

Illinois Unmanned Aerial System Oversight Task Force Meeting 2



Meeting Information	
Date & Time	February 11, 2016 – 1:30 PM
Location	IDOT – Division of Aeronautics Large Conference Room
Address	1 Langhorne Bond Drive Springfield, IL 62707

Meeting Minutes

1. Welcome

Steve Young, Task Force Chair and Interim Director of the IDOT Division of Aeronautics began the meeting by welcoming the Task Force members and going over general housekeeping items.

2. Introductions

Task force member introduced themselves. Additional attendees also introduced themselves.

3. Federal & State Regulatory Update

New legislation introduced since Meeting 1 was reviewed including the Federal Aviation Innovation, Reform and Reauthorization (AIRR) Act, Illinois House Bill 5808 and Illinois Senate Bill 2344.

4. Member Presentations/Contributions

Task Force Member Eric Vanasdale, COUNTRY Financial, gave a presentation that provided an overview on the use of UAS in the insurance industry, including challenges current and future applications. Mr. Vanasdale noted that UAS are currently being used for inspections associated with insurance claims. One of the issues the industry is looking to overcome is the ability to fly beyond line-of-sight for inspections. Current FAA exemption requirements limit operators to visual line-of-sight. Mr. Vanasdale also provided a brief overview of current insurance coverage available to UAS operators. He noted insurance providers are slow to enter the UAS market because it is relatively new. In addition, changing regulations also are preventing some insurance providers from expanding coverage to UAS operations.

Task Force Member Tom Collins, Collins Engineers, Inc., gave a presentation about the considerations for use of UAS for engineering inspections. Mr. Collins spoke on the use of UAS for engineering related inspections. His company helped conduct studies on their use primarily for bridge inspections. He noted other potential uses include inspection of highway structures, railroad tracks, electrical transmission lines, buildings, fire escapes and elevated tanks. Mr. Collins also noted current standards prescribed by the National Bridge Inspection Standards (NBIS) require a team leader with

certain qualifications be present at the bridge at all times during the inspection. Therefore that team leader could either be the UAS operator or directing the operator during the inspection. Mr. Collins suggested the Task Force recommend the Department of Financial and Professional Regulation consider clarification of their regulations in order to recognize the role of UAS.

5. Discussion: Overall Conceptual Approach

The Task Force Members were asked for their input regarding the legislative definition of UAS. Several Task Force Members indicated they felt the definition of UAS should be centralized and harmonized in the Illinois Aeronautics Act. Task Force Member Ron Tremain, Insitu, Inc., suggested adopting the Federal Aviation Administration's definition of UAS.

6. Discussion: Commercial Use

Task Force Members were asked their thoughts on issues relating to the commercial use of UAS such as how to define commercial use, potential State registration requirements, State training/knowledge requirements, insurance requirements, limits on data collection, and prohibited locations for the launch and recovery of UAS. Task Force Member Cameron Eugenis, Illinois Office of the Attorney General, suggested presenting what can and cannot be done with UAS in the recommendation report to be submitted to the General Assembly and Governor's Office. On the topic of insurance, Ron Tremain noted other states are beginning to require insurance coverage be carried appropriate for the type of commercial operating being conducted. Cameron Eugenis suggested the Task Force identify pro's/con's to insurance requirements and present them in the final recommendation report.

7. Discussion: Public Use

Task Force Members were asked their thoughts on issues relating to the public use (non-law enforcement) use of UAS such as State registration requirements, exemptions from certain standards, special requirements for public safety operations, data collection restrictions, data availability/retention requirements and data sharing among public State agencies.

8. Next Steps

The meeting concluded with a reminder to research federal regulations, research developments in pending State legislation, and to submit discussion topics for the next meeting.