

MAPPS 2005 Fall Policy Conference TSA / FAA Committee Notes

Attendees:

Mac Sholas (TSA), Roger Greathouse (Air Photographics), Mary Potter (Keystone), John Byrd (MAPPS), Bill Gail (Vexcel) & Richard Crouse (RC&A)

Notes:

(Since Mac Sholas of TSA was the only government representative present, our discussion centered predominately on the Washington FRZ and waiver process for aerial survey. We started by thanking him for their efforts to date and continued cooperation towards improving the process.)

1. Mac Sholas stated that his superior, Jack Armstrong, supported an effort to remove the “government only” requirement for aerial survey operations within the center 7nm radius of the Washington FRZ.
2. Reginald “Reggie” Rhodes will replace Morgan Langston in the waiver office. Rhodes had previously done waivers for sporting events, such as NASCAR and football games.
3. Kerwin Wilson, who had previously worked with our group on TSA policy issues, was moving on to another position within TSA. Sholas did not have much to add about Wilson’s desire to create company security programs as means to expedite the waiver process.
4. Sholas stated that TSA is considering issuing “fleet waivers” to our flyers. Once a company had worked with TSA for a period of time, a waiver could be issued for multiple aircraft and crewmembers over an extended period of time. Sholas was uncertain whether there would still be a requirement for client letters / proof of contract with this new waiver.
5. Sholas stated the waiver office issues 12,000 waivers per year using eight people with four additional positions unfunded. Crouse suggested we could help press for funding, but Sholas preferred to wait until after the next reorganization.
6. Sholas stated the waiver process would be going online within a month and thought this would help to expedite the process.
7. Various committee members relayed problems they encountered with the waiver process and reiterated suggestions made previously for improvement to Sholas.
8. Crouse explained the cyclical nature of aerial survey and requested additional resources be applied in the waiver office during the months of March & April. Sholas said to call him a couple of weeks prior and he would accommodate the request.