

**OKLAHOMA ADVANCED MOBILITY
ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

June 15, 2023

CALL TO ORDER: Mr. Schwennesen called the meeting to order at 2:12 pm

The meeting started late, the link on the agenda wouldn't work, so we had to create a new link.

ROLL CALL:

Present: Jared Schwennesen for Tim Gatz
James Grimsley (virtual)
Doug Wood for Grayson Ardies
Amy Loftis-Walton
Jennifer McGrail
Maynard Factor for Steve Fendley

Absent: Jamey Jacob
Jim Roth
Garry Ambrose
Hopper Smith
Tyler Moore

ITEM PRESENTED BY ACTING CHAIR - Mr. Schwennesen

Approval of Minutes from May 18, 2023 meeting

Approval of Minutes was deferred to next month, due to lack of quorum and technical issues.

AUTONOMOUS VEHICLE WORKING GROUP UPDATE – Mr. Jared Schwennesen

Mr. Schwennesen gave an update on the Autonomous Vehicle Working Group. He said the Subcommittee will be briefed by the American Autonomous Vehicle Association on the National Survey of Public opinions on AV Technologies. We are hopeful to learn what the perspective across the nation is for these emerging technologies. We look forward to all of those activities; and Mr. Tom Robins has been helping set up a lot of the interviews with our group at HNTB and we really appreciate all those efforts.

UAS/AAM MOBILITY STRATEGIC PLANNING UPDATE – Ms. Thea Ewing

Ms. Ewing, Project Management Director for HNTB introduced Laura Davis from HNTB who is on the line with us. She said we are continuing with our interviews; we have done around 30 interviews at this point. They have really broadened out across industries, universities, local governments. Now that we have a great mix of individuals, we are now just trying to kind of finish out those various groups. I'm really excited because I'm actually coming to Oklahoma City next week for the full week. We have tours set up with OU and OSU, and with the State Chamber annual meeting. We actually have a little flyer for that to help direct people to our survey. So, we're definitely getting a lot of that information in; and now we're also getting ready to turn that corner to Phase 2. Our meeting tomorrow will actually be going over our outline with more of our national practice experts to make sure that everything's lined up for what they want to bring to the table for you; and then we'll really kind of get started filling in the outline at that point. I do think that a lot of that work will really start getting under way in August, but I wanted to be prepared as July starts, that everybody knows what the starting document looks like. So that's where we are at and now Laura has a little update from our visit at the Daisy Ranch.

Ms. Davis said last Friday she attended the Aviation Technology Legislators Day, which I think Mark is going to talk a lot about because they were showing off their "Beyond Visual Line of Site Technology". It was great to go out there and meet Jennifer McGrail, Brigadier General Smith, James Grimsley, Doug Wood and a lot of folks from the Advanced Technology initiative of the Choctaw Nation. It was just great to meet all these folks in person.

Ms. Ewing thanked everyone for letting them provide this update and told Representative Miller we are looking forward to seeing you next week.

GUEST SPEAKER

Mr. James Grimsley introduced, Marc Hartman, Senior Manager of Aviation Operations who works for him at Choctaw Nation at their Emerging Aviation Technology Center.

Mr. Hartman gave a presentation on the Choctaw Nation Beyond Visual Line of Sight Waiver & RFI for Vertiport Development. He said back in January they were granted by the FAA one of the most expansive BVLOS without VLOS all the way up to 400 feet. We have a flight area that is 9 miles by 4 miles where it's kind of just our sandbox that we can do our BVLOS flight testing without visual observers out in the field. We only use tactical mitigations of ground-based radar and ground-based ADSB receivers that are picked up by the radio frequencies that manned aircraft are transmitting. He showed pictures of the aircraft that they showed at demonstration last week, pictures of their ground-based radar, it is a 2-dimensional radar which means the top is rotating and sweeping around and it takes 3 seconds for it to look at everything and it can send back a return of anything it sees in the sky, it just doesn't give altitude. He showed a map with a purple ring which is the range of detection of the radar and it's 18 nautical miles from the center. The red outline in the map is the property that we own called the Choctaw Daisy Ranch that is about 25 miles from end to end. Our BVLOS flight area is nestled right down at the bottom of the southwest corner of the ranch property. He showed a picture of their ATM Screen which is what they watch to monitor their airspace. He showed a video of their aircraft taking off, it is operated from within our Operations Trailer, which is a trailer built by Jackson, it is a 14-foot cargo trailer that's been converted to a full command center. He explained the pilot sits on the right side and has a mission planning software and a video feed from the aircraft. Our 2nd crew member that is required to monitor our radar, we call that position an Airspace Observer. That person monitors the same screen and is watching for any potential intrusions of manned aircraft, as well as monitoring the radio signal integrity of the drone to the various ground-based radio equipment.

Mr. James Grimsley said they are getting ready to expand this Beyond Program, which is to ultimately move BVLOS across the entire Choctaw Nation Reservation which is 11,000 square miles. So, we are rapidly moving to other operations. We had a flight today with one of our Commercial Partners and flew between Atoka and McAlester which is a 45-mile flight using a Chase helicopter. We will be doing BVLOS this summer between cities within the Choctaw Nation.

Jared commented that it's amazing what you guys are doing down there and really excited to see where this goes.

Mr. Doug Wood asked is this going to be a part of the research for the FAA Safety Case for the BVLOS.

Mr. Grimsley said yes, it is definitely part of that, but there are actually 2 things going on with FA. They are coming back in a couple of weeks on proposals for a rapid escalation of what we are doing. They are going to give us a whole lot more latitude permission very quickly because they want to get as much data as they can prior to the rule making for BVLOS because both the Senate and House are looking to make the Beyond Program permanent. They are going to sunset the existing program and immediately roll into a new program that's a little bit more expansive in terms of what we will be working on.

OPEN DISCUSSION

Mr. Grimsley said that they did a request for public comments about BVLOS and they will make those public soon. It had quite a bit of fanfare when it came out and the FAA are leaning forward into this pretty quickly. We will keep you updated.

Mr. Schwennesen gave an update on the alternative fuels side of things. We are submitting next Wednesday our Hydrogen Corridors to the national network, and we already have a Consultant Jacobs who provided our draft and we will be finalizing that over the weekend to bring us up to date with all the hydrogen corridors, and with the electric vehicle infrastructure build out. We will be going out for RFP on July 10th and we are excited to be moving forward with that as quickly as possible. So very excited about the alternative fuel and what's happening in Oklahoma; looking forward to making it prosperous for everyone.

CLOSING REMARKS

Mr. Schwennesen thanked everyone for attending and apologized for the technical issues; and said since we don't have a quorum we won't take an adjournment motion, but the next meeting will be held on July 20th @ 2:00 pm.

The meeting adjourned at 2:34 pm

Approval of Minutes:



Jared Schwennesen – Acting Chairman