



Virginia Aviation Board Meeting Minutes

The Virginia Aviation Board held a meeting on Wednesday, February 18, 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.

MEMBERS

Randall P. Burdette, Chairman	Present - Virtual
Mark Nelson, Region 1	Present
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 Donald Robertson,
Vice Chair

The chairman called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m.

2. Virtual Participation - Consideration for Approval Donald Robertson,
Vice Chair

In accordance with VAB policy, Randall P. Burdette submitted written request to participate remotely in the February 2026 meeting. The requesting member lives more than 60 miles from the meeting location. Upon review of this written request and polling the remaining 7 members to confirm their physical attendance, the chairman approved the 1 request.

A motion was made to confirm the chairman's decision for Randall P. Burdette to participate remotely in the February 2026 meeting, in compliance with the Remote Participation Policy.

Motion to approve: Parisot

Second: Nelson

Vote: Aye: Nelson, Bowen, Parisot, Dankos, McLeskey, Christie; Nay: None.

3. Review and approve November 20, 2025, minutes

Donald Robertson,
Vice Chair

Motion to approve: Parisot

Second: McLeskey

Vote: Aye: Nelson, Bowen, Parisot, Dankos, McLeskey, Christie; Nay: None.

4. DOAV Update

Greg Campbell, Director,
DOAV

Director Campbell provided an update on agency activities. He welcomed new employees, recognized recent retirees, and noted that there are currently three open positions. Director Campbell reported that the aviation economic impact study, delayed during the pandemic, was completed using calendar year 2024 as a reliable post-pandemic baseline and showed substantial statewide growth, with total economic impact rising from \$22.9 billion to \$42 billion, supporting 219,000 jobs, \$15 billion in wages, and a \$25.8 billion gross state product; airports have received their individual reports, and the department has already conducted a webinar with plans for a deeper follow-up session at the April Airport Spring Workshop, which has also supported airports in sharing the executive summary with legislators during the General Assembly session. Looking ahead to 2026, he noted that the 90/10 temporary funding program is set to expire June 30, 2026, and the Board will need to decide at the May VAB meeting in Richmond whether to extend, make permanent, or allow the program to sunset. He also highlighted the launch of the Aviation Education and External Engagement Division on January 1, reflecting a renewed focus on aviation education and workforce development, a critical industry challenge. Legislative updates included House Bill 1231, which would permanently codify last year's Commonwealth Aviation Fund distribution changes; the bill passed the House 97-0 and is moving to the Senate with cautious optimism. Campbell also described progress on two advanced air mobility pilot projects—the Smart Airspace Project with Virginia Tech's Mid-Atlantic Aviation Partnership, focused on instrument procedures for advanced platforms, and the Stafford Enablement Area Project, supporting Part 108 and beyond-visual-line-of-sight drone operations—both aligned with FAA policy. Additional initiatives include the statewide pavement study, which will guide future program decisions, and early planning for a 2026 update to the Airport Program Manual, to occur after legislative outcomes are finalized and incorporating feedback already gathered from airport sponsors and board members.

5. VAOC Update

Mike Stewart, President,
VAOC

Mr. Stewart provided a brief update on VAOC activities, noting preparations for the upcoming spring workshop and highlighting recent airport efforts across the state, including winter weather response and the continued value of equipment funded through past support. He mentioned that Roanoke successfully restored its EMAS system after it was activated during an incident last year, and several airports—including Blue Ridge, Shenandoah Valley, Roanoke, and Lynchburg—have recently expanded or added air service, contributing to strong passenger growth across the Commonwealth. He emphasized that major airports such as Richmond, Norfolk, and Roanoke continue to see rising passenger numbers, reinforcing aviation's economic importance. Stewart also noted productive outreach with legislators, supported by the newly released economic impact executive summary.

6. VABA Update

Bud Oakey, President,
VABA

Mr. Oakey shared recent developments within VABA, including leadership changes and ongoing efforts to strengthen collaboration among aviation stakeholders. He highlighted priorities such as sustainability initiatives, workforce development, legislative engagement, and improving Virginia's competitiveness in the aerospace sector. Emphasis was placed on long-term planning, advocacy, and positioning Virginia for future growth in areas like advanced air mobility and international aviation opportunities.

7. New Business

A. Conditional License - Eagles Nest Airport

Maria Ferello, DOAV

Mrs. Ferello provided an update on the conditional license status for Eagle's Nest Airport. The airport currently does not meet certain licensing standards due to identified obstructions, and the Department is working with the sponsor on a mitigation plan. The conditional license is set to expire at the end of March, and the board discussed possible next steps to ensure safety and compliance. Staff recommended issuing a Day/VFR Use Only license immediately until all obstructions are removed, with the option to revert to full licensing once mitigation is complete.

Motion to approve staff recommendation: Robert Bowen

Second: Craig Parisot

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

B. Consideration of Revised FY2026 Entitlement Utilization Plans

Mike Swain, DOAV

Mr. Swain presented the FY26 Entitlement Utilization Plans for the following airports for which staff recommended approval:

- Newport News-Williamsburg International
- Norfolk International
- Shenandoah Valley Regional

Motion to approve staff recommendation: Parisot

Second: Bowen

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

C. Consideration of Consent Agenda - Approval of Staff-Recommended Projects

Donald Robertson,
Vice Chair

Motion to approve staff recommendations: Parisot

Second: Dankos

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

Consent Agenda: Staff Recommended Projects for Approval

Airport	Project Description	Amount
Emporia-Greenville Regional Airport	T-Hangar Site Preparation (Construction)	\$997,706.63
Virginia Highlands Airport	Box Hangar (Site 4) Site Preparation (Construction) (IIJA)	\$16,513.68
Virginia Highlands Airport	Box Hangar (Site 4) Site Preparation (Construction) (non-IIJA)	\$918,781.20

Virginia Highlands Airport	West Side Development - Phase 2 (BP1) (Construction)	\$4,170,019.60
Ingalls Field	Terminal Building Furniture	\$26,246.16
Manassas Regional Airport	Airfield Lighting Control and Monitoring System (ALCMS) Upgrade (Construction)	\$123,350.99
Manassas Regional Airport	Airfield Restriping (Construction)	\$61,376.40
Manassas Regional Airport	Airspace Obstruction Removal (Construction)	\$98,590.50
Manassas Regional Airport	Stormwater Detention Pond and Outfall Repair - Phase 1 (Construction)	\$35,660.70
Stafford Regional Airport	T-Hangars 6, 7 & 8 Site Preparation (Bidding & Construction)	\$3,396,796.20
Warrenton-Fauquier Airport	Hangar Development Environmental (CATEX)	\$29,599.20
Winchester Regional Airport	Taxiway 'A' Rehabilitation - Section 3 (Construction)	\$174,736.84
Louisa County Airport	Airfield Lighting & Signage Replacements (Design) – INCREASE	\$18,000.00
New Kent County Airport	Land Services & Easement Acquisition - Phase 1 – INCREASE	\$10,000.00
Richmond Executive - Chesterfield County Airport	Southeast Box Hangar Site Preparation (Construction)	\$2,721,014.10
Danville Regional Airport	South Ramp Hangar Site Preparation (Construction)	\$993,760.51
Lake Country Regional Airport	Runway Lighting Rehabilitation (Construction)	\$127,665.00
Hampton Roads Executive Airport	Fuel Farm Equipment (Construction) (IIJA)	\$9,517.89
Hummel Field	Fuel Farm Networking Cables Relocation (Construction)	\$2,714.64
Hummel Field	Land Acquisition Services Parcel 30-89	\$1,012.50
Hummel Field	Land Acquisition Services Parcels 30-110 and 30- 104A	\$10,368.00
Middle Peninsula Regional Airport	East Corporate Development Phase 2 (Environmental)	\$28,800.00
Emporia-Greenville Regional Airport	T-Hangar Site Preparation (Construction)	\$997,706.63

D. Virginia Aviation Board Review - Projects Not Receiving Staff Recommendation

Mike Swain, DOAV

Mr. Swain presented the project requests for which staff did not recommend approval. The board actions are summarized below.

For Region 3, staff did not recommend the following:

Airport	Project Description	VAB Action	Amount
Leesburg Executive	Air Traffic Control Tower (Design) (IIJA)	Approve	\$85,705.34

Motion to approve the grant request with the condition that the grant offer will not be issued until the FAA grant offer has been made. The FAA will not issue its grant offer until the environmental review is complete: Parisot

Second: Nelson

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

For Region 6, staff did not recommend the following:

Airport	Project Description	VAB Action	Amount
Emporia-Greenville Regional	T-Hangar Site Preparation (Construction)	Approve	\$104,793.37

The Sponsor requested an additional \$104,793.37 as the 90 percent state share of A-E construction management/testing/inspection services. However, the A-E task order was submitted for review after the VAB policy deadline.

Motion to approve grant request: Parisot

Second: Nelson

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

9. Public Comment Period

Donald Robertson,
Vice Chair

No public comments were offered.

10. Board Member Comments and Reports

Donald Robertson,
Vice Chair

Region 1: Mr. Nelson thanked the board and acknowledged DOAV staff for all the work that was to get the funding for the Westside development for Virginia Highlands Airport and the funds for Lee County Airport. He acknowledged that Mr. Mickey Hines, the airport manager at Virginia Highlands, was in attendance and noted that he's worked for 15 years on lots of different projects there to continue to build that airport and has done a great job with the support DOAV.

Region 2: No report.

Region 3: He thanked his fellow Board members and Department Staff for producing another successful meeting of the Virginia Aviation Board and everyone for attending. In addition to the Virginia Aviation Business Association (VABA) Aviation, Aerospace and Advanced Air Mobility Legislative Reception briefed earlier, the VIPC Unmanned Systems Center's Virginia Stakeholder meeting took place earlier that same day. During the presentations, a project involving three Region 3 airports was briefed. The Stafford Warrenton Winchester, or SWW, AAM Service Enablement Area was briefed. He shared a few comments about this project as it is important for all to know that this is happening here in Virginia in a Region 3 airport. The SWW Service Enablement Area project is DOAV funded and directed and is focused on

deploying the Flight Information Exchange (FIX) and Minimum Viable Infrastructure (MVI) to establish practical digital infrastructure and data services that support near-term commercial Beyond Visual Line of Sight or BVLOS operations and Advanced Air Mobility integration. The effort aligns with emerging FAA Part 108 BVLOS policy direction and is designed to demonstrate how Public Digital Services and risk-based infrastructure can safely enable commercial unmanned aerial systems and AAM operations in the National Airspace System while establishing a sustainable economic model. DOAV anticipates live demonstrations within the next 60 days, marking an important step toward operationalizing BVLOS services in Virginia and creating a replicable model for other regions. He offered his congratulations to the Department and to all involved. As an Aviation Board, it is important to take early steps to prepare Virginia's general aviation airports for the future of aviation, including Advanced Air Mobility. By updating the program manual to enable funding for AAM-related projects and investing in three-phase power and broadband connectivity at airports across the Commonwealth, the foundational infrastructure has been strengthened to support emerging aviation technologies and services. These efforts are already proving successful and demonstrating to peer states as well as industry that Virginia's investment strategy is focused on substance and sustainability. If you want to do serious AAM business, you do it in Virginia. The question is what comes next? How do we build on this momentum to enable operational capabilities, digital infrastructure, and sustainable service models that will allow AAM and advanced UAS operations to safely and economically integrate into Virginia's aviation system? He looks forward to exploring this question further over the course of this year.

Region 4: No report.

Region 5: Ms. McLeskey welcomed and congratulated Hila Yalcin, Jessica Harrison and Jeff Breeden on their new positions at the Department. She thanked all the sponsors and managers attending the meeting, stating that it shows their dedication and hard work that drives success. She congratulated Lynchburg for the direct service to Chicago and Dallas and Norfolk. She added that with Breeze, the direct flight from Norfolk to Palm Beach, we're excited about that.

Region 6: Mr. Robertson stated that the board looks forward to continuing to work with Director Campbell, adding that he's done a phenomenal job and that it will continue. He thanked staff. He thanked the board members for their patience with him this morning, as well as for their support and assistance in leading up to today's meeting. He thanked all who attended today and for their interest and engagement in aviation in Virginia. He wished all safe travels.

Region 7: Ms. Christie announced that there is a new director at Newport News-Williamsburg International Airport and a new director at Tangier Island Airport. She also noted that Tangier is reaching out to other Virginia airports to request any unused or unneeded equipment that could be loaned to them.

Director: Mr. Campbell thanked the board and members of the audience for all their efforts and working together. He added that a lot great things were accomplished over the last three and one-half years and there is a lot of good work that lies ahead. He thanks all for their support, which played a big role in his reappointment. The last 3 1/2 years, we've accomplished a great deal. He noted that he will work just as hard in the next four years to advance the Commonwealth's aviation system.

Chairman: Mr. Burdette extended thanks to VABA on the legislative reception. He congratulated Director Campbell on his reappointment, noting it is always a challenge when the party in charge changes. He thanks VAOC, VABA, the consultants and all other support for Greg's reappointment, noting he is glad to see him continue.

11. Adjournment

Donald Robertson,
Vice Chair

The meeting adjourned at 11:05 am.

Motion to approve: Parisot

Second: Bowen

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