![Minnesota Geospatial Advisory Council logo]

Minnesota Geospatial Advisory Council Meeting

January 14, 2026

1 - 3 p.m.

This is a special meeting of the Minnesota Geospatial Advisory Council (GAC) dedicated to discussing selection of priorities for the term – it is not a part of the regularly scheduled quarterly meetings.

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*

Alissa Stark, *MNIT DNR*

Andrea Borich, *MPCA*

Blaine Hackett, *MNIT MnGeo*

Brian Matheson, *MNIT*

Clayton Watercott, *Metro Transit*

David Zehavi, *City of Columbia Hts.*

Diana Flores Castillo, *MnDOT*

Dustin Schmieg, *TEKsystems*

Eric Solo, *Lake of the Woods County*

Jamie Schulz, *MNIT DNR*

Jenna Walz, *Sherburne County*

Jennifer Corcoran, *MN DNR*
Jennifer Tworzyanski, *MN ADM*
Jill Amundson, *West Central Initiative*
Jon Gustafson, *WSP*
Kory Thurnau, *MNIT MnGeo*
Mandy Olson, *Clay County*
Mark Kotz, *Standards Comm. Chair*

Maxim Kroll, *MPCA*
Nate Rose, *Crow Wing County*
Norman Anderson, *MNIT MnGeo*
Patrick Landisch, *MDOR*
Paul Senne, *RESPEC*
Peter Castro, *MN DCYF*
Phillip Julian, *Esri*

Preston Dowell, *St. Louis County*
Randall Cutting, *ERM*
Sean Vaughn, *MNIT DNR*
Shauna Bridger, *MNIT MnGeo*
Sheila Steffenson, *1Spatial*

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 GAC members. Prior to this, Megan Sisko read a Tennessen Warning for the meeting recording 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. Ryan Stovern moved to approve the agenda, and Gerry Sjerven seconded. Motion passed by general consent.

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

2. Term Priority Projects

Vice Chair Britta Maddox reviewed changes to the priorities process and spreadsheet since the Dec. 17, 2025 priorities discussion.

GAC members and additional attendees (including many committee leaders) reviewed each priority item in the ranking spreadsheet (included in the agenda packet) and Maddox filled in details per discussion, including:

- Committee responsible for the priority if it is selected for the term
- Executive Sponsor and Priority Owner
- Ratings that contribute to the Success Score

Major takeaways during scoring:

- **Statewide Utility Service Area Data**
  - Some utilities are not determined by boundaries which could interfere with this effort.
  - MnGeo has been involved in creating datasets such as this in the past and may have some data.
  - This effort may be difficult and could require funding and support from state agencies.
  - Related efforts that may have helpful resources: FuzionView and Gopher State One Call (8-1-1).

- **Fire Risk Assessment Tool**
  - A few related resources were shared: [Minnesota Wildfire Risk Explorer](#), [LANDFIRE Map Viewer](#).
  - For individual structures, UMN is purchasing a 1-yr subscription to [FirstStreet.org](#) data which has a Fire Risk calculator. This will be available for UMN and state agencies to use.
  - Gerry Sjerven shared that his organization is developing a Risk Assessment Tool for utilities.
  - Vice Chair Maddox clarified that the proposed priority project is to explore existing tools for fire risk with a focus on structure fires, not necessarily wildfires – the title of the priority will be updated to better reflect this distinction.

- **Right-of-Way Data**
  - The Standards Committee clarified that they support running standards through the approval process, and maintain existing standards, but do not necessarily create the standards – this requires subject matter experts who then bring a standard to the committee for consideration.
  - The priority was assigned to the Parcels and Land Records Committee since some right-of-way information is in the parcel data.
  - Various attendees noted that this could be a prohibitively high level of effort to take on.

- **Bikeways Data Standard Expansion for Trails -** May require a different set of experts than those that developed the Bikeways Standard.

- The Standards Committee offered to be assigned three standard-related priorities that had no committees related to the subject matter, with the understanding that a group of subject matter experts would be needed to do the work (perhaps as a subgroup of the Standards Committee).

- Three K-12 priorities were given the same ranking since they may be merged into a single initiative as determined by the K-12 Education Committee.

- The status of the following priorities was updated, and these items were not ranked:
  - **K-12 GIS Resources Group:** Completed *(per creation of the GAC K-12 Education Committee)*
  - **Statewide Utility Service Area Data:** On Hold *(additional research needed, extensive effort)*
  - **Statewide Imagery:** On Hold *(dependent on the Statewide Imagery Program priority)*
  - **Cadastralist Professionalism:** Rejected

- Previously determined "Completed", "On-hold", and "Retired" items were left as-is and not ranked.

The GAC used the final scores and input from committee leaders to rank the remaining priorities. Rankings were grouped by committee so rank shows prioritization for the committee, not the GAC as a whole.

Vice Chair Maddox called for a motion to accept the GAC priorities for the FY2026-27 term as listed in the spreadsheet. Ryan Stovern moved to accept, and Pat Veraguth seconded. Motion passed by general consent.

- **Motion:** Accept the priorities as listed (in the spreadsheet) (Stovern / Veraguth) – **Motion passed**

Members discussed how to consider priorities in the future and made the following recommendations:

- Assign a subsection of the GAC to fill out the rankings spreadsheet ahead of time, inviting probable or known owners to this discussion to fill in the likelihood of success factors.

- Host a 3-4 hour special GAC meeting the first January of the term to finalize priorities (instead of discussing during a regular quarterly meeting), inviting those that submitted priorities to attend.

The GAC Leadership Team will discuss the priorities process for the next term and bring ideas back to the GAC.

See the GAC Priority Project Rankings Spreadsheet for detailed priority project results.

3. Adjourn

Chair Mayer adjourned the meeting at 2:56 p.m.

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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.