

## Minnesota Geospatial Advisory Council FY2024/25 Term Report & FY2026/27 Work Plan

This term report and work plan is for the Minnesota Geospatial Advisory Council (GAC). Each GAC committee has its own term report and work plan which is not covered in this document.

### Chair(s) and Vice Chair(s):

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### Active subgroups and associated leadership:

- **Executive Team**  
GAC Chair & Vice Chair  
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## FY2024/25 GAC Term Report

*Fiscal Year (FY) 2024/25: July 2023 - June 2025*

### GAC Priorities

[GAC priority projects and initiatives](#) were decided on by the council based on feedback from the community. These priorities were then assigned to committees to complete this work. In addition to these priorities the GAC worked to:

- 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 (In progress)

- Increase participation of GAC committee and sectors in meetings (FY2026/27)
- Replace GAC website and committee pages with Esri Hub (In progress)
- Provide additional GAC member support for committees (In progress)
- Ease transition of GAC membership and leadership between terms (FY2026/27)

## Accomplishments

Accomplishments of the GAC occur at each of its public quarterly meetings throughout the term:

- September 13, 2023
  - Formation of term GAC Leadership Team to include chair Heather Albrecht, vice-chair Britta Maddox, secretary Tanya Mayer, advisor Kari Geurts, and board members David Brandt, Pat Veraguth, and Victoria Reinhardt, MnGeo ex-officio Alison Slaats, and GAC administrative support staff from MnGeo Sally Wakefield and Megan Sisko.
  - Accept the updated PLSS Preservation Committee Charter, removing the voting membership requirement for reviewing remonumentation funding applications.
    - Mission statement: This Committee exists to establish criteria for PLSS Preservation grants, evaluate and prioritize PLSS Preservation grant applications, review grant work, and report grant performance measures with respect to Minnesota Statutes 381.125.
- December 20, 2023
  - National States Geographic Information Council (NSGIC) membership extended to all GAC members.
  - GAC provided a letter of support for MnGeo's funding request to improve the MN Geospatial Commons through Technology Modernization Funding available through MNIT.
- March 20, 2024
  - Approval of the revised Outreach Committee Charter.
    - Committee Mission: To connect the community with the council and its committees by providing strategic communication resources that advance council priorities and values.
  - GAC approved formation of K-12 Committee to focus on GIS in Minnesota K-12 education, specifically to promote connections between GIS professionals and the K-12 community.
    - Mission statement: To expose Minnesota school-aged youth to GIS technology, inspire future GIS users and creators, and enhance the educational experience for students and teachers in the K-12 system.
  - Adoption of the priority projects to guide the July 2023 - June 2025 GAC term.
- May 29, 2024
  - Approval of the K-12 Committee Charter.
  - Formal establishment of the GAC Executive Team to include chair, vice-chair, secretary, MnGeo ex-officio, and GAC administrative support staff from MnGeo.
    - Mission: The mission of the Executive Team of the MN Geospatial Advisory Council is to support the functions of the GAC. The Executive Team authors the GAC workplan and aligns the activities of the GAC to adhere to the plan. The Executive Team supports the GAC by organizing the quarterly public meetings, gathering feedback from the GIS

community through the priority surveys, and ensuring the committee work support the GAC priorities.

- GAC sponsored a letter in support of St. Cloud State University continuing to offer degrees in geography and GIS, acknowledging adoption of GIS across industries and the need for developing professionals.
- September 18, 2024
  - MnGeo initiates work on GAC priority projects 1) sharing lidar data with MnTOPO 2 2) state-hosted GIS feature services available on the Geospatial Commons.
  - All \$9.1M in funds have been committed for work on the GAC priority remonumentation of all original federal section corners.
  - Created a new GAC Data Endorsement Ad-Hoc Committee and accepted the proposed charter.
    - Mission statement: To create and implement a Geospatial Advisory Council endorsement process for statewide geospatial datasets.
  - Introduced the Executive Team Goals:
    - • Increase duration of priority project work to align with full GAC term • Align GAC committees and priority projects • Improve committee and workgroup reporting • Increased participation of GAC committee and sectors in meetings • Replace GAC website and committee pages with Esri Hub • Additional GAC member support for committees • Ease transition of GAC membership and leadership between terms
- December 18, 2024
  - Archiving Committee Proposal approved to (re)establish an Archiving Committee of the GAC.
    - 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.
  - GAC recognition of GIS Day on November 20, 2025.
  - GAC Chair Heather Albrecht, MnGeo ex-officio Alison Slaats, and GAC administrative support staff from MnGeo Megan Sisko attend the National States Geographic Information Council (NSGIC) Conference in San Antonio, TX September 15-19, 2024 to learn from other state councils and GIO's.
- March 5, 2025
  - Approval of Outreach Committee charter amendment and presentation of draft GAC and committee Esri Hub websites.
  - Approval of the Archiving Committee charter and work plan.
  - Awards Committee announcement that applications review for the Governor's Certificate Award will begin June 1.
  - The Minnesota GIS/LIS Consortium liaison to the GAC announced that nominations for GIS/LIS Consortium awards open in May.
  - GAC membership open appointments process for FY2026/27 term to begin March 7<sup>th</sup> and will conclude when all seats are filled.

# FY2026/27 GAC Term Work Plan

*FY2026/27: July 2025 - June 2027*

## GAC Priorities

GAC priority projects and initiatives will be carried over from the previous term and adjusted as needed based on results of the priorities survey. The GAC will work with committee leadership to determine which committees should be responsible for each priority, where appropriate.

### **GAC (Executive Team) Goals:**

- Increase duration of priority project work to align with full GAC term
  - Bi-yearly GIS Priority Projects survey of user community aligned with term
  - Priority Projects derived from results of user survey
  - 2-year GAC term focused on priorities set early in the term
- Align GAC committees and priority projects
  - Assign GAC priorities to the committees to ensure support for community initiatives
  - Committees do not need to be specific to a priority but may serve other GAC mission needs; therefore, there may be committees that exist in addition to those working on community priorities
- Improve committee and workgroup reporting
  - Priority project reporting will be rolled up into committee report to eliminate redundant reporting requests
  - Priority project updates will be included in agenda packets (as part of committee reports)
- Increased participation of GAC committee and sectors in meetings
  - Each committee will present at (a minimum of) one quarterly GAC meeting during each 2-year term
  - Some of the meeting time previously allotted to priority project updates will be allocated to sector reports
- Replace GAC website and committee pages with Esri Hub
  - Transition the GAC web presence to Esri Hub
  - Each committee will have an Esri Hub that links to the main GAC site
- Additional GAC member support for committees
  - GAC member in leadership role for each committee
  - The role will support quarterly reporting and Esri Hub maintenance, while creating opportunities for GAC member engagement in committees

- Ease transition of GAC membership and leadership between terms
  - Each Prior to the first GAC meeting of a new 2-year member term, Executive Team will host a GAC membership overview for new and returning members to set the stage for understanding the GAC and what is involved with the 2-year commitment
  - Gathering of committee chairs to align priorities across the Committees, GAC membership, and the GIS community

#### Desired Outcome:

- Improve GAC structure
  - Ensure alignment between the GAC and its committees and/or workgroups by having GAC members as part of their leadership
  - Improve alignment between GAC priorities and GAC committees and/or workgroups to better support the priorities
  - Increase participation of GAC members in priority work and to provide succession to its membership and committees
- Improved alignment between the GAC and Minnesota Geospatial Information Office (MnGeo), MNIT
  - By [statute](#), the Geospatial Advisory Council (GAC) members are appointed by the Commissioner of Minnesota IT Services (MNIT) and supported by Minnesota Geospatial Information Office (MnGeo) and, like other state supported Boards and Councils, serves as a function of State Government and is subject to state communication and conflict of interest policies.
    - 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.

#### Planned Activities and Deliverables

1. Application period for the GAC term FY2026/27 opens (March 2025)
2. Appointment of new GAC membership for term FY2026/27 (July 2025)
  - a. GAC follows the MN Secretary of State Office open appointments process
  - b. Members are appointed by Terek Tomes, MN CIO and MNIT Commissioner
  - c. Are representative of a cross section of GIS industry and users
3. GAC term FY2026/27 member orientation, Wednesday, September 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2025

- a. Orientation to discuss GAC alignment on topics such as hub sites, preparing for the quarterly meetings, and abiding by MNIT communication committee policy guide and conflict of interest policies and an introduction to committees and teams.
    - i. GAC member volunteer appointed to a leadership position on each of the GAC committees
    - ii. Leadership opportunities shared about executive and leadership team and nominations to be approved at the September GAC meeting
  - b. GAC member roles and expectations
    - i. Support the Council's mission & guiding principles
      - 1. Attend term member orientation: September 3, 10 AM - 2 PM (in-person)
      - 2. Participate in a minimum of one committee or subgroup
    - ii. Be active in quarterly Council meetings
      - 1. Respond to call for agenda items, suggesting topics pertinent to your sector
      - 2. Come prepared, reviewing past meeting minutes, agenda, and committee reports
      - 3. Participate in round robin updates related to your sector
    - iii. Be an ambassador representing your sector
      - 1. Contribute a minimum of one sector presentation during the two-year term
      - 2. Responsibility to report GAC news and information to the sector you represent
    - iv. Abide by MNIT communication and conflict of interest policies
4. September 2025 GAC meeting agenda:
- a. Welcome and GAC mission and principles overview, introduction of committees and priorities from GAC Chair
  - b. MnGeo welcome of new membership and brief overview of GAC/MnGeo relationship
  - c. Nominations and appointment of GAC executive team to include chair, vice chair, secretary, MnGeo ex-officio, and administrative support from MnGeo
  - d. Nominations and appointment of GAC leadership team which includes the executive committee plus the advisor and board members.
    - i. Leadership team will meet a minimum of one time between GAC meetings
      - 1. Quarterly leadership meeting agendas includes strategic planning and GAC meeting preparation
  - e. Introduction to committee mission and leadership including GAC members and non-members. Recruitment of members and non-members to participate in the committees and associated subgroups.
  - f. Presentation from NSGIC about GAC membership use and purpose including how MnGAC priorities are aligned with multi-state state and national/federal initiatives. Promote the relationship about how work and innovation happening here at the city, county and state level aggregates up into important spatial datasets that have implications nationally.
    - i. Lidar, [3D National Topography Model](#)
    - ii. [National address dataset](#)

- g. Vice-chair will announce the priority project survey intent to collect priorities that will guide the term
  - h. September 2026 agenda, no orientation items, include reoccurring agenda items:
    - i. GAC Committee presentation(s)
    - ii. GAC sector presentations
    - iii. Round robin
5. Oct/Nov 2025 - Between GAC meetings
- a. Be intentional about promoting the GAC at the MN GIS/LIS Conference with an improved presence
  - b. Prepare and distribute the GAC priority projects survey to the GIS community ready by the MN GIS/LIS Conference
  - c. Evaluate the GAC term priority projects survey results
  - d. Leadership team meeting to plan for next GAC meeting and review survey results
  - e. Conduct committee leadership team gathering to discuss GAC alignment on topics such as hub sites, presenting at and reporting for the quarterly meetings, and abiding by MNIT communication committee policy guide and conflict of interest policies, and cross committee coordination and strategic alignment
    - i. Ensure term priority project alignment with committees to ensure success of the priority by providing structure for new ideas to get started
    - ii. Prepare a minimum of one committee presentation for GAC meeting during the two-year term
6. December GAC meeting agenda:
- a. Evaluation of term priority projects based on survey results (2025 only)
    - i. Assignment of priority champion
    - ii. Alignment to GAC committee
    - iii. Recruitment of volunteers to work on the project
  - b. GAC Committee presentation(s)
  - c. GAC sector presentations
  - d. Round robin
7. Jan/Feb - Between GAC meetings
- a. Committee workplans may need to be updated to reflect new priorities accepted as a results of the FY2026/27 term priority projects survey
8. March 2026/27
- a. Announcement of Governor's Certificate Awards for Exemplary Geospatial Projects nomination period, and other awards presented at the MN GIS Conference
    - i. What awards are given
      - 1. Examples of past projects
    - ii. What is the criteria
    - iii. What are the deadlines

- b. GIS/LIS ex-officio sector report
    - i. To include announcement of GIS/LIS award nominations for those presented at the MN GIS Conference
  - c. Approval of any changes to the workplans that are a results of the 2026/2027 term priority survey committee/GAC workplans – revised workplan will guide the remainder of the term (2026 only)
  - d. GAC Committee presentation(s)
  - e. GAC sector presentations
  - f. Round robin
  - g. Application period for the GAC term FY2028/29 opens (2027 only)
9. April - Between GAC meetings
- a. 2026: End of the year summary of GAC accomplishments by Chair and Committee chairs
  - b. 2027: Preparation of the GAC and its committees FY2026/27 term report and FY2028/29 term work plan
10. May
- a. May 2026 agenda:
    - i. End of the year summary of GAC accomplishments by Chair and Committee chairs
    - ii. GAC Committee presentation(s)
    - iii. GAC sector presentations
    - iv. Round robin
  - b. May 2027 agenda:
    - i. May 2027 (end of term committee reports are due)
    - ii. All GAC Committee term report and work plan (5 minutes)
    - iii. Approval of the FY2026/27 term reports and committee workplans
    - iv. GAC FY2026/27 term report and FY2028/29 term work plan presentation and approval
    - v. Round robin
    - vi. GAC sector presentations (0)
11. Appointment of new GAC membership for term FY2028/29 (July 2027)

**Date approved by the Geospatial Advisory Council:** May 21, 2025