

Date: February 6, 2017 Board Meeting Minutes

Time: 1:30 PM

Location(s): Desert Research Institute

Present: Chairman, John White
James Barrett, Jr.
Dr. Mridul Gautam (Dial in)
Tina Quigley
Scott Bensing (Reno)
Lynn Fenstermaker

I. Call to Order/ Quorum

Chairman called to order at 1:30 PM

II. Public Comments

No public comments

III. Chairman's Comments

We are in the process to normalize the GOED relationship. NIAS has expanded its scope and is working diligently in the automated vehicle category and continue to expand work around UAS and UAVs. Chairman is looking forward to keeping up the pace.

IV. Approval of October 6, 2016 Meeting Minutes

Moved by Mr. Barrett, seconded by Mr. Bensing. Minutes approved without opposition.

V. GOED Comments

Mr. Wilczek presented the GOED comments and introduced Mr. Clark to the Board and gave a summary of the discussions to occur during the meeting. Mr. Wilczek updated the Board on the previous discussion item of providing documentation to Switch in terms of the value of the rent for the NIAS space at the Switch facility. To date an answer had not been received, however, Switch was very appreciative of the offer.

Chairman White requested an update on legislative items that may affect NIAS.

Mr. Wilczek reported that to the best of his knowledge that this legislative session as not being focused (in a good way) with UAVs. He noted there will be more discussion regarding the advanced mobility side, but no discussion on the aerial side. On the National front, Mr. Wilczek reported that last summer Congress passed a stop gap funding measure for the FAA. That also extended the life of the test site for two years, but expires 9/30/17. Hopefully Congress will again take up FAA funding in the near future and anticipates that may be an opportunity to advance UAV-centric positive legislation, giving a chance for them to be hear on Capitol Hill.

Chairman White asked Mr. Wilczek about the GOED grant funding, asking if there was any additional tranche. Mr. Wilczek confirmed that no addition tranche beyond the original amount of funding that was requested from Director Hill, probably about 2-3 years ago.

A contributor noted that he and Mr. Wilczek had discussed a pre-filed bill that would add the Colorado River Commission facilities to the list of critical facilities that you cannot fly over without permission, which could be an issue for the new hover test range by the Nevada State College that is on the boarder of the Colorado River facilities. The contributor noted that he wasn't sure if the bill passed if that just meant they'd have to ask for permission to fly in the area or if it would be strictly prohibited.

VI. Introduction of NCAM Director

Mr. Wilczek introduced the Board to Mr. Robert Clark, the new NCAM Director. He commended Mr. Dan Langford on his efforts and assistance in finding Mr. Clark and vetting him. Mr. Clark started as the NCAM Director shortly after Thanksgiving 2016.

VII. NCAM Update

Mr. Clark gave a presentation on the NCAM update and gave a brief history of his background. Dr. Gautam asked about NCAM being the single point of contact for the industry for the state of Nevada.

Mr. Clark explained that most of the agencies are supportive of and accepting of the concept. Dr. Gautam elaborated that he was wondering how agencies coming into the state would view the fact that there's only one resource listed, while there's actually many resources and felt it could be detrimental.

Mr. Clark agreed and stated he believed they need a better definition as they don't plan on taking the responsibilities and tasks of everyday agencies, but rather a potential starting point, specifically to innovation, concepts and applications that some or most of the agencies might not have familiarity with.

Mr. Bensing asked about the DOT proving ground designation stating that they went through a similar process with the FAA and were successful, and was wondering how we are limited by not being chosen as a designee and are their things they can do to be a part of that in the future. What other action can they take to ensure they are leading the pack?

Mr. Clark stated he looked at Texas, one of the ten states that won, on a high level, what was attributed to their success and felt the primary things was there was recognition on how they presented their partnerships and how valuable the partnership is and how well it works together. Another observation was Texas, being very large, had locations presented in the proposal included waterfront, rail front and not just ground.

Ms. Quigley asked if Robert could look at the winning applications and see what their strengths were.

Mr. Clark said that he could since he'd already started with Texas.

VIII. Status of Test Site Activities

Mr. Barker, Mr. Kanda and Mr. Walach presented updates.

Mr. Jost noted that last year the Board agreed that they'd only solicit up to 14 charitable contributions. He requested the Board approve the ability to solicit more contributions.

Ms. Quigley asked what the cons and risks might be.

Mr. Jost didn't believe the Secretary of State had ever done anything, but was more of a way to keep record of who was soliciting contributions.

Chairman White stated he didn't believe the Board had changed their mind, in that they didn't want to make a business of soliciting contributions, but should be able to offer an in-kind contribution option.

There was no objection and Chairman White stated they could prepare it.

Mr. Bensing asked how many flights would NIAS need to do to break even financially and what the projection was for hitting that number.

Mr. Wilczek responded stating that given the current demand, staff, and facility availability it couldn't happen in the current environment.

IX. Financial Reports

Gary Lein presented the financials. He reported that form 1128 has been drafted to switch to a fiscal year in response to the Board's request from the previous Board Meeting. Next meeting will reflect the fiscal year financials.

X. Updated NIAS/GOED Grant Documents

Chairman White deferred the signing of the documents until Director Hill has fully reviewed the documents and signed them.

XI. Schedule for future quarterly Boar Meetings for fiscal year 2017

The board preferred not to schedule future meetings at this time.

XII. Public Comments

No Public Comments

XIII. Adjournment