

Idaho Technology Authority (ITA)
IDAHO GEOSPATIAL COUNCIL – EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (IGC-EC)
DRAFT MEETING AGENDA

Thursday, March 19, 2026 | 9:30 a.m. (*Mountain*)

Microsoft Team link (with video): [IGC-EC bi-monthly meeting](https://teams.microsoft.com/join/2225611181452?p=mAU2OtcFNrLCLHVZzl)
<https://teams.microsoft.com/join/2225611181452?p=mAU2OtcFNrLCLHVZzl>

Meeting ID: 222 561 118 145 2 Passcode: zU7jp9p4

Teleconference (audio) only/dial-in:

Phone: 1-208-985-2810 / Access Code: 585 612 78# / No attendee ID required

Physical Location: Office of IT Services

11341 W. Chinden Blvd, Building 4, 2nd Floor, Suite #200 Boise Idaho

Members Present:

Megan Wheatley (Chair)
Cyndi Andersen, City of Meridian
Keith Olson, ITS
Bruce Godfrey, U of I
Keith Weber, ISU
Elaine Guidero, USGS
Ryan Howerton, NNL
Tom Kearns, IDL
Jackie Reader, GIS Consultant
Stewart Ward, Dioptra
Bob Folsom, City of Post Falls

Others Present:

Margie Wilkins, IDWR
Heather Studley, Bannock County
Cory Scoffield, ISU
Wyatt Peterson, Shoshone Bannock Tribes
Wendy Largent, Northern Lights, Inc.
Nico Martinez, City of Pocatello
Robin Dunn, IDL
Matthew Syphus, LHTAC
Bill Reynolds, Nez Perce County
Bradley Bean, ITS
Orion Cardenas-Ritzert, ITS
Jennie Anderson, ITS

Members Absent:

Gabe Osterhout, SOS
Eric Buehler, USDA FPAC GEO
Katey Jones, Idaho Power
Sue Parsons, City of Chubbuck
Laurie Ames, Nez Perce Tribe

WELCOME/INTRODUCTIONS

ICG-EC Chair Megan Wheatley welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 9:31 am MST. Roll call attendance was taken, and a quorum was established.

MEETING MINUTES

MOTION: Mr. Folsom moved, and Ms. Reader seconded a motion to approve the minutes of the Jan 15, 2026, meeting; the motion passed unanimously.

ELECTION RESULTS

Ms. Wheatley announced the election results. All seats were uncontested this year. The following have been elected:

State Seat: Megan Wheatley
Federal Seat: Ryan Howerton
Local Seat: Bob Folsom
Local Seat: Nico Martinez
Tribal: Wyatt Petersen

New terms begin on April 1, 2026.

BROWN BAG RECAP

Brown Bag Series and Lidar Initiative: The committee discussed the upcoming 'Lunch and Layers' brown bag series, focusing on lidar usage in Idaho, with Mr. Olson mentioning the Governor's office is seeking presenters to share insights and foster collaboration for cost savings.

Purpose and Format of Brown Bag: The brown bag series, named 'Lunch and Layers,' will feature lightning talks to explore lidar applications across Idaho. The initiative aims to gather community input and showcase how lidar is leveraged at various government and private levels.

Governor's Office Interest: Mr. Olson explained that the Governor's office is interested in understanding statewide lidar usage and exploring collaborative opportunities for cost savings after hearing a presentation from the Department of Lands.

Call for Presenters and Topics: Members are encouraged to volunteer as speakers or suggest others, with an emphasis on the inclusion of diverse topics beyond GIS, such as surveying, to bridge gaps between industries.

Recording and Accessibility: The brown bag sessions will be recorded and posted on the GIS website to ensure accessibility for those unable to attend live, with future sessions planned based on community interest and survey feedback.

STRATEGIC PLAN DISCUSSION

Strategic Plan Review and Implementation: The Executive Committee discussed the need to update the strategic plan, emphasizing actionable items, improved implementation, subgroup collaboration, and outreach to ensure broad participation and effective follow-through.

Feedback on Previous Strategic Plan: Ms. Reader and Mr. Weber shared experiences from the last strategic plan, noting that actionable items were diluted during final revisions and that the implementation plan lacked follow-through, resulting in limited impact. The necessity of a clear, actionable implementation plan to accompany the strategic plan was stressed, as well as alignment with business goals and supporting future executive committee members.

Subgroup Collaboration Model: Ms. Reader described the successful use of subgroups to tackle different sections of the plan, recommending smaller committees for focused work and fewer full-group meetings to improve efficiency and engagement.

Outreach and Diverse Participation: The Executive Committee agreed on the importance of broad outreach, leveraging various platforms and methods to involve professionals from various fields and ensure diverse perspectives in the strategic planning process.

Alternative Approaches and Budget Constraints: Mr. Weber suggested considering external consultants, referencing past use of Croswell-Schulte (formerly Croswell and Associates), but acknowledged current budget limitations due to statewide cuts, prompting the group to explore internal solutions and revisit previous plans for structure.

Continuing Discussions: Ms. Wheatley will create a comparison of plans from the last several years as a guide to help navigate how to approach building a new Strategic Plan. If you have any further suggestions or comments, please reach out to Chair Wheatley or GIO Keith Olson.

COMMUNICATION CHANNELS

Communication Channels and Listserv Evaluation: Ms. Wheatley led a discussion to review existing communication channels, including the Geotech listserv, LinkedIn page, and new Slack channel, discussing technical issues, moderation policies, and the need for a poll to assess member preferences and improve engagement.

LinkedIn and Slack Channel Launch: A LinkedIn page was created for Idaho Geospatial Council updates, and a Slack channel was launched in beta for interactive discussions, job postings, and sector-specific communication, with invitations to be extended to Executive Committee members.

Geotech Listserv Technical and Policy Updates: The Geotech listserv, running on Mailman, faced issues with spam, message formatting, and image attachments, which were addressed by ITS staff. Moderation policies were clarified to allow training announcements but restrict sales pitches, with ongoing tweaks to improve usability.

Discussion of Listserv Purpose and Alternatives: Executive Committee members debated the evolving use of the listserv, noting a shift from collaborative problem-solving to primarily training and event announcements. Suggestions included transitioning to a newsletter format and leveraging Slack or LinkedIn for interactive engagement.

Poll to Assess Member Preferences: A poll will be conducted via the Geotech listserv, LinkedIn or Slack to

gather feedback on preferred communication methods, the value of the listserv, and potential changes, aiming to align outreach strategies with member needs.

Multi-Platform Communication Strategy: Mr. Olson suggested a strategy to maintain parallel messaging across LinkedIn, Slack, and the listserv, ensuring consistent outreach while minimizing message overload and accommodating diverse member preferences.

REFINEMENTS TO MEETING FORMAT

New Meeting Format: Ms. Wheatley proposed refining meeting formats by engaging Technical Working Groups (TWGs) and stakeholder representatives in agenda creation, aiming for more meaningful updates and improved collaboration across sectors.

Technical Working Group Updated Process: Future agendas will include updates only from TWGs that are active and willing to share, reducing time spent on inactive groups and increasing the relevance of meeting discussions. Ms. Wheatley will reach out to TWG chairs to gather presenters.

Stakeholder Group Collaboration Model: Stakeholder representatives from state, federal, local, tribal, and private sectors will be encouraged to collaborate and share updates from a wide range of community members, fostering cross-sector engagement and supporting initiatives like the Idaho spatial data infrastructure.

Revitalization of Technical Working Groups: The group discussed the decline of some technical working groups and proposed leveraging stakeholder collaboration to re-engage members, attract new participants, and align efforts with strategic plan objectives.

GIO UPDATES

NAIP 2025 & Imagery Cost: NAIP 2025 imagery will now be delivered via Amazon Web Services at 30cm resolution, resulting in a significant increase in data size and download costs (\$90 per terabyte, totaling approximately \$1,080 for Idaho), compared to previous years' nominal hard drive shipping fees.

- **Alternative Data Sources:** It was noted that compressed county mosaics are available for free download, but these are in Multiresolution Seamless Image Database (MrSID) format rather than geotiffs, and may not meet all user needs.
- **Imagery Twig Action Items:** Ms. Wilkins agreed to lead Imagery TWG in preparing a document outlining the benefits, usage, and justification for statewide imagery acquisition, with input from ITS leadership on what would help secure funding.
- **Timeline and Availability:** NAIP 2025 imagery is not yet available on Amazon Web Services, and the expected release is summertime. An April Imagery TWG meeting will be scheduled to further discuss funding options and next steps.

NSGIC Mid-Year Takeaways: Mr. Olson presented on his recent attendance at the NSGIC conference in Washington DC. This conference brought together groups of Geographic Information Officers (GIO) officers from around the country and covered topics from lidar funding solutions to geospatial emergency preparedness. Mr. Olson connected with officers in Montana, Utah, and Oregon.

Geospatial Maturity Assessment Review: Mr. Olson shared the results of the 2025 Geospatial Maturity

Assessment, highlighting changes in Idaho's grades, challenges in interpreting the evolving criteria, and the need for clarity from NSGIC on grading methodology.

- **Assessment Results and Interpretation:** Idaho received an overall grade of B minus, with some data themes showing declines due to raised standards. The group noted difficulty in comparing results year-over-year due to changes in assessment criteria.
- **Request for Grading Clarity:** Committee members expressed a desire for more transparency from NSGIC regarding grading changes and criteria, to better understand how to improve and interpret results for strategic planning.
- **Application and Usefulness of Assessment:** The Committee discussed whether the assessment results were useful for guiding state initiatives, with some members noting a lack of clarity and actionable insights, prompting a request for further information from NSGIC.

OTHER UPDATES

Standards and Nomination Review: Ms. Wheatley suggested reviewing the standards and nominations on the Idaho Technology Authority (ITA) website. Please reach out if you notice any outdated wording or policies that need to be updated to the most current versions.

GIS Idaho Website Editing: Ms. Wheatley led a discussion about the need for TWG chairs to have editing access to the GIS Idaho website. Ms. Wilkins, Chair of the Imagery TWG, requested direct editing access to the framework webpage, expressing willingness to make necessary changes while not assuming sole responsibility. Mr. Bean explained that ITS is awaiting a WordPress plugin to allow page-specific editing permissions for TWG chairs and will follow up with the team to expedite implementation.

Clarification of Listserv Membership and Voting Rights: Members discussed confusion regarding the Geotech listserv and IGC membership, proposing clearer website instructions and outreach to ensure Idaho GIS professionals understand how to join and participate in council activities.

- **Membership and Voting Eligibility:** Ms. Wheatley clarified that being on the Geotech listserv does not confer voting rights or council membership, and that a separate sign-up (e.g., via Survey123 <https://survey123.arcgis.com/share/0591c7d3ab764f71a37355581ad5030f>) is required for IGC participation, with some GIS managers members unaware of the separate sign up. There are two lists because the Geotech listserv can include anyone, even GIS members in other states. The Idaho IGC list is only for members who live in Idaho, allowing them to vote in elections.
- **Website and Outreach Improvements:** Mr. Syphus suggested making sign-up links and explanations more prominent on the GIS Idaho website, moving them out of the 'How do I' section and onto main pages to improve visibility and understanding.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Intermountain GIS Conference Details: Ms. Studley announced the conference will be held in Pocatello at the Red Lion Hotel, April 19-23, 2026. It will feature affordable rates, and two keynote speakers, Tim Nolan and Jamie Christiansen. She stressed participation despite budget restraints emphasizing the conference's role in supporting Gemstate chapter activities.

- **GIS Conference:** [Intermountain GIS Conference: About](#)
- **Free Geodatabase Workshop:** Mr. Weber announced a complimentary full-day geodatabase workshop available to conference attendees, scheduled for Monday, with no additional cost beyond conference registration.

July Meeting Date Change: Members agreed to move the July meeting to avoid conflict with the ESRI User Conference and the July 4th holiday, ensuring better attendance and the opportunity to share conference highlights. The July meeting will now be held on **July 23rd at 9:30 am.**

ADJOURN

MOTION: Mr. Weber moved, and Ms. Andersen seconded a motion to adjourn; the motion was approved. The meeting adjourned at 11:23 am MST.

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 21, 2026, 9.30 a.m. MST

J Anderson, Office of Information Technology Services