

Draft GIS Advisory Council (GISAC)

May 6, 2026
8:30 am - 10:00 am
Kanab Center, Dragon Room
Kanab, Utah

Minutes

Voting Members:

Laura Ault
John Ulibarri
Jerry Houghton
James Murphy

Kendal Allan
Stan McShinsky
Phoebe McNeally
Buck Ehler

Sowmya Selvarajan
Melanie Crittenden
Kate Staley
Corey Unger

Attendees:

Mele Akaveka
Hussein Yazdani
Jason Wolf
Bret Beede
Marisa Snyder
Cynthia Ritmiller
Jared Anderson
Amy Patterson
Brooke Iversen
Ian Nuttall
Shawn Rose
Charles Phillips
Dale Simper
Keven Whicker
Sixtus Johnson
Craig Rindlisbacher
Kevin Bell
Aaron Simon

Darin Sleight
Tori Lewis
Janica Chenworth
Ivan Spencer
Chuck Shaw
Adam Pett
Emma Hollinger
Amanda Reese
James Burton
Christina McCulloch
Marvin Lewis
Jason Monroe
Bailey Banks
Wesley Bywater
Mike Hamblin
Brian Fleury
Kelsey Bennett
Lee Eschler

Taylor Glover
Jeff Guymon
Jamie Huff
Matt Jarman
Wade Kloos
Janessa Knotts
Melissa Lindholm
Riley Lindsay
Christopher McDonald
Deb Miller
Wanda Oyler
Tracy Painter
Ryan Parker
Oaklee Sully
James Toledo
Jeff Ward
Hobie Willis
Sowmya Selvarajan

UGRC Staff:

Jake Adams
Zach Beck
Hank Chou

Sean Fernandez
Michael M. Foulger
Rick Kelson

Emma Nielson
Erik Neemann
Chris Wnek

1. Welcome and Introductions

Laura Ault called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone to the GIS Advisory Council meeting.

2. Public Comment

Laura Ault opened the floor for public comments as it was an open and public meeting, but no in-room or online public comments were made. Following the lack of comments, the public comment portion of the meeting was closed, and the agenda moved forward.

3. Adopt Bylaws

The bylaws were presented for adoption. Four small technical edits made by Stan McShinsky for consistency in naming and clarifying a quorum were presented. Stan McShinsky motioned to accept the bylaws and Phoebe McNeally seconded the motion. The motion to accept the bylaws passed unanimously.

4. Approve November 2025 Meeting Minutes

The minutes from the November 5, 2025 GIS Advisory Council meeting were presented for review. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Kendal Laws, seconded by Buck Ehler, and passed unanimously.

5. Tax Exemption Type Approval

The proposed tax exemption naming standards were presented:

- Government - Federal
- Government - State
- Government - County
- Government - City/Town
- Government - School District
- Government - Special District
- Nonprofit - Charitable
- Nonprofit - Educational
- Nonprofit - Religious

A motion to approve the tax exemption naming standards was made by James Murphy, seconded by Buck Ehler, and passed unanimously.

6. GISAC Subcommittee & Ad Hoc Group Reports

a. Accessibility - Chris Wnek

Chris Wnek provided an update on the GIS accessibility workgroup, which has been meeting since February to discuss issues and potential solutions for accessibility compliance, specifically for interactive web maps. The compliance deadline has been moved from April of this year to April 2027 for state and local government entities with a population of 50,000 or more, and April 2028 for entities with a population of less than 50,000.

The committee agreed to establish an ad hoc GIS Accessibility subcommittee, in order to create and document GIS related accessibility standards for Utah. Once the standards are drafted, they will be reviewed with the GIS Accessibility workgroup.

b. County/City Data Standards - Erik Neemann

The subcommittee is in early discussions about generalized zoning categories to potentially facilitate a high-level statewide layer, although cities and counties will remain the most current data source. A smaller working group has been established to compile a document on addressing standards, providing an overview and best practices for GIS maintenance of address points and road center lines.

c. Innovation - Erik Neemann

The subcommittee meets every other month and focuses on topics like AI solutions, cloud computing, and non-Esri solutions, based on participant interest. Recent presentations included the DNR's wildlife tracker platform, which demonstrated cloud computing via Google Cloud Platform and BigQuery, and a presentation by OpenStreetMap.

d. Public Lands Survey System (PLSS) - Sean Fernandez

The PLSS subcommittee met in January and April. Meeting highlights included a presentation from UGRC on the statewide PLSS fabric and a discussion with SITLA about their rubber-sheeting method for matching parcels to the PLSS data. The subcommittee distributed a survey to assess who is using the fabric and how they are using it.

e. Geodetic Advisory Committee - Sean Fernandez

The Monument Replacement and Restoration Committee (MRRC) is providing funds to counties to collect additional PLSS points to enhance the quality and accuracy of the PLSS. This year, an additional \$650,000 is being distributed, and requests for proposals will be emailed within two weeks. Deliverables for those working on last year's contracts are due on May 15th, and they must ensure that the coordinates of corner locations are keyed in, even if they upload pre-built monument record sheets.

The Utah Geodetic Advisory Committee successfully advocated for House Bill 512, which modernizes the Utah coordinate framework by adopting whatever the National Geodetic Survey (NGS) is currently using.

f. Public Service Alignment and Best Practices - Jacob Adams

The Best Practices Subcommittee's main goal is to ensure everyone's data is as usable and shareable as possible by lowering friction barriers and creating a set

of best practices. The subcommittee is currently working to establish a consistent meeting cadence.

g. State/Federal Agency GIS Coordination - Zach Beck

The State Federal Subcommittee meets bi-monthly and has had good attendance from state, county, and city participants, although federal participation has been low. The committee inventoried 43 federal data sets served by the SGID and is working on an update strategy that ideally involves pulling live services from federal agencies, while also recognizing the need for archiving data to maintain historical records and accessibility during potential federal shutdowns.

h. Adhoc Trails - Erik Neemann

The ad hoc Trails Committee meets monthly and is focused on re-evaluating the statewide trails data to better serve user needs by defining the intent of the data set. The group is coalescing around the idea of creating a comprehensive inventory of on-the-ground infrastructure, including clearly attributed unofficial trails, and is reworking the data schema to support this intent. The committee decided to separate winter and summer trails and to focus on primary use categories (e.g., hike, bike, multiuse, motorized) for maintainability, moving away from extensive binary-option attribute fields.

7. Open Discussion

8. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made, seconded, and passed unanimously.