New York State Geospatial Advisory Council

June 10, 2026

10 am – 3 pm (Virtual Meeting will open at 9:45 am)

31 British American Blvd, Latham, NY (see PDF map)

Virtual Teams Meeting: **Join the meeting now**

Meeting ID: 219 058 183 274 20 Passcode: R6JH2dK7

***Mission**: Advise the State on effective use of geospatial technology resulting in tangible benefits to NYS.*

*The **NYS** **Geospatial Advisory Council** (formerly the GIS Coordinating Body), operating under the auspices of the NYS ITS Geospatial Services, coordinates, promotes and facilitates the development, effective use, and sharing of geographic information. It also removes barriers to implementing geographic information technology to improve the delivery of public services, protect the public and the environment, and enhance the business climate for the benefit of the State, its municipalities, businesses, and citizens.*

Attending (bold):

Jochen Albrecht	**Heather Ferrero**	**Zach Simek**
Sylvie Browne	**Roy Garfinkel**	**Karyn Tareen**
Joanna Craigmile	**Dave Genaway**	**Erin Tylutki**
Christina Croll	**Bryan Goodrich**	Jiin Wen
Elisabetta DeGironimo	**Chris Holewinski**	**Heather Weller**
Shannon Dolte	**Heather Grady**	**Alex Wolf**
Keith Ducett	**Wayne Howard**	
Grace Durham	**Rebecca Newell**	

***Guests**:* Jim Pardue, Esri; Craig Fargione, ITS; Kate Kiyanitsa, ITS; Kimi Schmitt, DOT; Michelle Boyle, ITS (notetaker) Grayed out attendees not present

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10:00 **Welcome / Intro of New Members / Agenda Review / Approval of Minutes** (Genaway)

- Minutes approval from March 11, 2026 meeting: Sylvie Browne motioned to approve the minutes, Alex Wolf seconded. March minutes approved.

10:10 **Introductions:** Who you are, where you come from, what sector do you represent?

- Icebreaker – What vector or raster data layers, provided by NYS ITS Geospatial Services, has your organization used? Are these layers a key part of your *own* data services or applications?

Normal Business:

- Replacement for Private Sector Member, Chair-Elect
  - Any position vacated before the end of the term can be named by GIO
    - If we wait until after that time we need a nominating committee
  - Lis reached out to someone for private sector member but hasn't heard back and said if anyone else has anyone they should reach out to her
- For chair-elect that person would become the chair in December

10:30 Records Access Discussion (Kiyanitsa/Garfinkel)

- Working group (NYSAPLS) started in January to get more into counties to open up their records access publicly
- Developing surveys and plans to reach out to counties that don't share data to find out where the roadblocks are that are causing counties not to share data
- Want a better understanding of counties that charge for data
- NYSTAT relations committee to find better ways for digital access to their records
- Need digital access from counties
- Formed government relations committee
    - A working group
    - Spoke at association of county clerks
- Will sit down with Warren County. They seem interested in helping us with digital access.
    - Goals are to help people find grants and with scanning and processing data
- Ontario County is a model of what is ideal for surveyors to be able to easily access.
- Retraceability on the maps. Goal to get this passed brought up by Roy Garfinkel.
- National States Geographic Information Council –Western State Caucus this Thursday. Kate to drop link in chat. How western and eastern states do them. Indian Territory representation will be present. Western States Caucus meeting on Parcels this Thurs: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdThXDbL40V6OVnu-HqyGsqIgvfernVPO0m1luE7XvY0i06EA/viewform?pli=1

11:00 Break

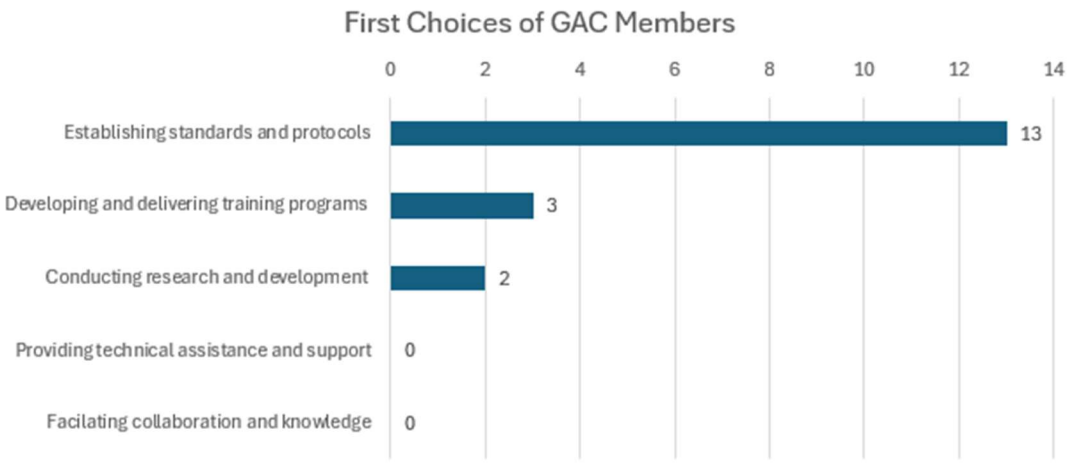
11:10 Geospatial Services Transition (DeGironimo)

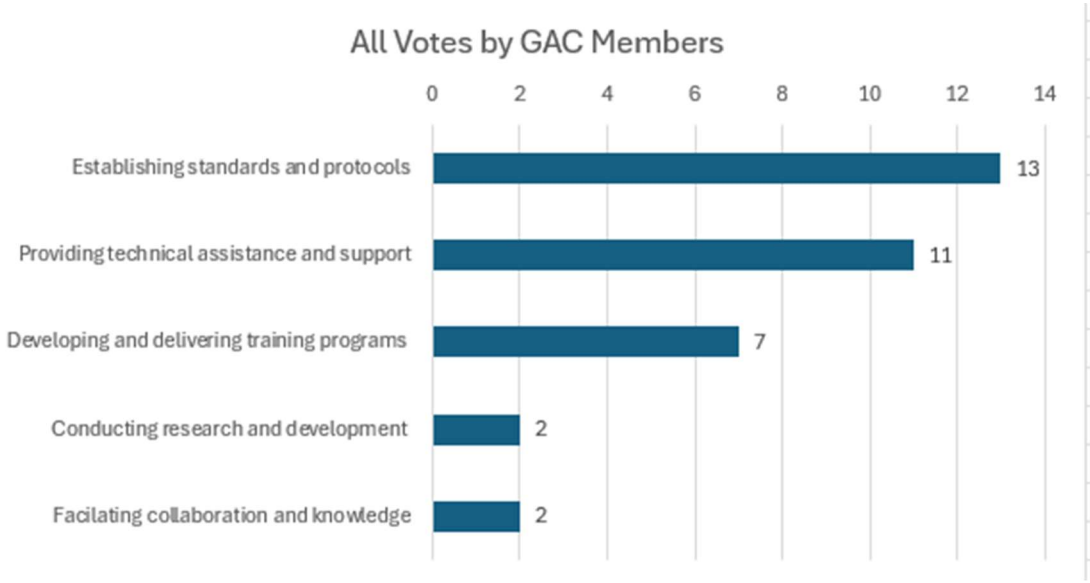
- Last June meeting Lis mentioned transition into Digital Transformation Office. This week it was announced Digital Transformation Office will become CDO (Chief Digital Office).
- ITS has been going through a transition into agency dedicated teams.
- All the shared service teams (and GIS is one) are being evaluated to determine if we remain a fully shared service or go to the agencies.
    - GIS has been asked to transition some of their employees that do agency specific work to agency dedicated teams.
        - Will retain a client service group.
        - Still in beginning of planning stages.
    - Tasked with planning a center of excellence for geospatial.
    - Plan is being presented to the executives in July.

11:30 GIS Center of Excellence (Pardue)

- A Center of Excellence can be made about anything: innovation, business analytics, HR, etc.
    - It is about what you want to focus bringing in expertise and brain power on.
    - Key functions can include
        - 1. Establishing standards and protocols
        - 2. Developing and delivering training programs

        - 3. Conducting research and development
        - 4. Providing technical assistance and support
        - 5. Facilitating collaboration and knowledge
    - Preferences of what people want COE to focus on based on above numbered list
    - There is an interest in having SOPs from the COE (such as a suggestion for the state to open all data, best practices and why it is best practices)





Other Update Items

- Improving metadata to make it readable for beneficial use for AI
- AI Pro is being rolled out and code assist for our developer among many other things
- NSGIC Geospatial Maturity Assessment of all the states being released soon
- ITSGeo working with legal team and hopes to facilitate data sharing
- Roy mentioned a bill with legislature where all datums will be approved but moving slowly

12:00 Break for Lunch – On your own. Lunchroom available with microwaves / refrigerators.

12:45 NYS Survey Legislation Update

1:00 Standing Reports:

- NYS GIS Association (Ferrero)
  - Geospatial Summit will be held October 6th and 7th in Skaneateles
- NYSAPLS (Garfinkel)
  - They are trying to do a virtual meeting because there are several people who never have come to an in-person event. Will probably get pushed back to 2027 because there have been too many competing events. Legislatures will be busy with election so virtual meeting will be postponed until after January conference.
- Federal Report (Grady)
  - We are getting NAIPs for 2026
    - We have 8 percent flown (done in Western NY)
    - FEMA is working on a variety of static and map products in support of the NY for FIFA and other summer events and in preparation for the upcoming hurricane season
- State Agency Advisory Group report (Croll)
  - Met June 2 at the Thruway Authority
    - Some agencies are so small they don't need governance
  - DOT has an office of data management with a lot of standardization
  - DEC is getting started and has a new data science group and working on geospatial
  - Ag and Markets has a lot of internal controls
    - Controls for division
    - Making agency wide governance
  - Suggestion for subcommittee for collaborations.
    - With the COE we are expected to get some traction.
  - Meet three times a year.
  - There is a new user group in the Capital District.
    - CapGeo—they have "mappy hours".
  - Developing a library of imagery

- NYS Geospatial Services (DeGironimo/Ruhren)
  - All 2025 leaf off is available via web service for download
  - All 2025 leaf-on imagery is in review and correction phase
  - The 2026 photography was completed and is in review at ITS Geospatial
  - Elevation
    - 2026 collection completed in the eastern part of LI
    - 2025 USGS data being processed
    - 2025 NYC Watershed classified point cloud in review at ITS
    - 2024 LI project at USGS
    - Data from two federal funded 3DHP projects could be available by Fall 2026
  - Parcels 2025 data is available
    - Kate is very plugged in on national trend
  - Civil Boundaries
    - Will become a high priority effort when NG-911 project starts
  - Streets and Addresses
    - New Geocoder service available

        - Some counties have sub-addressing
    - New GeoHub platform will replace the servers behind gissservices.its.ny.gov
        - Migrated services will run in parallel with the older services (which will stop getting updated and be retired in the fall)

2:05 Break

2:15 DHSES Grants to Local Governments / NG-911 Topics (Fargione)

- DSHES is doing work with NG-911
    - Several grant opportunities
    - There are grants counties can use for GIS data and GIS staffing
        - Two counties are talking with us about hiring a vendor to clean up their data and report it to us to get it NG-911 ready (Schenectady and Saratoga Counties)
    - Working with DSHES to come up with state specific guidance for maintaining streets, addresses, and some polygon layers that will be needed for NG-911.
    - There are several grant options available. SIG grant is 90 million, a 40 million targeted grant, NextGen grant is 85 million, readiness grant is 40 million.
        - DSHES has a list of what is and is not allowed for each one.
        - Parks would find it helpful to have the data compiled on a statewide basis (easier to work with one database when there is a lost hiker).

2:45 New Business / Future Topics / Meeting Locations

- Potential Topics: Cybersecurity; Toni Goyer/DHSES – survey to collect PSAPs, fire zones, etc.; Public APIs to access records (deeds, permit tracking, etc.)
    - Cybersecurity discussion may need to be on the ability of a large language model to query geospatial services.
        - Is it going too far?
        - Is it revealing information?
        - Should we protect ourselves against it?
        - Where is the data coming from?
        - Data classification at the state level is super important to ensure data is treated properly
        - We need to know if we have PII, or PHI, or HIPAA data

3:00 Meeting Adjourns

Future 2026 Meetings: September 16, December 9