then GIS started to disappear from those groups, and they became too thinly stretched to continue participation. In exploring options for recruitment, members confirmed that bordering communities of Minnesota would be applicable for this role on the GAC (such as Fargo-Moorhead Council of Governments). Past participating organizations mentioned included the Arrowhead Regional Development Commission (ARDC) and West Central Initiative.

Heather Albrecht shared that when she was chair in the previous term she reached out to several regional organizations listed on the [Minnesota Association of Development Organizations website](#) and received no responses. Sally Wakefield shared that Vice Chair Maddox recently reached out to a few regional development commissions and that the GAC just received an applicant from the ARDC.

Additional ideas for consideration included: expanding the seat definition if no applicant comes forward, having a second Greater Minnesota County representative in place of a Greater Minnesota Regional Government representative (such as a northern and southern Greater Minnesota County representative).

Alison Slaats proposed moving forward with Option 1 and making no change for now since the seat was filled last term and an applicant just came through. Instead of changing the seat definition, Slaats recommended that the GAC recognize that it may have to make more of an effort in the future to keep the seat filled. Kari Geurts supported this. Michael Krueger will bring awareness of the GAC and its need for this seat fulfillment back to the Fargo-Moorhead Council of Governments.

11. Priorities review and survey introduction

Vice Chair Maddox reviewed the timeline of the GAC Priorities Survey:

- **September:** Review current priority projects
- **October:** Survey GIS community for project ideas
- **November:** Distribute Priorities Survey (i.e., ranking survey) to community then score results
- **December:** Review Priority Project Survey results

Maddox reviewed the reason why priorities are created, and the prioritization process, highlighting how priorities are ranked, discussed, and chosen. Some important additional notes about priorities:

- Priority projects are assigned to committees then ranked for that committee, so the committee knows the order of priorities assigned to them.
- Priority project updates are now included within committee quarterly updates instead of being a separate update as had been done in the past.

Maddox shared that the first priority project survey is coming out soon and asked members to reach out to their sector, identify priorities to submit, plan a submission, and plan how they will encourage their sector to participate in ranking proposed priorities in the second survey.

GAC priorities can be found on the [GAC homepage](#) – see the [last term priorities](#).

12. Minnesota GIS/LIS Consortium updates

Carla Coates provided an overview of the GIS/LIS Consortium and its mission to “develop and support the GIS/LIS community in Minnesota for the benefit of our people and contributors.” Coates highlighted that:

- The Consortium currently has no fee to be a member and that the board is considering adding a fee.
- Consortium board members will vote on revised bylaws at the [Fall 2025 Conference](#).
- The fall conference is October 1-3 in Duluth, with online registration available through September 30, and includes a Mentorship Program to match students and young professionals with mentors.
- The Consortium will continue to work on potential Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) for event participation with the Minnesota Society of Professional Surveyors, Iowa, and the MidAmerica GIS Consortium (MAGIC).

13. Minnesota Geospatial Information Office updates

Alison Slaats explained that the GAC informs MnGeo's use of its general fund by acting on priorities identified by the GAC. Slaats then provided updates for ongoing work at MnGeo:

- **PLSS Monument Grant** - An estimated 65% of the work is complete, and 52% of the \$9.1M have been distributed as reimbursements. A [Meet Me at the Corner workshop](#) is happening at the MN GIS/LIS Consortium Annual Conference in October.
- **MnGeo Image Services** - MnGeo recently added various county imagery datasets and the 2023 National Agricultural Imagery Program (NAIP) imagery to the [Minnesota Geospatial Image Service](#).
- **Geospatial Commons Modernization** - The first release of the modernized Minnesota Geospatial Commons, "Collaboration via ArcGIS Online", launched successfully August 20 for publishers to share data using ArcGIS Online. The next release, "Collaboration via ArcGIS Portal", is coming in late November. Two additional data-sharing methods are also planned for release. MnGeo will be reaching out to existing publishers to onboard them to the new platform.
- **MnTOPO 2** - Authoritative, seamless 0.5-meter lidar digital elevation model (DEM) for the state is estimated for September release. The first release will include six lidar acquisition blocks (LABs), available via a STAC Catalog, virtual raster (VRT), and image service:
 - Missouri River/Big Sioux
 - Lower Mississippi/Southeast MN
 - Central Mississippi
 - Upper Mississippi
 - Rainy Lake
 - Lake Superior

As additional LAB data is received, they will be added to the statewide DEM.

- **MnGeo 2023-2025 Report** - MnGeo published its [2023-2025 report](#) in July and members were encouraged members to take a look.
- **Legislative Update** - A change to the Data Practices Act will become effective January 1, 2026 which impacts real property records on the web (see [Chapter 35, Article 9, Section 6](#) which amends [Sec. 13.991 MN Statutes](#); more references are in the slides) – this change enables Judicial Officials to request that their information be removed from public websites and that this must be done within 30 days.
 - Ryan Mattke shared that Wisconsin has been dealing with this and noted that this could result in some work for the Archiving Committee.
 - Tanya Mayer shared that the change can also include a request to remove family member information, and mentioned that MetroGIS, Dakota County, and Washington County are each individually discussing their plans to handle this.
 - Slaats offered continuing the conversation on this topic, potentially at a special meeting hosted by MnGeo.

14. Executive Team updates & term meeting schedule

Vice Chair Maddox reviewed progress of the GAC's goals within the [term work plan](#), highlighting the desired outcomes, and noting that a GAC member is still needed to help lead the Archiving and Standards Committees.

Maddox shared that the GAC will be participating in a panel session at the MN GIS/LIS Conference titled "Who's Who in MN GIS", and encouraged members to participate in the [National States Geographic Information Council](#) (NSGIC), for which each GAC member receives a membership.

15. Round Robin / Announcements

Attendees shared miscellaneous news:

- Sally Wakefield shared about an Esri equity and social justice seminar happening in Minneapolis on October 9, and that an agenda and registration will be available soon.
- Kari Geurts recognized the work of MNIT DNR GIS staff on a new web-based portal, cloud migration, and many more projects.
- Matt Goodman shared that he will be presenting at Association of Minnesota Emergency Managers showing GIS work conducted by St. Louis and Lake Counties during the spring wildfires; he will also share about statewide GIS efforts and the GAC's Emergency Preparedness Committee and Critical Infrastructure Workgroup to foster awareness and communication between emergency managers and GIS staff within their organizations.
- GAC member Rick Schute (Director of Emergency Management for the City of St. Paul) introduced himself since he missed member introductions. Upon doing so, Randy Knippel offered to connect with Schute about the United States National Grid.
- Sean Vaughn highlighted the importance of lidar-related data for emergency management, preparedness, and response, and noted that the committee is looking for membership from the emergency sector to join the 3D Geomatics Steering Team to share in defining product needs and applications of lidar-related products.
- Megan Sisko shared that GAC Chair Tanya Mayer will be attending the NSGIC Annual Conference which focuses on developing and aligning state geospatial advisory councils nationwide (among other topics).

16. Adjourn

Vice Chair Maddox adjourned the meeting at 2:03 p.m.

- **Motion:** To adjourn (Goodman / Coates) – **Motion passed**

Next Quarterly GAC Meeting: December 17, 2025, 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. (*virtual*)

Minutes prepared by: Megan Sisko

For questions regarding the minutes, please contact gisinfo.mngeo@state.mn.us.