

## 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**