



## North Dakota Aeronautics Commission

Tuesday, October 24, 2023 – 9:00 AM  
Aeronautics Commission Conference Room  
Bismarck, ND

Chair Kyle Humann called the meeting of the North Dakota Aeronautics Commission to order at 9:00 AM on Tuesday, October 24, 2023, and roll call was taken.

### **COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:**

Kyle Humann, Chair  
Kim Kenville, Member  
Steve Blazek, Member  
Warren Pietsch, Member (via phone)  
Rodney Schaaf, Member (via phone)

### **STAFF PRESENT:**

Kyle Wanner, Director  
Mike McHugh, Aviation Education Coordinator  
Adam Dillin, Airport Planner  
Grant Erwin, Airport Planner  
Gaye Niemiller, Admin Officer

### **OTHERS PRESENT:**

Andrew Larson, KLJ  
Bob Weiss, Washburn Airport  
Lyle Lelm, Washburn Airport

8/23/23 Meeting Minutes – Minutes approved as is.

Gaye reviewed July and August 2023 financial statements and gave an update on the biennial audit that is currently being conducted by the State Auditor's office.

Washburn Airport Emergency Grant Request - Members of the Washburn Airport, along with their sponsor, were in attendance to discuss their emergency grant request for a land acquisition project. Grant gave highlights of the request and went through the application with the Commission. The total cost of the project is \$350,000 and Washburn Airport has applied for 80% to the commission at \$280,000. After discussion, Kim moved to approve the request of state aid of \$280,000. Steve seconded the motion. Kim – y, Warren – y, Steve – y, Rodney – y, Kyle – y. Motion carried.

Kyle W. highlighted some dates and activities from the Staff Activity Report. A few of the highlights from that report:

- Kyle W. informed the Commission that he and the Planners have completed their annual airport Capital Improvement plan meetings with the FAA and individual airports. Approximately 50 meetings were held.

- NDAC Staff attended the NASAO conference in Rogers, Arkansas. 38 other states were represented at the event. Kyle will be the NASAO Chair for the next year and Mike will be leading the newly established NASAO education committee.
- Minnesota Aeronautics staff conducted a site visit with NDAC Staff to learn more about North Dakota's programs.
- The Request for Qualifications was released for the PCI Study and the System
- Plan/Economic Impact of Aviation Study and the deadline is early November. The Paymentus online payment portal went officially live to the public in early October.
- The Aviation Career Expo in Minot was a success. There were 180 registered with around 160 attending. The weather did not cooperate that day, but there were great speakers and they received great feedback from exhibitors, teachers, and students. The first ND Hall of Fame Scholarship was given out that the Expo, along with \$14,400 that went out in scholarships.
- Kyle W. attended the final in-person Plenary meeting with the UAS Detection & mitigation Aviation Rulemaking Committee in Dallas, TX.
- Gaye participated on the interview panel and interviewed one candidate for the Chief Business Officer position with the NPUASTS.
- NDAC Staff is still working to compile information from the ND rates & charges survey.
- NDAC staff will be working to submit the DBE accomplishments and updated Statewide Improvement Plan to the FAA in the coming month.
- Adam has completed his 5010 airport inspections for the season and Grant has two airport inspections left, which he will complete this upcoming week.

Aerial applicator safety discussion – There have been ongoing discussions concerning multiple fatal accidents that occurred on guy wires towards the end of the aerial applicator spraying season. There is interest in having dialogue about whether there are other things we can do in the industry to work in a proactive way to promote safety. Kyle will be working with NDAAA and set up a meeting in the near future to further collaborate and further discuss.

Commissioner Reports – None.

Old business – Chair Kyle Humann asked about the status of New Rockford and was informed there will be a meeting this upcoming Thursday to officially discuss next steps for that airport.

Mike reported that Watford City was approved for a high school aviation program; they received CTE funding. He is hoping to see an expansion of their aviation programs. More schools are also looking into drone racing, and he is getting some inquiries on education funding available for those programs.

The next NDAC meeting is tentatively scheduled for December 19<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:25 AM.