

**MINUTES OF THE ARIZONA GEOGRAPHIC
INFORMATION COUNCIL
Natural Resources Committee**

A Public meeting of the Arizona Geographic Information Council (AGIC) was convened on **Tuesday, October 14th** via Google Meet. Present at the meeting were the following members or designees of the AGIC Natural Resources Committee:

Table 1: Committee Voting Members

Member	Agency/Company	In Attendance
Elisabeth vanderLeeuw, Co-chair	Pima County	Yes, phone
Andy Weflen, Co-chair	Maricopa County	Yes, phone
Karen Fisher, Co-chair	Central Arizona Project	Yes, phone
Aryn Musgrave, Secretary	Desert Botanical Garden	No
Robert Davis	Arizona GIS	No
Jami Dennis	Geodetic Analysis	Yes, phone
Cody Maynard	ADEQ	No
Cynthia Ritmiller	USGS	No
Tanya Owens	Westland Resources	Yes, phone

Table 2: Public at Large

Member	Agency/Company	In Attendance
Adam Raner	City of Prescott	Yes, phone
Garrett Raubinger	Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community	Yes, phone
Jim Downey	DFFM	Yes, phone
Shea Lemar	ASLD	Yes, phone
Shiloh Johnson	ASU	Yes, phone
Sage Donaldson	ASLD	Yes, phone
Chris Bertrand	San Xavier District	Yes, phone
Alexa Ng	AZGFD	Yes, phone
Andrew Hagglund	Entellus	Yes, phone
Jatta Sheehy	TerraSystems Southwest	Yes, phone
David Shafer	Pima County	Yes, phone
Sam Draper	Audubon Southwest	Yes, phone

I. Call to Order:

Meeting was called to order at 2:02 pm; Introductions were made by the committee; ensuring attendance list was managed and quorum established.

II. Approval of Meeting Minutes:

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A motion to approve August meeting minutes was made by Karen Fisher and seconded by Tanya Owens. There was no discussion and the meeting minutes were unanimously approved.

III. **Announcements:**

Committee Updates: Jami provided an update on the conference committee that there is a discussion on moving the date for 2026. She will update us on this at the next meeting. Andrew gave an update on Emerging Tech. Garrett is their new secretary and at last week's meeting Mark Christiano gave a presentation on his forestry LiDAR project with Gaia AI. Sage updated us on the outreach committee that social media is no longer a workgroup. The outreach committee welcomes new members to participate in their meeting tomorrow and all future meetings. Also the Mentor Program is now accepting applications for 2026. Also stay tuned for updates on GIS Day. Shiloh reported that the annual report committee will be starting up soon. Please begin writing up ideas to be reported in the 2025 report.

PHXGeo has an [event](#) on Saturday October 18th at 11am-2pm at the Eisendrath House on Saguaro Population Change

[Pima County Nature Programs](#) has 2 more events in October including a Big Wash Nature Trek and Sonoran Desert Geology Hike, Registration Required

GeoAI workgroup has a virtual [meeting](#) on October 21st at 1pm.

Data committee meeting next [meeting](#) on October 22nd at 10am will talk about creating a new workgroup on emergency management data. Everyone was encouraged to attend as there will be overlapping datasets between emergency management and natural resources like stream gages and elevation datasets.

Shea and Sage recommended a NRC member also attend the Outreach committee meetings to have these events posted. Karen recommended that NRC emails after the meetings a list of upcoming events to assist in this.

ASU is hosting the Maricopa Regional GIS Day on November 19th from 10:00am-3:00pm at the COOR building. There will also be a drone demo from noon - 1:00pm at the SDFC practice field. Please see social media for more information.

City of Chandler will have a GIS day on November 20th.

[Pima County's GIS Day](#) will be on November 19th in the public works building basement. It will include a showcase, vendors and food.

AGIC will be voting on targeted priorities at their November meeting and will generate SMART goals for their top 1 or 2 priorities. Shea will report back to us on this at our December meeting.

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IV. Natural Resources Committee Spotlight:

For the spotlight this week, several participants shared articles that they had read.

- Shea presented “[Satellites and Drones are Unlocking Benefits ‘Hidden in Plain Sight’ in Michigan](#),” NYT
- Garrett announced that a geographer, Margaret Wickens Pearce, won the [MacArthur Foundation award](#)
- Jami provided a link on [webinars](#) from the Geospatial Professional Network’s Climate & Weather Resiliency Committee
- Shea also provided a StoryMap, [They Would Not take Me There](#)
- Andrew provided a link to “[Built-in smartphone LiDAR for archaeological and speleological research](#)”

V. AGIC Symposium recap:

Andy recapped the NRC tract at the AGIC Symposium. We had three outstanding presentations. Veronica Nixon and Aryn Musgrave presented on the Saguaro project and how PhxGeo Meetup helps and utilizes new technology every year. Mark Christiano presented on Gaia AI and the improvements for collecting tree data in the Kaibab forest. Sam Draper presented on her [StoryMap of the Verde River](#) that she made for policy makers. The NRC panel on remote sensing with members from University of Arizona, Kaibab National Forest, Cooper Aerial and Pima County was a great success in discussing different types of imagery and how to turn the imagery into data for various projects.

IV. USGS Update:

Karen shared Cynthia’s email on the USGS update. A new [video](#) was published the beginning of Sept, Using 3DHP in ArcGIS Pro.

Several 3DEP lidar datasets have been accepted and have been published recently.

- AZ_MohaveCoconino_D23- entire project
- AZ_NorthCentral_D23 work unit 2 and 4
- AZ_USFSR3_B23 work unit 3

V. “Layer Wrangling” Presentation:

David Shafer, Pima County, presented on a recent project on creating a user friendly interface so land managers could access the 37 data layers on mining records all at once. This had 3 components: gathering data, building useful maps, and querying everything. He went through the numerous internal and external data sources and how he leveraged Arcade to create custom popups that would take the user to the pertinent record by building custom URLs. He then demonstrated the Zone Lookup Instant App and how it provided a great interface to allow a user to query many layers, but not have them all displayed in the map. Next steps will be to add the Pima data layer of mine shafts they have located from remote sensing. This will be a future presentation at NRC. You can contact him at david.shafer@pima.gov for more information.

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VI. Winter/Spring Presentation Series Updates:

Andy asked if anyone had any ideas to add for the winter or spring presentation series. She recommended having future meetings with just a 5-10 minute “this is what I do at work” presentations. It was then recommended to make this a future lighting talk series. Elija Flores volunteered to present. The Winter Presentation Series will be announced soon.

VII. Comments, requests, and items for future agendas:

No comments, requests, or items for future agendas were discussed.

VIII. Adjourn:

The meeting was adjourned at 3:30 pm. The next meeting will be held on December 9th, 2025.