



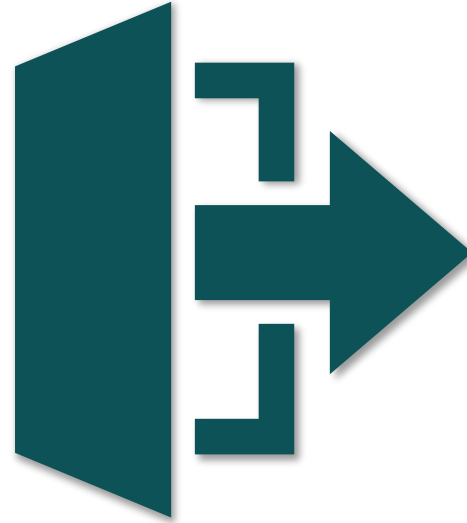
Minnesota Geospatial Advisory Council

May 21, 2025

In-Person Attendees: Mute Your Audio



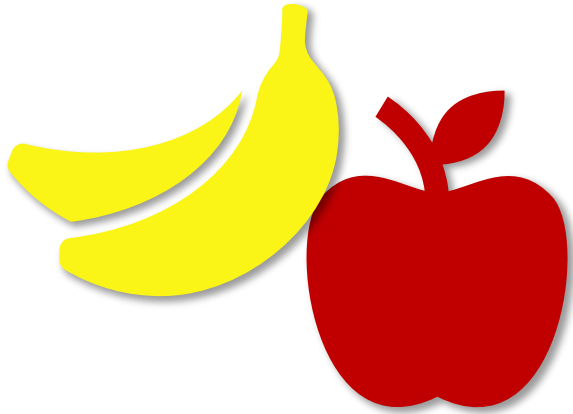
In-Person Attendees: Bathrooms & Exits



Wi-Fi



In-Person Attendees: Refreshments



**Help yourself to food
and beverages!**



Transcription & Information Sharing

- This meeting is being transcribed (not recorded) by Microsoft Teams to assist with the creation of the meeting minutes.
- The content of the meeting chat and transcript is subject to the Minnesota Data Practices Act, and so a gentle reminder, please don't share any private information.

Agenda Item 1

- **Call to Order**

- Introductions
- GAC mission reminder
- Approve agenda
- Approve last meeting minutes
([March 5, 2025](#))

Albrecht



Member Introductions

- **City, Twin Cities metro**
 - Dennis Tumberg, City of Chanhassen
- **City, Greater Minnesota**
 - Vacant
- **County, Twin Cities metro**
 - Vacant
- **County, Greater Minnesota**
 - Christy Christensen, McLeod County
- **Regional Government, Twin Cities metro**
 - Tanya Mayer, Met Council
- **Regional Government, Greater Minnesota**
 - Jill Amundson, West Central Initiative
- **State Government**
 - Kari Geurts, DNR
 - Vacant
- **Federal Government**
 - Jeff Bloomquist, Risk Management Agency, USDA
 - Mitch Bergeson, US Geological Survey
- **Tribal Government**
 - Ryan Bonney, Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community
- **Non-profit Organization**
 - Jessica Fendos, LOGIS
- **Business**
 - Kendis Scharenbroich, Pro-West & Associates
 - Gerry Sjerven, Minnesota Power
- **K-12 Education**
 - Shana Crosson, U-Spatial / UMN Twin Cities
- **Higher Education**
 - Len Kne, U-Spatial / UMN Twin Cities
 - Stacey Stark, U-Spatial / UMN Duluth
- **MetroGIS**
 - David Brandt, Washington County
- **MN GIS/LIS Consortium**
 - Leanne Knott, City of Red Wing
- **Surveyor**
 - Pat Veraguth, Douglas County
- **At-large**
 - Cory Richter, Ramsey County
 - Heather Albrecht, Hennepin County
 - Britta Maddox, Anoka County
- **Chief Geospatial Information Officer (ex-officio)**
 - Alison Slaats, MnGeo

Non-Member Guests

First and last name

Name of your organization

In-Room Attendees: Please announce verbally

Virtual Attendees: Place in the chat

Administrative Support

MnGeo will provide support throughout the meeting:

- Sally Wakefield (*slides and chat*)
- Megan Sisko (*meeting minutes*)

The Council acts as a coordinating body for the Minnesota geospatial community. It represents a cross-section of organizations that include counties, cities, universities, business, nonprofit organizations, federal and state agencies, tribal government, surveyors and other stakeholder groups that benefit from geospatial technology.

Agenda

Time	Topic	Time	Topic
11:00	Call to order	1:25	MnGeo updates
11:15	Committee term highlights	1:30	Executive Team updates
12:15	Review and accept Committee Term Reports and Work Plans	1:50	Round Robin / Announcements
12:20	Break and networking	2:00	Adjourn
12:50	GAC member representation discussion		
1:20	MN GIS/LIS Consortium updates		

Approve agenda

Approve last meeting minutes

(March 5, 2025)

Committee Term Highlights Committee Chairs





Awards Committee

Len Kne & Philipp Nagel

Nationwide and Commercial Data Assets Workgroup (CAN DO)



Contributing to Nationwide and Commercial Data Assets

David Brandt

Workgroup Mission

To share local authoritative data with nationwide and commercial assets

Members

- David Brandt (Washington County, Chair)
- Vic Barnett (Ramsey County)
- Doug Matzek (Washington County)
- John Slusarczyk (Anoka County)
- Tanya Mayer (Met Council)
- Linse Lahti (MN DNR)
- Alison Slaats (MnGeo)
- Sally Wakefield (MnGeo)

Accomplishments

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



Planned Activities and Deliverables

- **Continue communication and data sharing with Esri, TomTom and Google.**
- **Explore data sharing opportunities**
- **Define authoritative data.**



Thank You!

David Brandt

david.brandt@washingtoncountymn.gov

651-430-6451

Data Endorsement Ad-Hoc Committee

FY2024/25 Accomplishment

- Data Endorsement Committee and charter was created through GAC approval on September 18, 2024
- As of May 2024, the committee has 13 members, and has met 4 times
- The committee has reviewed materials from other states, NSDI, MnGeo and worked on defining what the working components of the endorsement process should look like



FY2026/27 GAC Term Work Plan

- The committee will use at least two datasets to test the draft data endorsement process and refine the criteria and process.
- The committee plans to complete a draft GAC data endorsement process to present to the GAC for review and approval
- The committee will roll out the final GAC data endorsement process and recommend how to use the process



EPC FY24-25 Accomplishments / FY26-27 Work Plan

Stephen Swazee | Emergency Preparedness Committee

FY24-25 Accomplishments

Three GAC Priority Projects (Project Teams)

- **Critical Infrastructure Assessment** – Stacey Stark/Matt Goodman
 - Ongoing process in coordination with MnGeo to develop statewide endorsed data sets
- **Underground Utility Mapping** – Kelly Connolly/Steve Swazee
 - Collaborative effort with Gopher State One Call (Call Before You Dig, 811 service)
 - Supervising development of two pieces of software – FuzionView and Field Data Collect (FDC)
 - FuzionView IOC June 2025; FDC IOC Fall 2025. Potential to save upwards of \$100 million/yr. in Minnesota alone
- **U.S. National Grid (USNG)** – Randy Knippel
 - Genesis for ongoing development of the U.S. National Grid Institute – a nationwide effort
 - Past Minnesota efforts - from apps to mapping techniques - are being championed nationally by USNGI (3 websites)

End State Vision On June 30, 2026:

- **Critical Infrastructure Assessment** – Stacey Stark/Matt Goodman
 - Entirely dependent on completion of work by the Data Endorsement Committee, complete the first statewide endorsed critical infrastructure data set
- **Geospatial Preparedness** – Brian Huberty
 - Completion of version 1.0 of federal and state geospatial resources guide for disasters
- **Underground Utility Mapping** – Kelly Connolly/Steve Swazee
 - Program complete, follow on UUMPT effort to live in industry
- **U.S. National Grid (USNG)** – Randy Knippel
 - Lacking a new chair to lead MN effort, project ends with only U.S. National Grid Institute remaining

Thank You!

Steve Swazee

chair@mgacepc.org

651-456-5411

K-12 Education Committee 2024-2025

Shana Crosson | K-12 Education Committee

2024-2025 Accomplishments

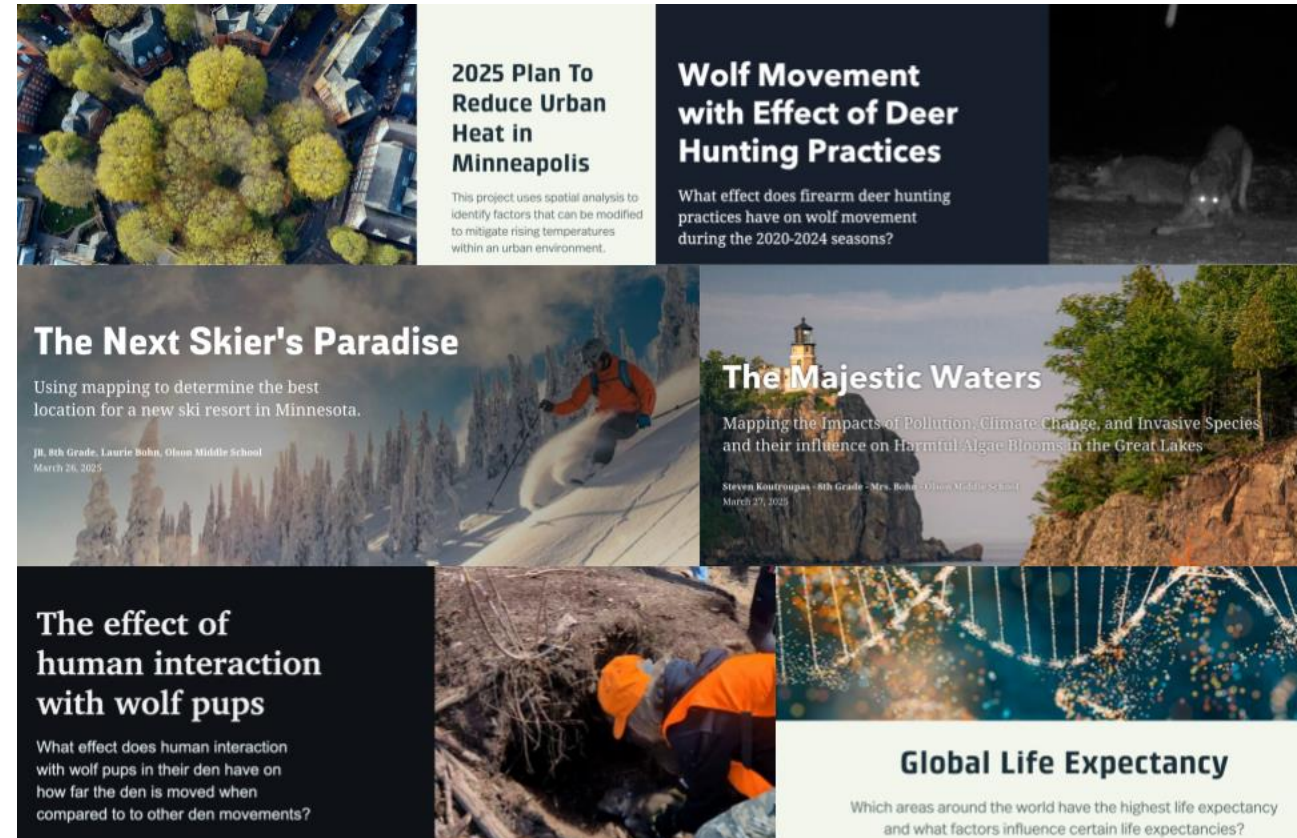
- Initial determination of goals and scope of the committee
- Developed a plan for the year
- Initial conversations with educators and administrators about barriers for GIS integration
- Presented at GIS/LIS Conference in October 2024
- Tabled at GEOFEST in October 2024
- Reviewed existing resources in the state

K-12 Education Committee

Minnesota Student Digital Mapping Competition – 2025

MAGE took this over from Esri.
Check out the entries!

z.umn.edu/mnmap2025



2025-2026 Plans

- Find a new Vice Chair
- Continue connecting to educators and students
- Explore more K-12 focused resources
- Develop a plan for creation of additional resources and support

Thank You!

Shana Crosson
scrosson@umn.edu



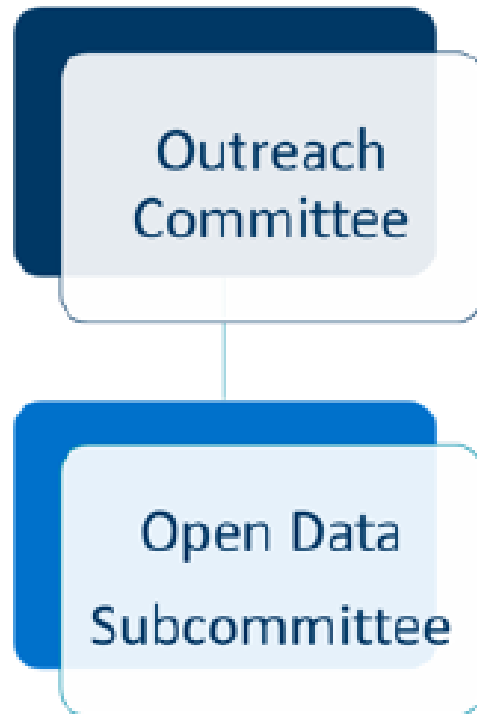
GAC Outreach Committee Update

Jessica Fendos | Outreach Committee

Outreach Committee met April 1st and May 6th of 2025

- Chair position for the Success Stories Workgroup the Open Data Subcommittee
- GAC and GAC Committee Hub site build progress
- Outreach Committee Work Plan (July 2025- July 2027)
- MGAC Presentation/Activities at the GIS/LIS Conference?
- 2025 Community Mapping Expo
Helping Communities Thrive with GIS – Nonprofit and Government Collaboration

New Outreach Committee



Norm Anderson
Looking for a co-chair!

- State government outreach – Chris C + Abby Stam
- County alliance – Carla C + Cara L
- Media Outreach – Megan S & Sally Wakefield
- Publication/Messaging – John N, Megan S
- Governor's Certificate + Esri/NSGIC Awards – Kendis S + Jessica F
- MGAC and Committee Hubs – Jeff K, Alec T, Kendis S, Jessica F, Nick Linell, Megan S.

Open Data Subcommittee Accomplishments

- 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. Murray and Polk counties opted-in!!!
- **Open Data Subcommittee Co-Chair meeting – May 28th**
- **Open Data subcommittee leadership** is preparing some talking points for a **meeting on June 11th.**
 - Continuing the conversation about attributes.
 - An overview of PRISM attributes
 - Examples of how parcel attributes are used in agency projects
 - Creating a response to the common reasons for not publicly sharing data

Minnesota Geospatial Advisory Council

The Council acts as a coordinating body for organizations that include counties, cities, government, surveyors and other stakeholders.



Current Members

Appointed members of the Minnesota Geospatial Advisory Committee.



Kendis Scharenbroich Pro-West & Associates Inc.



Gerry Sjerven Minnesota Power Business



Shana Crosson US-Spatial | Research Computing, University of...



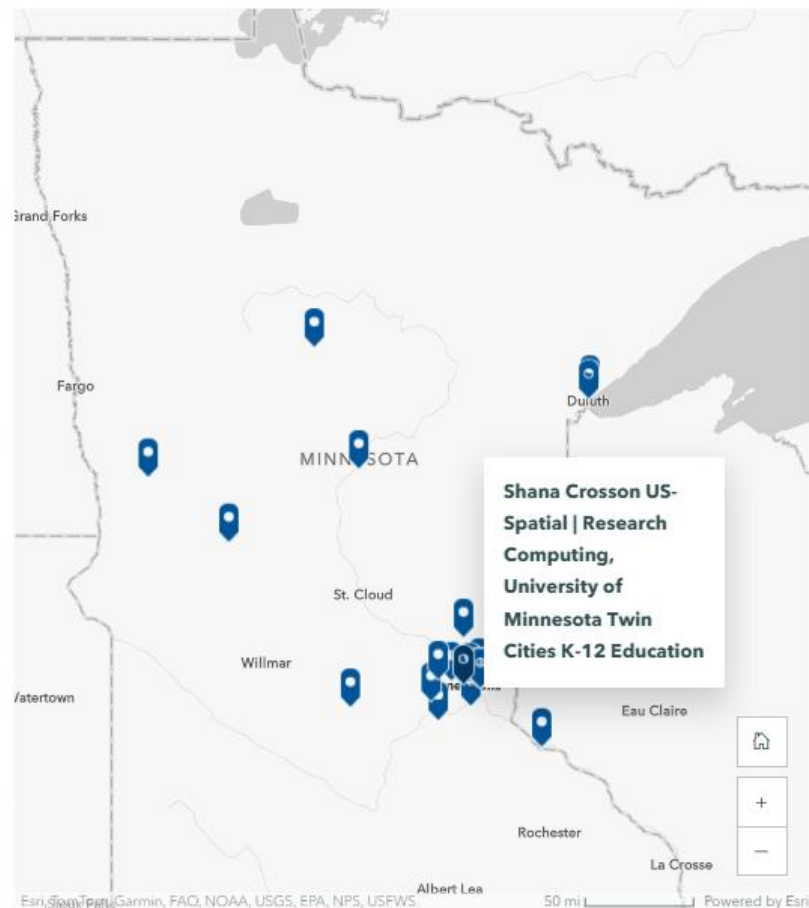
Len Kne U-Spatial | Research Computing, University of...



Stacey Stark U-Spatial | Research Computing, University of...



David Brandt Washington County | MetroGIS Regional...



The Outreach Committee meets the first Tuesday of every month

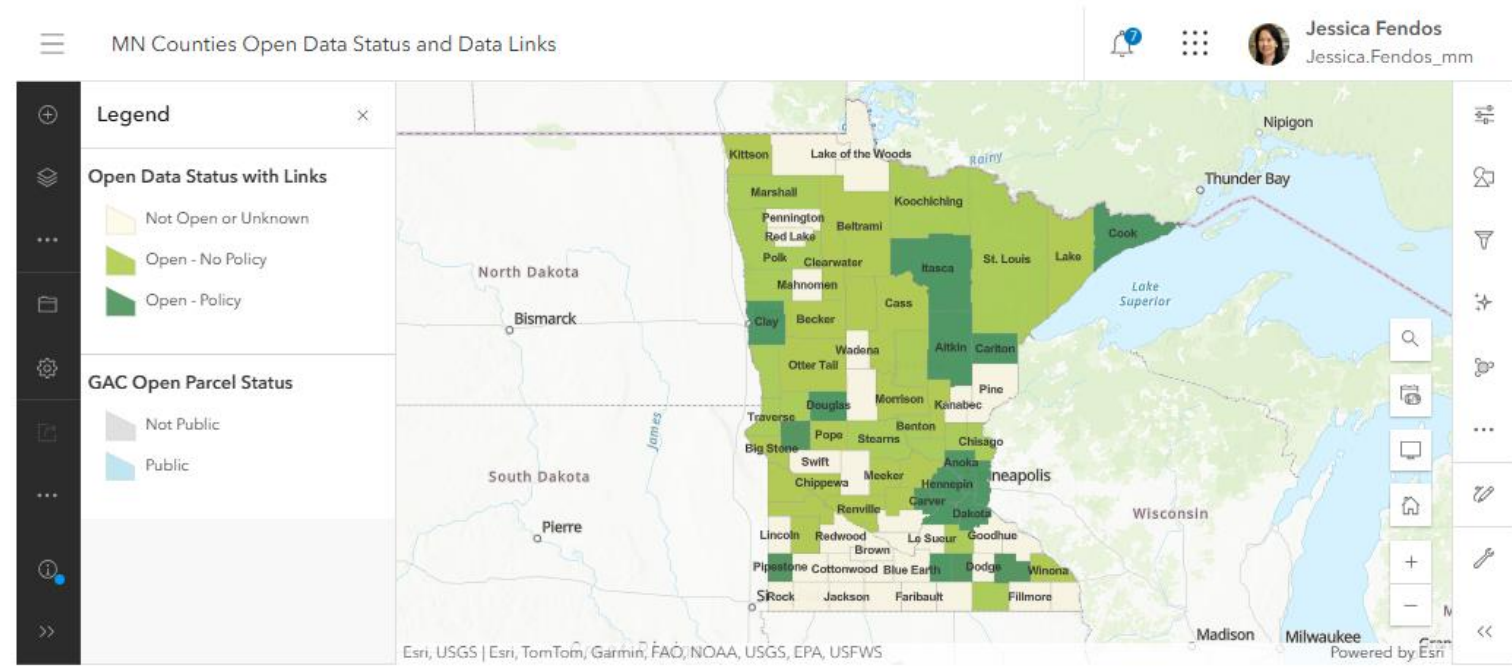
List of Upcoming Events

<div> <div><</div> <div>May 2025</div> <div>></div> </div>						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
27	28	29	30	1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

Open Data Subcommittee

The mission of the Open Data Subcommittee is to promote sharing of county address, centerline, and parcel data openly and to the state for cohesive statewide data. The committee is working with counties to opt-in to sharing data. Once an agreement is reached, the data will be added to statewide feature classes available on the Minnesota Geospatial Commons.

Of 87 Minnesota counties, 55 contributed parcels, 46 have agreed to contribute address points and emergency service zones, and 45 have agreed to contributed road centerlines to date.



Workplan

July 2025 - June 2026

June 3rd	<p>MNIT Communications reviews GAC and Committee hubs.</p> <p>Deliver Committee hubs and align roles and responsibilities with Committees</p> <p>Start building the next wave of committee hubs (6)</p>
July 1st	<p>Esri User Conference (MN User Group Outing)</p> <p>Invite Governor to GIS/LIS Conference if we have a Governor's Certificate Award recipient</p> <p>Continue to build committee hubs</p>
August 5th	<p>Mapping Expo - GIS Education Day</p> <p>Build hubs</p>
September 2nd	<p>GAC meeting Sept. 10th</p> <p>Build hubs and show hubs</p>
October 7th	<p>GIS/LIS Conference</p>
November 4th	<p>GIS Day event</p> <p>Wrap up all committee hubs</p>
December 2nd	<p>GAC meeting (Dec. 17th)</p> <p>Present all committee hubs to GAC</p>
2026	<p>Publish GAC hub and all committee hubs</p> <p>Communication – ArcWatch article</p> <p>Gather letters and contents from GAC Chair and Chief GIO. GAC Annual report (MnGeo +John N + Chris C)</p>

Thank You!

Jessica Fendos

jfendos@logismn.gov

763-543-2638

Parcel and Land Records Committee

Parcel and Land Records Committee

- **Updated & Aligned Boundary Data**

Cadastral Point Data Standard

Facilitate alignment through collaboration

- **Remonumentation of all original federal Section Corners**

Legislation submitted to the MN House and Senate seeking funding to continue the PLSS Monument Grant Program.

Work with stakeholders to develop a long term model for the grant program

PLSS Preservation Committee

Remonumentation of all original federal section corners

- Released PLSS Monument Grant RFP to MN Counties
- Awarded \$9.1 million to 34 counties
- Monitored progress of the 34 grant projects
- Reimbursed \$3 million in grant reimbursements to date

Statewide Survey Records Inventory

- Developed initial survey in 123
- Pat Veraguth will distribute to Minnesota County Associations for completion



2025 Accomplishments

- Minor modifications to standards and templates to increase clarity and consistency and correct typos.
 - Updated domain split policy in the geodatabase template
 - Standardized examples, descriptions and domain for the ESNs
 - Revision of element section name in Address Points Data Standard
 - Worked with the PLSS Point Data Standard subject matter experts from the PLSS Preservation and Parcels and Land Records Committees to review a draft standard proposal including clarification of scope, clarity and consistency of language and domains and moving it into the GAC standards format.
 - Worked with the Lake and Wetland Basin ID subject matter experts to revise the standard initially approved by the Governor's Council on Geographic Information and move it into the GAC standards format.
-
- 14 members of the GAC Standards Committee
 - 13 individuals on the email 'cc list attend meetings periodically

2026 goals

- In conjunction with subject matter experts from DNR, complete a revised draft of the **Lake and Wetland Basin ID Standard** in the GAC format and submit it to the GAC for approval.
- In conjunction with subject matter experts from the PLSS Preservation Committee, complete an initial draft of the **Cadastral Point Data Standard**, publish it for 90-day public review and make adjustments based on review comments.
- Continued making refinements to existing standards as needed for clarity and consistency.

Review and accept Committee Term Reports and Work Plans Albrecht



Break and Networking



Discuss GAC Member Representation Slaats / Albrecht



Mission: The Council acts as a coordinating body for the Minnesota geospatial community. It represents a cross-section of organizations that include counties, cities, universities, business, nonprofit organizations, federal and state agencies, tribal government, surveyors and other stakeholder groups that benefit from geospatial technology.

GAC Membership Sector Representation

Alison Slaats, MN GIO & Heather Albrecht , GAC Chair

GAC membership open appointments

- Applications for FY 2026/27 term GAC membership soft closed on March 28th
 - *Will remain open until all vacancies are filled*
- Number of applicants exceeded number of seats available, 23
- Problem: Sector category seats are not aligned with applicant pool!
- Today we will
 - Share how the GAC sector representation has evolved
 - Compare our representation to other councils
 - Introduce options for flexibility in appointing GAC membership

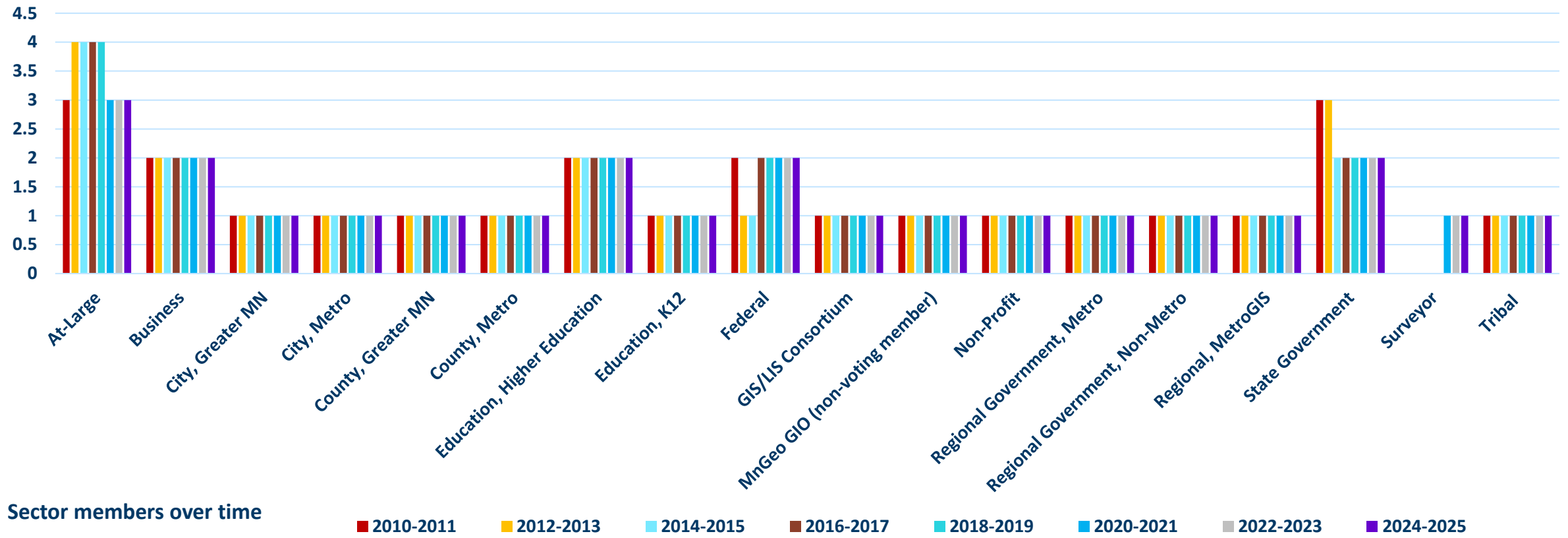
MnGeo & Geospatial Advisory Council: Brief History

- MnGeo was authorized by SF 2082, passed into law in May 2009
- First GAC meet was January 2010
- There have been 8 2-year GAC terms
- 23 members appointed + 1 MnGeo member (non-voting) – the GIO by statute
- The members must represent a cross-section of organizations including counties, cities, universities, business, nonprofit organizations, federal agencies, tribal governments, and state agencies. In addition, the chief geospatial information officer must be a nonvoting member.

Member positions by sector over terms

Sector	2010-2011	2012-2013	2014-2015	2016-2017	2018-2019	2020-2021	2022-2023	2024-2025	Notes
At-Large	3	4	4	4	4	3	3	3	Flexed seats over time
Business	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	
City, Greater MN	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
City, Metro	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
County, Greater MN	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
County, Metro	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
Education, Higher Education	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	Was originally named MnSCU and UMN
Education, K12	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	Was open 2020-21, then reinstated in 2022
Federal	2	1	1	2	2	2	2	2	Was originally named USGS and Other
GIS/LIS Consortium	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
MnGeo GIO (non-voting)	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	GIO is the MnGeo member as per statute
Non-Profit	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
Regional Government, Metro	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	Was originally named Metropolitan Council
Regional Government, Non-Metro	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
Regional, MetroGIS	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
State Government	3	3	2	2	2	2	2	2	Lost one seat after 2014
Surveyor	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	Added one seat in 2019
Tribal	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
Total	24	24	23	24	24	24	24	24	

Member positions by sector over terms



Sector changes over the years

- At-large has flexed between 3-4 members
- Federal has flexed between 1-2 members
- State was reduced from 3 to 2 members in 2014
- K12 was briefly unfilled, considered removed, then reinstated
- Surveyor member was added with term in 2020

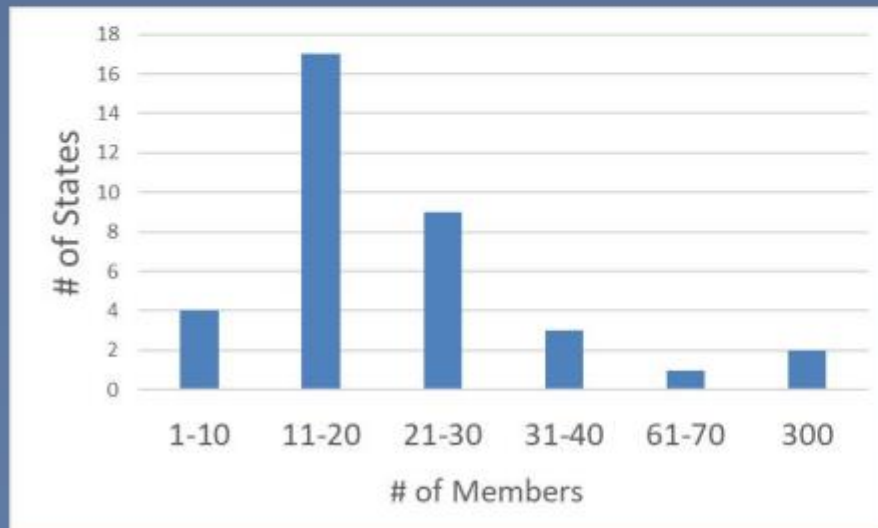
Reflection about sectors

- At-large seats are helpful
 - When there is a long-term member in a sector, another person from that sector can be appointed to an at-large seat
 - Can allow us to flex to provide a position to a new sector, or person
- Interest in having other sectors represented, such as NG911/emergency response
- Check in with other states to see how we compare
 - Number of seats
 - Sectors that are represented

NSGIC Council of Councils Survey: Other states - Number of Members

Survey Results

How many members are on your Council?



How are your Council members selected?

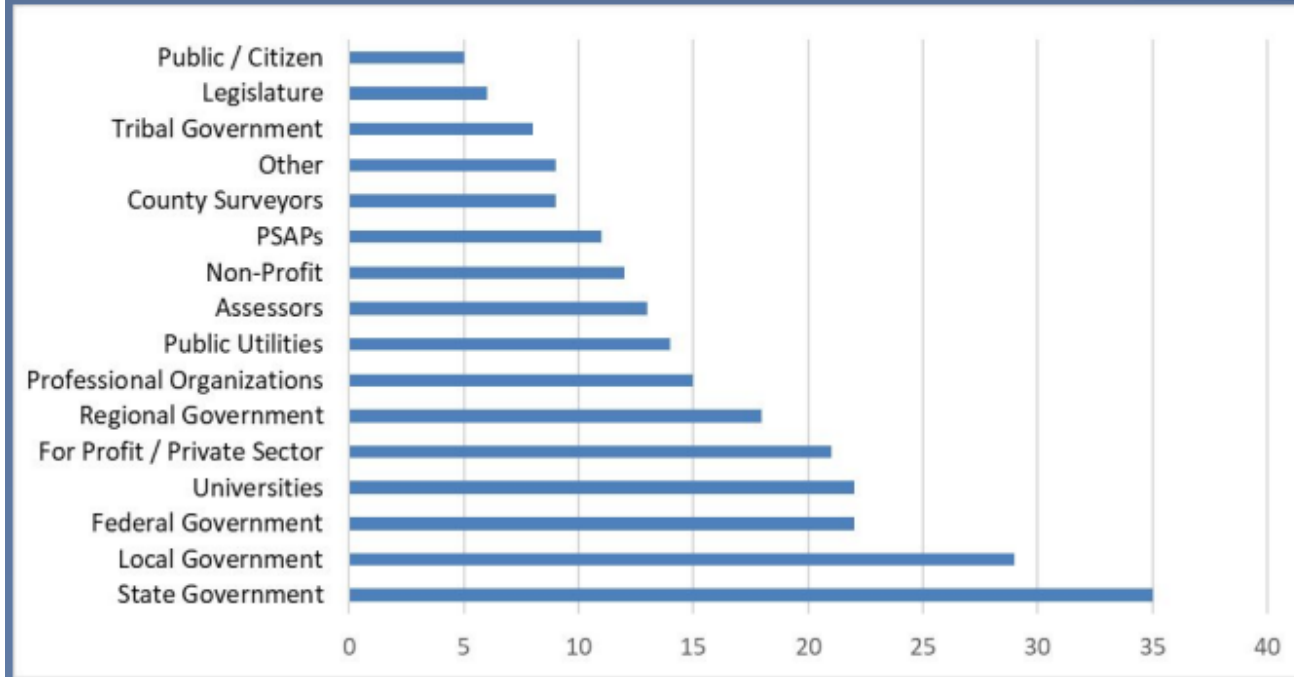
Governor Appointed	5
Governor & Legislatively Appointed, Statute Combo	12
Majority Vote	5
Self-Appointed	4
Other / Combination	10

Other = paying agencies, by community, by agency head, by GIO, by CIO,

[source](#)

NSGIC Council of Councils Survey : Other states - Member Sectors

Which sectors are represented
on your council?



[source](#)

Sectors that other state councils have
that are not on Minnesota GAC

- Public
- Legislative
- Public Safety Answering Points (PSAPs)
- Assessors
- Public Utilities
- Elections
- Real estate

Breakdown of GAC sector representation

1. City (2)

- Twin Cities metro (1)
- Greater Minnesota (1)

2. County (2)

- Twin Cities metro (1)
- Greater Minnesota (1)

3. Regional Government (2)

- Twin Cities metro (1)
- Greater Minnesota (1)

4. State Government (2)

5. Federal Government (2)

6. Tribal Government (1)

7. Non-profit Organization (1)

8. Business (2)

9. K-12 Education (1)

10. Higher Education (2)

11. MetroGIS (1)

12. MN GIS/LIS Consortium (1)

13. Surveyor (1)

14. At-large (3)

15. MN chief geospatial information officer (ex-officio)

**GAC membership applications are
not aligned with sector
representation seats!**

Representation of applicants

Category	# Seats Available	# Seats Applied	# Seats Not Applied For
City (Metro)	1	3	0
City (Greater MN)	1	0	1
County (Metro)	1	1	0
County (Greater MN)	1	1	0
Regional Gov (Metro)	1	2	0
Regional Gov (Greater MN)	1	0	1
State Gov	2	2	0
Federal Gov	2	1	1
Tribal Gov	1	2	0
Nonprofit	1	2	0
Business	2	4	0
K-12	1	1	0
Higher Ed	2	1	1
MetroGIS	1	1	0
GIS/LIS Consortium	1	1	0
Surveyor	1	1	0
At-Large	3	10	0

Option 1: Flex second sector seat

- For sector categories with more than one seat allocated
- Change designation to at least one, but not more than two?
- At-large will be an exception, and any unfilled seat will be added to At-large
 - State Gov
 - Federal Gov
 - Business
 - Higher Ed
 - At-Large (3)

Option 2: Add GAC member seats

- Increase the number of GAC seats available from 23
- Add dedicated sector seats such as public safety or assessors?
- Increase the number of at-large seats?
 - Currently 3 dedicated to At-large
 - Benefits adding to at-large:
 - Ability for membership sector to fluctuate with trends in GIS
 - Adds flexibility needed to prevent a mismatch between applications and seats

Option 3: No change

- Hold number of GAC seats at 23
 - Maintain status quo of sector seats available
 - Keep application period open until all seats are filled
 - Continue to recruit for open seats

- Option 1: Flex second sector seat
 - Change designation to at least one, but not more than two, add unfilled seats to at-large
- Option 2: Add GAC member seats
 - Increase the number of GAC seats available
- Option 3: No change
 - Hold number of GAC seats at 23 and keep sector representation the same

Any GAC membership changes will be recommended to the MNIT Commissioner for approval

Sector membership recruitment

- Sector categories without applicants
 - City (Greater MN)
 - Was able to recruit qualified applicant!
 - Regional Gov (Greater MN)
 - How should we define this regarding GAC sector representation?
 - Expanding the GAC definition of regional government may help in recruiting
 - Ideas include MCGISA regional representatives
 - GIS user groups

Minnesota GIS/LIS Consortium Updates Knott





Update on MN GIS/LIS Consortium

Leanne Knott, GISP | GIS/LIS Ex-officio for the GAC

About the Consortium

Minnesota GIS/LIS Consortium

- The Minnesota GIS/LIS Consortium is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization with over 600 members across the Minnesota Geospatial Industry.
- **Mission Statement:** Our mission is to develop and support the GIS/LIS community in Minnesota for the benefit of our people and contributors.
- The MN GIS/LIS Board of Directors is responsible for shaping the direction and operations of the Consortium. Fourteen committees support the Board, each specializing in core operations in support of the Board.
- Board members serve two-year terms, with the exception of Board Chair and Conference The Board meets monthly (both in-person and virtual).
- Carla Coates will be stepping into the GAC Ex-officio role for the Consortium 😊

March 20th/April 17th Meeting Updates

- The Board has been discussing the possibility of fee-based membership to support rising costs and align with other state-wide GIS non-profit organizations.
- The Board is working on potential Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) with Minnesota Society of Professional Surveyors, Iowa, and MAGIC (MidAmerica GIS Consortium – it's a group for those in North Dakota, South Dakota, Iowa, Kansas, Nebraska, Illinois, Missouri, Arkansas and Oklahoma in the GIS field).
- The Board approved several contracts and supported an Event Grant Request for NE MN GIS Users Group.
- The Board discussed improving MnGeo and Consortium Coordination efforts, including the Consortium retaining a lobbyist to advocate for statewide GIS funding efforts at the State Capital.

Spring Workshops

May 15th at U of M Minneapolis

- Registration is still open for workshops including Arcade, Python, Open-Source Web Maps, Pro, Experience Builder and more!
- Fun networking at The Corner Bar after workshops.
- **Contact Spring Workshops Chair Eric Myott (myott001@umn.edu) for more information.**



Oct. 1-3 in Duluth

- Call for Award Nominations (Emerging Leader, Spark, Polaris, Lifetime Achievement) due on May 30th.
- Call for Workshop Instructors and Vendors.
- **Contact Fall Conference Committee Chair Steph Boyum (Stephanie.Boyum@boltonmenk.com) for more information.**



Thank You!

Leanne Knott

Leanne.Knott@goodhuecountymn.gov

651-385-3187

MnGeo Updates Slaats



Update on MnGeo PLSS Monument Grant

- **May quarterly progress reports show (Due 05/16/2025):**

- Average project completion is 46%

As reported by the counties

- Total County Expenses to date: \$3,689,388.35

- Processed **\$3,000,755.26** in reimbursements

33% of \$9.1 million

- 1 County will complete their project this month

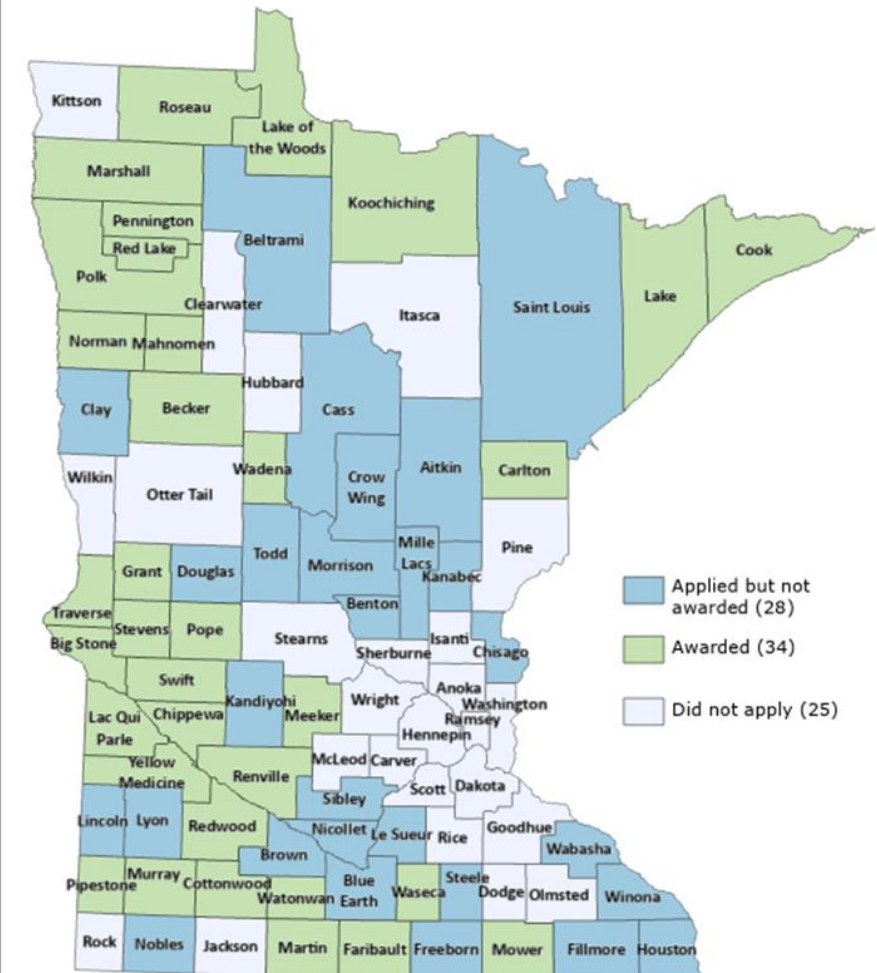
- Annual reviews were completed:

- All counties report being on track to complete their projects on schedule
- Some counties are projecting to be under budget and will complete additional corners

- **Upcoming progress:**

- Many counties are filing corner certificates
- Kory will be making additional field inspection trips this spring and summer.

2024 PLSS Grant Applications & Awards



PLSS Remonumentation Legislation Subcommittee

Past Outreach

- Phil Raines (Minnesota Society of Professional Land Surveyors-MSPS) lobbying for PLSS Funding at the capitol
- Alison and Pat presented at the MnDOT Tech Conference
- Surveyor's Day at the Capitol March 17
 - Governor's Dining Room 12:00p.m.-4:00p.m.
 - Presentations & Lunch were Provided
- Phil Raines & Pat Veraguth gave a Lunch & Learn to AMC

Upcoming outreach

- Working with County Recorders & Auditor/ Treasurers about permanently funding the PLSS Monument Grant Program
- Review potential revenue sources: Deed & Mortgage Tax

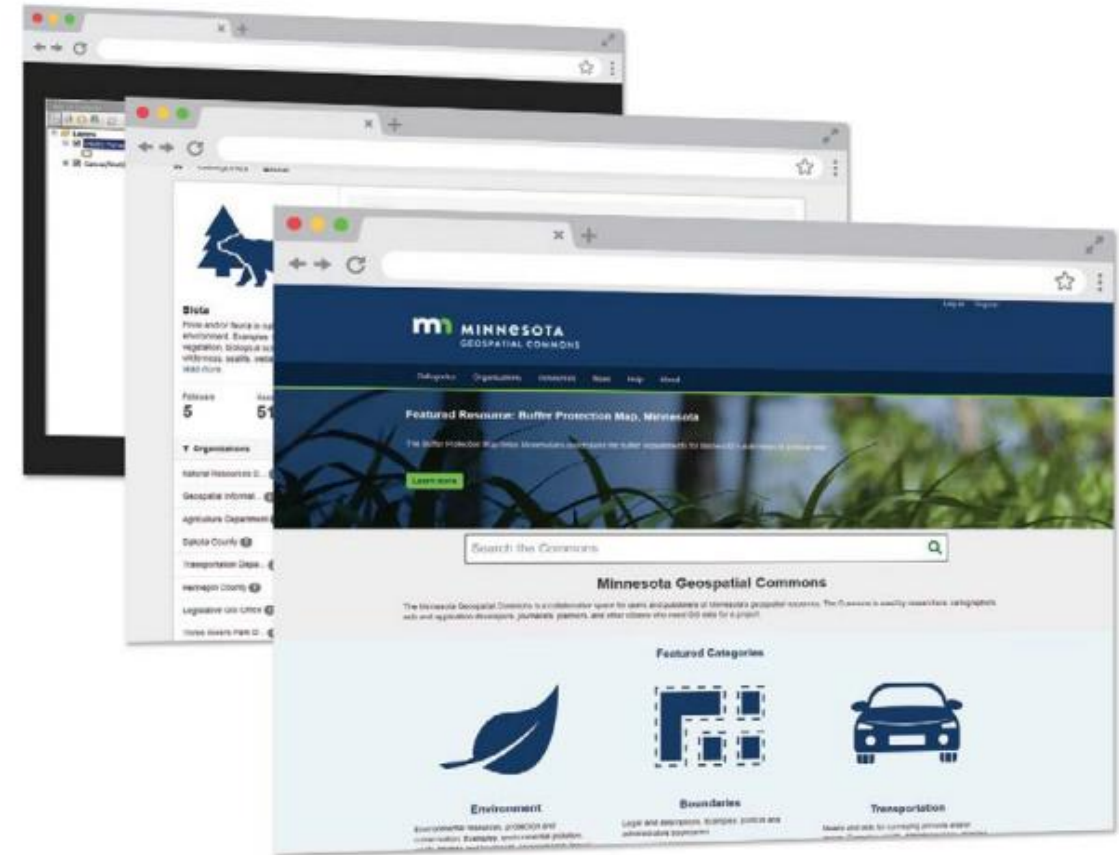
Legislative update

- [SF 1233](#) and [HF 1478](#) have been submitted proposing further funding of the PLSS Monument Grant Program
- [SF 59](#) and [HF 531](#) have been submitted by Senator Steve Green. Currently tabled by the senate judiciary committee
- [HF 2432](#) and [SF 1417](#) (Redacting Judges names and others on public documents)



Update: Modernization of the Geospatial Commons

- MnGeo applied for, and received funds from the [MNIT Technology Modernization Fund](#)
- The Minnesota Geospatial Commons technology is aging, and 10 years old
- TMF funding will enable *modernization* of Commons technology from a *file-based system to a web service model* and *improve user and publisher experience*
- **Updates:**
 - Project extension to March 2026
 - 4 Minimum Viable Product (MVP): August 2025, November 2025, February 2026, March 2026



2023 NAIP Data available in MnGeo WMS

- In 2023, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Farm Service Agency (FSA) acquired statewide aerial imagery through the [National Agricultural Imagery Program](#) (NAIP).
- This imagery is now available on the [Minnesota Geospatial Image Service](#) in natural color and color-infrared.
- NAIP imagery is planned for summer 2025



Update: Government-Owned Lands Dataset

Overview

- The Government owned lands is a derived subset of the aggregated parcel dataset that includes land owned by government entities

Update

- Data now available on the Geospatial Commons:
<https://gisdata.mn.gov/dataset/plan-gov-own-open>

Example Uses

- Identify potential areas for collaborative conservation efforts between the Department of Natural Resources and various conservation partners.
- Assess watershed areas and determine the proportion of protected land versus land open to development.
- Identify private landowners in proximity to known Chronic Wasting Disease cases.
- Exclude government-owned lands from certain analysis where private ownership is critical (like Broadband).



Upcoming guidance from MNIT for the GAC

- As the GAC is appointed by the MNIT commissioner and supported by MnGeo, the GAC is, by extension, obligated to abide by MNIT policies, including those governing Open Meeting Law
- Over the next few months MnGeo and MNIT will be sharing about the following topics, and intend to invite MNIT legal counsel to address the GAC about these topics as needed
 - If GAC or GAC related meetings are recorded, we need to provide an appropriate Tennessean Warning
 - All GAC and GAC related materials should be stored on MNIT hosted websites and document sites (like SharePoint or Teams)
 - All GAC and GAC related meetings *may be required* to be hosted by MnGeo, details to come
 - Other topics including communication guidance, accessibility, and more

Executive Team Updates Albrecht



GAC FY2024/25 Term Report & FY2026/27 Work Plan

Heather Albrecht | Chair, Geospatial Advisory Council

GAC term highlights

- September 13, 2023 first quarterly GAC meeting of the FY204-25 term
- [National States Geographic Information Council \(NSGIC\)](#) membership extended to all GAC members
- Letter of support for MnGeo to improve the MN Geospatial Commons
- Formed the GAC K-12 Committee and Executive Team
- Letter of support for St. Cloud State University's geography and GIS programs
- Created a new GAC Data Endorsement Ad-Hoc Committee
- Introduced the Executive Team Goals
- (Re)established a GAC Archiving Committee
- Work has started on GAC and its committees Esri Hub websites

GAC (Executive Team) goals

- Increase duration of priority project work to align with full GAC term
 - Completed
- Align GAC committees and priority projects
 - Completed
- Improve committee and workgroup reporting
 - Completed
- Increased participation of GAC committee and sectors in meetings
 - Outlined in FY2026/27 GAC work plan
- Replace GAC website and committee pages with Esri Hub
 - In progress
- Additional GAC member support for committees
 - In progress
- Ease transition of GAC membership and leadership between terms
 - Planned
 - **GAC term FY2026/27 member orientation, Wednesday, September 3rd, 2025**

Desired outcomes of GAC goals

- Align GAC structure
 - Support collaboration between the GAC and its committees by having a GAC member in leadership
 - Provide structure to GAC priority projects by aligning them with GAC committees
 - Make it easier for GAC members to be involved by asking them to join a committee or subgroup
- Foster collaboration with Minnesota Geospatial Information Office (MnGeo), MNIT
 - MN Statute 16E.30 GEOSPATIAL INFORMATION OFFICE. Subd. 8. Geospatial Advisory Council created. (a) The chief information officer must utilize a governance structure that includes an advisory council to provide recommendations for improving the operations and management of geospatial technology within state government and also on issues of importance to users of geospatial technology throughout the state.
 - (b) The Geospatial Advisory Council must advise the Minnesota Geospatial Information Office regarding the improvement of services statewide through the coordinated, affordable, reliable, and effective use of geospatial technology.

GAC and MnGeo collaboration

- MnGeo is working toward GAC priority projects
 - Sharing lidar data with MnTOPO 2
 - State-hosted GIS feature services available on the Geospatial Commons
- MnGeo Surveyor Coordinator to manage GAC priority remonumentation of all original federal section corners. \$9.1M in funds have been committed for that work.
- Aggregation and distribution of GAC Open Data priorities
 - Parcels 55 counties
 - Address Points 48 counties
 - Road centerlines 47 counties
- Hosted hybrid GIS Day event on November 21, 2025 and invited GIS community

Upcoming events

- New GAC term
 - Member orientation, Wednesday, September 3rd, 2025
 - First quarterly public meeting, Wednesday, September 10th, 2025
- Thank you to FY2024/25 GAC term members, committee chairs, all volunteers, and meeting participants!

Priority Project Survey COMING SOON!

Priority Project Survey coming this fall

- **Reach out to your sector** – Identify priorities within the sector you represent
- **Plan your submission** – review past submissions for the needed information and criteria
- **Plan how you will encourage your sector to vote**



Round Robin / Announcements

All



Wednesday, September 10, 2025

11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Hybrid

(in-person and online via Teams)

Agenda Item 10

Adjourn
Albrecht



Thank You!

Minnesota Geospatial Advisory Council

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