

Minnesota Geospatial Advisory Council Meeting

March 5, 2025
10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Meeting Options

- **Virtual:** Online via Microsoft Teams (*for connection information [contact MnGeo](#)*)

Agenda

1. Call to order (Albrecht)	10:00	10 min
a. Introductions		
b. GAC Mission Reminder		
c. Approval of Agenda*		
d. Approval of Meeting Minutes from December 18, 2024 *		
2. Review and accept Committee Reports* (Albrecht)	10:10	5 min
3. 3D Geomatics Committee Lidar Data Processing Update (Vaughn / Moore)	10:15	20 min
4. Outreach Committee Update and Charter Amendment* (Fendos)	10:35	10 min
5. Review and approve Archiving Committee Charter* (Mattke)	10:45	10 min
6. Governor’s Certificate Award Announcement (Kne)	10:55	5 min
7. <i>Break</i>	11:00	10 min
8. MN GIS/LIS Consortium Updates (Knott)	11:10	10 min
9. GAC Member Appointments (Albrecht)	11:20	10 min
10. Executive Team Updates (Albrecht)	11:30	10 min
11. MnGeo Updates (Slaats)	11:40	10 min
a. PLSS Grant and Legislation		
b. Geospatial Commons Modernization		
c. MNIT Annual Report		
12. Round Robin / Announcements (All)	11:50	10 min
13. Adjourn* (Albrecht)	12:00	

* *Motion needed*

Committee Reports

These reports include updates on each committee's [2024 Minnesota Geospatial Advisory Council Priorities](#).

3D Geomatics Committee

The 3D Geomatics Committee will provide updates during the March 5 GAC meeting – the slides containing this information will be made available on the GAC website after the meeting.

Responsible Priority Projects and Initiatives

- Culvert Data Standard
- Hydro-DEMs
- Lidar Data

Awards Committee

Responsible Priority Projects and Initiatives

None

Most Recent Successes

- None since last update

Next Activities / Tasks

- Solicit nominations for 2025 awards

Barriers

None

Additional Priority Projects and Initiatives Updates

N/A

Request for Assistance

- GAC and members of the greater geospatial community are asked to spread awareness of the awards, and considering submitting or participating in a nomination if applicable.

Content contributed by Philipp Nagel on behalf of the committee.

Contributing to Nationwide and Commercial Data Assets Committee

Responsible Priority Projects and Initiatives

- Publication of Open Foundational Datasets

Most Recent Successes

- Met with Google and reviewed the Maps Content Partner Program <https://contentpartners.maps.google.com/>
 - Data sharing can be done at an aggregated level
 - Open source data feeds (no credentials) can be pulled by Google
 - Google pulls address data from NAD quarterly
- For more immediate updates to the road features in Google, there is an edit tool for Maps Content Partners.

Next Activities / Tasks

- Continue to work with sharing authoritative data with Esri and Google.
- Review data formatting and open licensing.

Barriers

- Relies on open data sharing by the data producers.

Additional Priority Projects and Initiatives Updates

None

Request for Assistance

None

Content contributed by David Brandt on behalf of the committee.

Data Endorsement Committee

Responsible Priority Projects and Initiatives

None

Most Recent Successes

- The Committee's kick off meeting was held in January.

Next Activities / Tasks

- Committee is reviewing materials from other states and sources and meeting again on March 4. Next activity will include defining the main areas to be addressed for an endorsement process.

Barriers

- None at this time.

Additional Priority Projects and Initiatives Updates

N/A

Request for Assistance

- None at this time.

Content contributed by Alison Slaats on behalf of the committee.

Emergency Preparedness Committee

Responsible Priority Projects and Initiatives

- Critical Infrastructure Data Workflow
- U.S. National Grid Materials
- Underground Utilities Data Sharing Team

Most Recent Successes

- The Geospatial Assistance Project Team has come back to life with Steve Swazee and Brian Huberty leading the charge. An initial organizational meeting was held on February 5, with a complete charter and work plan approved by the EPC Chair and incorporated into the EPC 2025 work plan. Development of a first draft of procedures to help emergency managers understand steps for requesting aerial imagery and/or GIS support from federal, state and private assets is in the works and will be used as the first step toward organizing the first large group meeting.
- Underground Utilities Mapping has the following upcoming presentations on the overall team efforts - we hope to see you there!
 - February 28, 2025: Bob Basques, Wisconsin Land Information Association (WLIA) Conference, Appleton, WI
 - April 2-4, 2025: Kelly Connell and Bob Basques, 2025 Midwest Esri Utility Users Group
 - April 7-10, 2025: Kelly Connell and Bob Basques, 2025 CGA Conference & Expo, Orlando, FL

Next Activities / Tasks

- Critical Infrastructure Data Workflow
 - Document a long-term workflow to keep fire, law enforcement verified annually by MN counties: In work.
 - Resolve discrepancies between critical infrastructure data sets posted to the MnGeo critical infrastructure data page and those found on MnSAV: In work.
- US National Grid Materials
 - Complete development of the USNG Institute's three sponsored websites: In work.
 - Develop documentation for USNG map production: SharedGeo has purchased the ESRI software necessary for this project to be completed by volunteer Randy Knippel.
- Underground Utilities Data Sharing Team
 - Complete deployment of a statewide system which can aggregate diverse utility geospatial data sets and make visible in Minnesota's 811 system (fuzionview.org): Planned release in MN 811 system, 1st quarter 2025; open-source release, 2nd quarter 2025.

Barriers

- Lack of dedicated funding to support ongoing development of accurate and current infrastructure data which is essential for emergency preparedness and response. Discussions continue with MnGeo about potential ways to fix this issue.

Additional Priority Projects and Initiatives Updates

- The Geospatial Assistance Project Team has been reinvigorated. More details can be provided upon request.

Request for Assistance

- Lack of dedicated funding to support ongoing development of accurate and current infrastructure data which is essential for emergency preparedness and response. Discussions continue with MnGeo about potential ways to fix this issue.

Content contributed by Britta Maddox on behalf of the committee.

K-12 Committee

Responsible Priority Projects and Initiatives

- K-12 GIS Resources Group

Most Recent Successes

- We had some good success in the fall with a session at the GIS/LIS conference and presence at a teacher conference, GEOFEST. We are building our knowledge base about what teachers need to be successful using GIS.

Next Activities / Tasks

- We will be meeting to learn about teachable data sets and to start brainstorming what we can do to create data sets that are appropriate for K12 and fit the standards.

Barriers

- In the last few months, the chair of the group has been out on medical leave, so that has paused some work. The changes in federal departments has also impacted our work.

Additional Priority Projects and Initiatives Updates

None

Request for Assistance

None

Content contributed by Shana Crosson on behalf of the committee.

Outreach Committee

Responsible Priority Projects and Initiatives

- More fully attributed statewide parcel data
- Statewide Address Points Data
- Statewide Parcel Data
- Statewide Road Centerline Data
- Success Stories for Geospatial Technology

Most Recent Successes

- The Outreach Committee Chair has recruited a new group of 8 members from the government (state, county, city), non-profit, education and private sectors. This committee met four times in early 2025 to onboard and assign roles to new members to advance committee objectives. A high emphasis was placed on this committee to build Committee Hub sites for the CANDO, Data Endorsement and Outreach Committees, in addition to assisting the build of the GAC Hub homepage.
- A new Outreach Committee charter has been drafted to make clear sense of the committee's mission and objectives.
- Open Data subcommittee convened on Feb. 5th, 2025 - Murray County opted-in!!! The group also discussed an action plan for counties that are considered low hanging fruit (by comparing counties' Open Data Policy list with NG-911 in Enterprise DB list).

Next Activities / Tasks

- In March meeting, the committee chair will show a refined mission statement (a contribution from Megan S, Sally W and Heather A) as well as progress made for the CANDO, Data Endorsement and Outreach Committee Hubs.
- In the following quarter, Outreach Committee will develop a work plan that aligns with GAC's mid-year 2025 – mid-year 2027 operation cycle.

Barriers

- Open Data Subcommittee co-chair needs to be filled.

Additional Priority Projects and Initiatives Updates

- 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. Statewide Opt-in Composite available on the MN Geospatial Commons.
- Of 87 MN counties, 55 contributed parcels, 46 have agreed to contribute address points and emergency service zones, and 45 have agreed to 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. Parcel datasets were refreshed in Feb. 2025, to be followed by address points and street centerlines.

- The Outreach Committee convenes on the first Tuesday of every month to monitor GAC Committee Hub sites build progress and the Outreach Committee’s community engagement activities and communication endeavors.

Request for Assistance

- All committee members to work on advancing at least one committee objective listed in the Outreach Committee charter.

Content contributed by Jessica Fendos on behalf of the committee.

Parcels and Land Records Committee

Responsible Priority Projects and Initiatives

- Updated & Aligned Boundary Data

Most Recent Successes

- Continue development on PLSS Point Standard, Introduction of SF1233 for continuation of PLSS Monumentation Grant Program.

Next Activities / Tasks

- Continue development on PLSS Point Standard, Support SF1233 and companion house bill for continuation of PLSS Monumentation Grant Program.

Barriers

- Volunteer time.

Additional Priority Projects and Initiatives Updates

None

Request for Assistance

- Support from GAC Members for SF1233 and companion house bill. We would also like a letter of support from the GAC for submittal to the legislature/committees if these bills get hearings.

Content contributed by Preston Dowell on behalf of the committee.

PLSS Preservation Committee

Responsible Priority Projects and Initiatives

- Remonumentation of all original federal Section Corners
- Statewide Survey Records Inventory

Most Recent Successes

- The committee has not met since last report but is scheduled to meet 03/24/2025.
- Grant work continues at the county level.

Next Activities / Tasks

- Monitor completion progress of current grant projects.

Barriers

- Permanent Funding for PLSS Remonumentation Work.

Additional Priority Projects and Initiatives Updates

- 3rd Progress Reports are due and most have been completed.
- Annual Monitoring and Reconciliation meetings are being conducted and should be complete by the end of March.

Request for Assistance

- Any and all help to permanently funding the PLSS Monument Grant Program.

Content contributed by Kory Thurnau on behalf of the committee.

Standards Committee

Responsible Priority Projects and Initiatives

None

Most Recent Successes

- Working with subject matter experts (SMEs) from DNR, the Committee has completed and reviewed a draft of an update to the old Codes for Identifying Lakes and Wetland Basins that was approved in 2002 by the Governor's Council on Geographic Information.
- We met with SMEs for the PLSS Point Data Standard and have made comments and edits for review by the SMEs.

Next Activities / Tasks

- The co-chairs are working with Preston Dowel on putting an initial draft of a proposed PLSS Point Data Standard into the GAC standard format.

Barriers

None

Additional Priority Projects and Initiatives Updates

N/A

Request for Assistance

None

Content contributed by Mark Kotz on behalf of the committee.

Outreach Committee Charter

(See attachment on next page)

Outreach Committee Charter

Mission

To connect the community with the council and its committees by providing strategic communication resources that advance council priorities and values.

Objectives/Vision

To support its mission, the Outreach Committee will:

- Promote the work of the GAC and its committees through public engagement, web presence, and recognitions.
- Connect with local government representatives to support the GAC's commitment to free and open geospatial data for Minnesota.
- Tell geospatial stories in venues where they can inform policy makers, partners, and the general public.
- Develop and provide guidance for Esri Hub sites for the GAC and its committees.
- Coordinate with Minnesota Geospatial Information Office to establish communication guidelines for the GAC that are in alignment with Minnesota IT Services policies and expectations.

Duration

A permanent standing committee of the Minnesota Geospatial Advisory Council.

Report Line

Directly to the Minnesota Geospatial Advisory Council with annual review.

Membership

Chair: Jessica Fendos, *GAC Nonprofit Representative Member*

Members shall be drawn from the Minnesota Geospatial Advisory Council and larger geospatial community. The committee will maintain a list of members that will be reviewed and revised as needed, including the chairs of any subcommittee or workgroups.

Member Responsibility

Each member is responsible for active participation in the committee meetings and activities. Members not able to actively participate may be asked to resign their position on the committee. People need not be members of the committee to contribute a story.

Schedule

The committee will hold monthly virtual meetings. Additional meetings will be held on an as-needed basis to connect the subgroups or for discussion of committee-wide decisions.

Prepared by:

Jessica Fendos, *Committee Chair*

jfendos@logismn.gov

Date approved by the Geospatial Advisory Council:

Original language approved by the Council on March 20, 2024, and modified by the Outreach Committee members on March 4, 2025. Tentative Council approval date: March 5, 2025.

Archiving Committee Charter & Work Plan

(See attachments on next page)

Archiving Committee - Charter

Mission statement:

The Archiving Committee is 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.

Objectives and Deliverables:

This committee will build on the foundational work of the Archiving Workgroups ([see Reports section](#)).

Objectives

1. Establish a statewide archiving framework

Develop a sustainable strategy for preserving Minnesota's geospatial data, ensuring its long-term accessibility and usability.

2. Foster collaboration across sectors

Strengthen partnerships with data stewards in government, academic institutions, private sector, and relevant stakeholders.

3. Align with existing efforts

Collaborate with committees and projects to integrate archiving into broader geospatial initiatives, including the [Image Service Sustainability Committee](#)'s efforts to archive historical aerial imagery layers.

4. Educate and advocate

Promote awareness about the benefits of geospatial data archiving and provide actionable steps for community stakeholders.

5. Monitor and evaluate progress

Provide oversight and guidance on strategies and activities to ensure intended goals are met, adjusting as needed based on lessons learned.

Deliverables

1. An operational framework

Actionable policies, best practices, and procedures that can be directly applied by

stakeholders to archive geospatial data effectively.

2. Community engagement

Presentations at the MN GIS/LIS Conference and similar forums to share progress, lessons learned, and encourage broader participation in archiving efforts.

3. Documentation

Annual updates and reports detailing milestones, challenges, and next steps in implementing the archiving strategy.

Resource requirements and timing:

People time

Regular virtual meetings - frequency to be determined

Anticipated participants and their roles and responsibilities:

Group Membership:

Jennifer Corcoran - Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

Melinda Kernik - University of Minnesota Libraries

Karen Majewicz - University of Minnesota Libraries

Ryan Mattke - University of Minnesota Libraries (Chair)

TBD (Vice Chair)

[Additional Committee Members to be recruited in the coming months to represent stakeholder groups]

Stakeholders:

MnGeo

Government agencies at all levels (state, regional, county, city, etc.)

Tribal government

Researchers

All users of historical geospatial data

Higher Education

Non-profit organizations

Private sector

Prepared by:

Ryan Mattke

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Karen Majewicz
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Date approved by the Geospatial Advisory Council:

Draft submitted to MN GAC for review at December 18, 2024 meeting; submitted to MN GAC for approval at March 5, 2025 meeting

Archiving Workgroup - Work Plan

Work Plan date:

March 2025

Chair and vice chair:

Ryan Mattke - University of Minnesota Libraries (Chair)

TBD - MN GAC Member (Vice Chair)

Link to committee/workgroup charter:

[Archiving Committee Charter](#)

Work Plan for 2025-2026

Planned activities and deliverables:

Deliverables

1. An operational framework

Actionable policies, best practices, and procedures that can be directly applied by stakeholders to archive geospatial data effectively:

- Define best practices and procedures outlined in the [Archiving Strategy](#) and the [Archiving Implementation](#) reports.
- Recommend tools and content models based on the findings of the [Archiving Pilot](#).
- Prioritize high-value data as identified by the [Priority Datasets Subgroup](#) and the [Archiving Imagery Workgroup](#).
- Formalize agreements and policies for data licensing, deposit, retention, and withdrawal as informed by the [Archiving Agreement](#) template.

2. Community engagement

Promote awareness about the benefits of geospatial data archiving and provide actionable steps for community stakeholders.

- Presentations at the MN GIS/LIS Conference and similar forums to share

progress, lessons learned, and encourage broader participation in archiving efforts.

3. Documentation

Provide oversight and guidance on strategies and activities to ensure intended goals are met, adjusting as needed based on lessons learned.

- Annual updates and reports detailing milestones, challenges, and next steps in implementing the archiving strategy.

Roles and responsibilities:

Estimated time commitment for participants is two to five hours per month (one hour per month for group meeting, one hour per month for group meeting preparation, and up to three hours per month to accomplish the work of the group). Some participants will be needed to work on specific one-time tasks that may be more time consuming.

Resources:

N/A

Committee/workgroup needs:

None at this time

Dependencies and interrelationships:

Image Service Sustainability Committee

- Relationship – imagery layers recommended for retirement would be archived; Archiving Committee would need to work with this group to achieve this goal

Risks:

Risks include a lack of interest or enthusiasm from data producers, technical requirements for possible pilot projects, and possible complications arising from data licenses.

Risk mitigation will include outreach and communication about the goals of the workgroup, planning and collaboration with regards to technology, and a review of the various licenses applied to the data by data producers.

Additional Comments:

None at this time

Date approved by the Geospatial Advisory Council:

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