UASRCC MEETING MINUTES

Friday, January 16, 2015. Badlands Room


Others Present: Chris Theisen, Julie Theisen, Trevor Woods, (Northern Plains UAS Test Site) Brandi Jewett (Grand Forks Herald) Michael Corcoran-Assistant Director of UAS (Aviation)


Due to T. Heitkamp being unable to attend, K. Porter called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. She has to leave for class before 10:00 a.m. and B. Milavetz will continue to run meeting as needed.

1. Approval of 9/19/2014 Minutes. B. Huschle motion to approve. F. Matejcek seconded the motion. Minutes approved.

2. Research ND Protocol-Michael Corcoran who is co-principle investigator on the project reported. The project is intended integrating a ray of communication systems which will allow beyond the line of sight usage. Would be using vehicle to follow the aircraft. Would allow flying long distances without interruptions of signal by installing transceivers on radio towers. By doing this it would allow the signal not to be dropped. The Sandshark would be used for the project. He is working with Rockwell Collins on the project. No video would be gathered. M. Corcoran discussed the camera that is at the nose aircraft but no need for video for the project. A. Frazier motion to approve but had concern regarding chasing aircraft. C. Juntunen seconded the motion. Protocol unanimously approved.

3. NP UAS Test Site Update. Chris Theisen presented an overview of the research that was done through the test site in 2014. It is a requirement from OTA through the FAA regarding privacy to have a yearly public review which he was doing today to be in compliance with OTA. The first flight of the test site was on May 5, 2014. It was the first flight of all test sites. There were a total of 86 flights in 2014. There were 5 flights were at Sully’s Hill. He discussed findings and what was used during the missions. At Carrington there were 60 flights using the Dragonflyer and 3 with the Trimble. Discussed that wind was an issue. Discussed what was used during missions and the findings. Also discussed the storage that was used to store the flight and visual data for both missions.

4. Center of Excellence Update. A. Palmer presented on work that the Center of Excellence has done in the past year. Discussed recent media attention and stated that there have been a total of 350 media hits. Discussed the collaborations between other departments and colleges including Biology, SMHS, CEM, NCTC, Lake Region and NDSU. Discussed the growth in training. M. Corcoran discussed that there is a national FAA Center of Excellence and what they are trying to accomplish regarding UAS and the funding opportunities they have. A. Palmer discussed the simulators that are used and how they have evolved with what they can do and also where they are housed as well as the data storage.

5. Update on Law Enforcement. A. Frazier received a letter from the Sheriff in Cass County asking for UAS service which would increase the area from 16 to 17 counties. He also gave an
update on the 15 missions that were performed with the Sheriff’s office. They have conducted training for all deputies and GFPD to make them aware of UASs and they are another tool that is accessible to them. Discussed mission that that a UAS was used for fleeing suspect but noted there were imagery problems. It was also used in sexual assault case with GFPD and believes it is the first time UAS imagery has been used in a criminal trial. On 8/1/2015 it will be four years of conducting UAS research. The Grand Forks County Sheriff’s office is working on retaining the UAS unit after 8/1/2015. Two Dragonflyers are being donated to them. A. Frazier made a formal request that after 8/1/2015 projects would still be subject for review by the UASRCC to continue the collaboration. There have been no complaints from the public and would like UASRCC support to continue which may require a change in the charter. C. Juntunen would like a longer discussion about continued support would be changing the mission of the committee. B. Milavetz stated may need a meeting where the only item is to discuss is the continued support to the Sheriff’s office.

Next Meeting-February 20, 2015 at 9:00-11:00 a.m.-Badlands Room

Meeting adjourned at 10:28 a.m.