MetroGIS Coordinating Committee: Meeting Agenda

Wednesday, June 4, 2025, 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm

Virtual

<mark>DRAFT</mark>

Attendees

☒	Educational Sector: Pete Wiringa, UMN/U-Spatial	☒	Govt - Regional: Pam Olsin, MESB
☐	Educational Sector: Kirk Stueve, St. Paul College	☐	Govt - Regional: Matt Baker, MAC
☒	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 (late)
	Govt - City: Vacant	☒	Govt - State: Galen Sjostrom, MnDOT
☐	Govt - County: John Slusarczyk, Anoka County	☒	Govt - State: Alison Slaats, MnGeo
☒	Govt - County: Chad Riley, Carver County	☐	Non-Profit: Jeff Matson, MCN/CURA
☒	Govt - County: Joe Sapletal, Dakota County		Non-Profit: Vacant
☒	Govt - County: Jesse Reinhardt, Hennepin County	☒	Private Sector: Dan Tinklenberg, SRF
☒	Govt - County: Matt Koukol, Ramsey County	☒	Private Sector - Utilities: Tony Grossman, Xcel
☐	Govt - County: Tony Monsour, Scott County		Private Sector: Vacant
☒	Govt - Co: David Brandt (Vice-Chair), Washington Co.	☐	Special Expertise: Audrey Robeson, MCNet
☐	Govt - Federal: Shelby Sterner, USGS	☐	Special Expertise: Brad Henry, UMN
	Private Sector: Vacant	☐	MetroGIS (ex-officio): Tanya Mayer, Met. Council

Additional Attendees: Franny Clary-Leiferman, Ramsey County; Andrea Flores-Hernandez, Ramsey County

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

1) **Call to Order** *(Brandt)*
   1:00 p.m.

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

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

3) **Approve [Minutes from last meeting](#) (January 22, 2025) (motion item)** *(Brandt)*
   - Review action items from last meeting
     - <mark style="background-color:#00FF00">COMPLETE:</mark> Change the November meeting to **Wednesday November 12** (Mayer)
     - <mark>ACTION:</mark> Change the Metro County GIS Managers scheduled November meeting. (Brandt)
     - <mark style="background-color:#00FF00">COMPLETE:</mark> Send project details/history to Aaron Goemann, Mississippi Watershed Management Organization. (Mayer/Maas)

   Motion to approve 1/22/2025 minutes: Sjostrom   Second: Wiringa   Motion carried.

Next Coordinating Committee Meetings
Wednesday November 12, 2025, 1:00-3:30 pm – in-person meeting
February 2026
June 2026

4) Member update *(Brandt)*
See the meeting slides linked above.

5) Metropolitan Council Spring Imagery update *(Mayer)*
See the meeting slides linked above.

6) Metro Food Resources Map and Dataset Update (pilot project) *(Brandt/Clary-Leiferman)*
See the meeting slides linked above.

Brandt and Clary-Leiferman provided a summary of the project origins, work that's been done, current state, next steps and goals for a final dataset and application. A lengthy discussion ensued about project ownership, data schema, data availability, health staff with little GIS knowledge, possible need for a data aggregation tool, duplicative efforts, and ongoing expectations and responsibilities to support this application. Resource limitations were noted at several organizations. This includes Met Council not having resources to dedicate to lead the project or to sustaining the food resources data aggregation process and web mapping application but will support as a partner. Next steps include 1) completing a final review of the data within the draft application to confirm accuracy 2) launch the web mapping application as version 1, 3) Ramsey County will continue to support this to get people looking at it in 2025 and to work on a sustainable model starting in 2026 4) Brandt will take this back for further conversation at the 8CC meeting in June. There was strong support for this being a regional MetroGIS project and more discussion needed on a sustainable solution.

7) 3 – New Regional Data Sharing Agreements Project Update *(Mayer)*
See the meeting slides linked above for the current status of the new Data Sharing Agreements between the Met Council and each of the 7 metro counties.

8) MetroGIS – what's next? *(Brandt)*
See the meeting slides linked above.

- Serious discussion of purpose and continuance in November (in person)

Brandt described the "MetroGIS – What's Next" slide, teeing up the conversation in November about MetroGIS. Do we need MetroGIS or has it run its course? MetroGIS is a collaborative built on a common set of data needs, when MnGeo and the GAC were not yet fully operational. Randy Johnson and MetroGIS lead the way with data standards, developing regional parcels, address points and centerlines. It served as a proving ground to standardize and roll data up from sources. Geoff Mass was a driving force, even after leaving his MetroGIS Coordinator role as MetroGIS evolved into maintenance mode and exploration of new datasets and standards – including underground utilities, parks and trails, and the food resources mapping.

Recently the Metropolitan Council has scaled back its staff support for MetroGIS to a small portion of 1 person, but continues to support the data sharing agreement contracts, funds the annual MetroGIS projects budget, provides technical support staff for data aggregation of the core metro datasets, and supports the NG911 Data Viewer application. In addition, we are now we're seeing a lot of overlap between MetroGIS, MnGeo, the GAC, the 8-county collaborative, and so on (see slide). Many of the same people are involved in all of these groups. Most of MetroGIS foundational work is in maintenance mode. Our recent survey of MetroGIS CC members returned that most people attended to hear what others were doing or to hear what MetroGIS was doing. A very passive type of participation, which is not sustainable. So that's one thing we need to figure out.

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Brandt proposes we have a serious discussion at the November, in-person only, meeting. Does Metro GIS still need to exist? Has it run its course? Has it served its purpose? What does GIS in this in the metro and state look like if MetroGIS does not exist? We need to ask ourselves that question.

Please think about it and come in November to have the discussion.

Reinhardt: are there some things that we can start looking at that might help with understanding of any kind of legislative things that MetroGIS is required to handle? Are there things that we could take a look at before then other than the website obviously.

Brandt: MetroGIS does not. There is no legal standing for MetroGIS. It's just a goodwill participation. The Geospatial Advisory Councill actually has legislation and standing.

9) **MetroGIS Chair (motion item)** *(Brandt)*
   - Nomination and vote for a new chair – *needs volunteer*

*Motion to nominate **Matt Koukol** as acting-Vice-Chair of the MetroGIS Coordinating Committee. Motion carried.*

ACTION: Add Koukol to leadership meetings (Mayer)

10) **MetroGIS 2025 Work Plan Project Updates**

Figuring out the level of effort and time spent on these projects
   - 1 – Regional GIS Data Provisioning *(Maas)* – *needs volunteer*
   - 2 – Metro Park and Trail Data Standard *(Maas)* – *needs volunteer* John Slusarczyk/Beth Koch?
   - 3 – New Regional Data Sharing Agreements *(Mayer)*
   - 4 – Revamp MetroGIS Operational Guidelines and Procedures *(Brandt)* - *needs volunteer*
   - 5 – External Platform Publishing *(Brandt – Metro County GIS Managers/GAC)*
   - 6 – Metro Regional Data Viewer *(Maintenance – Met Council/MESB)*
   - Not prioritized – Metro Food Resources Map and Dataset (pilot project) *(Brandt)*
   - On-hold – Metro Stormwater Geodata Project *(Goemann)*

Slaats: thinking ahead to the next meeting. How much time does it take to maintain these or keep these going? What happens to these projects? MetroGIS has been innovators, then the State often takes them on. I can see that many of these could progress to the state. Having those statistics of resources for each project would be helpful.

ACTION: remind Brandt to put out descriptions about work required of volunteers for these projects. (Mayer)

11) **Lightning Round Update** *(Group)*
   - **Brandt, Washington County** – We have another GIS intern again this year. We're currently working are food resources mapping and local Community Transit in our county. We've been using a Local Community Transit app for the past year that includes circular routes, and the Metro transit routes all on the same app so that people can discover what is closest to them and get a ride somewhere. We're also doing library service area analysis and taking a look at people served by drive and walk time. The intern will be working on that as well, including migrating the

old ArcMap project to ArcGIS Pro. Esri licensing is ongoing and the latest e-mail from Esri that talks about our change with their pricing roll-out is going to have a huge impact. We all have to figure out what that means for us at local government.

- **Read, Metro Mosquito Control District** – We have been working on a project taking one county's 2024 imagery and putting it on a server as cloud optimized geotiff. It worked great. It's fast, it's stable. I'm planning to expand that with some other counties. We're going to be doing a talk on that at MN GIS/LIS this fall, so I'm just thinking of maybe getting imagery from Dakota County next, if the imagery is available to try that out.

- **Mortensen, Shoreview** – I am working on our new sanitary sewer asset management system that we have been putting into place. Before this, it was a feature-based only system, so all inspections and other maintenance tasks were completely separate layers feature layers. This required carrying Trimbles around when available. We would end up with all these discrepancies in the data from people not collecting information. I put that together, through a lot of experimenting and time, ways to automate a lot of the collection. We have something good up and running, using joined view layers to show where they do inspections. Otherwise, it's just permits' season.

- **Koukol, Ramsey County** – We're working with Ramsey County Fire Chiefs Association and City of Saint Paul mainly to implement the pre-event planning solution for fire and emergency. Hoping to get to all our departments across the county to enter all their preplanning stuff that will integrate with our emergency, our CAD system gives people the information they need as they respond on their way to any facility about where electrical panels are. We have a lot of mutual support, so to be able to have every department be able to see every other department's preplanning stuff is really essential. We're interested in getting that rolled out. We're also working on an enterprise asset management solution and GIS is a partner in that. It's a full enterprise program using something called AssetWorks that is largely a work order management and a fleet management solution. We've been in the last six months starting to really integrate more with the GIS side of the AssetWorks and getting field tools set up so they can go out to do the asset work.

- **Slaats, MnGeo** – MNGeo has two student worker positions available right now that close on June 10th. There was a Geospatial Advisory Council (GAC) meeting on May 21st. That was the last meeting of the two-year term. The next term will be starting in July. Thanks to everybody on this call who participates in the GAC. Many of you volunteer for many committees or are members of the GAC, so thank you for that. MnGeo is now publishing a derivative of parcel data called Government Lands. That was an initiative started by the Department of Natural Resources and their MNIT team. Now when MnGeo publishes parcels quarterly data on the Commons, this derivative follows soon after. Our webmap service of imagery now includes 2023 NAIP data, which just got delivered to us a couple of months ago. MnGeo is investigating COGs as an update to that WMS which is on our work plan for the next fiscal year, starting sometime in July we're currently investigating COGs for the planned delivery of DEMS=s from the new Lidar dat. We hope to have some of that publicly available this summer.

- **Wiringa, U of MN** – One new project for us is a project called the National Zoning Atlas. Due to some staff changes at the U, we're going to be helping out with that nationwide initiative. If you haven't heard of it, they look for coordinators at the statewide level. Hopefully a lot of that will be filled in by the end of the calendar year. For those of you who work for the cities, we will probably be reaching out to you. I've heard the disconnect between what's in code and what's on the maps can be pretty varied, so lots of cleanup there. The Lead service lines project that

continues working with Minnesota Department of Health. Thanks to everyone here who might be involved with that, a lot of work is still going on over the summer. Data cleanup, prioritizing replacements, sort of all over the board. The ArcGIS desktop retirement is delayed again. We thought we would be off by July 31st, but there are a few custom add-ons, so one more year for the folks at the Minnesota Geological Survey. Some work is happening on their end and the Minnesota Department of Health to move to Pro so we can keep updating the county well index.

- **Riley, Carver County** – Happy maintenance mode for us right now. We're still migrating to Experience Builder. Our goal is to migrate all the easy apps by July so we can start focusing in on more of complicated apps like our address editor. We hope to have that one done sometime in the fall. We're working through Python migrations too. We're migrating to the utility network with our city of Chaska. They have a pretty big geometric network that we are in the process of learning how to migrate. We may with a consultant to help them get over the hump. We're going to run into licensing issues with that and simply run out of time. Our ELA is up in March. I suspect we're going need to get an extension from Esri on ArcMap and Desktop licensing. We have an ELA we kind of went crazy with AGOL Creator users. Now we'll have to go under the 280 threshold. We had just shy of 400 creator licenses. We've got it down, so we just need to get all those put into the appropriate buckets, It's a big effort there. We are also going with AssetWorks specifically for our facilities group. That's the only group that's going to be using it, but it's my understanding this is a partnership with Scott County and maybe a few other counties are doing some sort of collaborative with AssetWorks. Finally, there's going to be 4 folks from Carver County out at the UC.

- **Fendos, LOGIS** – Logis is onboarding a new GS specialist and wrapping up our enterprise license agreement with Esri, where we added some 3D capabilities software packages. For planning purposes, we added Image Analyst and also some drone licenses as well starting June this year. We also have some new integrations with the new permitting systems. We have new GS integration in-house. I have a couple events. On August 13th I'm working on the mapping Expo with Allison and Esri. There may be a couple presenters from U of M. The scope is a little wider this year, not limited to just nonprofit and including government organizations. The theme is nonprofit and government collaboration. It's going to be held at Logis on August 13. We encourage people to participate. Please help spread the word. More information will come from MN GIS/LIS and MnGeo when ready. At the Esri UC, there will be a MN user group outing on Monday July 14th from 6:00 to 8:00pm at Ballast Point in Little Italy. Sponsorship will be put together GIS/LIS with some vendors to sponsor the event, so it's free. You're welcome to attend.

- **Sapletal, Dakota County** – We were able to get a GIS intern approved this year. He'll be working on some base map updating and helping us migrate our Web App Builder to Experience Builder. We had a goal of finishing that this summer, but it will be dragged out into the fall. At the same time, we've got a SQL database that we need to migrate to a new SQL Server so that we can use the latest version of ArcGIS Pro and the latest versions of ArcGIS Server. That requires us to touch over 140 Python scripts and processes. We're up to our neck in migration this year. We're dealing with Esr licensing and I'm in the middle of explaining to the Deputy County Manager why my bill went up 150% with the switch from concurrent licensing to your user types. I've been spending a lot of time explaining and writing out justification for things like that. Also, I don't know if everybody saw it. There's a new judiciary security bill that was passed a part of the omnibus safety bill a few weeks back protect judges, court staff and immediate family from having their names in property records online. I had a discussion with one of our property staff yesterday. We very well may be responsible for scrubbing digital data that is still within our

grasp. We may be discussing the 20 years of parcel data we have online for download about going back through it and cleaning out some names. I'll know more after our internal meeting in a couple weeks.

- **Reinhardt, Hennepin County** – We're just about done with our ArcGIS Pro transition. We have a few Desktop or Arcmap users that just have some legacy workflows that we're working through. Also dealing with Esri licensing. However, I don't think we're quite in the same boat as some folks. We will still go with our concurrent licensing model this year and then transition over to user types next year. There was an interesting note from Jack that came out yesterday. So, they must be hearing it from all sides. We're going through some SQL server updates and then likely another Esri Enterprise upgrade yet this year. We are also doing a lot to figure out how to store LIDAR and also all of our historic aerial imagery. We have several years out there going back to 1940 and just trying to figure out how to best do that, that's cost efficient. It's starting to add up with the amount of space that we're using. We're looking at cold storage options and maybe taking advantage of some of the services that are like the NearMap vendor offers as a way to reduce the overhead on our infrastructure. We are getting ready to release our 2020 imagery and after we receive our 2025 spring imagery to get delivered. 2020 imagery will be released as a public service and then also make that available to partners as a standalone or downloadable data set. We have an intern coming on the summer. Hennepin County is in an unofficial hiring freeze. One staff member will be attending the UC this year. Finally, Hennepin County will be transitioning to .gov over the next few months.

12) Adjourn
2:15pm

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Next meeting
November 12, 2025 (In Person)

Chair, *vacant*
Vice-Chair, Dave Brandt
Met Council staff support, Tanya Mayer

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ACTION ITEMS

- **ACTION:** Change the Metro County GIS Managers scheduled November meeting. (Brandt)
- **ACTION:** Add Koukol to leadership meetings (Mayer)
- **ACTION:** remind Brandt to put out descriptions about work required of volunteers for these Projects. (Mayer)

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