



North Dakota Aeronautics Commission

Tuesday, December 15th, 2020 – 3:00 PM
Aeronautics Commission Conference Room
Bismarck, ND

Chairperson Warren Pietsch called the meeting of the North Dakota Aeronautics Commission to order at 3:06 PM on Tuesday, December 15th, 2020.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

Warren Pietsch, Chairperson
Kim Kenville, Member
Cindy Schreiber-Beck, Member
Jay B. Lindquist, Member
Kyle Humann, Member

STAFF PRESENT:

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

OTHERS PRESENT:

Tara Bradner, Attorney General Office
Andrew Thostenson, NDSU Extension

Consideration of November 19th, 2020 Meeting Minutes - Approved as is.

UAS Aerial Application Administrative Rule Change - Discussion took place regarding a potential administrative rule change to allow small UAS aerial applicator licensing. Andrew Thostenson from NDSU extension provided some background about pesticide certification. He stated that during pesticide certification, the operator needs a certificate in the core aerial category. In addition, they need to demonstrate financial responsibility and pass the PAAS program every 3 years. There is no judgment about safety or risk is done during this process.

Discussion was led by Tara and two paths forward were discussed. The first option was to go to the legislature and request that Century Code change to reflect small unmanned UAS applicators. The third option was for the commission to look into changing the administrative rules to reflect a different set of requirements for small aircraft vs large aircraft needed to issue a license.

Discussion was held about the differences for licensing for private vs. commercial applicators and it was decided that only a commercial category in unmanned aerial application would be of interest to the agency.

A motion was made by Warren and seconded by Kim to move forward with developing an Administrative Rule update that would create a licensing process for unmanned aerial application businesses (under 100 pounds). All Aye – Motion Passed

Monthly Recap - Kyle provided an update on agency activities since the last commission meeting. He highlighted the fact that the agency submitted to the FAA, the statewide Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) Accomplishments for the airports and have completed a new statewide capital improvement plan for airport projects. Mike and Gaye have been working the NDAA to plan a virtual Fly-ND conference in early March. The office has been busy processing new aircraft registrations for the 2021 calendar year and will also be working to select an aviation consultant for the 2021 Pavement Condition Index update.

Governor's Budget update – Kyle discussed the governor's recommendations for the Aeronautics Commission's next biennium's budget. His recommendation included both the agency's baseline and optional requests as recommended to his office. His recommendations also include funding the NPUAS test site and statewide BVLOS network.

Portfolio reports -

Cindy reported that the Tri-state aerial application convention has been canceled and that the PAASS program will be offered virtually. Kim mentioned that she was monitoring the next federal relief package for funding specific to airports.

Next meeting is tentatively planned for February 18th, 2021 at 3:00pm.

Meeting adjourned at 4:23pm