

# MetroGIS Coordinating Committee: Meeting Minutes

Thursday, January 25, 2024, 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm

Location: Virtual

**APPROVED**



## Attendees

<input type="checkbox"/>	Special Expertise: Vacant	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Govt - Regional: Marcia Broman, MESB
<input type="checkbox"/>	Govt - Co: David Brandt (Vice-Chair), Washington Co.	<input type="checkbox"/>	Govt - Regional: Matt Baker, MAC
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Educational Sector: Pete Wiringa, UMN/U-Spatial	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Govt - Regional: Nancy Read, MMCD
<input type="checkbox"/>	Educational Sector: Vacant	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Govt - Regional: Mary Mortensen, Met. Council
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Govt - City: Molly McDonald, City of Bloomington	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Govt - Regional: Alex Steele, Minnehaha Creek WD
<input type="checkbox"/>	Govt - City: Tami Maddio, City of Eagan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Govt - State: Catherine Hansen, MnDNR
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Govt - City: Jonathan Mortensen, City of Shoreview	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Govt - State: Joseph Mueller, MnDOT
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Govt - City: Jessica Fendos, LOGIS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Govt - State: Alison Slaats, MnGeo
<input type="checkbox"/>	Govt - City: Vacant	<input type="checkbox"/>	Non-Profit: Jeff Matson, MCN/CURA
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Govt - County: John Slusarczyk, Anoka County	<input type="checkbox"/>	Non-Profit: Vacant
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Govt - County: Chad Riley, Carver County	<input type="checkbox"/>	Private Sector: Dan Tinklenberg, SRF
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Govt - County: Randy Knippel, Dakota County	<input type="checkbox"/>	Private Sector: Vacant
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Govt - County: Jesse Reinhardt, Hennepin County	<input type="checkbox"/>	Private Sector: Vacant
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Govt - County: Geoff Maas (Chair), Ramsey County	<input type="checkbox"/>	Private Sector: Vacant
<input type="checkbox"/>	Govt - County: Tony Monsour, Scott County	<input type="checkbox"/>	Special Expertise: Brad Henry, UMN
<input type="checkbox"/>	Govt - Federal: Vacant	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	MetroGIS (ex-officio): Tanya Mayer, Met. Council

Other Attendees: Heather Amsbaugh, Metropolitan Council

### 1) Call to Order (Maas)

1:04 p.m.

### 2) Approve Today's Meeting Agenda (motion item) (Maas)

Motion to approve Agenda: Wiringa      Second: Steele Motion carried.

See [Meeting Slides](#) for the following agenda item details.

### 3) Approve Minutes from last meeting (October 26, 2023) (motion item) (Maas)

- Minutes from the last meeting are here: [www.metrogis.org](http://www.metrogis.org) (top right)
- Review action items from last meeting (Mayer)
  - ACTION:** MetroGIS CC Utility seats are currently vacant. Please send any recommendations and suggestions to fill those seats. (CC) – this is being addressed by MetroGIS Leadership Group and a topic on today's agenda.
  - Complete:** Tanya schedule meeting with Bart, Geoff, and Dave to discuss MLCCS project wrap-up/extension (Mayer)
  - Complete:** Henry suggests that MetroGIS acknowledge Jack Dangermond's upcoming award from the American Society of Landscape Architects. MetroGIS Leadership group discussed the suggestion and decided not to pursue it.

Motion to approve 10/26/2023 minutes as revised: Wiringa      Second: Fendos Motion carried.

#### 4) 2024 Project updates

- 4a – Regional GIS Data Provisioning (Broman/Maas)

Main reason for MetroGIS is Regional GIS Data Provisioning. 4 priorities have been discussed over the last couple MetroGIS meetings. Integration (external platform publishing), maintenance, documentation, and identifying roadblocks for these datasets.

1. Integration or External Platform Publishing: Met Council contributing to Esri Community Maps program. Participating in the Statewide effort (GAC Work Group 'CANDO') to coordinate sharing these datasets from one source to these external platforms as efficiently as possible. Good discussions on methodology and options to share with one vendor where others have access to the same information.
2. Maintenance: Maintain and improve validation and standard adherence – review of current practices and new, 2023 work.
3. Documentation: preserving knowledge of our work. Moving to the operational aspects of this work and to be prepared for staff changes. Documenting the why, what, how. A series of examples of documentation of processes presented – best practices guides for centerlines (needs update), addressing resources guide (in development at Ramsey County), parcels (in development at Ramsey County). Moving us towards a workflow of a single point where things can be hoovered up. The goal is to use these demonstratives to talk with cities to get them to understand how their work goes way up the change and lots of people use it (addresses for example). So, this is the primary role of MetroGIS, to preserve this body of activity.

**Wranga:** Do the address points get used in more than Esri World Geocoding Service? Not known.

**Knippel:** Esri Community Maps program does pull from the NAD. But they also have their own data that they use for geocoding as well.

**Mayer:** NAD also gets address points from the MN Geospatial Commons. MnGeo communicating with NAD to pull from 1 state-wide address points dataset.

**Fendos:** What is the frequency of updates for the Esri World Geocoder, and how long until our data is reflected in Community Maps or Esri World geocoding service.

**Mayer:** Esri reported that address points would be in March 2024. Centerlines are pulled from a service every 6 months from Met Council.

4. Identifying Roadblocks: What things can impede the continued production and availability of our regional datasets? We have a good cycle of maintaining the Memorandum of Agreements. What can we do as individual agencies to prevent loss of knowledge? Documentation, training new staff, staff turnover, modification to access to resources to do these things, etc. What are those challenges?

**J. Mortensen:** Currently, it's difficult to update city data (Shoreview) going directly to Ramsey County. There's been a loss of institutional knowledge at the city at this time. There's not a lot of documentation about how data was collected, and some of it not updated in years. For example, Parks and Recreation data for PED facilities.

**Broman:** Regionally in the 10 counties – each of 10 GIS departments has been able to do a monthly cadence to refresh address points and road centerlines. A huge accomplishment for 2023. This should be able to be sustained in 2024. This means Counties refresh the data through the Council and validations are run there before posting to the Geocommons. MESB runs monthly cycles of NG911 validation with feedback to the counties. Then up to the 911 system. From NG911 perspective, that is the ongoing cadence to maintain.

**Maas:** if there is something in your way to help you contribute and participate, let us know.  
**Fendos:** Working well. Public safety geo map update incorporates regional datasets in addition to all data submitted by their PSAP agencies.

- 4b – LIDAR collection and data status ([Metro Managers](#))
  - Preliminary data is available on the National Map site. Not the final approved data. Woolpert/USGS is still completing final checks on the data.
  - Minnesota Lidar Hub site is available for more details about the project.
- 4c – External Platform Publishing ([Knippel](#))
  - Integration/consumption of regional data into external platforms

**Knippel:** GAC group (CANDO) working actively on this topic. The Met Council has worked on contributing the regional data to Esri Community Maps program and ADP to Esri World Geocoder (expected March 2024). MnGeo will take over once statewide datasets are ready. The group is looking to identify an owner or proxy for these datasets for the state to publish them on the behalf of these local contributors (like Met Council currently does).

**Knippel:** There is a new entity called [overturemaps.org](#) which is intended to be a central repository for these datasets, and if agreed to, they will distribute. Esri is one of the founding partners. Google is not part of [Overturemaps.org](#) at this time. MnGeo has offered to submit to both Esri and Google but needs more work to sort out.

**Broman:** Esri Community Maps also ends up in Open Street Map, and they have a relationship with HERE.

- **Knippel:** National Address Database (NAD) pulls data from the Geocommons, including the MetroGIS ADP.
  - **Knippel:** GAC Outreach committee working on leveraging the publishing of these datasets to Google, etc. as a benefit to opting-in and contributing to these datasets.
- 4d – MLCCS Project Update ([Brandt/Richardson](#))

#### **Hanson (on behalf of Richardson and Brandt)**

- Current work is to get the product metadata finalized and published to the Geocommons.
- **Part 1:** Metadata and data published to the Commons asap at the DNR. Mid-Feb target. Should they include the whole product or just the results? St. Paul contacted him for the data and results. **Mayer:** suggest that all the data and the model tool should be included on the Geocommons resource, so others can do the same work in their jurisdiction. **Hanson:** That may require a little more work.
- **Part 2:** Create a ground truth and report for the accuracy to help improve this model or ensure the results are accurate. Some of the ground truthing has to happen after vegetation leaves out. Possible new project.
- **Part 3:** Event/New session to train how to use the model. Also, some documentation on the how the tools work and were created. Discussion on training layers and how to improve those.
- **Part 4:** Improving the tool with Image Analysis to improve the model. Some of the tools and process like was used with the NWI data.
- **Mayer:** 2023 project wrapped up with deliverables and final report to contribute the \$26,500 to the project.

## 5) Filling Vacant Coordinating Committee Seats (Maas)

- Reaching out to Academia, Non-profit, Utilities and Federal partners to fill empty seats (1 each).

**Maas:** Please send any ideas to Geoff and Tanya.

## 6) MN GAC Update (Mayer/Slaats)

- See [Meeting Slides](#).
- Updates from Mn Geo: Presentation by Governor Walz and Jack Dangermond to State Agency senior leadership. MnGeo has applied for Technology Modernization Fund to upgrade the architecture of the Geocommons.
- Update of the Open and Opt-in Data for Parcels, Street Centerlines, Address Points and Emergency Service Zones, and recently published state-wide datasets.
- Update of PLSS Monument Grant work for state re-monumentation.
- Status of GAC Priority Projects for 2024. Ranked list will be presented at the next MN GAC meeting on March 20, 2024.

## 7) Food Resources Data (County GIS Staff)

- Interest from the Public Health/Food Security professionals at County government level in mapping food resources; county sites with interest in possible region-wide site.
- Metro GIS Food Resources Map Discussion: Feb 20, 10-11:30am - Led by Public Health/Food Security/Nutrition from Counties around the region.
  - Purpose, Need, Data schema, Sources, Data management, Data maintenance responsibilities, Options for a regional map.

## 8) Lightning Round Update (Entire group, remaining time)

**J. Mortensen (Shoreview):** Just updated street sign/post inventory management system. Routine yearly adjustments for portable water system map. Training staff on locators/GPS coordinates for utilities. Want to get street lighting system and stormwater system updated to depict proper infrastructure. Currently going through ownership information to determine what Ramsey County owns vs. Shoreview vs. neighboring municipalities along roads. The big issue is lots of changes over time that we don't seem to know all the as-builts.

**Wiringa (UMN / U-Spatial):** ArcMap going away. All work must end on ArcMap there by July 31. Interest in Geocoding services in Esri – They are Licensing Esri Street Map Premium. Interested in knowing how the metro address points flow into the World Geocoder and does it make it to Street Map Premium. Currently dealing with organization and logistical issues around AGOL organization and feature data store usage with 20,000 users – questions of how to clean up and manage. Continue to see performance problems with the amount of data at 150% feature data store quota.

**Hansen (DNR):** 1) LiDAR and derived products: Looking to creating projects around the hydro modified DEMs. And getting a hydro network from a derived product. Beginning stages of that work. 2) Looking at a collaborative effort from the State GIS Collaborative group and the State 3D Geomatics Training Work Group to pull together a 3-part GIS Bytes, 1-hr lunch-n-learn sessions, on Using Lidar in MN – Learn how to find the new data, understanding the accuracy, finding the metadata. Learn how to use it. Learn how to process it. Sometime Spring 2024. 3) Forestry is creating derived products in coordination with MnGeo (MnTopo project). 4) 1500 DNR Portal users, 800 Pro users, 100s of arc map scripts/tools to migrate – lots of content that needs cleanup, and a lot need to migrate to Pro. In addition to serving all spatial data to web services instead of FGDB –

into a new Web GIS. 5) Plus, the work to move to Azure. 6) Been the Interim Section Supervisor role for last 9-months.

**Mueller (MnDOT):** Question – ArcMap retirement > trying to rotate to ArcPro but ArcMap still heavily used esp. for 1x/year projects. Just found out a department was going to contract with someone to build a new ArcMap tool – and it was stopped last minute when contracts reached out to MNIT. Still need to do outreach out and educate moving from ArcMap to Pro, but that has revealed other issues. Anyone else experiencing glitches in migrating to Pro? For example, not being able to right-click and open an attribute table in FGDB in ArcPro 2.9.5? One recommendation was to try the current 3.1.x. Also, python scripts need to be updated to Python 3.

**Knippel (Dakota Co.):** Dakota Co. also working on the ArcMap – Pro migration. Their office is migrated. Need to upgrade 35 other installs. Also migrating 260 web app builders to experience builder. Fall aerial photos received and tested at RMSE < 1ft. Can release in 6" (spring 2023 is available as a service). Retiring May 31, 2024.

**Slaats (MnGeo):** Street Map Premium is a subset of World Geocoder and other services. MnGeo does have that for State Agencies as part of ELA. Copy hosted at MnGeo for State Agencies. MNTopo project: MnGeo is working to update that application to host original Lidar and derivatives. Trying to have it in to the Cloud, where can view, download, and services. Timeline goal: Phase 1 build out Azure servers and data and services (delayed from spring 2024 goal waiting for Azure). Hopefully by summer. Phase 2 – front end development.

**Fendos (LOGIS):** Infrastructure – 2 enterprise portals, 2 ArcGIS Server instances, v. 11 since 4<sup>th</sup> quarter 2023. Converted all Python scripts to Python 3. We have been on ArcPro since early 2023 and did a lot of training with users. Not a lot of trouble in migration. Recently onboarded City of Crystal, built out their enterprise system and migrated all their utility data to Esri GIS from 3<sup>rd</sup> party Asset Management System. Built workforce and field maps integration to support field collection for online/offline editing modes. In that process, also developed Laserfiche integration for document access to as-builts and tie-cards. For state-wide projects, currently working on a water service lines for Hutchinson, Brooklyn Center, and White Bear Lake by October 2024 to complete their water service line inventory report. Rolled out Esri Citizen Reporting solution template to 4 cities in 2023. Starting to build new apps in Experience Builder. Next step to convert Logis maps to Experience Builder or Vertiges and currently evaluating which way to go. We are getting ready for 3D and new Lidar – sending staff to Esri lidar training. Internally, GIS integration for internal business lines. Recently built a GIS integration with Accela, a permitting system offered by LOGIS. This year, I will be the Past-board chair on MN GIS/LIS and on MN GAC as Non-profit rep.

**Steele (MCWD):** Wrangling 29+ community watershed data in to the new storm water data standard. Prepping and doing topology for a hydrologic model. New permitting and regulatory rules to implement in the permitting platform. Asset management modernization for logging and managing their assets.

**Riley (Carver Co.):** Migrating WAB -> Experience Builder (couple dozen of apps). Experiencing parity issues while doing that. Releasing new public property application around March 1 (vector tile base maps and ExpBuilder). Migrating to a new tool to manage Carver Co. fiber from a custom made Esri tool to a vendor solution.

**Reinhardt (Hennepin Co.):** Jay Mehl retired Jan 12. Will be hiring an Analyst soon. Currently working with Nearmap to extend subscription for another 3 years, to make the oblique imagery publicly accessible. Internally, also moving from ArcMap->Pro migration (a few hold outs). Also migrating applications to Azure cloud. Looking at preliminary Lidar data and very pleased with that data. Hennepin was able to buy up to 30 pts. per sq. meter. Amazing and will get a lot of utility out of that data. Trying to inventory and retire old applications, consolidate and update more widely used

applications. Hennepin also has a food resources application. Hennepin is also interested in 2025 imagery buy-ups.

**McDonald (Bloomington):** Bloomington is focused on migrating from ArcMap to Pro, with a few lingering users to complete this spring. Working on getting the lead service line inventory Esri solution up and running. Data imported and starting to make progress to eliminate those lines.

**Mayer (Metropolitan Council):** Heather Amsbaugh, new GIS Specialist at Met Council, focused on web mapping applications. Working on Web App Builder to Experience Builder, inventory, retiring and removing unused content, and migrating only what's necessary to Exp. Builder. The Council has a large plan to migrate all Council users to ArcPro, including updating all our scripts to Python 3. In addition, we are upgrading to Enterprise 11 in 2024. In addition, the Council has a requirement to collect regional aerial imagery for spring 2025 and that is to support our statutory requirement to update our Land Use information. We plan to follow the same model we followed in 2015 and 2020, working with MnGeo to contract for imagery at the scale, resolution, and accuracy that the Met Console needs. In addition, we again plan to the option for a buy up by up as well. I'll be sending out an email within the week to gauge buy-up interest from the Counties.

**Read (MMCD):** Thanks to Dakota Co for imagery. MMCD staff is using it. Happy to hear new imagery planned for 2025. Tried to use the Regional Parcel service off the Geocommons, but not able to use it in a non-Esri product. Issue to discuss off line.

**Maas (Ramsey Co.):** Ramsey is tentatively interested (maybe 6", possibly 3"). Migrations: WAB – Experience Builder and also ArcMap to Pro. Moving a number of enterprise-wide datasets from several departments who were managing that data, but have limited GIS staff, to centralized ownership (e.g. Parks data). Better integration with other data, other departments, their cities, and the region. Ramsey is in the midst of migrating to Azure too. Currently scoping a project with their Emergency Management group with a variety of information, integrating demographic activity and language abilities.

## 9) Adjourn

*Meeting adjourned at 2:40 p.m.*

### Next Coordinating Committee Meetings

June 6, 2024, 1:00-3:00 pm

November 14, 2024, 1:00-3:00 pm

[MetroGIS Work Plan for 2024](#)

## Summary of Action Items

**ACTION:** Academic, Utilities, Non-profit, Federal Government seats (1 each) being recruited. Please send any ideas to Geoff and Tanya. Please send any recommendations and suggestions to fill those seats. (CC) – this is being addressed by MetroGIS Leadership Group and a topic on today's agenda.