

MetroGIS Coordinating Committee: Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, January 22, 2025, 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm

Virtual

APPROVED



Attendees

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

Additional Attendees: Pam Oslin, MESB; Heather Albrecht, Hennepin County (alternate); Mirae Guenther, Mississippi Watershed Management Organization (alternate)

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

1) Call to Order (*Brandt*)

1:02p.m.

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

Motion to approve Agenda: Sjostrom Second: Read Motion carried.

3) Approve [Minutes from last meeting](#) (November 14, 2024) (**motion item**) (*Brandt*)

- Review action items from last meeting (*Mayer*)
- Complete:** MetroGIS leadership team to continue filling vacant seats, including Watershed District and Utilities. Please send any recommendations and suggestions to fill those seats.

Motion to approve 11/14/2024 minutes: Tinklenberg Second: Fendos Motion carried.

4) Administrative Item *(Mayer)*

- Request to change the November 19 in-person meeting date. That is GIS Day 2025.
Suggestions: ~~Wed November 5, Thurs November 13, Tues November 18, Thurs November 20~~
 - **ACTION: Change the November meeting to **Wednesday November 12.** (Mayer)**
 - **ACTION: Change the Metro County GIS Managers' scheduled November meeting. (Brandt)**

Welcome New Members!

- Aaron Goemann, Mississippi Watershed Management Organization – Watershed Seat
- Mirae Guenther, Mississippi Watershed Management Organization – alternate for the Watershed Seat

5) MetroGIS Collaborative Survey Results *(Brandt/Mayer)*

- [Meeting Slides](#) – pages 4-19. 16 responses, or about 47% response rate. Thank you!
- Results including detailed comments will be reviewed further to help guide MetroGIS forward.
- A note regarding mapping underground utilities conversation: The MN Geospatial Advisory Council (GAC) Emergency Preparedness Committee (EPS) is addressing this topic in their Underground Utilities Mapping project team. The most recent EPC report is available in the [MN GAC agenda packet](#). One suggestion is to invite that group to present at one of the upcoming MetroGIS meetings.

6) MetroGIS 2025 Work Plan Project Updates

Brandt: As MetroGIS members, please consider volunteering to lead or participate in any of these initiatives. We are looking for more people to become involved.

- 1 – Regional GIS Data Provisioning *(Maas)*
 - Ensuring the continuity of the Metro County/Metropolitan Council/MESB working relationships
 - Biggest upgrade in 2025: Adding CARTOCLASS attribute to Road Centerlines
- 2 – Metro Park and Trail Data Standard *(Maas)*

Next steps:

 - Revise existing draft
 - Complete and publish the 'needs' documentation
 - Virtual work session in March 2025
 - Sample Area/Draft dataset for testing in March 2025
- 3 – New Regional Data Sharing Agreements *(Mayer)*
 - Build on existing documents and practices
 - Ensures continuity of the data and workflows
 - Initial discussion with County GIS Managers group in February
 - MetroGIS Executive Team to work on revised language
 - Work with County GIS Managers group to refine and tidy
 - Present to MetroGIS Coordinating Committee in June
 - Work through legal/contract process at County/Council
 - Implementation for 2026-2028

- 4 – Revamp MetroGIS Operational Guidelines and Procedures (*Brandt/Mass - Needs volunteers*)
 - Last refreshed in 2016. Brandt is helping Mass with this item. Volunteers requested.
- 5 – External Platform Publishing (*Brandt – Metro County GIS Managers*)
 - Apple and Google are pulling address data from NAD. The NAD uses the address points data from Geocommons
 - The MN GAC Contributing to Nationwide & Commercial Data Assets Committee met with Google on January 14, 2025, and reviewed the Maps Content Partner Program. Key takeaways included:
 - Become a map content partner: <https://contentpartners.maps.google.com/>
 - Data sharing can be done at an aggregated level
 - Open-source data feeds (no credentials) can be pulled by Google
 - Google pulls NAD quarterly
 - For more immediate updates to the road features in Google, there is an edit tool for Maps Content Partners.
- 6 – Metro Regional Data Viewer (*Maintenance*)
- 7 – Metro Food Resources Map and Dataset (*Maas*)
 - Data assembled (Dec-Jan) from participating counties
 - First metro wide prototype to be launched in late January
 - 2025 will be a test in the public sphere, to be refined in content and function based on community input
- On-hold – Metro Stormwater Geodata Project

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

- **Henry** (Minnesota Infrastructure Alliance): There is a new Statewide Infrastructure Law in MN: 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. This will be a coordinated approach to all of the infrastructure, planning, funding, design and GIS. Asset management and GIS have a very close relationship. I think we should keep that in mind with this group because MetroGIS and the GAC will be principal suppliers of data for that totally new way of managing our infrastructure. The executive director is being named soon.
- **Goemann** (Mississippi Watershed Management Organization): Volunteer to look at that watershed project to see if it's something they could pick up and keep rolling. **ACTION: Send project details/history to Aaron Goemann, Mississippi Watershed Management Organization. (Mayer)**
- **Wiringa** (U of MN): Hiring 2 positions: a Researcher 5 and a Geospatial Operations Manager. [http://z.umn.edu/uspatialjobs until 1/31](http://z.umn.edu/uspatialjobs%20until%201/31). We were three people back in 2018, when I started, we are up to 15 staff and we're in the process of hiring four more. ArcMap/Desktop GIS retirement kept getting pushed back but is now scheduled for July 31st. We will finally be off that with a couple of exceptions. There has been a lot of accessibility discussion recently with regards to the federal web accessibility rule for local and state governments. As a result of that, we are looking through all of our old assets. We have a lot of little research projects, with a map

here and there. They are from years ago but still work because our GIS servers are still there. Nobody necessarily uses it but may be pulled up occasionally. All of these research artifacts that are probably not accessible may need to come down or be archived in some way. So, there are a lot of historical things to deal with moving forward.

- **Slaats (MnGeo):** MnGeo is still working in coordination with MN GAC 3D Geomatics Committee on MnTopo 2 project. Also ongoing is working on the Modernization of Geospatial Commons. One big blocker is that there is not enough staff to work on it. Currently mitigating by using consultants and borrowing people from other agencies. There are 2 MnGeo jobs posted open: ITS3 (mid-career level) - closes 1/27; student worker closes 1/30. Go to <https://mn.gov/mmb/careers/search-for-jobs/> and search for "MnGeo"
- **Brandt (Washington County):** Working on ArcGIS Licensing and figuring out what they are going to do when it changes in 2026. This is a theme across the metro. We are surveying GIS users across the County to help determine license level needs (developed by Dakota Co). One project right now is with the Washington Co. Community Services Department on county transportation (circulator routes). We have pulled together the data for all of our circulator routes that are in our communities and are putting together a website that people can search for what transportation options are available for them to get them to hospital appointments, groceries, and the like. It is rewarding for me, as you can see your work actually being used in the community.
- **Mayer (Metropolitan Council):**
 - Supporting a wide variety of internal Met Council planning and operations responsibilities with maps and web mapping applications. System statements, Local Planning Handbook, Comprehensive Planning support, Regional Land Use data update, etc.
 - Supporting the Council's purchasing efforts for a new Enterprise Asset Management System and a new Grants Database Management System with regards to integration with the Council's GIS.
 - Updating infrastructure – SQL Server upgrade, ArcGIS Pro upgrade to 3.3, ArcGIS Server upgrade for Transit, new System administration dashboard, Database redesign and optimization, reorganizing web services, new data catalog, finish migrating scripts to Py 3
 - Migration from Azure Repos to GITHUB, Disaster Recovery planning, Windows 11 upgrade, planning for new EA licensing model
 - Continued Web App Builder to Experience Builder migration
 - Spring 2025 30cm regional aerial imagery with Kucera
 - Metro GIS Support – new regional data agreements, support and participation with Parks & Trails data schema project, migrate Road Centerline CARTOCLASS field management back to County Producers, continued support of NG911 Data Viewer
- **Hansen (MnDNR):**
 - GIS Section is currently migrating all infrastructure from on-prem to Azure. In addition to migrating data resources, also users and workflows. DNR has over 200 SDEs and DNR Divisions have different workflows, both with publishing the services out into that infrastructure and changing to hosted services in a portal environment as well.

- DNR ArcMap users have had 5 years to move to ArcPro, and for many it's coming down to the wire. There is a big campaign to migrate those users to web maps as a platform GIS if they just need to look up location, information or just some casual GIS use.
- DNR is migrating our data from the FGDB GDRS into a Web GDRS. We are migrating users to consume services in their products from the web services in Azure instead of from the file-based GDRS, which were static copies of data on various DNR servers.
- Also migrating over 100 apps to experience builder as well.
- **Sapletal** (Dakota County): Like others, wrestling with Esri licensing changes, looking for support to increase budget. Migrating web app builder applications. Dakota Co has been building out greenway system. GIS worked with Planning staff and consultant to devise a new color scheme for signage along the greenways developed for their greenways/bikeways – replacing parks signage soon too. Some nice cartography coming from our office. SQL upgrade this winter which will require investigation into critical application dependencies. Then, we will upgrade to ArcGIS Pro 3.4, and Enterprise 11.4. We will be exploring GIS Data Governance with key customers to educate on data stewardship and convince superiors they are data owners. For the organization to make quality data driven decisions, it requires up to date data. Dakota County GIS staff made over 1500 maps last year – presented the statistic to leaders.
- **Read** (MMCD): Mosquito control district staff are updating wetland maps and really appreciate all air photos made available to them. I would like to get a demonstration project going on putting county imagery on a cloud optimized cloud environment to test performance (COGS – cloud optimized geotiffs). If anyone's interested in that, let me know. *MnDNR and MnGeo are also working with COGs and are interested.*
- **Fendos** (LOGIS): Working on and close to being finished migrating web app builders to new tools (Experience Builder or Virtual Viewers). At the end of 2024, send a priority survey to LOGIS members. The top 3 results were 1) asset dynamic reporting, 2) 3D, and 3) Drone. LOGIS is in the process of revisiting ELA with Esri and waiting to see pricing for added licenses and software solutions for drone and other 3D products. Finalizing 3-year ELA with Azure. In addition, I am now chairing the MN GAC Outreach Committee and recruited 7 new members. We are going to work on an article to send to Esri for their ArcWatch publication. I will be meeting to align with the Outreach - Geospatial Success Stories workgroup activities. We will be gathering success stories to align with local and national awards. If you have success stories at the metro level, or are interested in participating, please contact Jessica.
<https://www.mngeo.state.mn.us/committee/outreach/index.html>
- **Sjostrom** (MnDOT): I don't have anything close to an exhaustive list of the major current GIS efforts at the DOT, but some highlights include:
 - Reconnecting/reconfiguring GIS scripts that take the non-spatial project data from its database of record, spatializes the data as linear route events, and then pipes it over to hosting locations that are spatially based
 - Preparing our statewide linear referencing system to accept more precise route centerline source data that is (or will be) derived from statewide terrestrial LiDAR scans
 - Many of the same upgrade transitions that others have already mentioned - ArcMap to Pro 3.3, Enterprise GIS servers to 11.3, Web App Builder to Experience Builder, and more!

- It's gratifying to hear that we're on the same page as many other organizations in that regard

8) Adjourn

2:12pm

Motion to adjourn: Wringa

Second: Read

Motion carried.

Next Coordinating Committee Meetings

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

November 12, 2025, 1:00-3:30 pm – in-person meeting

Summary of Action Items

ACTION: Change the November meeting to **Wednesday November 12** (Mayer)

ACTION: Change the Metro County GIS Managers' scheduled November meeting. (Brandt)

ACTION: Send project details/history to Aaron Goemann, Mississippi Watershed Management Organization. (Mayer)