



North Dakota Aeronautics Commission

Tuesday, August 11, 2026 - 9:00 AM
Aeronautics Commission Conference Room
Bismarck, ND

Chair Rodney Schaaf called the meeting of the North Dakota Aeronautics Commission to order at 9:00 AM on Tuesday, August 11, 2026, and roll call was taken.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

Rodney Schaaf, Chair
Kim Kenville, Member
Kyle Humann, Member
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, Administrative Officer

OTHERS PRESENT:

Diane Martinson – Fundraising and Event Coordinator for Grand Forks Children's Museum
Katie Mayer – Executive Director of Grand Forks Children's Museum

6/2/26 Meeting Minutes: Approved as written.

Aviation Education Grant: Mike reviewed the Grand Forks Children's Museum's request for funding to support an aviation and aerospace learning lab in its new facility. The proposed lab will provide hands-on aviation and aerospace education for school groups and public visitors, expanding early exposure to aviation science and workforce opportunities. The Museum requested up to \$25,000 for materials associated with a permanent exhibit, which is expected to have a useful life of approximately 10 years. The Museum also requested NDAC gliders for use at pop-up events and anticipates opening the new facility in fall 2027. Steve moved to approve 100% of eligible costs, up to \$25,000. Kim seconded the motion. All yays, no nays. Motion carried. Mike will also work with the Museum to explore placement of an Aviation Hall of Fame kiosk in the facility.

Financial Statements: Gaye reviewed the April, May, and June financial statements.

NDAC Staff Activity Report: Kyle W. highlighted the following activities from the Staff Activity Report:

- Kyle, Grant, and Commissioner Schaaf participated in the groundbreaking ceremony for the Dickinson commercial terminal. Senator Hoeven was also in attendance.

- Kyle, Mike, Gaye, and Janell participated in TAO training for the updated ADA-compliant website.
- Grant traveled to Garrison Dam Recreational Airpark and participated in an airport workday hosted by the Recreational Aviation Foundation.
- Kyle and Gaye participated in the exit interview with the State Auditor's Office.
- NDAC staff participated in the annual North Dakota Aeronautics Commission airport grant meeting.
- Kyle conducted annual performance reviews for NDAC staff.
- Kyle met with Bismarck Airport and the Governor's Office policy advisor to discuss and review the upcoming state funding request for the terminal expansion project.
- Kyle met with the State Boards Review Task Force to further discuss the structure of NPUASTS and a potential future relationship with the North Dakota Aeronautics Commission.
- Kyle and Grant traveled to Minot to participate in capital improvement plan meetings with airport sponsors, engineers, and the FAA. Participating airport sponsors included Kenmare, Parshall, Watford City, Stanley, Tioga, and Minot.
- Kyle and Adam traveled to Jamestown to participate in capital improvement plan meetings with airport sponsors, engineers, and the FAA. Participating airport sponsors included Edgeley, Carrington, Ellendale, Jamestown, Gwinner, Harvey, and Oakes.
- Kyle, Mike, and Grant conducted a final inspection and site visit at International Peace Garden Airport. The agency aircraft was used for transportation.
- Kyle traveled to Minot to meet with airport and city administration officials to discuss local financial support and future plans for the airport.
- Kyle and Adam traveled to Grand Forks to participate in capital improvement plan meetings with airport sponsors, engineers, and the FAA. Participating airport sponsors included Grafton, Devils Lake, Hillsboro, Cavalier, Rolla, and Grand Forks.
- Kyle and Adam traveled to Fargo to participate in a capital improvement plan meeting with the airport, its engineer, and the FAA. They also toured the new terminal expansion.
- Kyle, Grant, Adam, Mike, and Commissioner Kenville participated in the final Technical Advisory Committee meeting with Kimley-Horn for the NDSASP and Economic Impact Study.
- Kyle and Grant participated in capital improvement plan meetings in Bismarck with airport sponsors, engineers, and the FAA. Participating airport sponsors included Dickinson, Killdeer, Hazen, Bowman, Beach, Hettinger, Cooperstown, and Mandan.
- Mike attended a meeting with Fargo Jet Center and NDSCS to discuss the aviation maintenance program and introduce the new president of NDSCS. The agency aircraft was used for transportation.
- Kyle, Mike, and Grant traveled to Williston to attend a capital improvement plan meeting with the airport sponsor, engineer, and FAA. They also stopped in Dickinson to meet with airport representatives and tour the new terminal under construction. The agency aircraft was used for transportation.

2027-2029 Proposed Biennium Budget: Kyle W. reviewed the proposed 2027-2029 biennium budget and supporting worksheet provided to the Commission. After a discussion, Kim moved to approve the proposed budget. Steve seconded the motion. All yays, no nays. Motion carried.

Aerial Applicator Annual Safety Requirements: Kyle W. reviewed the policy memorandum regarding annual safety training requirements for aerial applicators. He explained that the annual safety meeting requirement was established in 2001 and discussed opportunities to strengthen the requirement by directing applicators to training specifically focused on agricultural aviation safety. Staff proposed discontinuing the annual safety meeting held during the Fly-ND Conference and designating the Tri-State Aerial Applicators Convention as the primary annual safety meeting for purposes of satisfying the requirement. Applicators unable to attend Tri-State would have alternative options to satisfy the requirement through qualifying continuing education, including PAASS and other approved regional, national, self-paced, or instructor-led safety programs. Staff is also exploring the availability of a Flying in the Wire and Obstruction Environment course. The proposed change would be communicated to all aerial applicators. After discussion, Kim moved to approve the policy change. Kyle H. seconded the motion. All yays, no nays. Motion carried.

Interstate Compact Annual Review Requirement: Kyle reviewed the annual review requirement established under Senate Bill 2395 from the 2025 legislative session concerning occupational licensing and interstate compacts. Staff recommended no further action at this time, with the matter to be reviewed annually as required. Kyle H. moved to accept the staff recommendation. Steve seconded the motion. All yays, no nays. Motion carried.

Annual Aviation Education Program Update: Mike provided the Commission with an annual update on aviation education programs and funding.

State Project Updates:

SASP/Economic Impact Study: Adam provided an update on the North Dakota State Aviation System Plan (NDSASP) and Economic Impact Study. The two-year study is nearing completion. A press release was issued the previous week, and NDAC will host four public presentations in August with Kimley-Horn staff.

IPG Airport Pavement Rehabilitation: Kyle W. reported that the International Peace Garden Airport pavement rehabilitation project has been completed and is moving into the closeout process. The weather camera is operational, and a seal coat project is anticipated within the next two to three years.

Commissioner Reports: Steve reported that a new FBO at Fargo is open and fully operational and is providing services under the United Airlines contract.

Warren reported that he was honored to participate in a flyover for the funeral of Dr. Henry “Hank” Reichert in Dickinson.

Other Business: The next Commission meeting is scheduled for October 7, 2026, at 9:00 a.m.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 10:55 a.m.