



## North Dakota Aeronautics Commission

Tuesday, April 15, 2025 – 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 Tuesday, April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2025, and roll call was taken.

### **COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:**

Kim Kenville, Chair  
Kyle Humann, Member (via telephone at 9:06)  
Warren Pietsch, 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

### **OTHERS PRESENT:**

Ashley Roll – Attorney General's Office

**2/6/25 Meeting Minutes:** Stand as approved.

**Financial Statements:** Gaye reviewed the financial statement for January & February 2025.

**NDAC Staff Activity Report:** Kyle W. provided an overview of key staff activities and mentioned some notable items from the current reporting period:

- Mike and Janell attended the Tri-State Aerial Applicators Convention in Grand Forks.
- Kyle attended the NASAO Washington D.C. Legislative Conference and participated in Capitol Hill meetings with the offices of Senator Hoeven, Senator Cramer, and Representative Fedorchak.
- The full ND Aeronautics staff, along with several Commissioners, participated in the "Fly North Dakota" Conference held in Fargo.
- Kyle and Gaye attended the ND Aeronautics Commission budget bill hearing before the House Appropriations Committee – Government Operations Division. Kyle presented the proposed budget and responded to questions from state legislators. Kyle and Gaye also attended a second budget hearing before the House Appropriations Committee – Government Operations Division, continuing discussion on the Commission's proposed budget.
- Kyle, Adam, and Grant attended a 5010 Inspection & Airport Management training seminar hosted by Commissioner Kenville and organized by MN AirTAP.
- Kyle provided testimony in support of HB 1612 during a legislative hearing on the UND Aerospace Medical Center Bill.
- The NDAC staff hosted an on-site visit with eight members of the Minnesota Aeronautics staff. The teams collaborated on program operations, process improvements, and statewide aviation issues.

**Legislative Update** – Kyle W. provided the Commission with links to the North Dakota Legislative website and gave an overview of several key legislative bills. He shared updates on Senate Bills 2006, 2308, 2323, 2018, and 2016, as well as House Bills 1612, 1429, 1038, and 1514.

**IPG Airport Property Use Agreement (action)** – The Commission reviewed the proposed Airport Property Use Agreement between the North Dakota Aeronautics Commission (NDAC) and McGough Construction. The agreement permits McGough to utilize a portion of NDAC-owned land that is not currently used for aeronautical purposes. This temporary use will support their nearby construction activities, which are expected to continue through the end of 2027.

The agreement has been reviewed and found satisfactory by all parties, including the Attorney General's Office. Kyle W. is now seeking formal Commission approval. While no fee will be charged to McGough for use of the land, the estimated value of the improvements and associated benefits to NDAC justify this arrangement.

Warren moved to approve the agreement as recommended on page 24 of the meeting packet. Kyle H. seconded the motion. The motion reads as follows:

"The Commission approved the Property Use Agreement, including Exhibits A, B, and C, as presented, and authorized the Director and Commission Chair to sign the document. The Commission also approved the proposed drainage swale construction on airport property, contingent upon concurrence from the Federal Aviation Administration, the Aeronautics Director, and the Attorney General's Office."

Following discussion, it was confirmed that the Director and Commission Chair will finalize negotiations and execute the agreement.

Kyle- y, Warren - y, Kim – y, Steve - y Motion passed.

**Fly-ND/NDAA Update** – Mike provided an update on the Fly-ND Conference held in Fargo this past March, reporting a final attendance of approximately 350 participants. He also shared results from the post-conference survey. The 2026 Fly-ND Conference is scheduled to be held in Minot, and the next Fly ND Summer Summit event is currently planned to occur August 5–6.

### **State Project Updates –**

**PCI Study** – Grant provided an update on the study, noting that progress continues to move forward smoothly. The project website is expected to be finalized and launched in May. A public training webinar will also be scheduled, recorded, and made available on the NDAC website. Additionally, all airport executive summaries are currently at the printer and are expected to be mailed to airports by the end of May. Following these steps, the project will transition into the closeout phase.

**SASP/Economic Impact Study** – Adam provided an update, reporting that the project is progressing smoothly. The first three chapters of the report have been drafted, reviewed, and incorporated. The final chapters were received last week and are currently under review. Survey efforts remain ongoing, with data collection actively underway. The commercial passenger visitor surveys will also remain open through August.

**IPG Airport Pavement Rehab** – Kyle W. provided an update, noting that the major pavement rehabilitation project remains on schedule to begin in July 2025. The team is still awaiting the official award of the FAA BIL grant and carry-over authority for the state funds is expected to be secured through the ND Aeronautics Commission budget bill.

**Commissioner Reports –**

Kim shared that the Mayor of Grand Forks has expressed interest in the city assuming control of the Grand Forks Airport Authority, with the potential goal of dissolving the authority altogether.

She also provided an overview of her recent experience at the AAAE retreat, noting that discussions included the Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) program.

**Other business** – The next in-person Commission meeting is scheduled for May 27, 2025, at 1:00 p.m. The annual grant meeting will also be held on June 5<sup>th</sup>, 2025, at 9:00 a.m. in Conference Rooms A & B at the Bismarck Airport commercial terminal.

**Adjournment** - Steve moved to adjourn the meeting. Warren seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned at 10:40 a.m.