



Virginia Aviation Board  
Meeting Minutes

The Virginia Aviation Board held a meeting on Thursday, May 21, 2026, at the Virginia Department of Aviation, Hangar Building, 5702 Gulfstream Road, Richmond, VA. The meeting documents and presentation materials are available on the Virginia Department of Aviation's website, [www.daov.virginia.gov](http://www.daov.virginia.gov).

MEMBERS

Randall P Burdette, Chairman	Present
Mark Nelson, Region 1	Absent
Robert Bowen, Region 2	Present
Craig Parisot, Region 3	Present
Jackie Dankos, Region 4	Present
Cheryl P. McLeskey, Region 5	Present
Donald T. Robertson, Region 6	Present
Vanessa Christie, Region 7	Present

OTHER ATTENDEES

Brian K. Stevens	Office of the Attorney General
Greg W. Campbell, Director	Virginia Department of Aviation

DOAV staff, state government representatives, federal government representatives, airport sponsors and managers, consultants, engineers, business owners, and city and county representatives were also present.

1. Call to Order

Randall Burdette,  
Chairman

The chairman called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m.

2. Review and approve February 18, 2026, minutes

Randall Burdette,  
Chairman

Motion to approve: Parisot

Second: Christie

Vote: Aye: Robertson, Parisot, Dankos, McLeskey, Christie; Nay: none; Bowen, absent.

4. DOAV Update

Greg Campbell, Director,  
DOAV

Director Campbell reported that aviation in Virginia remains strong, with significant growth continuing at both general aviation and commercial service airports. Reviewing newly released FAA data for calendar year 2025, he noted substantial increases at Washington Dulles, as well as record-setting performance at Norfolk and Richmond. Charlottesville and Roanoke also surpassed pre-pandemic levels. While the smallest commercial service airports experienced some decline, he expressed confidence that recent additions in air service will help them rebound in 2026. Over the past few months, airports across the Commonwealth added multiple new domestic and international routes, including major international service from Dulles and long-sought service to Dallas–Fort Worth in Roanoke.

He highlighted several accomplishments since the last meeting, including the unanimous passage of House Bill 1231, which permanently modernizes the Commonwealth Aviation Fund for the first time since the 1980s. The department also showcased advanced air mobility capabilities through a successful demonstration at Stafford Airport and secured one of five national FAA pilot program awards for regional air mobility demonstrations scheduled for this summer. DOAV staff participated in the VAOC workshop, offering guidance on economic impact study use and project eligibility. The department has also revitalized its education and communications efforts, improving public engagement, and has welcomed three new team members. Director Campbell reported that DOAV staff completed their review of project submissions for the May meeting, noting continued high demand for infrastructure funding. With the board's approval of staff recommendations, all available funding for the year will be allocated with no carryover remaining. He also recognized the board's recent policy updates that have expanded hangar development and improved airport readiness for future advanced air mobility through broadband and electrification initiatives.

5. VAOC VABA Update

Greg Campbell, DOAV

In the absence of VAOC VABA President Mike Stewart, Director Campbell delivered the report on his behalf. He explained that Mike could not attend the meeting because he was participating in the groundbreaking ceremony for a new corporate hangar complex at Roanoke Airport.

Director Campbell reported that the VAOC workshop held in Staunton in April was successful and extended congratulations to the team at Hummel for their new terminal and recent improvements, noting the unique public-private partnership that made the project possible. He also announced the upcoming Virginia Aviation Conference, hosted by VAOC, scheduled for August 19–21 at the Williamsburg Lodge.

6. VABA Update

Bud Oakey, President,  
VABA

Bud Oakey reported continued progress in building stronger partnerships across Virginia's aerospace organizations despite ongoing budget uncertainty, noting that state leadership is expected to honor existing commitments. Mr. Oakey focused on the statewide aerospace workforce study underway with the Virginia Space Grant

Consortium and other partners, which has already revealed a major disconnect between industry needs and current education pipelines, especially in K–12.

He emphasized that internships are the most effective way to build future workforce talent and that efforts are underway to create guides and support for small businesses to host interns. He encouraged more high school and college-level internships to help students gain early exposure, develop confidence, and build essential workplace skills. Oakey noted that building a strong workforce ecosystem is key to attracting aerospace companies to Virginia.

He announced that Aerospace Day at the General Assembly is scheduled for February 2, 2027 and encouraged early planning.

## 7. Old Business

- A. Consideration for Continuation of 90/10 Temporary Funding Program until the end of CY26. Greg Campbell, Director, DOAV

The board discussed whether to continue the temporary 90/10 funding program. Director Campbell reported that the program has worked well, helping airports—especially general aviation airports—move projects forward despite rising construction costs and limited local matching funds. He recommended extending the 90/10 structure through the end of the year or until the next Airport Program Manual update, allowing airports to provide formal feedback before a permanent decision is made.

Director Campbell noted that funding demand is increasing, but the 90/10 split has clearly accelerated important projects that might not have advanced under an 80/20 structure. Board members agreed that continuing the program into the next manual revision cycle would help assess system needs, risks, and local match challenges more thoroughly. The chairman supported extending the program so the full airport system can participate in the review.

Motion to approve: Christie

Second: Parisot

Vote: Aye: Robertson, Bowen, Parisot, Dankos, McLeskey, Christie; Nay: none

- B. Conditional License Update – Eagles Nest Airport Maria Ferello, DOAV

The board received an update on the licensing status of Eagle’s Nest Airport. During an August 2025 inspection, the airport was found out of compliance with state licensing requirements due to multiple trees obstructing the required approach surfaces. In February 2026, the board placed the airport on a conditional license limited for Day/VFR use until the issues were resolved.

Following that meeting, Eagle’s Nest moved quickly to remove all identified on-airport and off-airport obstructions. By March 24, 2026, DOAV verified that all approach surfaces met the 15:1 standard. On April 8, 2026, DOAV restored Eagle’s Nest Airport to a full state-standard license.

8. New Business

A. Falwell Airport License Waiver Renewal

John Hart, DOAV

John Hart provided an informational update on the Falwell Airport license waiver, noting that no board action is required until the August meeting. Falwell currently operates under a waiver for the runway object-free area due to a vehicle driveway and taxiway encroaching into the required safety zone. He reviewed the history of the waiver, which was first granted in 2014 and later extended after DOAV inspections confirmed that topography, cost, and longstanding airport design constraints prevented full compliance. Additional safety measures—gating, signage, and pavement markings—have been installed to reduce risk.

The current waiver expires in September 2026, placing Falwell back into its regular licensing cycle. At the August 2026 meeting, the board will need to decide whether to issue a day-VFR license, extend the waiver, approve a new seven-year waiver, or revoke public-use status. Mr. Hart emphasized that Falwell has unique, grandfathered conditions, including a steep, one-way-in/one-way-out runway, making full compliance impractical.

Board members briefly discussed the airport’s challenging terrain and flight operations. No recent safety incidents related to the grandfathered conditions were reported. The chairman noted the importance of risk mitigation as the board prepares to evaluate the waiver in August.

B. Consideration of Amended FY26 Entitlement Utilization Plans

Mike Swain, DOAV

The board reviewed amended Fiscal Year 2026 entitlement utilization plans. Mike Swain presented four project requests from two airports. Newport News–Williamsburg International requested state funding for a replacement ARFF truck. Shenandoah Valley Regional requested funding for three items: a replacement public-address system for the terminal, new self-contained breathing apparatus and air cylinders, and a replacement HVAC unit for the ARFF building. Staff recommended prorating the HVAC request because the existing unit was only four years old and originally purchased with state entitlement funds; the airport agreed to the adjustment.

Swain recommended approval of all four amended entitlement requests, and this item required board action.

Motion to approve: Robertson

Second: Christie

Vote: Aye: Robertson, Bowen, Parisot, Dankos, McLeskey, Christie; Nay: none

C. Consideration of Consent Agenda – Approval of Use of Consent Agenda for Approval of Staff-Recommended Projects

Randall Burdette,  
Chairman

Motion to approve: Parisot

Second: Christie

Vote: Aye: Robertson, Bowen, Parisot, Dankos, McLeskey, Christie; Nay: none

D. Approval of Consent Agenda for Staff - Recommended Projects

Randall Burdette,  
Chairman

Motion to approve: Robertson

Second: Christie

Vote: Aye: Robertson, Bowen, Parisot, Dankos, McLeskey, Christie; Nay: none

E. Virginia Aviation Board Review – Tentative Allocations from the Commonwealth Aviation Fund – Norfolk International Multi-Year Project

Mike Swain, DOAV

The board reviewed a funding request from Norfolk International Airport for its aircraft deicing apron construction project. This item was removed from the consent agenda due to additional detail requiring discussion. The request totals approximately \$2.19 million for this meeting, consisting of about \$2.01 million in entitlement funds and \$180,000 in discretionary funds. Staff recommended approval.

The full project requires a multiyear funding plan totaling roughly \$10.19 million, representing 90 percent of the construction bid. Norfolk is not requesting funds for engineering or inspection—only construction. Although the sponsor originally sought \$1 million in discretionary funds, they agreed—at DOAV’s request—to accept \$180,000 at this time so that all other eligible projects across the state could be funded this cycle. Staff expressed appreciation for this cooperation.

Under the multiyear approach, the remaining \$8 million will be requested at the August meeting, funded through FY 2027 entitlements and discretionary funds. This amount represents about 21 percent of the projected FY 2027 Commonwealth Aviation Fund, remaining under the board’s 25-percent cap for early-year allocations.

Board members commended Norfolk for its flexibility, noting that the airport’s willingness to phase the funding allowed several GA projects with federal matches to move forward. DOAV confirmed that approving the plan now allows construction to proceed, even though most funds will not be allocated until August, with future funding contingent on the availability of CAF dollars.

The chairman reiterated that Norfolk’s project will be first in line for funding at the August meeting.

Motion to approve: Christie

Second: Bowen

Vote: Aye: Robertson, Bowen, Parisot, Dankos, McLeskey, Christie; Nay: none

9. Public Comment Period

Randall Burdette,  
Chairman

No public comments were offered.

10. Board Member Comments and Reports

Randall Burdette,  
Chairman

Region 1: Absent-No Report

Region 2: Mr. Bowen apologized for his delayed arrival.

Region 3: Mr. Parisot acknowledged Virginia continuing to rightfully experience growing activity and investments across UAS, Advanced air mobility, public safety, aviation and broader airspace modernization efforts. With that growth comes an increasing need for coordination across state, local, federal, military, commercial and public safety stakeholders to ensure aviation safety and operational alignment within an already complex airspace environment, one area deserving continued attention is the growing deployment of counter UAS technologies by state and local public safety agencies. Federal funding, namely DHS, is making detection and mitigation capabilities more accessible to state and local government. These include RF disruption and jamming technologies. While these tools may serve important security purposes, they also create potential aviation safety considerations if deployed without sufficient coordination, training and operational awareness. Thus, it is important that counter UAS detection and mitigation technologies being acquired throughout the Commonwealth remain coordinated with the Virginia Department of Aviation. A coordinated approach will help ensure compatibility, situational awareness and safe integration. So in closing, I'd also like to thank the staff, today's presenters and my fellow board members for their continued leadership, professionalism, commitment, and aviation across Virginia. Work being done here is increasingly consequential, not only in Virginia but for the future of aviation nationally, and he encouraged everyone to continue the collaboration and thoughtful stewardship that has made Virginia recognized leader in this space.

Region 4: No Report

Region 5: Ms. McLeskey thanked all attendees for being present and expressed appreciation for the opportunity to serve in the current administration. She also announced that the Johnny Meza memorial will be held on Saturday, May 30, at Dinwiddie Airport for anyone who would like to attend.

Region 6: Mr. Robertson thanked DOAV staff and all public attendees for their participation. He acknowledged the ongoing challenge of rising costs and emphasized the importance of continuing strong support for smaller airports. He expressed appreciation for everyone's engagement and wished all attendees safe travels home.

Region 7: Ms. Christie expressed appreciation to the staff and board for their work on the 90/10 funding initiative, noting clear evidence of its positive impact, especially in Region 7. She thanked Mark Perryman and his team for their creativity and collaboration throughout the process. She also recognized Oscar Barber and the team at Hummel Field, highlighting their public-private partnership as a strong model that could be replicated statewide. She closed by thanking Director Campbell and DOAV staff for their leadership, remarking that this year represents the board's largest funding allocation to date and a significant contribution to Virginia's aviation system.

Director: Director Campbell thanked key staff members who make each quarterly board meeting possible. He recognized Laurie Brown for managing all board materials and logistics in addition to her finance and HR responsibilities, and John Saul for bringing the agency's technology and meeting-support systems in-house, saving significant costs and improving flexibility. He noted that their behind-the-scenes work is essential to the board's operations. He concluded by expressing appreciation for a successful year and said he looked forward to the upcoming fiscal year and the continued progress across Virginia's aviation system.

Chairman: The chairman added remarks about the successful public-private partnership at Hummel Field, noting the project was completed ahead of schedule, under budget, and delivered improved facilities—including runway, taxiway, and a larger terminal—thanks to creative local leadership. He encouraged other small airports to learn from Hummel’s approach. He also noted that the board voted to continue the 90/10 funding structure through the end of the calendar year and asked staff to begin the next program manual review promptly. Board members were encouraged to submit suggested changes soon so the review can be completed before February. He closed by thanking Norfolk for cooperating on a multi-year funding approach and thanked all attendees, wishing everyone safe travels.

11. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 11:14am.

Randall Burdette,  
Chairman

Motion to approve: Bowen

Second: McLeskey

Vote: Aye: Robertson, Bowen, Parisot, Dankos, McLeskey, Christie; Nay: none

Consent Agenda May 2026

Blue Ridge Regional Airport	3-Phase Power (Construction)	\$ 146,272.07
Danville Regional Airport	Terminal Area Plan	\$ 89,100.00
Dinwiddie County Airport	Terminal Apron Expansion (Construction) (AIP)	\$ 24,673.68
Dinwiddie County Airport	Terminal Apron Expansion (Construction) (IIJA)	\$ 36,042.11
Dinwiddie County Airport	Terminal Building Renovation (Design)	\$ 52,200.00
Emporia-Greenville Regional Airport	Runway & Taxiway Lighting Rehabilitation (Design)	\$ 12,000.00
Front Royal-Warren County Airport	Runway Rehabilitation (Construction)	\$ 120,000.00
Hampton Roads Executive Airport	Airport Master Plan Update	\$ 25,200.00
Hampton Roads Executive Airport	Turner Lane Rehabilitation (Preliminary Engineering)	\$ 90,000.00
Ingalls Field	Runway Pavement & Lighting Rehabilitation (Design) (AIP)	\$ 5,747.37
Ingalls Field	Runway Pavement & Lighting Rehabilitation (Design) (IIJA)	\$ 18,652.63
Ingalls Field	Temporary Terminal Building Lease - INCREASE	\$ 28,000.00
Lonesome Pine Airport	Maintenance Equipment Storage Building - Lean-To Bid Additive (Construction)	\$ 14,584.00
Lonesome Pine Airport	Maintenance Equipment Storage Building (Construction) (AIP)	\$ 5,903.87
Lonesome Pine Airport	Maintenance Equipment Storage Building (Construction) (IIJA)	\$ 21,052.63
Louisa County Airport	Airport Master Plan Update	\$ 16,000.00
Middle Peninsula Regional Airport	East Corporate Development - Phase 2 (Bidding & Construction)	\$ 1,301,400.00

New Kent County Airport	Phase 1 Land Acquisition & Services - Parcel U (Grubenhoff)	\$ 4,630.00
Norfolk International Airport	Aircraft Deicing Apron (Construction) - MULTI-YEAR FUNDING	\$ 2,193,685.63
Richmond Executive - Chesterfield County Airport	Southeast Box Hangar Site Preparation (Design) - INCREASE	\$ 17,275.00
Washington Executive - Stafford Regional Airport	Automated External Defibrillator (AED) for Terminal Building	\$ 1,963.76
Washington Executive - Stafford Regional Airport	Self-Service Fueling Facility (Construction) (IIJA)	\$ 22,570.53
Washington Executive - Stafford Regional Airport	Taxiway Rehabilitation & Connector Taxiway Relocation (Design)	\$ 24,000.00
Suffolk Executive Airport	3-Phase Power (Construction) - INCREASE	\$ 103,178.19
Tappahannock-Essex County Airport	Fueling System Upgrade (Construction) - INCREASE	\$ 823.76
Twin County Airport	Runway Extension (Environmental Assessment)	\$ 24,000.00
Twin County Airport	Runway Rehabilitation (Design)	\$ 16,000.00
Warrenton-Fauquier Airport	SWPPP and SPCC Update	\$ 18,731.70