



North Dakota Aeronautics Commission

Tuesday, August 26, 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, August 26, 2025, and the roll call was taken.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

Kim Kenville, Chair (via Teams)
Kyle Humann, Member (via telephone)
Warren Pietsch, Member (via telephone)
Steve Blazek, Member
Rodney Schaaf,

STAFF PRESENT:

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

OTHERS PRESENT:

Jason Smith – NDSCS
Jodi Ost - NDSCS

6/5/25 Meeting Minutes: The minutes from the previous meeting stand as approved.

Aviation Education Grants –

The Innovation School - Kelsy Achtenberg, Dean of Students at The Innovation School, was unable to attend the meeting to present the school's aviation education grant request. In her absence, Mike provided an overview of the submitted application based on the available information.

The Innovation School requested \$7,500 to fund flight simulation equipment, drone kits, guest speaker stipends, and supplies for future student aviation showcases.

Kim asked for clarification regarding the number of students who would benefit from the program and expressed reservations about approving funds for activities not yet planned—specifically, the \$2,000 requested for guest speaker stipends and showcase supplies.

Motion: Steve moved to approve funding for the flight simulator setup and drone kits in the amount of \$5,500. Rodney seconded the motion. Vote: All in favor. Motion carried.

The Commission requested that a representative from The Innovation School attend a future meeting to provide an update on the school and the grant-funded activities.

North Dakota State College of Science (NDSCS) - Mike reviewed a supplemental request from NDSCS for an additional \$55,000 to support the Aviation Maintenance Program Initiative. NDSCS recently received two FAA grants that were significantly reduced, with some portions now on hold pending review.

The program has reached its maximum enrollment of 20 students and currently maintains a waitlist of six. The additional funding request is intended to help offset the shortfall caused by the FAA grant reductions.

Jason Smith and Jodi Ost attended the meeting to thank the Commission for its past and continued support and to discuss both the original grant and the supplemental request.

Motion: Kyle H. moved to approve the supplemental request for \$55,000 as presented. Steve seconded the motion. Vote: All in favor. Motion carried.

Financial Review– Gaye and Kyle W. reviewed the financial statements with the Commission and provided 2023-2025 biennium end highlights.

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

- Kyle, Grant, and Mike attended a meeting with the Emmons County commissioners and Linton airport authority members to discuss mill levy participation, airport projects, and potential restructuring of the airport from a city airport to a county airport.
- NDAC staff participated in the ND Aeronautics annual grant meeting.
- Kyle held individual performance evaluation meetings with each NDAC staff member.
- Grant participated in the Standing Rock Airport Terminal Groundbreaking event.
- Kyle attended a meeting with Canadian government officials and industry representatives to provide a presentation and discuss the Canadian apron concerns.
- Kyle, Adam, and Grant have attended airport capital improvement plan meetings with the FAA, airport engineers, and 40 airports.
- Kyle, Grant, Adam, and Mike attended the NDAA Summit meetings in Devils Lake that included NDAA and AAND meetings and collaboration.
- Kyle and Adam participated in a meeting with the Minto airport to review airport design concerns and discuss potential steps for the city to sell the land and privatize the facility.
- Kyle attended a meeting at FAA Headquarters in Washington D.C. to discuss the priorities and recommendations of NASAO and North Dakota to revise language within the FAA AIP Handbook and to discuss the need to streamline efforts in order to improve the timing of the release of FAA grants.

Annual Aviation Education Program Update: Mike provided a biennium-end report summarizing expenditures and accomplishments within the aviation education budget.

Powder River Military Operation Area (PRTC) - Kyle W. reviewed the Powder River Training Complex (PRTC) website and displayed maps highlighting proposed changes affecting North Dakota, South Dakota, Montana, and Wyoming.

He shared that a new Environmental Impact Study (EIS) will be conducted for the PRTC, with public comments due by September 9th. A draft EIS is expected in 2027, followed by additional public comment opportunities before a Record of Decision in 2028.

Letters of comment from the AAND, City of Williston, City of Minot, and the Bowman Regional Airport Authority were provided for the Commission's review. Kyle W. also presented a draft NDAC comment letter for consideration.

Kim recommended that all Commissioners co-sign the NDAC letter alongside Kyle W. and that it be submitted prior to the public comment deadline. The Commission unanimously agreed, and Kyle W. will finalize and submit the letter on behalf of the Commission.

State Project Updates –

SASP/Economic Impact Study – Adam reported that the project is progressing well. Three chapters have been completed and posted online for public comments. Survey participation was strong, particularly from Minot passengers. A session with Kimley-Horn will be held at the 2026 Fly-ND Conference in Fargo, with final deliverables expected by May 2026.

IPG Airport Pavement Rehab – Kyle W. reported that the airport closed in early July for a major pavement reclamation project. Persistent wet weather caused drainage issues during material placement. NDAC, the contractor, and the FAA are working to identify additional drainage solutions. Due to delays, new pavement installation may extend into October, with the airport potentially reopening in October or early November.

Commissioner Reports –

- Kim: Shared that 2,500 aviation students are enrolled at UND this fall.
- Steve: Attended the Fargo Airport ribbon-cutting ceremony.
- Rodney: Provided updates on ongoing PRTC meetings and developments.
- Kyle: Expressed appreciation for the NDSCS Aviation Maintenance Program's impact and growth.
- Warren: Announced that Hettinger's Fly-In Breakfast will take place on Saturday, September 6th.

Other business – Next commission meeting is tentatively set for October 28th at 9:00 a.m.

Meeting adjourned at 11:25 a.m.