Unmanned Aircraft System Research Compliance Committee; February 21, 2014

UASRCC MEETING MINUTES

Friday, February 21, 2014. Badlands Room, Memorial Union


Others Present: Steve Lee (Grand Forks Herald), Peter Johnson (Vice President for Public Affairs), Logan Lass (UAS Project/Program Assistant), and Marcel Laflamme (Anthropology Research Affiliate)


T. Heitkamp called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. She had Logan and Marcel introduce themselves.

1. Approval of 10/14/2013 Minutes. M. Nelson motion to approve the minutes. K. Porter seconded the minutes. Motion passed.

2. UAS Test Site Update. Test site designation was awarded 12/30/2013. Logan Lass presented a PowerPoint presentation for A. Palmer. At this time, no operations have been run through the test site. The test site office is proposed to be located in Clifford Hall. G. Hoover stated that the county has a space that may also be of use for the office. K. Porter asked what role NDSU will have. P. Johnson stated part of research with the test site is that if the UAS flies it goes through a contract at UND. P. Haga had a question regarding airspace integration team. P. Johnson stated the airspace integration team is the group that wrote the proposal for the test site. Discussion ensured regarding what is in place at UND when working with foreign nationals and UAS. P. Johnson discussed the strict guidelines.

3. Community Education. P. Johnson discussed how she is working with T. Heitkamp and B. Milavetz on plans to travel throughout the state to talk about UAS and their importance. The presentation will include the work of this committee. P. Johnson states that having the test site will also include outreach. The proposed presentations will help to educate the public on how UASs can be used in the state. They will travel to rural and more urban communities. T. Heitkamp discussed the need to establish clear talking points, not only for purposes of public education, but to establish a clear message with the media. P. Haga noted that he likes the idea of a “road show”. It is a good opportunity and thinks it will be good to have presentation to the Grand Forks City Council members. It may help build more support locally. It would be aired on the GF community channel.

4. Frequency of Protocol Review. T. Heitkamp and M. Bowles would like to see more structure when it comes to protocols and how frequently they should be reviewed, reviewing changes that are made, and how and when to distribute requests to assure that ample time exists for the compliance committee to review. We currently have a charter but we need more robust written policies. K. Porter and C. Juntunen volunteered to help to establish a draft of procedures with M. Bowles and T. Heitkamp. The will bring a draft to the compliance committee for final approval.

5. Impact of Test Site on UASRCC. P. O'Neill asked what will be the impact on UASRCC given the test site designation. Asked if will have more protocols to review. T. Heitkamp discussed the possibility of subcommittees. For example, one in Carrington that would work with the agricultural issues. The subcommittees would then come to the full committee with their
recommendations. P. Johnson stated that this committee structure enhanced the competitive nature of the test site proposal. She stated that if UND’s only involvement is flying the aircraft it wouldn’t need to go through the committee. For example if people are testing sensors. When collecting data for research purposes, the proposal should go through UASRCC. We can’t be certain what the work load will be given the test site designation but know there are many calls coming into the UAS Center daily. K. Porter asked if other tests sites are meeting such as the UASRCC. P. Johnson state that the only requirement from the FAA is to have a privacy policy and to have it posted. But at this time we don’t know of any other compliance committee of this nature. M. Bowles discussed how IRB Committee at UND has subcommittees and how it works. That could serve as a model. G. Hoover asked about privacy/ethics as it is in the organizational chart that was in the presentation. Since this aspect of the work is listed at the bottom of the chain, would higher authorities be able to over-rule what the UASRCC decides. P. Johnson stated she plans to work with the governing authority so no institutional official will be able to over-rule their decisions. She will be meeting with Bruce Smith to work on a written policy. G. Hoover asked if private companies would “shop around” for a test site that will allow them to do what they want. P. Johnson stated what we have is community input on the privacy issues.

6. Other. Since the March meeting is scheduled during Spring Break there are committee members that will not be able to attend. Julie will send out a doodle poll for the following Friday (3/28) to find a time that works for the majority.

7. 6th Law Enforcement UAS Research Project Mission Set. A. Frazier provided an update on missions that were completed with the approved mission sets. He has completed nine missions to date and many trainings. He has not hasn’t received any complaints. He is still working on the callback system which is not fully operational at this time. M. Nelson discussed how it was used at a recent traffic accident on Columbia Drive. P. Johnson noted that the photo in the Herald displayed the signage used to notify the public about the use of the UAS that committee recommended.

Discussion ensured relative to a proposal brought forth by Al Frazier from ND Game and Fish. J. Evans asked if the information in the proposal was propriety or confidential. A. Frazier stated it is not public information and he could not speak for Game and Fish. J Evans stated it is a University meeting and not subject to open meeting law. As a result, people who are not members of the committee, including Steve Lee, Logan Lass, Peter Johnson and Marcel Laflamme, left the meeting. All committee members remained. Following discussion about the proposal, P. O’Neill made a motion to not approve. G. Lloyd seconded the motion. P. O’Neill retracted his motion after discussion. A. Frazier discussed and decided to retract request for review. G. Hoover motion to table, C. Juntunen seconded motion to table. Motion to table passed.

Next Meeting-March 21, 2014 at 9:00-11:00 a.m.-Badlands Room, Memorial Union

*DATE CHANGE -Next Meeting March 28, 2014 at 1:00-3:00 p.m.–Badlands Room, Memorial Union.

G. Hoover motion to adjourn, P. Haga second. Meeting adjourned at 11:00 a.m.