

ND Aeronautics Commission Members



Warren A. Pietsch, Chair, Minot

Warren soloed at the age of 16 and has continued in aviation. He began chartering for the family business, ventured into airshows in 1981, and worked for ATA Airlines 1989-2008 serving as a captain for L-1011, B-727, B-737. Warren is a current and founding board member of the Dakota Territory Air Museum and the Chief pilot for the Texas Flying Legends Museum, Houston TX.

Holding a single & multi-engine ATP, SeaPlane rating, Commercial glider CFG and CFIs and is an Aerobatic Evaluator for ICAS, Warren was appointed to the Commission in May of 2012.



Kyle Humann, Vice-Chair, Mandan

Kyle is the Chief Pilot for Missouri Valley Aviation Management, responsible for daily operations of two corporate jets, flying both domestic and international flights. He has been flying for over 30 years with experience as a flight instructor, a line pilot, and Director of Operations for a local fixed base operator. Kyle has also served as the Director of Flight Operations for the State of North Dakota. He and his wife, Kimberly are working to pass a passion for aviation and farming on to their two young boys. He has been a member of the Commission since 2019.



Dr. Kim Kenville, Grand Forks

Kim began teaching for the University of North Dakota's John D. Odegard School of Aerospace Sciences in the fall of 1999 where she currently teaches airport management. Since 2008, Kim has been the director of the graduate program for the Department of Aviation and holds the rank of full professor. Dr. Kenville received her Ph.D. in 2005 from Capella University in Organization and Management. Prior to returning to UND, Kim worked in airport operations for Detroit Metropolitan and Milwaukee County airports. She is a certified

member (C.M.) of the American Association of Airport Executives and holds a private pilot's license. Kim was appointed to the Aeronautics Commission in September of 2011.



Cindy Schreiber-Beck, Member, Wahpeton

Currently Cindy serves as the Executive Director of the North Dakota Agricultural Aviation Association (NDAAA), is the owner of Tri-State Aviation, an FBO with a concentration on WWII aircraft restoration, and manages the Wahpeton Harry Stern Airport. She is active in the local business community and has served on the Commission since 1997.



Jay B. Lindquist, Member, Hettinger

Jay is president of Air Dakota Flite, a full service, fixed base operator (FBO). J.B. has a strong aerial applicator background and has been crop spraying for 50 years. He has been a Certified Flight Instructor and has served as the Manager of the Adams County Municipal Airport, Hettinger, ND for 40 years. His other interests are in retail and farming. J.B. was inducted into the North Dakota Aviation Hall of Fame in 2012. He has been a member of the Commission since 1993.



A Statewide Voice for Aviation

Agency Mission

To serve the public by providing economic and technical assistance for the aviation community while ensuring the safe and cost effective advancement of aviation in North Dakota.



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Agency History

The North Dakota Aeronautics Commission was established in 1947 by the State Legislature assigning responsibility for the state aviation functions. The Governor appoints the five members of the Aeronautics Commission to the board for terms of office of five years. The Commission staff is composed of the Director and four support staff. The office location is at the general aviation pilot terminal on the Bismarck Municipal Airport, Bismarck, ND.

Agency Purpose

The North Dakota Aeronautics Commission supports aviation activities in the state through communication with state and local organizations, Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), congressional offices, local airports and national aviation groups. The commission is largely funded through aviation fuel taxes, aircraft excise taxes, and aircraft registrations. This small and efficient state agency is able to leverage its financial efforts by teaming with the FAA, and staying involved with aviation activities across the state through a strong network of communication. The North Dakota Aeronautics Commission appreciates those that assist with airport operations, promote the aviation industry and utilize the airport system that the state has developed.

Public Airports in North Dakota



Agency Activities

Airport Intern Program: Encourages commercial service airports in ND to hire a management intern by reimbursing airports for internship costs.

Airport Grant Funding: The Aeronautics Commission disperses approximately 2.5 million dollars annually to airports across the state for airport improvement projects. These funds are derived from aviation fuel taxes, aircraft excise taxes, and aircraft registrations.

Airport Inspections & AFD Updates: Each public airport is inspected at least once every 3 years and safety recommendations are made at the time of each inspection. North Dakota airport information that is used in the FAA Airport Facility Directory is also updated by the Aeronautics Commission staff.

Agricultural Operator Alert Map: A map of alert areas (towers, organic farms, etc.) can be found on the Aeronautics Commission website.

Aviation Education Grant Funding: The Aeronautics Commission provides grant funding for aviation education programs. Applications are accepted at any time from aviation enthusiasts, airports, or aviation organizations.

Aviation Publications and Planning Documents: Aviation Economic Impact Studies, Aeronautical Charts, Airport Directories, State Aviation System Plan, Pavement Condition Index Study for ND Airports.

Flight Training Assistance Program: A program that reimburses airports for flight instructors' transportation costs when they are brought in from elsewhere to train locally.

International Aviation Art Contest: An annual event encouraging students ages 6 through 17 to express their creativity while celebrating aviation.

ND Aviation Council: The Commission works with the ND Aviation Council in supporting and promoting aviation and its activities. The ND Passport Program, Upper Midwest Aviation Symposium and the ND Aviation Hall of Fame are a few of the activities.

Regulatory Function: The office is responsible for administering North Dakota's laws in regards to registration of aircraft, aircraft dealers, aerial applicators, and the collection of aircraft excise tax.

Aviation Facts about North Dakota

- On and off-airport aviation related activity in North Dakota creates 15,480 jobs.
- \$1 billion in economic output activity is created each year by North Dakota airports.
- ND aerial applicators spray approximately 4 million acres of crops annually.
- Commercial airports enplaned a record 1.2 million passengers in 2014.
- 3,614 Pilots hold FAA pilot certificates in North Dakota.
- 2,019 aircraft are registered with the state of North Dakota.

North Dakota Aeronautics Commission Staff

Kyle Wanner – Director
Gaye Niemiller – Administrative Officer
Janell Pederson – Licensing Specialist
Adam Dillin – Airport Planner
Nels Lund – Airport Planner
Mike McHugh – Aviation Education
Coordinator