

K-12 Committee Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: May 8, 2026 | 9 - 10 a.m.

Attendees

Zach, Garet, Shana, Rob, Larkin, Jacob, Evan, Dennis, Tony, Patrick, Mary, Sally

Agenda Items

1. Larkin and Jacob present on their Wright County project
 - a. Presenting project Wright County started
 - i. [Wright County Time Traveler Portal](#)
 - b. Questions:
 - i. What does this tell us about needs of teachers? What do they need in order to be able to adopt/use these resources?
 - ii. How do we connect/create resources that fit with existing curriculum?
 - iii. How do we balance the need to balance activities for teachers that want step-by-step type activities vs. those that want more open ended activities?
 - iv. How do we determine audience? Middle school? High school? Social Studies? Math?
 - v. How do we write this for Wright County and applicable to any other counties (whether specific data to the county or other ways)
 - vi. Could this be a model for other counties to build?
 - c. Feedback
 - i. General
 1. Given the different rates at which students work, there is nothing wrong with having a less developed 'bonus' tab (e.g. Transportation) for students to explore as time permits.
 - a. This also models for students that work is rarely 'done' and projects can always be considered 'in progress'
 - b. Second! Sandboxes are good for learning too!
 2. Not being a teacher myself, it does seem like a good idea to present the skeleton of the app and see what their ideas for fitting it in to their curriculum
 - ii. Specific
 1. Why would building material be important? Were there any noteworthy fires historically in Wright County?

2. Did the arrival of any of the rail lines change the materials of building construction? For example, had all the trees been cut down and quarried stone needed to be brought in?
 3. Have all the materials been downloaded/copied and are hosted by Wright County? (to avoid future issues with data persistence)
2. GIS/LIS Session proposal
 - a. 1 main presenter, 2-3 sub-presenters to discuss specific work items/achievements
 - i. Sub-presenters collaborate on shared ppt in committee drive folder
 - b. Zach as main presenter
 - c. The K-12 committees of the GAC and GIS/LIS have joined forces to bring GIS into classrooms as a dynamic tool for problem solving and spatial thinking. In this session, committee members will share their collaborative vision for equipping teachers and students with the skills and resources to engage meaningfully with geospatial technology and demonstrate specific examples of engagement projects. We'll also show you how to become part of the effort. Whether you're passionate about education, curriculum development, or expanding the GIS community, this session will outline current plans and highlight concrete ways you can get involved.
3. Geofest plans
 - a. 2026 Session Info
 - b. [Conference Schedule](#)
 - c. Session ideas:
 - i. Teaching Inquiry with GIS - Pedagogical
 - ii. What can I do with GIS? - Technical
 1. (with a free AGOL account?)
 2. Have this as the beginner session? Charlie/Jim's session?
 3. Technical session vs pedagogical
 - iii. Sally: Sally - Geocommons (how to find/use data)
 - iv. Larkin: Environmental Science
 - v. Rob: outside