



1. Introductions (Miriam Salazar)

Miriam Salazar, Chairperson, called the Q1 meeting to order at 10:04AM.

a. Introduction of New Officers

- Miriam Salazar: Chairperson
- Victoria Saenz: Vice Chairperson
- Shaun Encarnacion: Secretary

b. Mission/Goal for the Year

Miriam identified the goals of this administration as a focus on the GIS community. This board would like to engage some of the newer attendees and smaller entities, who might not have a long-standing GIS program with a large staff. This administration would like to provide a space for collaboration, to test run or practice presentations to a receptive audience and hear from less vocal participants about what they are working on, what they have accomplished and what they might need. In addition to polished, formal presentations, this board would like to see individual agencies providing “lightning talks” (see item 4a) that are quick, overviews of a newly launched platform or process. They envision the consortium as being a repository of ideas, insights and GIS skills with members reaching out to each other for guidance and assistance. Particular focus is on those individuals who are doing GIS for their organization with little support and/or experience and the need for the consortium to support them.

2. Review Last Meeting (Shaun Encarnacion)

- a. Approved Q4 meeting minutes; no questions or concerns raised.

3. Group Discussion (Open Discussion)

Consortium Check-In/Membership Drive:

Miriam kicked things off by asking what attendees would like to see at future meetings.

Bryan Gillis (KISD/former Chairperson) indicated that lightning talks are a great idea and spoke to the broad range of experience and roles of members. He added that having peers review conference papers and presentations is very helpful.

Brenda Pope from GHC911 asked about presenting non-GIS related projects and provided an example of a project currently underway with her organization. It was affirmed that this group is open to whatever members are working on.

GIS Day was mentioned. It was clarified that competing with the existing event managed by HGAC (Houston Galveston Area Council) and held in Clear Lake was not the objective. It was generally agreed that the consortium should engage in GIS Day activities as an organization in some capacity. This effort would make the consortium more visible to others and assist with increasing membership. It was requested that the next meeting provide an overview of what GIS Day is, what events take place and what involvement looks like. The function and purpose of HGAC was briefly explained by Bryan upon inquiry. It was noted that they offer training opportunities, including those in coordination with TeachMeGIS.



Fort Bend GIS Consortium 1st Quarter Meeting Minutes

*Thursday, February 12, 2026, 10:00 AM
Sugar Land City Hall: Council Chambers
2700 Town Center Blvd N, Sugar Land, TX 77479*

Another suggestion for a future meeting is how data management is handled by each organization. There are some with established programs and others just getting started.

Introductions:

A request was made for in person and virtual introductions as there were many new attendees. All provided their name, role, and entity for which they worked. Attendance: 20 in-person, 9 virtual.

4. Proposals

a. Lightning Talks (Miriam Salazar)

Miriam provided a demonstration of a “Lightning Talk” by presenting a community engagement project she has been working on.

The focus was on big picture, overarching objectives and functionality of the project. However, insight into the difference between similar tools is helpful to the audience. An example of this was Miriam’s reference to Survey123 and getting familiar with ArcGIS Survey123 Connect. Although intimidating at first, she has found that it provides for functionality expansion which was utilized when EMS expressed an interest in making their information available within the project. Without going behind the curtain, Miriam was able to provide just the right amount of information to capture and keep interest. She had been working on changes before the meeting and went to demonstrate a function that was not available. She immediately recognized that she had not published the latest version of the survey. This realization was used as a real example of how helpful it is to have practice runs with peers. She encouraged attendees to give her feedback and emphasized the value of review.

5. Announcements (Miriam Salazar)

a. Proposed Future Meeting Dates

- i. May 14th
- ii. August 13th
- iii. November 5th
- iv. November 6th (End of Year Mappy Hour)

Meeting adjourned at 11:10 AM