

Minutes

Kankakee County GIS Committee

Meeting of April 10, 2026

1) Open Meeting

Chairman Blair opened the meeting at 10:00 A.M.

2) Roll Call

The following members were present: Mr. Blair, Ms. Gadbois, Mr. Hanley, Mr. Heiden, Mr. Kerkstra, Mr. Long, and Ms. Morrey.

Additional attendees included Mr. Olson, Mr. Skimerhorn, Mr. Wilson, and Ms. King.

3) Public Comment

There was no public comment.

4) Approval of Minutes

Ms. Morrey motioned to approve the minutes from January 9, 2026, as presented. Mr. Long seconded the motion. Unanimous vote. Motion carried.

5) Project Updates

Mr. Olson informed everyone that new features were added to K3-Mapper. The swipe tool was updated and included the ability to easily compare the 2025 aerial imagery with imagery taken on March 19, 2026, of the tornado damaged area. Mr. Skimerhorn noted that the tool has been extremely helpful for identifying areas where damage occurred.

A parcel proximity feature was added to K3-Mapper that replaces the parcel buffer search the previous version of K3-Mapper had. It allows users to find surrounding parcels relative to a selected parcel and it also includes any municipality within 1.5 miles, which is the extraterritorial jurisdiction for some, but not all, municipalities in the county. Mr. Long asked if the search distance could be changed. Mr. Olson said the distance for parcels could be changed, but the distance for municipalities could not.

Mr. Olson stated the bookmarks widget was added, which can be used to create preset map extents, scales, and layer visibility settings. There were four bookmarks, which were default, county zoning, tornado damaged area, and floodplain and wetland layers. Users can create their own bookmarks that would be saved locally on the computer or mobile device.

K3-Mapper also received a new text window to the top of the map next to the search bar, which helps users find the proper contact information for getting a building permit. Mr. Olson noted the window was not fully compatible with Apple devices and he was working with technical support from ESRI to determine the cause and to make it available for all users on all devices.

Additional formats were made available for the print map tool. Previously, K3-Mapper only allowed PDFs to be created. Image formats, such as JPEG, TIF, PNG, and GIF were added.

The last change to K3-Mapper was to the weekly parcel data updates. The site address information was added to weekly update.

Mr. Olson stated the updates for the GIS server software were delayed because of the tornado. To ensure consistent service to users, it was decided to wait until building permits slowed down, and to minimize any disruptions the updates would cause. The updates were tentative for early May, but a final decision for the updates would continue to be evaluated. Migrating the Highway Department's document portal was one of the tasks leading up to the software updates. Mr. Olson said the new version was up and running and Highway Department staff could start using it. The only thing left to complete the migration was to get the document files shared on the new server. Mr. Olson also informed everyone that when the server software is updated, the backup version of K3-Mapper would not have the parcel images available.

The progress of the planimetric data update was paused after the tornado to focus resources in response to the storm.

6) New Business

Natural Disaster Response

Mr. Olson said he was asked to provide maps for the Emergency Operations Center after the tornado. He said having reference maps on hand for all the municipalities and political townships of the county was very helpful because they only needed a minor update and could be printed to assist with the response effort. Having the plotter for printing large format maps was invaluable. Over twenty maps were printed for the EOC. In addition to those maps, an 80-page large scale atlas of the aroma park and the surrounding area ended up being very helpful and received positive feedback.

The GIS department had aerial imagery acquired after the tornado to help with damage assessments and was added to K3-Mapper along with the National Weather Service's publicly available storm damage assessment data, which showed preliminary locations of damage and the tornado path.

7) Old Business

None.

8) Next Meeting Date

The next meeting time was scheduled for July 10, 2026.

9) Adjournment

Ms. Gadbois motioned to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Hanley seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 10:44 A.M.