



Louisiana Advanced Aviation and Drone Advisory Committee

Louisiana Advanced Aviation and Drone Advisory Committee (LAADAC) Meeting Minutes

Date: July 17, 2024

Time: 1:00pm to 3:00pm

Location: Louisiana House of Representatives, House Committee Room 3

Mr. Brandt called the meeting to order at 1:02pm. Mr. Rey led the committee in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance. Mr. Jacques Berry—DOTD Assistant Secretary for Policy and Government Relations, spoke briefly and reminded committee members that if they were being replaced that official letter is required.

Committee Roll Call:

Committee Members Present: Mr. Parnell Robinson Jr., Sergeant Jonathan (John) Kemp, Mr. Andy Brown, Mr. Robert (Bobby) Moore, Mr. Lee Broom, Mr. George Rey, Ms. Nancy Clement, Dr. Balaji Ramachandran, Mrs. Andrea Dupre' and Mr. Bradley (Brad) Brandt.

Proxy: Mr Michael (Mike) Boykin was proxy for Mr. Brian Landry.

Quorum met due to 10 out of 15 committee members being present. (8 out of 15 members must be present to make a quorum). Proxy is not allowed to participate in any motion or vote.

Call for Additional Agenda Items:

Mr. Brandt asked if anyone had any items they'd like to add to the agenda. Mr. Brandt advised that under Item 9, Public Comments, that if anyone in the audience would like to speak to fill out a card located near the microphones.

Approval of Minutes:

Minutes from August 2023 were reviewed. Motion made by Mr. Rey and seconded by Mr. Moore to approve the August 2023 minutes. Motion carried.

Legislative Discussion:

- i. Mr. Brandt spoke on annual committee report that is due to the legislature each year before the start of the legislature session. This report must be reviewed and approved by the DOTD Secretary before submitting to the legislature, and due to having a new DOTD Secretary will need to be submitted early for review and if needed, edits.
- ii. Open discussion on Senate Bill 215/Act 315 passage. Mr. Rey stated this bill being addressed is a big step forward.
- iii. H.R. 2864-Countering CCP Drone Act—given to Chairman Brandt by Mr. Bartels. There were 7 bills that dealt with drones—3 did pass. Mr. Rey stated there is a long list of federal bills, and would like to reach down to state level to see if LAADAC committee could get grant from feds. Mr. Brown stated agriculture committee is taking hard look at bills.

Mr. Rey stated recently federal reauthorization was completed on UAS test ranges—section 925-Terrebonne airport—and that his presentation will go into more detail. Graves/Kennedy put in language for 2 additional FAA sites possibly on the gulf coast near an airport. Federal open up Gulf of Mexico as a test site—set up new test site over great bodies of water. Current test site had no funding—now getting millions of dollars in funding—so we should be able to set that up. Will talk more about during upcoming presentation. LAADAC committee is getting great publicity, and Louisiana can be considered as an early player.



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Statewide Subject Briefings:

Several subject experts gave briefing presentations.

1. Robert Perez from Romeo Papa, LLC gave a presentation on Counter Drone Equipment.
2. George Femmar from Dronestitute gave a presentation on Small Business & sUAS Training.
3. George Rey from Unmanned Gulf Coast Center of Excellence gave a presentation on Critical Infrastructure & Counter Drone Technology.

Presentation on Vertiports by Josh Duplantis & David Decou, DOTD Office of Multimodal Commerce and presentation on Louisiana Aviation System Plan by Brad Brandt, DOTD Office of Multimodal Commerce were deferred until next LAADAC meeting.

Task Group Reports:

1. Task Group 1—sUAS Drone Statistics in Louisiana: Chairman Gammel was absent and no report was given.
2. Task Group 2—Economic Development Impact of Unmanned Systems for Air, Ground & Maritime: Chairman position is currently vacant—no report given.
3. Task Group 3—Legislature and Executive Impacts Hindering Growth of UAS in Louisiana: Chairman position is currently vacant—no report was given.
4. Task Group 4—Legislature and Executive Impacts Hindering Public Safety of UAS in Louisiana: Chairman Champagne's appointment ended, and no report was given.
5. Task Group 5—Efforts to Implement Counter UAS to Protect Critical Infrastructure: Chairman Rey covered task group report during his statewide briefings presentation.
6. Task Group 6—Develop a Baseline of Unmanned Maritime System Development in Louisiana: Chairman Landry was absent and his appointment ended—no report given.
7. Task Group 7—Develop a Baseline of Electrification of Aviation Development in Louisiana: Chairman Rey covered task group report during his statewide briefings presentation.

Mr. Rey commented that the committee needs to look at consolidating some of the task groups due to lack of reports being submitted and to also better utilize the committees/committee members time, and will take the opportunity at task groups at next LAADAC meeting.

Public Comment:

Steven Barry gave a brief rundown on how forestry works—during fires they've had issues with sight-seers using drones. Even with TFR still had drone issues. Wanted to know under what methods can they arrest people with drones and can you shoot drones down if they are in an aircrafts' way? Mr. Brandt stated there is not one drone clearinghouse, but there can be possible legislation change with this committee.

New Business:

Mr. Rey stated that as a part of task group 4's mission with public safety, he talked to Mr. Pope and also reached out to others in the UAS industry who got money to identify the problem, then took the data to legislature.



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Upcoming LAADAC Meeting:

Next LAADAC meeting is scheduled for August 14, 2024 at 1pm in House Committee Room 1—calendar invite reminder will be sent out.

Adjournment:

Motion made by Ms. Dupre' and seconded by Mr. Brown to adjourn meeting. Motion carried and meeting was adjourned at 3:08 pm.