

25th Annual Midwest Esri Utility User Group Conference

March 30th - April 1st, 2026

The Park Event Center
500 Division St. Waite Park, MN 56387



- Hosted By -

Digital Agenda



Hotel Information

A block of rooms has been reserved at: Hilton Garden Inn and Residence Inn. Both hotels are connected to The Park Event Center

Address: 500 Division St. Waite Park, MN 56387

Phone: (320) 640-0204

Rooms must be reserved by Monday March 2nd to receive the group rate. After 3/3/2026 any rooms reserved will be subject to availability, their Best Available Rate, and the Group Rate will not be honored.

Mention **Midwest Esri Utility Users Group (MWEUUG)** conference when

General Conference Information

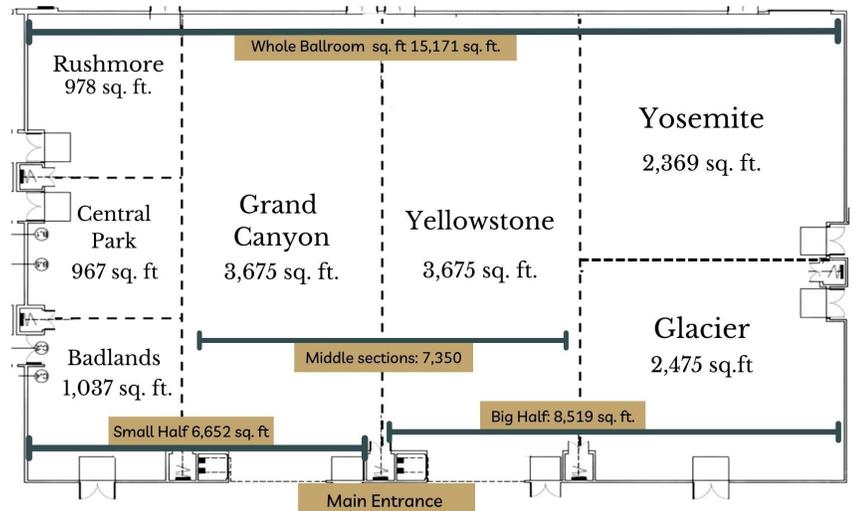
We will be utilizing the Yosemite and Glacier rooms for the main and breakout presentation locations and the Vendor Hall will be located in Badlands, Central Park, and Rushmore rooms throughout the MWEUUG conference.

Please direct any questions to Mike Siedschlag at msiedschlag@grenergy.com or James Huffman at jhuffman@riverlandenergy.com

Track 1	GIS Beginners Classes
Track 2	GIS Intermediate & Advanced Classes
	Sponsor Presentations

Monday, March 30th, 2026

11:30 am - 4:30 pm	Exhibits Open	Registration
12:30 pm - 1:15 pm		Power System Engineering
1:15 pm - 2:00 pm		Frontier Precision
2:00 pm - 2:45 pm		Davey Resource Group
2:45 pm - 3:00 pm		Afternoon Break
3:00 pm - 3:45 pm		Leica Geosystems
3:45 pm - 4:30 pm		WSB
4:30 pm - 5:15 pm		SSP Innovations
5:15 pm - 8:00 pm		Vendor Hall Evening Social



Tuesday, March 31st, 2026

7:00 am - 8:00 am	Morning Breakfast Buffet	
8:00 am - 8:05 am	Welcome - General Assembly	
8:05 am - 9:00 am	Plenary Session - Introductions	
9:00 am - 10:00 am	Keynote Speaker — Matt Piper—Global Director Industry Solutions: Utilities, Telecom, Water, AEC & Infrastructure—Esri	
10:00 am - 10:15 am	Morning Break	
10:15 am - 12:00 pm	Esri Technical Update for Utilities - Keith Krall, Jessica Gooch, Aaryn Persson	
12:00 pm - 1:00 pm	Lunch Break	
1:00 pm - 2:30 pm	<p style="text-align: center;">What is the VALUE of GIS to your organization? Over the past 25 years, how has GIS added VALUE to your organization? GIS, it's more than just a map!</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Peer to Peer Session - James Huffman and Chad Schauf (moderators)</p>	
2:30 pm - 2:45 pm	Glacier	Afternoon Break Yosemite
2:45 pm - 3:15 pm	Bringing Underground Mapping Online with Gopher State One Call Kelly Connolly Gopher State One Call	Leverage Python, JavaScript & EXB to Modernize Your Permit System Jenna Walz Sherburne County, Minnesota
3:15 pm - 3:45 pm	Empowering field data collection with ArcGIS Field Maps Designer Robert Borchert Great River Energy	Offline Maps for Field Use Mark Bresnahan Minnkota Power Cooperative
3:45 pm - 4:15 pm	From Big to Small: Adapting ArcGIS Enterprise Techniques for Small Business Utilities Phil Creighton Arrowhead Electric Cooperative	Backing It Up: Protecting ArcGIS Enterprise Data James Huffman Riverland Energy
4:15 pm - 4:45 pm	Lead Service Line Inventory Update: AMI Installation Verification Todd Copeland Moorhead Public Service	Public facing applications—Outage map for public use Ryan Moore Rochester Public Utilities
4:45 pm - 5:15 pm	Preparing a Damage Assessment Procedure for a Major FEMA event Casey Hansen Nodak Electric	The “E” in “ESRI” stands for “Engineers” Matt Othmer and Dhruv Thakkar City of Oconomowoc Utilities
6:00 pm	Group Dinner and Social @ Mavericks Steak and Cocktails	

Exhibits Open at Breaks

Wednesday, April 1st, 2026

7:00 am - 8:00 am	Morning Breakfast Buffet
8:00 am - 9:00 am	MWEUUG Business Meeting / Q & A Session
9:00 am - 9:15 am	Morning Break
9:15 am - 9:45 am	UAS line patrol pilot project & construction predisturbance mapping Andy Reginer—Great River Energy
9:45 am - 10:15 am	Eyes in the Sky Using Small UAS for Photogrammetry Eli Sack—Minnkota Power Cooperative
10:15 am - 10:45 am	Improving Imagery Workflows Joanna Bristol—Great River Energy
10:45 am - 11:45 am	Leveraging Imagery and Remote Sensing solutions for Electric and Gas Utilities—followed by panel discussion Tom Lenzen—Esri and panelists
11:45 am	Adjourn



Vendor Presentations – Monday, March 30th

Power System Engineering, Inc—Logan Suhr

AI in Utilities: Where It Helps, Where It Doesn't, and What It Changes

Utilities face a critical decision: how to adopt AI without creating ungoverned risk or falling behind competitors. This session cuts through the hype to examine what AI is actually doing in utilities today, where it introduces genuine workforce disruption (and where it doesn't), and how the aging infrastructure crisis creates opportunities to redirect capacity rather than reduce headcount. We'll address the governance questions leadership must answer and the practical next steps for utilities of any size.

Frontier Precision—Dan Braun

High Accuracy GNSS Data Collection: Dialing in your Data's Coordinate System and Configuring Mean Sea Level Elevations

Field mobility has never been easier to integrate into your workflow through apps such as ESRI Field Maps or Survey123. Discover the options available when using ESRI's ArcGIS platforms to manage your team's field spatial data collection. This session will introduce you to the primary ways you can utilize ESRI's ArcGIS platform to digitally transform mobile staff's field initiatives. Learn how to integrate high accuracy GNSS workflows into your GIS data collection.

Davey Resource Group—Tim Gaunt

The Importance of QC in the Electrical System

As electric utilities increasingly rely on Geographic Information Systems (GIS) to represent and manage their networks, the importance of maintaining high-quality data has become more evident than ever. GIS is no longer simply a mapping tool—it serves as a critical system of record that supports planning, engineering, operations, and decision-making across the organization. When the underlying data is inconsistent or inaccurate, the impacts can ripple through many aspects of utility operations.

Drawing from real-world experience supporting utilities across the country, this presentation shares lessons learned from large-scale field data collection efforts and the subsequent integration of that data into client GIS environments. These experiences have highlighted how small inconsistencies in data capture, interpretation, or processing can create significant challenges when information is brought into established utility systems.

Leica Geosystems—Joe Webb

High Accuracy Utility Mapping Powered by Leica Zeno Mobile One

Leica Geosystems, a global leader in measurement and geospatial technologies, delivers high-accuracy solutions for utility mapping and asset management. Zeno Mobile One is a simple, powerful mobile GIS app that integrates with Leica Zeno GNSS antennas to capture accurate field data and sync it directly with Esri ArcGIS Online, improving productivity and data quality.

When paired with EM locators like the Leica DT100, Zeno Mobile One enables detected utilities to be captured, positioned, and synced instantly into GIS—eliminating double entry and creating a seamless workflow from locating to asset management.

This combined ecosystem enhances accuracy, efficiency, and safety for modern utility operations.

WSB—Alex Johnson & Jared Langley

Powering Smarter Decisions: Leveraging Remote Sensing and GIS to Modernize Utilities

The electric utility industry faces growing pressure to maintain aging infrastructure, manage vegetation encroachment, and optimize capital investment while improving reliability and safety. Remote sensing technologies and GIS are converging to meet these challenges in powerful ways.

This presentation explores how aerial LiDAR, high-resolution imagery, and drones are transforming utility workflows — from engineering design and updating asset inventories, to overhead line inspections and vegetation management. We will then demonstrate how these datasets are ingested into ArcGIS to create a common data environment that breaks down organizational data silos, unlocking value through more accurate network models, desktop inspections, spatial analysis, and O&M budget optimization across the enterprise. Equally important, this approach produces consistent, digital, and auditable records that support regulatory compliance and streamline reporting obligations.

Attendees will leave with a practical framework for unlocking the value of geospatial technology across their organizations.

SSP—Clarke Wiley

Solving the GIS Staffing Challenge: New Models for a Changing Workforce

Utilities across the country are feeling the impact of a rapidly changing workforce, especially in GIS. What used to be stable, long-tenured GIS roles has shifted to a mobile, career-driven talent pool that often moves on after gaining experience. The result is a costly cycle of hiring, training, turnover, and backlog recovery. Meanwhile, GIS data quality slips, operational initiatives stall, and GIS teams struggle to keep up.

This session examines the root causes of the GIS staffing challenge and presents a practical, achievable model for building a GIS operation that thrives despite turnover. We will introduce four proven practices:

- Offloading continuous data maintenance so internal staff can focus on strategic, high-value work
- Unlocking advanced GIS capabilities utilities already own but underutilize
- Positioning GIS as a strategic driver of engineering, operations, and planning
- Creating flexible, scalable capacity so basic data operations never depend on one person

Attendees will learn how forward thinking utilities are modernizing their GIS workforce model, reducing burnout, improving retention, and elevating GIS from a mapping function to a strategic capability. If your utility struggles to keep GIS positions filled or to stay current on data maintenance, this session delivers the clarity, and the roadmap, you need.



General Session Presentations – Tuesday, March 31st

Plenary—Introductions

Mike Siedschlag

In this group discussion we will focus on you and how you are or plan to use GIS, discuss challenges you face and what you're Utilities future GIS plans are. How are you using GIS currently? What challenges are you encountering? What projects are you working on? What do you want to implement but need assistance with? What is your GIS plan or initiatives for next year, five years and ten years?

Keynote Speaker

Matt Piper—Global Director Industry Solutions: Utilities, Telecom, Water, AEC & Infrastructure—Esri

Beginner Breakout Sessions

Bringing Underground Mapping Online with Gopher State One Call

Kelly Connolly—Gopher State One Call

With the introduction of Site X-Ray in Minnesota, powered by FuzionView (FV) software, facility operators can provide—and excavators, designers, and locators can access—location information of underground utilities in relation to the one-call ticket at no additional cost to the user. This new program through Gopher State One Call will provide vital information on the location of facilities, help to reduce hits and increase safety, and increase efficiency of excavation projects across the state. Hear from Gopher State One Call and SharedGeo about the development and implementation of this software in Minnesota and how FuzionView, the open-source software, can be adapted to use in other One-Call centers around the country.

Empowering field data collection with ArcGIS Field Maps Designer

Robert Borchert—Great River Energy

ArcGIS Field Maps Designer is a powerful tool that enables organizations to create, customize, and deploy mobile mapping solutions for fieldworkers. This presentation will explore how Field Maps Designer simplifies the process of configuring maps, forms, and workflows, allowing teams to collect accurate data, improve operational efficiency, and make informed decisions in real time. Attendees will gain insights into the platform's core features, best practices for implementation, and strategies for integrating Field Maps Designer into their field operations.

From Big to Small: Adapting ArcGIS Enterprise Techniques for Small Business Utilities

Phil Creighton—Arrowhead Electric Cooperative

As a self-taught ArcGIS Pro user at a small power and broadband cooperative, I didn't have any formal training or a large GIS department. Instead, I reverse engineered the mapping systems of our member-owner company, Great River Energy, cherry-picking high-level techniques and adapting them to our scale and needs. This presentation walks through my journey from creating my first operational map, a Land Management system for tracking Right of Way operations, to developing automated reporting solutions when leadership began requesting data. This session demonstrates how someone with no prior professional ArcGIS knowledge can learn fundamentals, observe enterprise-scale operations, identify transferable techniques, and implement practical GIS solutions for small utilities without requiring large enterprise budgets or staffing. This presentation offers a roadmap for scaling professional techniques down to fit your organization's size.

Lead Service Line Inventory: AMI Water Meter Exchange

Todd Copeland—Moorehead Public Service

MPS is undergoing an Electric and Water AMI deployment and have proven beneficial for completing our Lead Service Line Inventory (LSLI). During this presentation we'll recap our LSLI project, how we are leveraging the Water Meter AMI exchange for private water service material verification, and our efforts to replace lead service lines.

Preparing Damage Assessment Procedure for a Major FEMA event

Casey Hansen—Nodak Electric Cooperative

Discover how Nodak Electric leveraged NISC's Inspection application in AppSuite to efficiently capture damage data and comply with FEMA's Major Disaster reporting requirements. Learn to develop a process of your own using the tools you have at hand and what fits best with your utility.



Intermediate and Advanced Breakout Sessions

Leverage Python, JavaScript & EXB to Modernize Your PermitSystem

Jenna Walz—Sherburne County, Minnesota

Sherburne County processes about 2,500 permits each year, placing high demands on staff and citizen services. To improve efficiency, we modernized the permitting process using Survey123, ArcGIS Experience Builder, and ArcGIS Field Maps. This presentation covers the challenges we faced and how Python, supported by some JavaScript, helped resolve issues, automate tasks, and import CRM data into our GIS system. Attendees will learn how these tools improved accuracy and workflow consistency.

Offline Maps for Field Use

Mark Bresnahan—Minnkota Power Cooperative

One of Minnkota's largest burdens on GIS use in the field is a lack of reliable cellphone signal. Paired with the VPN requirements to access the maps in the field, some of our line workers have resorted to using OnX Maps to capture access routes, landowner concerns, and other field information. Minnkota's GIS department was challenged with recreating the OnX system offerings using ArcGIS Field maps to better encourage corporate use of GIS. This set up included preparing map layers and sideloaded the aerial imagery basemap for offline use. This presentation will highlight the process, hurdles, and the trial and error of creating offline maps for field use at Minnkota.

Backing It Up: Protecting ArcGIS Enterprise Data

Jessie Lloyd—City of Fairmont & James Huffman—Riverland Energy

When GIS data goes down, recovery speed matters. This presentation covers three straightforward ways to protect ArcGIS Enterprise data in SQL: native database backups, server or VM snapshots, and full third-party backup solutions. We'll compare strengths, limitations, and recovery scenarios to help GIS and IT staff choose the right level of protection for their environment—without overcomplicating it.

Public facing applications—Outage map for public use

Ryan Moore—Rochester Public Utilities

PU previously provided a public outage map through a customer portal vendor, but after migrating to a new customer portal, that vendor no longer offered a public-facing outage map capability. This presentation explains how RPU rebuilt the public outage map by leveraging Esri's ArcGIS Online along with Experience Builder to deliver a modern, accessible, and easily maintainable public experience. It also covers the behind-the-scenes data pipeline: a Python-based process that securely pushes outage information from RPU's corporate network into ArcGIS Online, keeping the public map updated without exposing internal systems.

The "E" in "ESRI" stands for "Engineers"

Matt Othmer and Dhruv Thakkar—City of Oconomowoc Utilities

Oconomowoc Utilities' Engineering Department designs and installs its electric infrastructure while working closely with water, sanitary, and storm utilities. We add new subdivisions and building layouts to our Planimetric layer and add proposed utilities to GIS to support coordinated electric system design. But wait, there's more! ESRI's Utility Network provides the functionality needed to accurately store, manage, and analyze this infrastructure, enabling engineering-driven workflows, improved data integrity, and more effective system analysis.



General Session Presentations – Wednesday, April 1st

Business Meeting

MWEUUG Committee

We look to the users to provide direction for next year's conference. What should we change or better improve upon? What are your likes and dislikes about the conference. What topics do you want to hear presented on? We will also show you the ArcGIS Ideas page and how we can be an influence on the direction of Esri's development team. Announce next year's venue and host utility.

Utility Presentations

UAS—Getting started a “Small Utility” perspective

Jessie Lloyd—City of Fairmont

From a small utility perspective, getting started with UAS is less about buying a drone and more about smart pre-planning—understanding use cases, internal policies, data needs, and regulatory requirements before spending a dollar. This session walks through the basics of becoming FAA Part 107 certified, how to evaluate vendors and select a drone that fits utility workflows, and which payloads or attachments actually add value versus unnecessary complexity. We'll also touch on FAA waivers and exemptions that may apply to utility operations, and wrap up with the City of Fairmont's UAS journey so far—what worked, what didn't, and practical lessons learned that other small utilities can apply immediately.

Eyes in the Sky: Using Small UAS for Photogrammetry

Eli Sack—Minnkota Power Cooperative

As small, unmanned aircraft become ever more affordable and ubiquitous, capturing data to create custom photogrammetry products has never been cheaper or easier... at least in theory. Come along on a journey that pits a GIS analyst who dropped out of his Remote Sensing class in college against poor aerial imagery, uncooperative technology, and personal incompetence. Along the way, we'll discuss what photogrammetry is and isn't; what is required to produce a useful end product; how the disparate pieces of hardware and software fit together to enable this, and the challenges that exist in doing so.

Improving Imagery Workflows

Joanna Bristol—Great River Energy

Great River Energy is modernizing its workflows to streamline access to imagery, integrate UAS data into GIS, and ultimately support transmission operations. This presentation highlights a custom geoprocessing tool that automatically ingests new photos, maps their locations, links them to assets, and publishes them in a web experience for immediate use. The presentation also shares GRE's vision for developing a centralized, scalable imagery system that allows increased access to imagery data, more advanced analytics, and informed decision-making.

Leveraging Imagery and Remote Sensing solutions for Electric and Gas Utilities—followed by panel discussion

Tom Lenzen—Esri

