



Minnesota Geospatial Advisory Council Meeting

September 18, 2024

11:00 AM - 2:00 PM

Meeting Options

- **Virtual:** Online via Microsoft Teams
- **In-person:** Conference Room 7, [Bandana Square](#), 1021 Bandana Blvd E, 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 May 29, 2024 *		
2. Review and accept Committee and Workgroup Reports* (Albrecht)	11:10	5 min
3. Community Mapping Expo for Minnesota Non-Profits Update (Fendos)	11:15	5 min
4. CANDO Workgroup Update (Brandt)	11:20	15 min
5. MnGeo Update (Slaats)	11:35	10 min
a. MnTOPO 2		
b. Commons Modernization		
c. PLSS Monument Grant Program		
6. Data endorsement process proposal (Slaats)	11:45	25 min
a. Approval to establish a Data Endorsement Workgroup*		
7. <i>Break and networking</i>	12:10	30 min
8. Executive Team update and recommendations (Albrecht)	12:40	50 min
a. Executive Team membership and mission		
b. Operational improvements		
9. Mid-term priority projects check-in (Maddox)	1:30	20 min
10. Round Robin / Announcements (All)	1:50	10 min
11. Adjourn* (Albrecht)	2:00	

* *Motion needed*

Committee and Workgroup Reports

3D Geomatics Committee

Most Recent Successes

- Completed lidar data acquisition for the state of Minnesota. See the [statewide lidar status](#).
- Red River Watershed and Minnesota River is in the review process.
- Data is currently available on [3DEP website](#).

Next Activities / Tasks

- The 3D Geomatics Committee will present a Panel discussion at the 34th Annual MN GIS/LIS Consortium Conference & Workshop on Thursday, October 3rd, 2024.

Barriers

None

Request for Assistance

None

Content contributed by Gerry Sjerven on behalf of the committee.

Awards Committee

Most Recent Successes

- No activity since last report.

Next Activities / Tasks

- Develop plan to solicit more nominations.

Barriers

None

Request for Assistance

None

Content contributed by Philipp Nagel on behalf of the committee.

Emergency Preparedness Committee

Most Recent Successes

Full Committee / Leadership Team

1. Full committee meetings during CY reporting period (3/3): April 4 (peak attendance: 62), June 6 (attendance 46), September 12 (planned).
2. Leadership team meetings during CY reporting period (3/4): February 12, May 2, September 5.
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 7,200 video views since inception (https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC3hwp5_9t3BkiTt-hyALArg).
4. EPC liaison to the [Metropolitan Emergency Managers Association](#) (MEMA): Ongoing. Duties assumed by Britta Maddox after retirement of Randy Knippel on May 31, 2024.

Critical Infrastructure Assessment Project Team

1. Project Team meetings during CY reporting period (7/6): January 25, April 15, May 13, June 10, July 22, August 26, October 7 (planned).
2. Document a long-term workflow to keep fire, law enforcement verified annually by MN counties: Ongoing – during this quarter the prototype Critical Infrastructure app was updated to collect validation of certain themes.
3. Document a long-term workflow to maintain the critical infrastructure resource list on the MnGeo website: In support of GIO Slaats plan to ask for GAC approval to stand up a workgroup to develop methodology to endorse statewide geospatial data sets, Project Team provided a rough draft of a potential data endorsement process.
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: Complete.

Underground Utilities Mapping (UUM) Project Team

1. Project Team meetings during CY reporting period (3/4): March 14, June 13, September 26 (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 85% complete.
3. Deliver at least one presentation about overall team efforts at an established community appropriate conference or webinar (9/1): Nine presentations have been given to date with four more scheduled through the end of the year.
4. Publish at least one article about the Project Team in a publication of importance to the industry: Although no hard copy items have been produced so far this year, Chair Cederberg has been coordinating closely with the Common Ground Alliance on production of a video supporting the project. In addition, the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration has indicated interest in doing same during 1st quarter 2025.

5. Continue efforts to develop project champions in the underground utility and regulatory communities: Ongoing.

U.S. National Grid (USNG) Project Team

1. Project Team meetings (USNG Implementation Work Group) during CY reporting period (4/4): January 24, April 24, June 20, October 16 (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: Presentation at MN GIS/LIS Annual Conference scheduled 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. Roll out Critical Infrastructure app that can validate Critical Infrastructure themes.
4. Prepare Fire Station dataset as a test case for GAC endorsement.

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 critical administrative services is currently being provided by SharedGeo. Approximately \$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, preferably two dedicated, full-time, support employees 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 positions.

Critical Infrastructure Assessment Project Team

See Barriers above.

UUM Project Team

Currently nothing specific to the MGAC.

USNG Project Team

Currently nothing specific to the MGAC.

Additional Comments

Critical Infrastructure Assessment Project Team

On August 7, Project Team leadership provided the NSGIC Geospatial Preparedness Workgroup with a presentation on the MN Critical Infrastructure Data effort. Event was well attended and is available as a recording on the MGAC EPC YouTube at: <https://youtu.be/r-Q1PzdDMok>. As of end of August there have been 58 YouTube views of this presentation.

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 some potential data providers have been meeting weekly.
- In June 2023, UUMPT participant Gopher State One Call (GSOC) signed a \$125,000 contract with nonprofit project partner SharedGeo to develop software supporting this project. In addition, in September 2023, PHMSA awarded SharedGeo \$100,000. On August 12, 2024, SharedGeo received an additional PHMSA grant of \$100,000. Total hard project funding now currently at \$325,000, with a GSOC \$75,000 back stop as needed.

USNG Project Team

In addition to the national USNG Implementation Work Group meetings which are principally sponsored by this Project Team, some individuals on this project team participate in the quarterly meetings of the U.S. National Grid Institute Board of Directors: March 12, May 14, September 24 (planned).

Content contributed by Steve Swazee on behalf of the committee.

K-12 Committee

Most Recent Successes

- The K-12 Education Committee is just getting started, so we are in a phase of planning our work for the year.
- We had a session accepted for the MN GIS/LIS Consortium Conference in October.

Next Activities / Tasks

- Presenting at the MN GIS/LIS Conference in October.
- Planning for our first year of work.

Barriers

None

Request for Assistance

None

Content contributed by Shana Crosson on behalf of the committee.

Outreach Committee

Most Recent Successes

- The Open Data Subcommittee meets every 6 weeks to discuss status and strategy of encouraging counties to opt-in to sharing data toward statewide composites.
 - Since the last GAC meeting, **twelve** additional counties have agreed to opt-in to sharing their parcels, address points, road centerlines, and emergency service zones to the Statewide Opt-in Composite available on the MN Geospatial Commons.
 - Of 87 MN counties, 53 contribute parcels, 44 contribute address points and emergency service zones, and 43 contribute road centerlines to date.
 - Parcels, address points, and road centerlines are available for download on the MN Geospatial Commons. The data is being refreshed on a quarterly basis and was last published in August of 2024.

Next Activities / Tasks

- Next quarter activities include continuing to update the MNGAC Hub Pages Content and re-grouping the Success Stories Workgroup.
- The Open Data Subcommittee plans to continue regularly scheduled GAC Open Data Subcommittee meeting every 6 weeks and outreach to non-participating counties.

Barriers

- The Open Data Subcommittee indicates a lack of support for and/or unclear open data policies at the county level.

Request for Assistance

- The Open Data Subcommittee requests recruiting county GIS staff to facilitate peer-to-peer promotion of open data.

Content contributed by Andra Bontrager on behalf of the committee.

Parcels and Land Records Committee

Most Recent Successes

- The Boundary Alignment Subcommittee revised the Proposed PLSS Point Standard and is planning on submitting it to the standards committee.

Next Activities / Tasks

- Submit PLSS Point Standard to Standards Committee.

Barriers

- Volunteer time.

Request for Assistance

None

Content contributed by Preston Dowell on behalf of the committee.

PLSS Preservation Committee

Most Recent Successes

- 34 Counties have received grants for PLSS preservation work. Most have started work, and all have now completed their first project progress report. MNIT has processed and paid counties who have requested reimbursement.
- MnGeo Survey Coordinator, Kory Thurnau, had the opportunity to present to the MN Association of County Land Commissioners in July. The group is supportive of the program and excited to see it continue.

Next Activities / Tasks

- Kory will be giving presentations at the Preserve MN Conference in September and GIS/LIS in October about PLSS Preservation Work.

Barriers

- Permanent Funding – PLSS Legislative Subcommittee of the Parcel and Land Records Committee is working on this with MSPS Lobbyist.

Request for Assistance

- Ongoing support.

Content contributed by Kory Thurnau on behalf of the committee.

Standards Committee

Most Recent Successes

- The committee has been fairly inactive this year.

Next Activities / Tasks

- We are scheduling a meeting before the end of the year to discuss ESN domain reference changes and Domain split policy.

Barriers

None

Request for Assistance

None

Content contributed by Mark Kotz on behalf of the committee.

Contributing to Nationwide and Commercial Data Assets

Most Recent Successes

- 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.
- Ramsey and Washington worked with Esri on the process to improve TomTom centerline data. Washington County data review is complete and live in TomTom. Ramsey review is underway.

Next Activities / Tasks

- Continue working with Esri on the Community Maps Program/TomTom update process.
- Expand the number of counties included in submission of data through the Community Maps Program.
- Continue to work with Apple and Google to share our authoritative data.
- Recommend Open Data license type (PRRL v1.0 with CC0 as second option).

Barriers

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

Request for Assistance

None

Content contributed by David Brandt on behalf of the workgroup.

Data Endorsement Workgroup Charter

(See attachment on next page)

Minnesota Geospatial Advisory Council Committee/Workgroup Charter

Geospatial Advisory Council Data Endorsement Workgroup

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

Benefits

- Foundational statewide geospatial data are needed for many purposes, and sometimes there is more than one dataset available for the same topic, and it is unclear which dataset is most appropriate to use. Creation of an endorsement process for statewide datasets will identify the best available.
- This process will help data users because it quickly identifies the best available data.
- This process will help data producers because it will reinforce the value of their data and provide evidence for the need for ongoing data stewardship.
- This process may increase efficient investments by reducing the creation of multiple or similar versions of the same data.
- This process may improve the quality of the data because it will bring stakeholders together to support the endorsement process and could increase the visibility of the dataset.

Objectives and Deliverables:

Objectives

- Identify key components of a data endorsement process through workgroup meetings and review of previous materials to include:
 - Materials related to Minnesota Spatial Data Infrastructure (MSDI) from organizations to include Minnesota Governor's Council on GIS (MGCG), GAC materials, Land Management Information Center (LMIC) and MnGeo
 - Examples of endorsement processes in place from other states, such as Montana.
 - Data endorsement process draft created by GAC Emergency Preparedness Committee's Critical Infrastructure Workgroup
- Ensure key components of a data endorsement process include definitions of and recognition of data creators, data users, and other partners.
- Define key steps of a data endorsement.
- Ensure the data endorsement process is sustainable, accounting for new data topics and sources as well as monitoring endorsed datasets for currency.
- Work with other workgroups and MnGeo to ensure an endorsed dataset is easily identifiable and accessible to the user community at large, including in the MN Geospatial Commons.

Deliverables

- Documented GAC data endorsement process
- Pilot at least two datasets through process to test and improve process.

Minnesota Geospatial Advisory Council Committee/Workgroup Charter

Resource requirements and timing:

- People time
- Monthly web workgroup meeting
- Potential additional meetings to have presentations from other organizations.
- Deliverables likely by August 2025

Anticipated participants and their roles and responsibilities:

Name	Organization	Role in this workgroup
Alison Slaats	GAC Member (MN GIO)	Chair
Stacey Stark	GAC Member (Higher Education) and U-Spatial	
Ben Timerson	GAC Member (State) and DOT Supervisor	
Kevin Trappe	Beltrami County GIS Director	

Prepared by: Alison Slaats, MnGeo, alison.slaats@state.mn.us

Date approved by the Geospatial Advisory Council: