



North Dakota Aeronautics Commission

Thursday, December 12, 2024 – 9:00 AM
Aeronautics Commission Conference Room
Bismarck, ND

Chair Kim Kenville called the meeting of the North Dakota Aeronautics Commission to order at 9:00 AM on Thursday, December 12, 2024, and roll call was taken.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

Kim Kenville, Chair
Kyle Humann, Member
Warren Pietsch, Member
Rodney Schaaf, Member
Steve Blazek, Member

STAFF PRESENT:

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

10/29/24 Meeting Minutes: Rodney made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Kyle H. seconded the motion. All yays, no nays. Motion carried.

Financial Statements: Gaye reviewed the financial statement for October, 2024.

NDAC Staff Activity Report - Kyle highlighted key dates and activities from the Staff Activity Report, including ND Aeronautics' recent hosting of a State JEL (Judicial, Executive, Legislative) Leadership Meeting in collaboration with the Northern Plains UAS Test Site. During the event, he presented on the ND Aeronautics Commission's role and the benefits the aviation industry provides to the state.

Kyle also updated the group on a recent meeting with the Atmospheric Resource Board. Williams and Mountrail Counties have voted to withdraw from the weather modification program, leaving McKenzie County, Bowman County, and part of Slope County as the remaining participants.

Additionally, Kyle, Mike, and Commissioner Humann attended meetings in Grand Forks with Jim Arthaud and a delegation from Dickinson. They visited Grand Sky to discuss UAS opportunities with Trevor Woods and Tom Swoyer, toured UND's Gorman Field, and met with the UND Aerospace Foundation to explore potential educational collaborations in southwestern North Dakota.

Kyle and Mike also participated in a meeting with leadership from the ND Association of Rural Electric Cooperatives and ND aerial applicators to enhance collaboration on guy wire safety initiatives.

Mike also attended the AOPA High School STEM Symposium in Atlanta, GA, alongside three North Dakota high school aviation instructors.

Kyle concluded his report with insights from the FAA Communications Forum in Fort Worth, Texas, where he engaged with state and FAA leadership from the Great Lakes, Central, and Southwest Regions.

Governor's Budget Recommendations – Kyle reviewed Governor Burgum's budget address from December 4, 2024. In his speech, the Governor emphasized the importance of airports and the aerospace industry to North Dakota. He recommended \$120 million in funding for the Grand Forks, Fargo, and Dickinson airport projects within the ND Aeronautics Commission budget. Additionally, he supported continued operations for Vantis and the UAS Test Site under the Department of Commerce budget.

State Project Updates –

PCI Study – Grant provided an update, reporting that the project schedule is progressing smoothly. Our office has now received raw data from the pavement inspection, including new PCI ratings. The next steps involve refining the data, creating PCI maps for the website, and estimating projected costs for future projects based on the study's findings. The updated Pavement Condition Rating (PCR) data is expected to be available by the end of the year. A final presentation on the study's results is scheduled for the Fly ND conference in early March.

SASP/Economic Impact Study – Adam provided an update of the Aviation System Plan and Economic Impact Study. The system plan website is in draft form for now and has two sections for impact portion and system plan portion. Any interested person can now sign up for email updates. Our office is putting together a technical advisory committee (TAC) to sit down together multiple times during the study's duration to discuss progress and receive input. Adam asked for a commissioner to be a part of the committee and Kim agreed to represent the group on the TAC. The first introductory meeting will be 1/28/25 from 10:00 am to noon.

Surveys are being released for commercial passengers to gather insights into economic impact and travel patterns. Passenger surveys will help determine spending habits while visiting the state, while resident surveys will identify out-of-state airports used for departures. To boost participation, passengers will be prompted to complete the survey before accessing free airport Wi-Fi, and QR code posters have been distributed for easy mobile access. The surveys will be available through August 2025.

Airport manager surveys will serve as a foundation for the airport system plan, with targeted questions specific to each airport. Managers will receive their survey packets in January and will have until the grant application deadline in April to complete them.

IPG Airport Pavement Rehab – Kyle provided the update on the International Peace Garden Project. In addition to the \$2.1 million FAA AIP grant already received, the office has applied for a \$444,000 BIL grant, bringing the total federal share to approximately \$2.6 million.

Discussions continue regarding the customs overhaul at the Dunseith Port of Entry. While the GSA has been working on the project for some time, timing has become a concern. They aim to begin construction next spring, but several unresolved issues may cause delays. Kyle has recommended that

the GSA and prime contractor pursue easements from us rather than a full land acquisition. He has been coordinating with the Attorney General's office, which is working on language for any easement and property use agreements.

Commissioner Reports – None.

Other business – The next meeting is tentatively set for February 6th, 2025, at 9:00 a.m.

The meeting adjourned at 10:26 a.m.