

Imagery Committee Meeting Minutes

Date: August 26, 2026

Time: 2:00 PM (1 hr)

Location: Virtual Meeting

Attendees

- Heather Albrecht (Hennepin GIS / Co chair)
- Tanya Mayer (Met Council / Co chair)
- Megan Sisko (MNIT)
- Christy Christensen (McLeod County)
- Joe Sapletal (Dakota County)
- Jacob Haferman (MNIT)
- Jennifer Murphy (DNR)
- Adam Smith (MnDOT)

1. Introductions

Members introduced themselves, describing their roles and interest in the statewide imagery program.

Themes included:

- Sharing past experience with imagery acquisition, remote sensing, and photogrammetry.
- Interest in promoting a collaborative statewide imagery efforts.
- Interest in participating in a regional or statewide imagery collections.

2. Review of Statewide Imagery Needs Assessment (RFP)

- A newly updated version ("version 0.2") of the RFP scope was released with substantial additional content. Committee members had not fully reviewed it yet.
 - Members requested additional time before the next meeting to provide comments.
 - The updated structure was praised for clarity and helpful organization.
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3. Questions for Other State Programs

- A representative of the Michigan imagery program will present to the group at the September 23 meeting.
 - Committee discussed whether to send questions ahead of time.
 - The collected question list may serve multiple purposes:
 - As input for conversational Q&A with other states
 - As a guide for future stakeholder interviews that will be part of statewide imagery needs
 - Members referenced Rhode Island's imagery program as an example and noted its differences in scale but valued their lessons learned.
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4. Meeting Planning & Scheduling Adjustments

- October meeting conflicts with the MN GIS/LIS Conference.
 - Members discussed possibly gathering informally at the conference, but MN Open Meeting Law prevents official meetings at paid-access events.
 - Group agreed to reschedule the October committee meeting to **Tuesday, October 27 at 3:00 PM**.
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5. GAC Imagery Committee quarterly reporting to the Geospatial Advisory Council

- Establishment of the new imagery committee
 - Expansion of membership
 - Continued refinement of the statewide imagery RFP
 - Upcoming request to officially retire the GAC Image Service Sustainability Committee and absorb its responsibilities as a subcommittee to the GAC Imagery Committee
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6. Statewide Imagery Program Needs Assessment — Context & Actions

- Members encouraged to review materials prior to September 23 meeting.
 - Reference materials: Washington state report, other state programs.
 - Michigan will present in September; committee will not revise major RFP components until October.
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7. Imagery News & Technology Updates

- Discussion of Esri partnering with Nearmap to integrate 20 cm imagery into basemaps; coverage is mostly metro but expanding.
 - Hennepin County and Dakota County shared details about their existing Nearmap contracts and constraints around machine learning usage and data sharing.
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8. DNR Updates

- DNR's master contract imagery RFP/RFO finalized.
 - Fall color collection planned for October in northern Minnesota (Lake of the Woods, Koochiching, parts of St. Louis and Lake County).
 - Some DNR imagery services are currently broken due to Azure migration; work is underway to restore access.
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9. GMA (Geospatial Maturity Assessment) Findings

- Minnesota's GMA 2025 results were released.
 - Committee noted a poor statewide imagery score, likely due to absence of a statewide imagery program.
 - Members encouraged to attend GAC meeting for full explanation.
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10. Action Items

- Committee members: Review RFP version 0.2 and submit comments before next meeting.
 - Committee members: Review and add to questions for Michigan and other state presentations.
 - Update October meeting invitation to reflect **October 27, 3:00 PM**.
 - Team: Attend September 16 GAC meeting (optional but encouraged).
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Prepared by: Heather Albrecht