Minnesota Geospatial Advisory Council Meeting

September 10, 2025

11 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Meeting Options

- **Virtual:** Online via Microsoft Teams
- **In-person:** Room 2000 (Skjegstad), Stassen Building, 600 N Robert Street, Saint Paul, MN

Agenda

1. Call to order **(Maddox)**	11:00	5 min
a. Roll call		
b. Approval of Agenda*		
c. Approval of Meeting Minutes from May 21, 2025*		
2. Review and receive Committee Reports **(Maddox)**	11:05	5 min
3. New term member welcome and introductions **(Maddox)**	11:10	15 min
4. Overview of the GAC **(Slaats)**	11:25	10 min
5. Member roles and expectations review **(Maddox)**	11:35	10 min
6. Executive Team overview and appointments* **(Maddox)**	11:45	10 min
7. Leadership Team overview and appointments* **(Maddox)**	11:55	10 min
8. *Break and networking*	12:05	30 min
9. Committee introductions and recruitment **(Committee Leaders)**	12:35	33 min
10. Greater Minnesota Regional Government seat definition* **(Slaats)**	1:08	10 min
11. Priorities review and survey introduction **(Maddox)**	1:18	20 min
12. Minnesota GIS/LIS Consortium updates **(Coates)**	1:38	5 min
13. Minnesota Geospatial Information Office updates **(Slaats)**	1:43	5 min
14. Executive Team updates & term meeting schedule **(Maddox)**	1:48	2 min
15. Round Robin / Announcements **(All)**	1:50	10 min
16. Adjourn* **(Maddox)**	2:00	

Motion required

Committee Reports

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

3D Geomatics Committee

Responsible Priority Projects and Initiatives

- Lidar Data

Most Recent Successes

- Red River LAB successfully completed and has passed USGS FVA assessment.
- Data is in the process of being delivered to MnGEO.
- MN River East was completed in late Spring 2025 and has been delivered to partners.

Next Activities / Tasks

- Committee members will be presenting two sessions at the MN GIS/LIS Consortium Conference in Duluth. One session is who to download data and use it with various GIS tools. The other sessions will help provide an update on 3D Geomatics Committee activities and next steps.
- We will begin reviewing the committee members and confirm their level of involvement with the committee and related workgroups.
- We will be working with the workgroups to update the GAC websites and related Lidar Hub Site.

Barriers

None

Additional Priority Projects and Initiatives Updates

None

Request for Assistance

None

Content contributed by [Gerry Sjerven](#) on behalf of the committee.

Archiving Committee

Responsible Priority Projects and Initiatives

- Geodata Archive Implementation

Most Recent Successes

- Archiving Committee held its first meeting in July!

Next Activities / Tasks

- Second meeting and planning for the coming year is scheduled for September.

Barriers

None

Additional Priority Projects and Initiatives Updates

N/A

Request for Assistance

- Still in need of a GAC member as Vice Chair!

Content contributed by [Ryan Mattke](#) on behalf of the committee.

Awards Committee

Responsible Priority Projects and Initiatives

None

Most Recent Successes

- The committee reviewed a proposal for the Governor's Commendation and passed the results on to Alison Slaats for her approval.

Next Activities / Tasks

- Review process and meet in Q2 to start promotion of next year's award.

Barriers

None

Additional Priority Projects and Initiatives Updates

N/A

Request for Assistance

None

Content contributed by [Len Kne](#) 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

- Apple, Google and Esri currently pull address data from the National Address Dataset.
- Several MN counties are participating in the Esri Community maps program sharing centerlines and other data.
- Discussions with Google and Esri representatives continue to identify preferred methods for statewide data sharing.

Next Activities / Tasks

- Continue communication and data sharing with Apple, Google and Esri
- Explore data sharing opportunities
- Continue advocating for open licensing of data sets to be shared

Barriers

- Statewide sharing of data relies on standards and open data licensing

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 Data Endorsement Ad-Hoc Committee has now met a total of 8 times since its first meeting in February 2025. The committee has established a first draft of a framework for the endorsement process - defining the key criteria, questions, considerations, etc. which will help to determine which datasets receive GAC endorsement.

Next Activities / Tasks

- Test the draft process with a few examples of actual datasets, identify any needed changes, and continue refining the process. May potentially have a recommendation for the GAC to review at the December meeting.

Barriers

- Working through finer details of the process – governance questions, terminology (e.g. "authoritative" vs. "endorsed"). Should find solutions to those barriers with additional testing and refinement.

Additional Priority Projects and Initiatives Updates

N/A

Request for Assistance

None

Content contributed by [Kevin Trappe](#) 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

- Full Committee/Leadership Team
  - Continue efforts to cleanup committee's files and bring efficiency to its IT infrastructure to facilitate handoff. File review underway with handoff to start during first week of September and complete by September 27.
- Critical Infrastructure Assessment (CIA) Project Team
  - Document a long-term workflow to keep fire, law enforcement verified annually by MN counties. In work.
  - Coordinate with the Data Endorsement Workgroup to develop procedures for "endorsing" critical infrastructure data sets. In work.
  - Before end of FY 26:
    - Resolve discrepancies between critical infrastructure data sets posted to the MnGeo critical infrastructure data page and those found on MnSAV. Pending
    - Document a long-term workflow
- US National Grid Materials
  - USNG Store will go live September 15. New USNG Center is currently being developed. USNG Institute website is considered functionally complete.
  - Develop documentation for USNG map production - developing documentation

Next Activities / Tasks

- Chair Swazee is stepping down as committee chair and Britta Maddox will assume this role.
- Continue working on 2026/27 workplan goals.
- Cory Richter is currently researching the viability of using members of the EPC's Minnesota Geospatial Community Resilience Volunteer group to: 1.) Create a better-defined program of self-study for those interested in getting more involved in the use of GIS within the Emergency Service Sector, and 2.) Create a way for EMs without GIS support to use these members as volunteers projects.
- Underground Utilities Mapping (UUM) Project Team:
  - FuzionView will go live in Minnesota's 811 system in mid-September with Open Source release scheduled for December 2025. Before the end of FY 26, prepare to close project and transition to an industry hosted effort which will steer any future development.
- Geospatial Assistance (GA) Project Team (Activated CY 2025): Geospatial Assistance Workgroup
  - Due to the lack of available volunteers, and in coordination with the Project Team Chair, this project team has been terminated. There are no further activities planned.

Barriers

- Lack of dedicated funding needed to support efficient management of basic EPC operations. Payment for web hosting, website, Zoom, and other critical administrative services as currently being provided by SharedGeo will terminate effective September 30th.

Additional Priority Projects and Initiatives Updates

None

Request for Assistance

- 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 position(s). A draft document supporting this concept was submitted to the state GIO in June, 2024.

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

- Several of us are involved in planning [GEOFEST](#) on October 11

Next Activities / Tasks

- GEOFEST will take place on October 11 at the University of Minnesota with a full day of sessions focused on GIS.
- We are also looking forward to working on creating datasets that are usable by schools.

Barriers

- Committee chair has been on medical leave.

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

- Stacey Stark stepped up to help lead the Open Data Subcommittee, co-chairing with Norm Anderson. Many Thanks!!!
- In the week of August 25th, the GAC hub build team completed the second round of revision requests from Megan S and Sally W. MnGeo will review GAC home hub and three committee hubs (Outreach, CAN DO and Data Endorsement) and work with MNIT Communications for an overall branding approval. This will be followed by a review and approval from the GAC.
- A Community Mapping Expo outreach event was held on August 13th at LOGIS. This year's theme is "Helping Communities Thrive with GIS – Nonprofit and Government Collaboration." We had 30 registrants from nonprofit, 39 from the government sector and 11 from the education domain. On event day, we had 50 in-person participants and 25 online attendees. Presenters included the State GIO and GIS professionals from Esri, Minnesota Design Center, Trust of Public Land and LOGIS. Event highlights and photos can be found in this [story map](#).

Next Activities / Tasks

- After the first four ArcGIS Hubs are approved, GAC hub build team will move on to build the next four committee hubs.
- With new leadership, Open Data Subcommittee will continue to work on the following.
    - Parcels - Encourage counties to contribute more parcel attributes
    - Parcels – Explore how the Department of Revenue's PRISM data could be used to enhance existing parcel data
    - Opt-In - Continue to contact counties about opt-in
    - Open Data – How to address counties concerned with becoming an open data county

Barriers

None

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 datasets are 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.
- 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

- Open Data glossary and web map need work and require assistance from MnGeo so we can include new verbiage and a well-explained web map on the Open Data Subcommittee page in the Outreach Committee Hub.

Content contributed by Jessica Fendos on behalf of the committee.

Parcels and Land Records Committee

Responsible Priority Projects and Initiatives

- Statewide County Boundary Dataset
- Updated & Aligned Boundary Data

Most Recent Successes

- Published new Minnesota Counties Dataset which is a hybrid of DNR, DOT, Met Council, and International Boundary Commission Data
  - This data was developed by MnGeo with input from state agency collaborators
  - The main goal of publishing this new dataset was to have just one county dataset on the commons
- Reviewed Cadastral Point Data Standard (CPDS) with PLRC and Arrowhead Regional Collaborative. Submitted the standard to the GAC Standards committee for Public review

Next Activities / Tasks

- Develop adoption guide for CPDS

Barriers

- Need commitment from DOT and DNR to retire their legacy datasets
- Volunteer time

Additional Priority Projects and Initiatives Updates

None

Request for Assistance

- Encourage DOT and DNR to make a plan and retire their legacy datasets from the geo commons.

Content contributed by Kory Thurnau and 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

- $5.3 Million in project expenses to date (as reported by the counties)
- Processed $4.7 Million in reimbursements (51.6%)
  - Not all counties have requested reimbursements for expenses incurred
- On average the completion percentage is 64.7% (as reported by the counties)
- May have a surveyor to help complete Cook Co project

Next Activities / Tasks

- Meeting monthly to pre-plan future fund distribution

Barriers

- Lack of permanent funding
- No real interest in statewide survey record inventory from the committee, as a whole

Additional Priority Projects and Initiatives Updates

- Statewide Survey Records Inventory - discussed but not a lot of interest from committee members
- Remonumentation - monitoring existing grants and planning future distribution strategy(s)

Request for Assistance

- Any and all support for permanent funding and support of AMC and their affiliate county associations

Content contributed by Kory Thurnau on behalf of the committee.

Standards Committee

Responsible Priority Projects and Initiatives

None

Most Recent Successes

- Draft of the Cadastral Point Data Standard ready for review by the Standards Committee

Next Activities / Tasks

- Get draft Cadastral Point Data Standard approved by the Standards Committee and begin a 90 day public review period.

Barriers

None

Additional Priority Projects and Initiatives Updates

N/A

Request for Assistance

None

Content contributed by [Mark Kotz](#) on behalf of the committee.