



North Dakota Aeronautics Commission

Thursday, June 15, 2023 – 9:00 am CST
Bismarck Airport Conference Room A-B
Bismarck, ND

Chair Kyle Humann called the meeting of the North Dakota Aeronautics Commission to order at 9:00 am on Thursday, June 15, 2023.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

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

STAFF PRESENT:

Kyle Wanner, Director
Gaye Niemiller, Administrative Officer
Grant Erwin, Airport Planner
Adam Dillin, Airport Planner

OTHERS PRESENT:

Tim Thorsen, Bismarck Airport
Ryan Riesinger, Grand Forks Airport
Tom Schauer, Mead & Hunt
Steve Synhorst, Mead & Hunt
Dave Anderson, FAA
Jon Scraper, Mead & Hunt
Rodney Schaaf, Bowman Airport
Tom Neigum, KLJ
Kelly Braun, Dickinson Airport
Jamison Kath, Mead & Hunt
Jeff Klein, Mead & Hunt
Lorence Holmgren, Kulm Airport
Justin Kleckner, Hillsboro Airport
Kyle Klapper, Hillsboro Airport
Devon Cote, Hillsboro Airport
Bobby Geske, Enderlin Airport
Mylo Wolding, New Town Airport
FuChi Liang, Bismarck Airport
Malaya Schneider, Bismarck Airport
Shane Steiner, KLJ
Jennifer Eckman, Minot Airport
Maria Romanick, Minot Airport

Chad Tofteland, Westhope Airport
Brad Berentson, Westhope Airport
Josh Brelje, Mead & Hunt (via phone)
Shawn Dobberstein, Fargo Airport (via phone)
Erika Kenner, Leeds Airport (via phone)

Introductions: Kyle W. addressed the attendees and thanked everyone for attending the annual grant meeting. Introductions were conducted. Kyle W. also mentioned that Jay B. Lindquist would not be attending this meeting and that his term will be ending on 6/30/23. Kyle W. and the Commissioners noted Jay B.'s 30-year tenure with the Commission and praised his ongoing dedication to the NDAC and to aviation in North Dakota.

Minutes: The June 1st, 2023 meeting minutes were accepted as presented.

FAA Program Update: Dave Anderson from the FAA provided a program update for the local Airport District Office (ADO) and Regional Office. The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law has allowed new federal employees to be added to the Bismarck and Minneapolis offices and they have been hiring and looking for additional qualified staff. He also provided an update on the current Airport Improvement Program and the various grant programs that are currently being managed by the FAA. Additional conversation took place regarding the CARES Act funds and that there are currently three airports (Bottineau, Mohall, and Park River) that have not yet drawn down their funds. FAA and NDAC staff will work collaboratively to ensure that CARES, CARESA, and ARPA funds are utilized to their best potential at each NPIAS airport. The FAA is also in its last year of authorization and a new federal bill will need to be enacted in order to fund the FAA past September 30th of this year. Dave also conveyed appreciation to the commissioners and staff for the incredible partnership that the two offices have been able to maintain throughout the years.

Individual Airport Discussions: Adam and Grant introduced representatives from various airports to speak on their projects. The following airports provided additional information on their airport projects to the Commissioners:

- Grand Forks (in-person): Ryan Riesinger
- Dickinson (in-person): Kelly Braun
- Fargo: Shawn Dobberstein (via phone) and Tom Schauer (in-person)
- Leeds: Erika Kenner (via phone) and Steve Synhorst (in-person). Leeds is asking for an 85/15 funding for the Rehabilitate Airfield Pavements grant, that would be an increase of \$58,291 in state funding.
- Westhope (in-person): Jamison Kath, Steve Synhorst, and Chad Tofteland presented. Westhope applied for a 90/10 funding on their Airfield Pavement Rehabilitation grant, and they were awarded an 80/20 funding grant on 6/1/23. They are asking for an 85/15 grant, which would increase the state funding by \$82,190 which would allow them to build and construct the runway and taxiway project as planned.

- Justin Kleckner, Devin Cote, and Kyle Klapper from Hillsboro, and Jeff Klein from Mead & Hunt attended in person and presented for Hillsboro.
- Bismarck (In-Person): Tim Thorsen
- Minot: (In-Person): Jennifer Eckman and Maria Romanick presented for Minot. They wanted to thank the Commission for the support and are also asking for two new grants. The first additional request is for the purchase of ARFF testing equipment for \$29,750 and are asking for 50% state funding, in the amount of \$14,875. The second request is for terminal exit lane improvements. Due to several security breaches and the current technology installed is not compliant with new TSA regulations, Minot needs to upgrade to a higher form of technology to be TSA compliant. The airport was given three quotes from different providers in the country. The current estimated project cost is \$108,750, which includes the technology and the rerouting of fibers and wires. Minot is requesting state funding at 50% of the project or \$54,375.
- Bowman (In-Person): Rodney Schaaf
- New Town (In-Person): Mylo Wolding presented for New Town and asked the Commission for additional funding for their pavement crack sealing project which came in higher than originally estimated. The total project is \$41,599 and they are asking for 90% from the state in the amount of \$24,974 in additional funds.
- Ashley: Shane Steiner, from KLJ, attended in person and presented for Ashley. Ashley is asking for an additional \$12,000 to assist Ashley in their Tree Removal project.
- Napoleon: Shane Steiner, from KLJ, attended in person and presented for Napoleon. The Napoleon Airport has put in a last-minute request to the Commission for funding of crack sealing in 2023. The quote was in the amount of \$42,800 and they are asking the Commission for 90% of that total amount, which would be \$38,520.
- Kulm (In-Person): Lorence Holmgren
- Enderlin (In-Person): Bobby Geske

After the airport presentations, the Commission discussed the higher cost of crack sealing that airports are faced with now that Knife River has recently acquired Zimmerman contracting. The Commissioners requested that NDAC staff research options to assist in bringing costs to a manageable level.

Airport Grant Modifications: Discussions were held on the additional requests presented today. Kim wants to be on record about her concern regarding the three airports that had made requests for state grant funding when they haven't touched their CARES money. The airport engineers in the room were able to update the Commission on the status of those three airports and that efforts were underway for the CARES money to be fully utilized.

Kim made a motion for the NDAC to accept all additional requests made by the General Aviation Airports in the amount of \$215,974. Warren seconded the motion. All yays, no nays. Motion carried.

General Aviation Airport Grants that were modified includes:

- Leeds – Rehabilitate Airfield Pavements: \$58,291 at 85%
- Westhope – Airfield Pavement Rehabilitation: \$82,190 at 85%
- New Town – 2022 Crack Sealing (Supplement): \$24,974 at 90%
- Napoleon – 2023 Crack Sealing: \$38,520 at 90%
- Ashley – Tree Removal for Apron Construction: \$12,000 at 90%

Kim moved to fund both of Minot's new grant requests. Warren seconded. Discussion was held. Concerns arose regarding the unfunded mandates from the TSA on equipment upgrades and the lower state priority of TSA equipment. Steve provided an amendment to the current motion to eliminate \$54,375 of funding for the TSA equipment and to solely fund the ARFF equipment at \$20,375. Kim accepted the amendment. Warren seconded the amended motion. All yays, no nays. Motion carried. The additional grant that was provided:

- Minot – AFFF Testing Cart & ARFF Truck Retrofit: \$20,375 at 50%

All additional grants awarded today are to be paid out of the 2023-2025 biennium special fund and general fund grant appropriations.

The next NDAC meeting is tentatively scheduled for August 23rd at 9:00 a.m.

Meeting adjourned at 1:00 p.m.