

2026 GAC Outreach Committee Meeting Minutes

Date: April 7th, 2026, 2-3 PM

Facilitator: Jessica Fendos

Attendees: Alec Trenda, Carla Coates, Cara Leitheiser, Chris Cantey, Dale Watt, Jeff Kalar, Nick Linell, Megan Sisko, Sally Wakefield, Stacey Stark, Jessica Fendos

Absent: Abby Stamm, Dale Watt, Norm Anderson, Chris Cantey, Kendia Scharendroich.

Note Taker: Jessica Fendos

Agenda

1. Agenda and February 24th, 2026, meeting minutes approval

Agenda and meeting minutes approved by the Outreach Committee members.

2. GAC Executive Team's feedback to GAC Hubs and MnIT Communications review outcome if available (Megan Sisko)

Megan shared a feedback document from the executive team. Recommended revisions include the following.

- Links to external websites need to be opened in a different browser window. Jessica asked to clarify external sites. Megan specified external sites are sites redirect to a different domain name URLs. Transitions between GAC home Hub and GAC Committee Hubs are considered internal redirects and can stay in the same window. Calcite launch icons used in GeoCommons 2.0 were recommended to be added to external site redirects in the hub footer.
- GAC page initiation URL – make it standardized so item ID does not show in the URL request
- Remove standards page from GAC home hub but add Priorities (add short intro on what they are and why we do them), Activities and About Us pages. MnGeo will provide suitable language to be used in the Priorities page and provided reorganization tips for the Activities page. Move Awards page from MnGeo to GAC home.
- Jessica is assigned to add a divider between the members' map and list and fixed texts at the top of the Members page.
- MnGeo website will be decommissioned by end of August. Sally commented that it would be nice to have be able to launch them at the start of the next fiscal year and get these sites pass the accessibility testing too.
- Change one of the green banner colors to comply with accessibility

- Use tile images provided by MnIT Communications on these three Hubs.
- All revisions should be in place by May 1st so Jessica can provide updates in PowerPoint due on May 13th.

Second round of GAC Hub sites construction – roles and responsibilities (Accessibility in the maintenance plan by May)

Archiving Committee *Nick Linell*

EPC Committee *Stacey Stark*

PLSS Preservation Committee: *Jeff Kala*

3D Geo Committee *Alec Trenda + Cara Leitheiser+ Jessica Fendos*

K-12 Education Committee: *Shana Crosson*

Awards Committee

Parcels and Land Records Committee

Standards Committee

Imagery Committee

- 3. Outreach efforts in 2026 – Complete the build of remaining GAC Committee Hubs and roll out, [About GAC](#) descriptions, GIS ROI study (state vs. open data), Mapping Expo (August 2026), GIS/LIS Conference presentation topics submitted by GAC Committees (due May 8th, 2026), GAC Bi-Annual Report (by end of term).**

At the beginning of the meeting, the committee discussed the possibility of having an exhibit booth at the upcoming GIS/LIS Conference. Minnesota GIS/LIS Consortium Representative on GAC, Carla Coates, was asked to inquire with GIS/LIS Board about sharing/sponsoring a booth space with MnGeo/GAC. Carla will follow up with GIS/LIS and see if this is feasible.

As to conference presentation participation, Jessica shared a Survey123 form to be used to solicit topics from GAC Committee Chairs and sector representatives. She was asked to send the survey as is.

4. May 20th, 2026, GAC meeting - Outreach Committee presentation

Jessica will prepare a 5-10-minute presentation

References:

GAC Meeting Schedule

Committee	Meeting	Sector	Meeting	At-Large Member	At-Large Member
		MN GIS/LIS Consortium	9/10/2025		
		County Government - Greater MN	12/17/2025		
		MetroGIS	12/17/2025		
Awards	3/11/2026	Tribal Government	3/11/2026	Quentin Ikuta	
CANDO	3/11/2026	City Government - Greater MN	3/11/2026		
Outreach	5/20/2026	County Government - Metro	5/20/2026	Heather Albrecht	Matt Goodman
Standards	5/20/2026	City Government - Metro	5/20/2026	Rick Schute	Britta Maddox
Emergency Preparedness	9/16/2026	Higher Education	9/16/2026		
K-12 Education	9/16/2026	K-12 Education	9/16/2026		
Data Endorsement	9/16/2026				
PLSS Preservation	12/16/2026	State Government	12/16/2026		
Parcels and Land Records	12/16/2026	Surveying	12/16/2026		
3D Geomatics	3/10/2027	Federal Government	3/10/2027		
Archiving	3/10/2027	Non-Profit	3/10/2027		
		Regional Government - Metro	5/26/2027	Tanya Mayer	
		Regional Government - Greater MN	5/26/2027		
		At-Large	see above		

2026 Outreach Committee Meeting Note Takers

Jan. 13th, 2026 – Jessica Fendos

Feb. 24th, 2026 – Alec Trendera

Apr. 7th, 2026 – ~~Abby Stamm~~ Jessica Fendos

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