MetroGIS Coordinating Committee: Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, November 4, 2026, 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm

Metro Counties Government Center
2099 University Ave. West, St Paul
DRAFT

Attendees

☒	Educational Sector: Ian Cummings, UMN/U-Spatial	☒	Govt - Regional: Pam Olsin, MESB
☐	Educational Sector: Kirk Stueve, St. Paul College	☐	Govt - Regional: Vacant
☒	Govt - City: Molly McDonald, City of Bloomington	☒	Govt - Regional: Nancy Read, MMCD
☒	Govt - City: Tami Maddio, City of Eagan	☒	Govt - Regional: Mary Mortensen, Met. Council
☒	Govt - City: Jonathan Mortensen, City of Shoreview	☒	Govt - Regional: Aaron Goemann, Mississippi Watershed Management Organization
☐	Govt - City: Jessica Fendos, LOGIS	☐	Govt - State: Catherine Hansen, MnDNR
	Govt - City: Vacant	☒	Govt - State: Diana Flores Castillo, MnDOT Metro
☒	Govt - County: John Slusarczyk, Anoka County	☐	Govt - State: Alison Slaats, MnGeo
☐	Govt - County: Chad Riley, Carver County	☐	Non-Profit: Vacant
☒	Govt - County: Joe Sapletal, Dakota County		Non-Profit: Vacant
☐	Govt - County: Jesse Reinhardt, Hennepin County	☐	Private Sector: Vacant
☒	Govt - County:Matt Koukol, Ramsey County	☐	Private Sector: Vacant
☐	Govt - County: Matt McLees, Scott County		Private Sector: Vacant
☒	Govt - Co: David Brandt (Vice-Chair), Washington Co.	☒	Special Expertise: Meaghan Dietrich, MCNet
	Govt - Federal: Vacant	☒	Special Expertise: Brad Henry, UMN
☒	MetroGIS Coord. (ex-officio): Aaron Menza, Met. Council	☐	MetroGIS support: Tanya Mayer, Met. Council

Additional Attendees: Quentin Ikuta, Tracey Kinney, Ahmad Riyadh, Dale Watt, Heather Albrecht, Mitch Peck, Nick Goettl

See Meeting Slides for details regarding the following agenda items.

1) Call to Order *(Brandt)*

- 1:05

2) Review and Approve Today's Meeting Agenda (motion item) *(Brandt)*

Menza requested to add agenda item 7.d: MetroGIS Website Content Review & Refresh

Motion to approve Agenda: Koukol Second: M. Mortensen Motion carried

3) Approve Minutes from last meeting (June 2026) (motion item) *(Brandt)*

Approved by Chair Bandt

4) Introductions *(Brandt)*

- Committee members introduced themselves, representing a broad cross-section of regional and local government agencies, academic institutions, non-profit, and private firms.

- Guest attendees included Quentin Ikuta, Tracey Kinney, Ahmad Riyadh, Dale Watt, Heather Albrecht, Mitch Peck, and Nick Goettl

5) MetroGIS Operational Guidelines and Procedures Update *(Brandt)*

- Menza presented the proposed revisions to the MetroGIS Operational Guidelines and Procedures, a priority in the 2026–2027 work plan.
- Members discussed the Chair and Chair-Elect responsibilities, including participation in monthly Leadership Committee meetings and support from the MetroGIS Coordinator with agenda planning and meeting preparation.
- Members clarified that the Chair-Elect succeeds the Chair and that one Leadership Committee seat will typically be elected each year. Two seats would be filled in the initial election to establish staggered terms.
- Brandt agreed to serve one more year as Chair. The Chair-Elect and Leadership Committee elections were scheduled for agenda item 9.

Motion to approve updated guidelines and procedures: Read Second: Henry Motion Carried

6) Project Updates

a. Metro Parks and Trail Data Standard *(Slusarczyk)*
   - Menza summarized the stakeholder survey, which was distributed to cities, counties, state agencies, park districts, nonprofits, and other interested groups across the metro. The survey received 24 responses. Among those who rated each schema, 67% said the parks schema met their needs well or very well, compared with 78% for the trails schema. Most respondents who answered the implementation questions anticipated few difficulties aligning their existing data with the standards.
   - Survey feedback called for clearer guidance on identifiers and related features, refinements to trail classifications, and attention to the challenges of keeping accessibility data current. Respondents also emphasized limiting maintenance, accommodating existing datasets, and clarifying how the regional data would be used.
   - Slusarczyk described how the workgroup built on earlier efforts to draft separate parks and trails schemas focused on core fields and ease of maintenance. The workgroup incorporated fields from the Metropolitan Council's annual regional parks and trails data request, tested the draft schemas and domains in a file geodatabase, and revised the schemas based on survey feedback.
   - The Council supported the direction of the standards and requested broader feedback before moving forward. Slusarczyk will apply the draft standards to Anoka County data and create a web map to show how they work in practice. Menza and Slusarczyk will coordinate the release of the web map with the reopening of the survey.

b. Storm Water Geodata Project *(Goemann)*
   - Goemann provided an update on the draft Stormwater Geodata Standard and described ongoing work to apply it to stormwater pipe data. The example would show how the standard works in practice and could be brought back to the Council for review.

- Members discussed differences in the level of detail available across organizations, including pipe attributes such as invert elevations and materials. They also noted that inconsistent data formats make it difficult to combine datasets for modeling across jurisdictions.
- Members discussed whether organizations would adopt the draft standard, what data they would be willing to share, and whether the data should be publicly available.
- Menza offered to help convene a workgroup when the example dataset is ready for review.

c. Metro Food Resources Application *(Koukol/Menza)*
- Koukol reported that the application is publicly available and participating counties can update their records through an editing app. Ramsey County currently hosts the application. The state declined to take on hosting, and the Metropolitan Council is being explored as a potential long-term host.
- The presentation at the Minnesota GIS/LIS Consortium Conference generated follow-up interest, including from organizations doing similar work outside the metro.
- Menza explained that the survey is intended to document interest and potential uses for the application. The results will help demonstrate demand and inform discussions about long-term hosting and support.
- Members discussed automating some updates from federal data sources as a possible future enhancement.

7) Project Proposal Review *(Menza)*

a. Metro Construction Projects
- Menza presented Ramsey County's proposal for a regional construction project map modeled on Saint Paul's project coordination tool. Participating cities and counties would contribute project data to help agencies identify overlapping work and coordinate schedules across jurisdictions.
- Koukol noted that participation varied among cities in an earlier countywide effort. Members discussed what would motivate agencies to contribute and keep their data current.
- Members discussed using Esri's road closure data model as a potential way to share closure information with navigation providers. Saint Paul currently uses its own data model.
- Menza said he would distribute the slides, which include a link to Saint Paul's tool.

b. Statewide Imagery Program Needs Assessment
- Menza reported that the Geospatial Advisory Council (GAC) is exploring a statewide imagery program and plans to seek partners to help fund a needs assessment.
- The GAC may ask MetroGIS to contribute. No cost estimate was available, and no action was requested at this meeting.

c. Contract for Regional Data Viewer
- Menza introduced the Metropolitan Council's proposal to formalize support for the Regional Data Viewer. Metropolitan Council staff currently maintain the application without a formal contract.
- The proposed contract would define roles, responsibilities, and ongoing maintenance obligations.

- Menza suggested that Metropolitan Council staff prepare an initial draft and bring it back to the Collaborative Council for feedback.

d. MetroGIS Website Content Review & Refresh
   - Menza proposed updating the MetroGIS website to address outdated content. A workgroup would review the site and recommend what to keep, update, archive, or remove.
   - Members indicated support for the proposal. Menza will begin forming the workgroup.

8) 2026-2027 Work Plan Check-In *(Brandt)*

- Brandt introduced the work plan check-in and noted that recurring data contributions are listed as ongoing operations.
- Members emphasized finishing projects already underway and considering staff and workgroup capacity before adding new priorities.
- Members agreed to explore the Metro Construction Projects Collaboration. They discussed bringing together agencies with existing tools to compare approaches, identify barriers to sharing project data, and consider whether a common data standard would help. Menza invited interested participants to contact him and offered to reach out to potential partners.
- The Council will revisit the proposals and prioritize work at its February virtual meeting. Members asked for more detail on each proposal, including who would lead it and whether a workgroup was in place.

9) Leadership and Chair-Elect Election *(Brandt)*

- Menza conducted the elections under the newly adopted Operational Guidelines and Procedures.
- McDonald was elected Chair-Elect. She will serve one year as Chair-Elect before succeeding Brandt as Chair.
- Slusarczyk and J. Mortensen were elected to the Leadership Committee. The two seats carry staggered terms of one and two years.
- The Leadership Committee will consider new member appointments at its next meeting, tentatively scheduled for November 13. Aaron will confirm the date with the committee.

10) 2027 Meeting Dates *(Brandt)*

- Menza presented the proposed 2027 Collaborative Council meeting dates. No objections were raised.
  - February 17, 2027
  - June 9, 2027
  - November 10, 2027 (in person)

11) Updates from other GIS Organization *(Group)*

- This item was skipped due to time constraints.

12) Lightning Round Updates *(Group)*

- This item was skipped due to time constraints.

13) Adjourn (motion item) *(Brandt)*

Agenda completed. Meeting adjourned. 2:59pm

Next meeting
February 17, 2027 (virtual)

Proposed 2027 meeting dates
February 17, June 9, November 10 - 2027

Acting-Chair, Dave Brandt
Acting-Vice-Chair, Matt Koukol
MetroGIS Coordinator, Aaron Menza
Met Council staff support, Tanya Mayer