Minnesota Geospatial Advisory Council Meeting

December 17, 2025
10 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Meeting Attendance

Members

☒ **Alison Slaats**, MNIT MnGeo

☒ **Amy Harrigan**, MnDOT

☒ **Britta Maddox**, Anoka County

☒ **Carla Coates**, MN GIS/LIS Consortium | MN DPS

☒ **David Brandt**, MetroGIS | Washington County

☒ **Dennis Tumberg**, City of Chanhassen

☐ **Gerry Sjerven**, Minnesota Power

☒ **Heather Albrecht**, Hennepin County

☒ **Jessica Fendos**, LOGIS

☒ **Kari Geurts**, MNIT DNR

☒ **Karissa Beierle Pavek**, Fargo-Moorhead Metropolitan Council of Governments

☒ **Kendis Scharenbroich**, Pro-West & Associates

☒ **Mary Mortensen**, Met Council

☒ **Matt Goodman**, St. Louis County Sheriff's Office

☒ **Michael Krueger**, City of Moorhead

☐ **Michelle Clasen**, Washington County

☒ **Mitch Bergeson**, US Geological Survey

☒ **Pat Veraguth**, Douglas County

☐ **Quentin Ikuta**, National Indian Carbon Coalition

☒ **Rama Mohapatra**, MN State University, Mankato

☐ **Rick Schute**, City of St. Paul

☒ **Ryan Bonney**, Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community

☒ **Ryan Stovern**, St. Louis County

☒ **Shana Crosson**, U-Spatial - UMN Twin Cities

☐ **Stacey Stark**, U-Spatial - UMN Duluth

☒ **Tanya Mayer**, Metropolitan Council

Meeting Support Staff Attendees

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

Non-Member Attendees

Abby Stamm, *MDH*

Alec Trenda, *Hennepin County*

Alissa Stark, *MNIT DNR*

Andrew Lamers, *Optum*

Andrew Lundgren, *St. Louis Co.*

Brian Matheson, *MNIT*

Casey Farrell, *MSA Prof. Services*

Christy Christensen, *McLeod Co.*

Clayton Watercott, *Metro Transit*

Colleen Wilson, *BTAA-GIN | UMN*

Curtis Carlson, *MNIT MnGeo*

David Zehavi, *City of Columbia Hts.*

Diana Flores Castillo, *MnDOT*

Dustin Schmieg, *TEKsystems*

Eric Solo, *Lake of the Woods County*

Erich Borchardt, *MNIT MDA*

Evelyn Moran, *Great River Greening*

Jacque Hamilton, *MGS | UMN-TC*

Jared Baloun, *Jackson County*

Jason Ewert, *MNIT MPCA*

Jenna Walz, *Sherburne County*

Jesse Reinhardt, *Hennepin County*	Mark Kotz, *Standards Comm. Chair*	Peter Castro, *MN DCYF*
Jessica Orlando, *NEMAC	UNC-A*	Mary Brodd, *LWVMN*	Phillip Julian, *Esri*
Joe Sapletal, *Dakota County*	Matt McLees, *Scott County*	Preston Dowell, *St. Louis County*
Jon Janke, *Coon Creek Watershed*	Matthew Tabaka, *MnDOT*	Randy Knippel, *Unaffiliated*
Karen Majewicz, *BTAA-GIN	UMN*	Michael Ginsbach, *MPCA*	Richard Davis, *MN PUC*
Kevin Trappe, *Beltrami County*	Mike Koutnik, *MAK Consulting*	Rick Moore, *MNIT DNR*
Kiah Sagami, *Houston Eng.*	Mike McKee, *Esri*	Ryan Mattke, *Map Library	UMN-TC*
Kory Thurnau, *MNIT MnGeo*	Mike True, *Watonwan County*	Sarah Voje, *EOR, Inc.*
Kris Hall, *MN DHS*	Molly Shoberg, *MN DNR*	Sean Vaughn, *MNIT DNR*
Linse Lahti, *MN DNR*	Nancy Rader, *Unaffiliated*	Sheila Steffenson, *1Spatial*
Lucas Spaete, *MN DNR*	Nate Rose, *Crow Wing County*	Steven Moe, *Polk County*
Lynn Boergerhoff, *Unaffiliated*	Norman Anderson, *MNIT MnGeo*	Tony Monsour, *Scott County*
Mandy Olson, *Clay County*	Pamela Oslin, *MESB*	Will Craig, *UMN-TC*

Meeting Options

- **Virtual:** Online via Microsoft Teams

Meeting Materials

- Agenda packet
- Presentation slides

1. Call to order

Chair Tanya Mayer called the meeting to order and conducted roll call of Geospatial Advisory Council (GAC) members. Prior to this, Megan Sisko read a Tennessen Warning for the recorded portion of the meeting and indicated that no private information should be shared.

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

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

- **Motion:** Approve the agenda (Maddox / Stovern) – **Motion passed**

Mayer called for a motion to approve the previous meeting minutes. Matt Goodman moved to approve the minutes, and Dennis Tumberg seconded. Motion passed by general consent.

- **Motion:** Approve last meeting minutes (from 9/10/2025) (Goodman / Tumberg) – **Motion passed**

2. Review and receive Committee Reports

Chair Mayer Tanya acknowledged receipt of committee reports that are included in the agenda packet, and provided a few highlights:

- **K-12 Education Committee** - Working to align with the MN GIS/LIS Consortium's K-12 Committee.

- **Contributing to Nationwide and Commercial Data Assets Committee (CANDO)** - Discussed data sharing with OpenStreetMap (OSM) – Ramsey County will work with OSM on sharing their data and report back.

- **Parcels and Land Records, PLSS Preservation, and Standards Committees** - Requested that readers talk to legislators about the draft bill for permanent Public Land Survey System (PLSS) funding; PLSS Point Data Standard was approved by the Standards Committee for 90-day public review ending Feb. 27.

3. Term Priority Projects

Vice Chair Britta Maddox reviewed priority projects that were completed during the last term, noting that moving forward this task will be done at the last meeting of the term. Completed projects include:

- Underground Utilities Data Sharing Team
- US National Grid Materials

Maddox reviewed the priority projects selection process and where the GAC is currently at in this process: both the ideas and prioritization surveys are complete, and the GAC is now in the scoring and selection phase.

Maddox explained the components that influence scoring, which includes (1) the community's ranking and (2) the likelihood of success, which is based on various factors. Final scores are referred to as the Value Score, represented in non-weighted and weighted format (based on sector representation in the responses).

Maddox summarized the results on-screen, totaling 167 responses, and showed the breakdown of responses by sector and where the scores will come from in the **Draft GAC Priority Project Ranking Spreadsheet** (included in the agenda packet). The top three sector responses to the prioritization survey were State Gov. (48%), Business (13%), and County Gov. - Greater MN (11%). Each of the other sectors represented less than 10% of responses, with no responses from City Gov. - Greater MN, Regional Gov. - Greater MN, Tribal Gov., or K-12 Education.

Maddox shared that calculating the scores takes about 8 hours (a few hours minimum) and invited discussion about whether to continue using the weighted value scores instead of non-weighted for each priority, highlighting minimal difference between the two in the current and previous term. Members expressed support for using the non-weighted score but recommended continuing calculation of the weighted scores for some time to support continued analysis of differences between the two. Tanya Mayer moved for this approach and Dennis Tumberg seconded, with the clarification that the weighted scores eventually be eliminated if the scores continue to be similar. Motion passed by general consent, with Maddox noting that the weighted score will be calculated for at least one more term. The GAC will use the non-weighted score in the ranking spreadsheet.

- **Motion:** Use the non-weighted scores for this year and going forward but continue to produce the weighted scores to confirm that there are no anomalies – if they are similar going forward, eliminate the weighted scores (Mayer / Tumberg) – **Motion passed**

GAC members and additional attendees (including many committee leaders) began reviewing each priority item in the ranking spreadsheet and Maddox filled in details per discussion. Members ran out of time to assess all priorities so the GAC will schedule an additional meeting to complete the term priorities assessment and selection. See the updated Draft GAC Priority Project Rankings Spreadsheet for assessment completed thus far.

4. Sector Report 1: County - Greater MN

Ryan Stovern provided an update for the sector he represents – Greater Minnesota counties.

Stovern shared that he is meeting with Greater MN counties monthly, with 31-35% participation from the 80 Greater MN counties so far. He highlighted productive discussion of the GAC priorities, and identification of topics that are most important to the counties:

- Help getting data into data standards
- Plans for critical infrastructure data – collection, aggregation, and use
- National datasets – how authoritative data from counties is consumed and at what frequency
- Data Practices Act compliance

Stovern invited anyone interested in joining these monthly meetings to reach out.

5. Sector Report 2: MetroGIS

Dave Brandt provided a background about who MetroGIS is, its mission, purpose, and how it came about, highlighting that the need for a standardized, aggregated parcel dataset for the 7-county Twin Cities metropolitan region drove its creation 30 years ago. Follow-up initiatives included regional road centerline and address point data.

Brandt shared the organization's 2025 work plan, noting that the lack of a GIS Coordinator for the last five years impeded progress.

In November, the MetroGIS Coordinating Committee discussed the future of the organization, exploring three options which included potentially ending MetroGIS. The committee unanimously supported reinstating the full MetroGIS model to fund a full-time MetroGIS Coordinator, fund projects, and support committee activities.

6. Minnesota Geospatial Information Office updates

Alison Slaats shared updates from MnGeo:

- **PLSS Monument Grant** - Projects are about 73% completed, with just over 60% of the funding reimbursed to counties. A report was provided to the legislature at the end of September. Office hours with [Kory Thurnau](#) are available for anyone needing to touch base on this work.

- **MN Geospatial Image Service** - Metropolitan Council's 2025 Spring Imagery will be added to the [image service](#) soon. Work is being done to explore adding Cloud Optimized GeoTIFFs (COGs) to the service. If anyone has imagery they'd like added to the service, reach out to [Kory Thurnau](#).

- **Geospatial Commons Modernization** - The first two phases of release are complete: collaborating via ArcGIS Online and Portal. The next release, collaboration via file-based sharing, is planned for early 2026. Current publishers or anyone looking to publish data to the new Commons should reach out to commons.mngeo@state.mn.us.

- **MnTOPO 2 / Lidar** - A 0.5-meter lidar-derived digital elevation model (DEM) is now available for most of the state, with more coverage being added as development is completed. Slaats recognized GAC 3D Geomatics Committee members and MNIT DNR staff for working on these data products. Deliverables in progress: MnTOPO 2, additional DEM resolutions, contours, hillshade, and more! See slides for details.

- **GIS Software Master Purchase Agreement** - The MN Dept. of Admin. recently awarded Master Purchase Agreement contracts to Esri, GeoSolutions USA Corp., and Geomermaids LLC. These contracts make it easier for local government to purchase these software – reach out to Alison Slaats if you're interested.

- **Legislative Update** – Jan. 1, 2026, the Data Practices Act will change, allowing judicial officials to request removal of their or their family's information from real property records (such as public GIS data). MnGeo, GAC, and the Minnesota County GIS Association (MCGISA) will hold a meeting in January to share information about this topic. Details about this event will be shared once plans are finalized.

7. Executive Team updates

Chair Mayer shared the mission of the Executive Team and highlighted activities since the Sept. GAC meeting:

- MnGeo, the GAC Chair, and MN GIS/LIS Consortium Chair attended the National States Geographic Information Council annual conference (200+ attendees – over 30 states, federal agencies, 22 vendors). Discussion covered GIS data and governance, the National Spatial Data Infrastructure, federal updates, etc. MnGeo and the chairs of the GAC and GIS/LIS will reflect on what takeaways can be applied in MN.

- The GAC, MnGeo, MCGISA, Met Council, MetroGIS, and the MN GIS/LIS Consortium hosted a panel session at the Consortium's Annual Conference: **Who's Who in MN GIS and What's in it for me**.

- Executive Team Meeting and Leadership Team Meeting

Mayer reviewed the desired outcomes and goals for the term, highlighting that GAC member support for all committees is now complete! See slides for more details.

Mayer revealed a schedule for each GAC sector and committee to present at the quarterly meetings throughout the term. The Executive Team will follow up with presenters to confirm availability for the proposed dates.

Mayer closed Executive Team updates by reviewing what's next – hosting the GAC Committee Leadership Meeting in January (virtual), and a Committee Leadership Retreat in May (in-person).

8. Round Robin / Announcements

Skipped due to time.

9. Adjourn

Chair Mayer adjourned the meeting at 12:01 p.m.

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

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Next Quarterly GAC Meeting: March 11, 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.