

2026 GAC Outreach Committee Meeting

Date: January 13th, 2026, 2-3 PM

Facilitator: Jessica Fendos

Attendees: Abby Stamm, Alec Trenda, Cara Leitheiser, Jeff Kalar, Kendis Scharenbroich, Megan Sisko, Sally Wakefield, Stacey Stark, Jessica Fendos

Absent: Chris Cantey, Carla Coates, Dale Watt, Nick Linell, Norm Anderson.

Note Taker: Jessica Fendos

Agenda

1. Agenda and December 2nd, 2025, meeting minutes approval

Jessica sent January 2026 agenda prior to committee meeting and went over key takeaways from the Dec. 2025 Outreach Committee meeting. Committee members had no objection to today's meeting agenda and Dec. meeting minutes were approved.

2. Open Data subcommittee updates and HSEM Conference (Feb. 9th-11th) - Request for Support

Open Data Workgroup chair Stacey Stark planned to organize an exhibition booth during Feb. 9th-11th Homeland Security and Emergency Management Conference. She sought promotional assistance from Outreach Committee during this event. Sally Wakefield shared the [HSEM conference info](#) and a link to the [Free and Open Public Geospatial Data fact sheet](#). Megan Sisko further encouraged the group to review the [GAC Operations Handbook](#) which has an introduction about the GAC that was written in coordination with the GAC Executive Team, MnGeo, and MNIT Communications. In addition, the group brainstormed on media formats/venues to help promote open data and critical infrastructure data use across all levels of the state's Emergency Management community. Megan probed interest in using MNIT/GAC tablecloth or swag? Stacey indicated her interest in a one-page description that highlights what GeoSpatial Advisory Council does, how people can participate in GAC and the importance of open and infrastructure data to emergency management.

Megan proposed some ideas for one-pager:

- What is the GAC?
- How can I communicate needs to the GAC? (bi-yearly community survey, reach out via email)
- Opt-in county ADP, RCL, Parcels
- EPC and Critical Infrastructure WG
- Other data resources: Minnesota Geospatial Commons

Jessica will take the first stab at this one-page write-up on "About GAC". Kendis Scharenbroich and the group will help with wordsmith if needed.

While on the HSEM Conference topic, Kendis brought up “If there is interest in exploring other events, County Commissioners attend [the Assoc of MN Counties event](#) every December in the cities.”

Also, Megan announced a future event on Feb. 9 about Data Practice Act changes -- MnGeo, the GAC, and MCGISA are presenting about the Jan. 1 changes to the Data Practices Act regarding judicial information redaction from real property records (including GIS!) Tanya, Ryan S planned it. Virtual. County Recorder Associations. Lawyers. GIS/LIS Announcement. This meeting will be recorded.

3. MnGeo provides updates on the review of GAC Committee Hubs

Table for February 2026 meeting.

4. [GAC and Committee Hubs build support and maintenance plan](#) – Draft prepared by Kendis S

Jessica showed this document, but it makes more sense for the group to review after GAC and Committee Hubs are reviewed by MnGeo and MnIT.

5. First-ever GAC Leadership Retreat will be held on Jan. 14th, 2026, to be followed by a GAC Special Meeting for priorities selection

6. Recurring meetings in 2026 – every 6 weeks.

2026 Outreach Committee Meetings

Jan. 13th, 2026 – Jessica Fendos

Feb. 24th, 2026 – Abby Stamm

Apr. 21st, 2026 – Alec Trenda

June 9th, 2026 – Cara Leitheiser

July 28th, 2026 – Chris Cantey

Sept. 8th, 2026 – Dale Watt

Oct. 27th, 2026 – Jeff Kalar

Dec. 8th, 2026 – Nick Linell