



Kentucky Geographic Information Advisory Council

Meeting Agenda

October 16th, 2025 :: 10:00am – 11:30am

Virtual Meeting

- I. Call to Order – Welcome – *Chair*
- II. Council Business
 - A. Roll Call – *Carney*
 - B. Approval of Minutes – *Chair*
 - C. Introduction of DGI Assistant Director
 - D. NSGIC 2025 Geospatial Maturity Assessment – *Anness*
 - E. Subcommittee Reports
 - 1. State Government GIS Jobs – *Welch*
 - 2. KyFromAbove Technical Advisory Subcommittee – *Anness*
 - 3. Public Buildings & School Safety Mapping Layer Standards Subcommittee – *Graham*
 - 4. GeoAI Subcommittee – *Biddle*
 - F. Next Generation 911 Status Report – *Harding*
 - G. GIS Data Sharing Report
 - 1. PVA Parcel Data – Agency Data Sharing Agreements & Availability Status – *Gordon*
 - H. KyFromAbove Program Report – *Anness*
 - 1. LiDAR Program Status
 - a. Funding Status
 - b. 2026 Acquisition Map
 - c. LiDAR Specifications Update
 - 2. Imagery Program Status
 - a. Funding Status
 - I. Legislative Items Report
 - 1. WRIS/GIAC Bill Draft – *Anness*
 - J. Water Resource Information System Technical Advisory Committee – *KIA*
 - K. Kentucky State University GIS Interns – *Graham*
 - L. KAMP Announcements
 - M. New Business – *Chair*
- III. Adjournment

Geographic Information Advisory Council (GIAC) Minutes – 7/16/25

Virtual Meeting via Microsoft Teams

MEMBERS ATTENDING:

1. David Carter for Jim Barnhart (*Commonwealth Office of Technology*)
2. DJ Biddle (*KY Association of Mapping Professionals*)
3. David Gordon (*Office of Property Valuation*)
4. Robert Hackworth (*Kentucky Department of Education*)
5. Charles Higginbotham (*Tourism, Arts, and Heritage Cabinet*)
6. Will Holmes (*Kentucky Transportation Cabinet*)
7. Aaron Jones for Matt Sawyers (*Department for Local Government*)
8. Kevin Jones for Haldane Lamberton (*Department of Military Affairs*)
9. Roderick Jones (*Council on Postsecondary Education*)
10. Josh Keats (*KY Office of Homeland Security*)
11. Jeffrey Kelley (*Kentucky Property Valuation Administrators Association*)
12. Whitley Keltner (*Kentucky League of Cities*)
13. Jeremy Rogers (*Cabinet for Health and Family Services*)
14. Meghan Sandfoss (*Kentucky Chapter, American Planning Association*)
15. Benjamin Shinaberry (*Kentucky Association of Professional Surveyors*)
16. Daniel Skillman (*Kentucky Board of Registered Geologists*)
17. Rob Thorne for Rebecca Goodman (*Energy and Environment Cabinet*)
18. Zhenming Wang for Doug Curl (*Kentucky Geological Survey*)
19. Kari Welch (*Finance and Administration Cabinet*)
20. Ashiq Zaman (*Economic Development Cabinet*)

I. Call to Order/Welcome

Meeting called to order at 10:02 a.m. by David Carter.

II. Council Business

A. Roll Call

Quorum confirmed by Katie Carney with 18 members/designees in attendance at time of roll call. Two additional members joined after roll call.

B. Meeting Minutes

Minutes from the April 16, 2025, meeting was previously provided to members for their review. Motion entered by Will Holmes to accept minutes as written and distributed, motion seconded by Josh Keats, none opposed, minutes adopted.

C. Subcommittee Reports

- GIS Job Classifications Subcommittee (Kari Welch) – Ms. Welch announced that the five new approved positions of GIS Analyst I, II, and III and GIS supervisor and GIS manager are now available. These new positions are also on the Personnel Cabinet website and are available for any state agency to use and any current Geoprocessing Specialist positions within state government were also automatically transferred to the corresponding GIS Analyst positions.

Ms. Welch announced that the Division of Geographic Information within the Commonwealth of Technology will be advertising for a GIS Analyst III position that will be filling a vacant position. Ms. Welch added that an Assistant Director II position within the same division will be posted soon.

Additionally, staff announced that the Kentucky Infrastructure Authority and the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet may be posting a GIS position.

- *KyFromAbove* Technical Advisory Subcommittee (Kent Anness) – Mr. Anness stated the subcommittee has not met since the last GIAC quarterly meeting. Staff is waiting on news regarding funding. It is possible that the subcommittee may meet in August and if

anyone is interested in being involved to let staff know and you would be added to the distribution list.

- Public Buildings & School Safety Mapping Layer Standards (Lucas Graham) – Mr. Graham announced the subcommittee received 3 survey responses and it would like to receive 10 responses prior to scheduling the next meeting.

D. Next Generation 911 Status Report (Watson Harding)

- Mr. Harding announced that the system is progressing well and at the moment all PSAPs are receiving critical error free reports. The agency is working with their vendor on implementation of NG911 core services with an aim of getting the initial PSAPs on board by October 21.

E. GIS Data Sharing Report (David Gordon)

- Mr. Gordon discussed the PVA parcel data and the agency data sharing agreements and availability status. He announced that there are 107 counties that have provided data, and his office will continue contacting the remaining 13 counties to receive information hopefully by the end of July.
- Mr. Gordon announced there is an approved exchange of information agreement with the Justice and Public Safety Cabinet. The agreement includes the use of PVA parcels.
- Mr. Gordon announced that Mike Tackett will retire at the end of July. He has 30 years of public service with 26 years at the Department of Revenue. Mr. Tackett has been a teacher, innovator, a big help, and has always looked out for others.

F. Esri Software Licensing Costs and Support Issues (Anness)

- Mr. Anness discussed some struggling ongoing issues with Esri. They relate to support issues, licensing costs, and changes in user types. The impact has been felt at the enterprise level, but now also at the desktop level. DGI has been struggling to figure out how to keep up with their quick pace and national organizations are also trying to find answers and solutions. DGI is working with the Transportation Cabinet and the Energy and Environment Cabinet to discuss how the impact is at the enterprise level. He added that unfortunately there is not a choice for another provider of these services.
- Mr. Holmes added that in regard to digital project delivery and CAD construction design, there are a lot of really strong trends towards open data systems for sharing. That provides a benefit to not being locked in and trapped.
- Mr. Anness offered the suggestion of moving more data to the cloud and offered DGI's suggestions and assistance to helping others navigate the process.
- Mr. Biddle asked what geographic information professionals need to be training on? Should it be 70 percent desktop and 30 percent cloud? Mr. Holmes responded that the data should be about integrity, quality, and governance. Mr. Anness stated that the percentage proposed by Mr. Biddle should be flipped. Mr. Horn commented that GIS professionals should be training and fine tuning their skills instead of the software available. Ms. Welch agreed with Mr. Holmes statement about data. She added that with any other software platform any shift to artificial intelligence should maintain quality data if AI is processing the data.
- Mr. Holmes suggested a tentative GIAC subcommittee to discuss AI standards within GIS.

G. Esri basemap issues – (Anness)

- Mr. Anness stated that at the beginning of 2025, DGI was informed that there were some issues with basemap data. DGI had received word that the Esri basemaps were switched from the HERE dataset to the TomTom dataset. Mr. Anness expressed concern that the data from TomTom is not good, and the boundary data is horrendous. He assured members that the authoritative data within Kentucky's data is correct from DGI; however, it is still incorrect on the new Esri basemaps. He has received word from TomTom/Esri that if the lines are just a little bit off that it is not a big deal. On

July 8, the Kentucky boundary data was updated on Esri's platform, but not updated within TomTom. Mr. Anness stated that he does not believe the current issues with roads, streams, and bridges will not be fixed as quickly.

- Mr. Anness stated that there are individuals using the Esri basemaps as a standard base map should not take for granted that the data being viewed on Esri is correct. He stressed the importance of using authoritative sources and to not use Esri data to make decisions.

H. NSGIC 2025 Geospatial Maturity Assessment (Anness)

- Mr. Anness announced that the questions and grading has been changed from the previous assessment. Therefore, it will be difficult to maintain a longitudinal progress report. He believes that Kentucky's grades should be received prior to the fall GIAC meeting.

I. KyFromAbove Program Report (Kent Anness)

1. LiDAR Program Status

- Mr. Anness stated that there is not much good news to report.
- a. USGS & EEC/FEMA Funding
 - Confirmation of funding has not been received. EEC has been a keystone contributor with funding and previously have been able to work with other cabinets and agencies to try and receive matching funding. However, we have lost all of the EEC seed funding.
- b. 2026 Acquisition Planning
 - For 2026, the only thing we can count on is enough money to acquire the counties within orange on the provided map. We may be getting to the point of not being able to continue on a yearly basis. We will be discussing this at the upcoming technical advisory meeting.

2. Imagery Program Status

- a. New Oblique Imagery Viewer and Before/After Web Apps
 - Since the last meeting we have some pretty cool releases:
 - <https://kygeonet.ky.gov/beforeafter/>
 - <https://explore.kyfromabove.ky.gov/>
- b. Funding Status
 - We don't have any news regarding the prospects of legislative funding. Met with Representative Bray and Mr. Shinaberry recently to discuss and staff will gather information to provide to the legislature. We need to include the budget numbers and to show the value of the imagery.
- c. Press Release
 - Staff recently released a press release that has been tracked in newspapers within Northern Kentucky, Western Kentucky, and the Lane Report. A Cincinnati based radio station interviewed Mr. Anness and the Boone County Emergency Management Director, and the interview really underscored how this data can be utilized. There were several opportunities to highlight its multi-use functionality.

J. Legislative Items Report

- Mr. Anness had nothing to report.

K. KAMP Announcement

- Mr. Biddle provided some links for the annual conference in Florence. The keynote speakers were recently announced, and Mr. Anness is one of them.
<https://kamp.wildapricot.org/event-5953312>
- Mr. Biddle stated that the best thing that KAMP does is the scholarship program to give students a boost in their education. The scholarship donations are now tax deductible through an arrangement with Western Kentucky University.

L. New Business

- Mr. Carter informed members that Jim Barnhart is chairing the Kentucky Artificial Intelligence Committee, and that Mr. Carter is facilitating those meetings. Mr. Holmes suggested that a GIS aspect should be considered and suggested the possibility of creating a GeoAI GIAC subcommittee. Mr. Carter responded that yes, the large group would welcome insight from the GeoAI aspect. Mr. Holmes made a motion to create a GIAC subcommittee to develop AI's spatial best practices. Mr. Biddle seconded the motion. Without any further discussion, the motion was passed by the committee members.
- Members made a request to have any open GIS related positions within state government emailed and distributed to the GIAC members and the listserv.

III. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made and seconded. The meeting adjourned at 10:58 a.m.



Total Square Miles: 1,956

