

MetroGIS Coordinating Committee: Meeting Minutes

Thursday, November 14, 2024, 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm

Metro Counties Government Center, 2099 University Ave. W., St. Paul, MN 55104

APPROVED



Attendees

| | | | |
|-------------------------------------|--|-------------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Special Expertise: Vacant | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Govt - Regional: Jake (Jay) Jacobson, MESB |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Govt - Co: David Brandt (Vice-Chair), Washington Co. | <input type="checkbox"/> | Govt - Regional: Matt Baker, MAC |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Educational Sector: Pete Wiringa, UMN/U-Spatial | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Govt - Regional: Nancy Read, MMCD |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Educational Sector: Kirk Stueve, St. Paul College | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Govt - Regional: Mary Mortensen, Met. Council |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Govt - City: Molly McDonald, City of Bloomington | <input type="checkbox"/> | Govt - Regional: Vacant, Watershed District |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Govt - City: Tami Maddio, City of Eagan | <input type="checkbox"/> | Govt - State: Catherine Hansen, MnDNR |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Govt - City: Jonathan Mortensen, City of Shoreview | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Govt - State: Galen Sjostrom, MnDOT |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Govt - City: Jessica Fendos, LOGIS | <input 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 type="checkbox"/> | Govt - County: Chad Riley, Carver County | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Private Sector: Dan Tinklenberg, SRF |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Govt - County: Joe Sapletal, Dakota County | <input type="checkbox"/> | Private Sector: Vacant |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Govt - County: Jesse Reinhardt, Hennepin County | <input type="checkbox"/> | Private Sector - Utilities: Vacant |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Govt - County: Geoff Maas (Chair), Ramsey County | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Special Expertise: Audrey Robeson, MCNet |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Govt - County: Tony Monsour, Scott County | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Special Expertise: Brad Henry, UMN |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Govt - Federal: Shelby Sterner, USGS | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | MetroGIS (ex-officio): Tanya Mayer, Met. Council |

Other Attendees: Marcia Broman, MESB (retired); Randy Knippel, Dakota County (retired); Ian Cummings, UMN/U-Spatial (alternate); Sally Wakefield, MnGeo (alternate); Vic Barnett, Ramsey County; Tony Grossman, Xcel Energy

See [meeting slides](#) for details of meeting topics.

- 1) **Call to Order and Introductions** (*Maas*)
- 2) **Approve Today's Meeting Agenda** (**motion item**) (*Maas*)

Motion to approve agenda: Read Second: Brandt Motion carried.

- 3) **Approve Minutes from last meeting (June 6, 2024)** (**motion item**) (*Maas*)

- Review action items from last meeting (*Mayer*)
 - **Complete:** Maas to set up Park and Trail – half-day session in person before November. The list of those interested in participating is above in the meeting minute details.
 - **Complete:** Mayer to send out next year's meeting appointments to hold the dates.
 - **Complete:** Brandt will reach out to MCIT building for November in-person meeting. Mayer will check with Metro Counties Government Center.
 - **ACTION:** MetroGIS leadership team to continue filling vacant seats, including Watershed District and Utilities.

Motion to approve 6/6/2024 minutes as corrected: Brandt Second: Read Motion carried.

4) MetroGIS Benchmark Awards *(Maas)*

Maas awarded the **MetroGIS Benchmark Award** **Marcia Broman, MESB** (retired) and **Randy Knippel, Dakota County** (retired). *In recognition of service to the regional collaborative, sponsored by the Met Council, whose primary purpose is promoting and facilitating widespread sharing of geospatial data.* Each made brief comments regarding their experiences and the important GIS work that is done by MetroGIS that benefits the region. Marcia said, “It takes a village!”. Randy said, “It’s about the collaborative spirit. Don’t take that for granted.”



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

[Meeting slides.](#)

- Vacant seats on the Coordinating Committee – Utilities, Watershed
- Expansion of membership

Maas briefly discussed work being done to fill seats. An additional effort in 2025 will focus on how we adapt to changes and opportunities to explore.

Barnett: Offered to fill private sector seat. His main focus is public safety.

6) 2024 Project updates

[Meeting slides.](#)

Maas reviewed and provided an update to the following 2024 Projects. 2 ongoing projects will carry forward to 2025.

- 4a – Regional GIS Data Provisioning - ongoing *(Maas)*
- 4b – LIDAR collection and data status - complete *(Metro Managers)*
- 4c – External Platform Publishing - ongoing *(Sapletal)*
- 4d – MLCCS Project Update – complete *(Brandt/Richardson)*

7) MetroGIS Work Plan for 2025 (motion item) (Coordinating Committee)

See [Meeting Slides](#), [Project Proposals](#), [2025 draft Work Plan](#), and [approved 2025 Work Plan](#).

Maas presented each of the new projects proposed for 2025 and the draft 2025 work plan, outlining the project prioritization for all projects.

- **Review and forum to discuss 2025 Project Proposals**
 - *Development of a Metro Regional Park and Trail Data Standard*
 - *New Regional Data Sharing Agreements*
 - *Revamp MetroGIS Operation Guidelines and Procedure (ties to Agenda Item 8)*
- **Proposed Priority List:**
 - *#1 – Regional Data Provisioning*
 - *#2 – Metro Park and Trail Data Standard*
 - *#3 – New Regional Data Sharing Agreements*
 - *#4 – Revamp MetroGIS Operational Guidelines and Procedures*
 - *#5 – External Platform Publishing*
 - *#6 – Metro Regional Data Viewer*
 - *Not Prioritized – Metro Food Resources Web Map and Dataset*
- **Vote to approve/deny/table the 2025 Work Plan**

Motion to approve 2025 MetroGIS Work Plan: Sjostrom Second: Tinklenberg Motion carried.

Discussion:

External Platform Publishing:

The MN Geospatial Advisory Council (GAC) Contributing to Nationwide and Commercial Data Assets (CAN DO) Committee is working on sharing authoritative data to external platforms, as part of the MetroGIS 2025 project “External Platform Publishing”. Washington County and Ramsey County are working with Esri to incorporate their data in to the new TomTom data they use for their basemaps and routing. Esri Community Maps project to incorporate local updates in to TomTom data are described in this Story Map: [Road Compare and Share](#).

Barnett (Ramsey Co.): Should MetroGIS publish vector tiles for the metro data? Discussion revolved around having already tried to do that, and the extra work to own that at a regional level. It’s preferred to share authoritative data once in a location all vendors use as their source.

Slusarczyk (Anoka Co.): It would be helpful to have a tool to send updates to those vendors as the authorized user in order to expedite corrections, rather than using the standard public reporting method. In essence, like a “Recognized editor” for changes from an authoritative source. Brandt

stated he is signed up with Google to submit data for expedited corrections. He noted that other platforms have similar procedures too. Brandt has not done so yet but will look in to Apple Maps.

8) What do members want from MetroGIS collaborative? *(Brandt/Maas/Group Discussion)*

Brandt kicked off a conversation with a brief history of MetroGIS, how it started and the original focus. MetroGIS has seen a lot of transition over 30 years. It was more formal with more focus at the policy level. MetroGIS has matured and merged in to 1-body by sunseting the Policy Board. The Coordinating Committee is addressing the maturing work of the collaborative. Specifically, parcels, address points, and centerlines are now available and in maintenance after decades of policy, development and process work. Things that have not changed though is that *this is a collaborative and we need everybody to help do the work* of MetroGIS. The group was invited to think about and respond to the following questions. What does MetroGIS do next? What do members need or want the focus of MetroGIS to be?

A sidenote was shared that, MetroGIS and MN GAC are not duplicative. MetroGIS helps drive statewide initiatives. For example, the metro parcel data standard was proposed to State Standards committee which is revised for the State Parcel Data Standard to meet the state-wide need. Then MetroGIS adopts and uses the state standard. It's very exciting work.

Listed below are general themes of and paraphrased comments from the group discussion:

What does MetroGIS do next? What do members need or want the focus of MetroGIS to be?

- Parks and Trails – A partnership or agreement is needed, or these datasets fall apart. Financial backing and/or a contract forces the ETL to create and maintain the “core-dataset”
- Metro Food Resources dataset
- Emergency Services: Building Footprint polygons and Fire Hydrants at a metro scale
 - Regional Emergency Service Centers need to back up each other. Data accessible as a regional system could facilitates this. Each 911 Center currently uses their own layers in **C**omputer **A**ided **D**ispatch (CAD) system for 911. With regional datasets, one center could aid another center.
 - Could MetroGIS develop a Hydrant data standard/schema for Metro with fire hydrants as top priority? Note that the Emergency Preparedness Committee – Critical Infrastructure workgroup is led by Stacy Stark. Their current focus is on police and fire station locations, with intent to include other types of infrastructure.
- Planimetric metro-wide (buildings), in 3D – possibly from the new Lidar data? Sapletal (Dakota Co.) may be generating this “as-we-speak”.

- Stormwater data
- Outreach about GIS benefit. Advocacy for GIS. Use the driver of “emergency services”
- Current return on investment study (see last bullet for context below)
- Infrastructure - every city and county already have this information in some format.
 - Gopher State One costs \$1 billion because it’s not mapped.
 - State-wide infrastructure law just passed last year for funding. (MACI) An opportunity to tap in to funding and priority for the state to develop this data.

Henry shared a focus opportunity with the new Infrastructure law: The **Minnesota Advisory Council on Infrastructure (MACI)** was approved by the State Legislature in May 2024. It was rolled into the tax omnibus bill, [HF 5247](#), see **lines 22.15-28.2**. This was the Council that was recommended by the [advisory council on infrastructure](#) and patterned after the Michigan Infrastructure Council. We hope this council will help with coordination across infrastructure sectors, and long-term planning using asset management and other tools.

- The difficulty in committing time to the collaborative is that some organizations require a business need or funding to do it. This could be funding from MetroGIS or the state. Lidar was a collaboratively funded project from Federal, State, MetroGIS, and local partners. This needs to be communicated to our elected officials because it’s the tax payers who benefit. Demonstrate the common benefit.
- Part of the issue is that GIS is invisible, and we need to engage engineers, public safety, public works, and others.
- Attend non-GIS Statewide conferences as outreach
- Nancy R.: What does it take to make another core dataset? The support from Met Council for staff to support meetings, minutes, website, etc. helps make it happen.
- MnDOT struggles with having Departments maintain data and data quality. Their biggest challenge is defining what is expected cost of ongoing maintenance might be. Can MetroGIS provide a cost model template of a success of data development and the long-term maintenance.
- MetroGIS is successful because of the work of Coordinating Committee members, but also the policy, and funding (dedicated resources) for development, maintenance, sharing. A current return on investment study? What do you get back if you invest in GIS? Engage the people with the purse string. Look at the Re-monumentation effort documentation – there was a lot of advocacy.

9) Lightning Round Update – Volunteer updates on any current projects *(Group)*

No time for this agenda item.

10) Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

11) Happy Hour: Lake Monster Brewing, 550 Vandalia St #160, St Paul, MN 55114

Next Coordinating Committee Meetings

January 22, 2025, 1:00-3:00 pm

June 4, 2025, 1:00-3:00 pm

November 19, 2025, 1:00-3:30 pm – in-person meeting

Summary of Action Items

ACTION: MetroGIS leadership team to continue filling vacant seats, including Watershed District and Utilities. Maas has reached out to Xcel and Connexus Energy. Please send any recommendations and suggestions to fill those seats.