Minnesota Geospatial Advisory Council Meeting Minutes

January 6, 2021

Online via Webex

11:00 a.m. − 12:00 noon

Members Present: David Brandt, Washington County; Kari Geurts, MNIT Natural Resources; Renee Huset, City of St. Paul; Len Kne, University of Minnesota; Mark Kotz, Metropolitan Council; Chris Mavis, Hennepin County; Victoria Reinhardt, Ramsey County; Cory Richter, City of Blaine; Dan Ross, MnGeo; Soren Rundquist, Environmental Working Group; Gerry Sjerven, Minnesota Power; Ryan Stovern, St. Louis County; Harvey Thorleifson, University of Minnesota; Benjamin Timerson, Minnesota Department of Transportation; Brandon Tourtelotte, Pro-West and Associates; Patrick Veraguth, Douglas County.

Members Absent: Jeff Bloomquist, USDA Risk Management Agency; Ryan Bonney, Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community; Leanne Knott, City of Red Wing; Alex Steele, Minnehaha Watershed District; Kory Thurnau, USDA Forest Service

Non-Members Present: Andrea Bergman, DNR; Curt Carlson, MnGeo; Will Craig, retired; Tim Dayhuff, Aerial Services, Inc.; Preston Dowell, St. Louis County; Alex Evert, East View Geospatial; Jerod Fink, East View Geospatial; Sarah Grandstrand, Emmons & Olivier Resources; Randy Knippel, Dakota County; Mike Koutnik, retired; Colin Lee, DOT; Justin Lutterman, LeSueur County; Karen Majewicz, University of Minnesota; Ryan Mattke, University of Minnesota; Bryan McCoy, Headwaters Regional Development Commission; Matt McGuire, Metropolitan Council; Rick Moore, MNIT DNR; Joel Nelson, University of Minnesota; Nancy Rader, MnGeo; Justin Roberts, DOT; Catherine Rowley, City of Minneapolis; Marin Ryan, PCA; Alison Slaats, MnGeo; Lucas Spaete, DNR; Stacey Stark, UMN Duluth; Steve Swazee, SharedGeo; Mike Talbot, EOR; Sean Vaughn, MNIT DNR; Sally Wakefield, Minnesota Department of Revenue; Hal Watson, MNIT DNR

References

[Meeting slides](#)

Call to Order

Kotz introduced this special meeting of the GAC that is focused on setting the GAC priorities for 2021. The agenda was approved.

MN Geospatial Priorities Survey and GAC Priorities for 2021

Kotz described the reasons why the creation of priorities is important. They include:

- To create a voice for the MN geospatial community
- To direct work plans of the GAC and its committees
- To advise MnGeo on needs of the community
- To allow other organizations to compare priorities and align efforts
- To inform outreach and policy related efforts
- Having clear direction helps motivate people to participate

Then Kotz explained how the process of setting GAC priorities proceeds:

- A list of proposed projects and initiatives is created based on input from GAC members and committee chairs and outreach to sectors. In a regular year, input would be requested at the GIS/LIS conference, but because of the COVID-19 pandemic, the priority setting process was delayed, so it was not announced at GIS/LIS.
- The MN Geospatial Priorities Survey is released and people can vote on the value of each proposed priority for their business needs
- Then each priority is assigned a likelihood of success based on factors such as whether or not the priority has an owner, work team, champion, and funding. This provides a preliminary priority calculation.
- At this meeting, we review these scores and adjust with additional information and through discussion.

Kotz summarized the survey responses. 299 responses were received and Kotz was pleased with this rate. This is less than the 450 received last year, and the bulk of the reduction was accounted for by fewer state sector responses (140 fewer state responses).

Kotz then explained the scoring criteria used in the survey. Critical = 3; Very Important = 2; Nice to have = 1; Not needed or not answered = 0. Scores are shown as weighted and unweighted in the spreadsheet. Weighting is done by GAC seats representing sectors (e.g., nonprofit weight of 1 (1 seat), state government weight of 2 (2 seats)). Kotz noted that the results are very similar weighted and unweighted. Points are totaled to compute a success score, then multiplied by the value score for the final priority score.

The spreadsheet was shared on -screen and Kotz invited the group to comment and suggest changes to the priority spreadsheet.

- Vaughn: What is a champion? Kotz: A senior manager or policy maker who can break barriers and change things at a leadership level.
- Swazee: Provided updates for efforts related to the Emergency Preparedness Committee (underground utilities data sharing, critical infrastructure data workflow, and USNG materials).
- Mattke: Updated one of the champions for the archiving priority and suggested that funding could be increased from 0 to 1 because it is moving forward
- Sjerven: Suggested changing lidar data funding from 0 to 1 since there is funding for data acquisition in 2021 and more funding has been requested
- Vaughn: Jonathan Lord (DNR) should be the culvert standard champion; a work team is developing
- Veraguth: He is the owner of the remonumentation priority, and Ross is the champion

- Geurts: She can no longer be the owner for free and open data and suggested that Nick Meyers (co-chair of the Outreach Committee) could perhaps play this role. Geurts will follow up with him.
- Vaughn: Although there is currently no funding for the Hydro-DEMs project, he and Moore have time to commit to this work

After adjustments, the priority column was resorted, and Kotz asked the group to make decisions:

1. Keep or change the 1-28 ranking
2. Fill in values for the "Do in 2021" column. Do we want to put any in the parking lot for 2021?

- Reinhardt: Liked having the list separated into what we are focusing on in 2021 and what should be delayed, but emphasized that we shouldn't take any items off the list.
- Remonumentation:
  - Reinhardt said that elected officials do not sufficiently understand the importance of this topic. She suggested that this should be highlighted with elected officials. It would be helpful to understand more specifics about why this is important.
  - Kotz: Should this priority move up in the list?
  - Mavis: Explained that a lot of the data we are listing as priorities is based on land survey points, including boundary data and parcel data.
  - Craig (chat window): It's ironic that we've been working on section corners for 40 years. Each section is composed of many 40s. Maybe 40 years means we are close to the finish line.
  - Veraguth (chat window): Section corners were set in the late 1800s. There are over 300,000 corners in the state and less than half of them have been remonumented and certified. It costs about $1000 per corner to remonument.
  - Ross: This topic could this be made part of the Parcels and Land Records Committee work.
  - Reinhardt: We need to make sure this gets legislators' attention, so it can be funded.
- Stark: Explained that the climate projection data item was added by an MPCA staff person. There might not be a direct role for the GAC related to this data, so it could be taken off the 2021 list, but it would be helpful for the GIS community to better understand this data.
  - Watson (chat window): Stacey, let's follow up on the Climate Projection Data issue. My team at DNR is currently working with U of M State Climatology group and Kenny Blumenthal on an app for the public to explore this data.
  - Stark: Great. Yes, I know there is a lot of work being done with the climate data - just don't know what the role is for GAC immediately. I would love to hear more about the DNR's activity - as we (UMN) have a lot of interest in these data for all kinds of teaching, research and outreach!
- Kotz: Reminded members that even though an item may be lower on the list now, things can change over time, and often we see items move up the list after people know more about them. For example, this happened with the archiving priority.
- Reinhardt: Suggested everything that is not active should be changed to "No" for 2021.
  - Kotz asked for any objections to this.
  - Richter said that the "success stories" item is active via the Outreach Committee and the OneMinnesota response group.
  - All other items were changed to "No".

- Ross: MnGeo is the priority owner for the road centerline and address points priorities.
- Stovern: The Parcels and Land Records Committee can help with the parcel data work.

Motion: Approve 2021 GAC priories as adjusted in the spreadsheet (Brandt/Richter) Motion approved.
(The final version of the spreadsheet is below, starting on page 5.)

Publicizing the GAC's priorities:

- Ross: Suggested sharing these priorities with the geospatial community via a GovDelivery email and asked if the Outreach Committee could help with this?
- Geurts: Will reach out to Meyers about the GovDelivery and copy Sjerven.
- Reinhardt: Can this message can be shared with legislators? Ross said he would follow up with MNIT Communications about how to get the information in front of legislators.
- Vaughn: Emphasized that funding and efforts on GAC priorities would benefit by sharing the priorities with legislators now so that they are familiar with these efforts before being asked for funding and support. He said that this priorities exercise is one of the most collaborative efforts in the GIS community.
- Reinhardt: When the GovDelivery is sent, the GAC representatives can forward the message on to their sectors.

Kotz thanked everyone for their work on the priorities.

Announcements

Kotz reported that he is taking on a new non-GIS role at the Metropolitan Council, so he will be stepping down as a GAC member and chair when the current GAC term ends in June 2021. He is also stepping down as the MN GIS/LIS awards committee chair. Kotz said he will transfer knowledge and procedures to the new GAC chair when that person is selected.

Ross reported that several GAC members have asked for a presentation about what MnGeo does. He will set up a meeting for anyone who is interested.

- Richter: Suggested having a version of the presentation for new GAC members
- Craig: Will this meeting be recorded? Ross: Yes
- Ross: Contact Rader (nancy.rader@state.mn.us) if you are interested in attending

Adjourn

Kotz thanked people for attending the meeting and said the final spreadsheet will be publicly shared.

GAC Rank	Project or Initiative Name	Status
1	All public geospatial data in MN to be free and open to everyone	Active
2	Statewide publicly available parcel data	Active
3	Updated and aligned boundary data from authoritative sources	Active
4	Statewide publicly available road centerline data	Active
5	Statewide publicly available address points data	Active
6	A project team to develop geospatial data sharing methodologies to support the state's underground utilities community	Active
7	Establish a workflow for developing, sharing and maintaining statewide, publicly available, authoritative geospatial data for primary critical infrastructure themes	Active
8	New lidar data acquisition across Minnesota for use in developing new derived products guided by committee developed standards	Active
9	Improvements to the MnGeo Image Service, such as Web Mercator support, tiling, and complementary options such as "composite of latest leaf off imagery", and downloading options	Active
10	The implementation of an archive for Minnesota geospatial data	Active
11	Development of a culvert data standard for data sharing across the geospatial and infrastructure asset management communities and to support development of a future statewide culvert inventory	Active
12	Maps, procedures, templates and other materials to help all levels of government implement the U.S. National Grid	Active
13	Accurate hydro-DEMs (hDEM) that serve modern flood modeling and hydro-terrain analysis tools, and the development of more accurate watercourses and watersheds	Active
14	Remonumentation of all section corners in the state	Active
15	A trails data standard	Active
16	Outreach and education to show success stories for geospatial technology	Active
17	A Geospatial Commons advisory group to provide advice, guidance and strategic direction for the Commons from the broad perspective of the MN geospatial data stakeholder community	

18	A forum (committee, workgroup, etc.) for MN geospatial professionals to discuss and share best practices, standards, lessons learned, etc. for implementing and supporting the geospatial components of NG9-1-1	
19	Statewide and regional (e.g. Twin Cities metro) publicly available basemap services	
20	A parks data standard	
21	A project team to develop a long-term, statewide strategy for optical, lidar, radar, aerial and satellite imagery	
22	Dynamical Downscaled Climate Information (high resolution climate projection data)	
23	Best practices based on Criminal Justice Information Services (CJIS)/Bureau of Criminal Apprehension (BCA) guidance for connecting law enforcement data to GIS systems for analysis and sharing	
24	Statewide, publicly available, authoritative geospatial data for businesses with state-required licenses, permits or registrations	
25	Best practices/guidelines for sharing snow emergency parking restrictions between cities	
26	An inventory and assessment of Minnesota's geospatial data assets	
27	Summary data by region for property crimes in an accessible GIS format	
28	Data standard for street parking restrictions	