

2026 GAC Outreach Committee Meeting

Date: February 24th, 2026, 2-3 PM

Facilitator: Jessica Fendos

Attendees: Abby Stamm, Alec Trenda, Cara Leitheiser, Chris Cantey, Dale Watt, Jeff Kalar, Kendis Scharenbroich, Nick Linell, Megan Sisko, Stacey Stark, Jessica Fendos

Absent: Sally Wakefield, Norm Anderson

Note Taker: Alec Trenda

Agenda

1. Agenda and January 13th 2026 meeting minutes approval

- 2:05: Meeting minutes approved.

2. January 14th GAC special meeting takeaways. New priorities (FY 2026 -2027) related to Outreach Committee.

- 2:09: HSEM conference was cancelled. Jessica Fendos and Stacey Stark created a one pager fact sheet about open data and the GAC.
- 2:10: Meeting minutes from the January 13th meeting were briefly covered.
- 2:11: GIS Advocacy Resources was added as a Priority Project to the Outreach committee.

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

- 2:13: Megan provides updates on the status of the hub site. The hub sites are about to be submitted to MnIT for review. Nick and Megan talk about changes with the GAC member story map on the hub site. Megan asks the group about making the hub site public. Making the hub site public would allow reviewers in MnIT Communications to access the site without having to have account. Committee members were supportive of this idea. However, they are going to add a disclaimer to communicate that the hub site is in development.
- 2:16: The hub sites are going to be presented to the GAC in May
- 2:18: On the outreach committee hub site, a landing pad page is going to be added for the subgroups.
- 2:20: The committee is asked "Do we want the Open Data map on the site?" Stacey voiced support for having the map on the site. She suggested adding a disclaimer about what the "open data" means. Adding an "Opt-in" status. Megan will send email to ask about putting an "Opt-In" map on the hub site.

- MnGeo is moving their website over to Tridion. The first batch of MnGeo webpages will be moving over at the end of April.
- MnIT IT reviews of the hub site should take approximately 2 weeks. Only the design of the hub site is going to be reviewed not the content of the hub site. Megan shares the Work plan of the hub site approval process. First, the hub sites are sent to MnIT for review. Then, they get sent to the executive team. After that each site is reviewed by the committees. Then finally, they are sent to the Content Team. After any changes are made to the sites MnIT needs to review the content before its launched public. The second round of Hub sites will start to be built after it goes to the committee. CANDO might be shutting down so further development of the hub site will be paused.

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

- 2:32: This topic was skipped today, however, the topic will be brought up again in May
- 2:33: The second round of hub sites need to be built. Jessica needs volunteers to help build those sites. Nick volunteered to build a few of the hub sites.

5. Outreach efforts in 2026 – [About GAC](#) descriptions, GIS ROI study, Mapping Expo, ... etc.

- 2:37: One Pager feedback. Graphics need to be updated due to unstandardized icons contrasting with each other. Stacey questions adding how to communicate what the committees are in simple terms. Jessica wants consistent Icons. Keep the one pager for future use, it will be revised by Kendis and Megan. Megan will send the one pager to MnIT communications after the reviews are complete to make additional changes.
- 2:49: GIS ROI Study. We are requesting that MnGeo through GAC to sponsor a study on the GIS ROI. Jessica knows a contractor who did a GIS ROI study for Seattle and possibly Washington State. Megan said that the state might be limited to state approved contractors. Alison may already be looking into contractors. Stacey is going to write a letter to MnGeo to voice support for the GIS ROI study. Stacey might need support to help review letter of advisory. Stacey would like examples of the ROIs in order to better write the request. The value of the Indiana Geographic Information Office was used as an example for an ROI study.

6. March 11th 2026 GAC meeting. Term report due February 25th.

- 2:56: Stacey or Norm will send facts about the status report for the Term reports. Facts about the “Opt-In” status will be sent by Megan after she gets the information from Norm.