



**Collaborative Adaptive Sensing of the Atmosphere (CASA WX) Executive Council Meeting
Agenda
Webex**

August 18, 2021 9:30 AM - 11:00 AM

Call to Order and Opening remarks (9:33 AM) Amanda Everly, CASA WX Co-Chair

- Amanda Everly called the meeting to order, Quorum was met.

Item 1: Approve November 2020 Minutes  (9:34 AM) CASA WX Members

- Mistie Gardner motion to approve, Chase Wheeler second. Motion carried 9:35 AM

Item 2: CASA Update (9:36 AM) Amanda Everly, CASA WX Co-Chair

- The Southern Regional Headquarters have requested CASA to move the DROC servers out of their offices. Fort Worth is working with their leadership, executives, and IT Department to bring them to the city. This should occur by the end of September, and Eric Lyons strives to have no down time. Chase Wheeler offered to house servers in Grand Prairie if the Fort Worth is unable to accommodate.
- Open house discussion – Over 120 people attended the spring open houses. Both members and non-members, and CASA would like to pick up in the fall when storms start happening. The fall discussions could incorporate groups like hydrology or flooding, as well as EM.

Item 3: CASA Radar Network Update (9:42 AM) Brenda Philips, CASA

- We are working with DFW Airport to monitor storm water run-off. TCEQ has approved the use of CASA data in this project, which allows more complete data vs. using rain gauges.
- NOAA grant awarded for surveying the Public after weather events (\$400K)
 - NWS Dallas/Fort Worth participating
 - These will be quick surveys sent to the public soon after an event in 9 different cities
 - The results of each survey will be available to EMs soon after the event
- Flash flood in Waxahachie, 4/28/2021 hail event
- Hail alerts that are false alarms. This issue is being addressed and cross-checking other data before and alert is disseminated. Larger research topic on how we aggregate alerts.
- Network update – Uptime through 1/1 - 6/30 – site issues, arctic outbreak, COVID travel
- Event based uptime May and June 100%
- Fort Worth, Midlothian – operational; Addison – operation at Eric's discretion; Mesquite, not operational, tower move delayed to October, Denton – operational; Johnson County – waiting for date, Arlington – pedestal replacement needed (about \$120K repair)
- Chase Wheeler – current status concern for organizations paying for radar, hard to convey credibility for network to be available, struggling with amount cities are paying and downtime.
- Amanda – majority of the downtime can be fixed with computer reset locally. Denton had contractors unplugging the radar, this issue has been discussed with them several times.
- Eric Lyons, Mesquite went down as of last weekend for the move. Addison there are some risks with operations expense to operate. For bad weather the radar is on. If there is no weather expected radar is not on.

Item 4: CASA 5 Year Planning (10:01 AM)

Brenda Philips, CASA

- CASA in its 2nd 5 year contract, we are in the 3rd year. Need to see what the next 5 years will look like.
- Current member priorities: products, customizations, radar locations.
- Continued reduction in membership fees for public safety members
- Replacement of existing radars
- New Model for servicing radars
- Expanding to application beyond public safety via new grants and researcher associations
- Expansion of Leadership Team: Academic, application based (aviation) provide more support for network) – DFW Airport joining as leaders of program.
- Engaging with UTA, UNT, SMU; have not talked to UTD – Benefits will be using radar data as a basis for grant applications in various areas - membership fee; provide links to local industry support
- Having local engineers who can work on the radar so Eric does not have to fly here all the time
- UAS/AAM transportation infrastructure using CASA WX radars
- Apoorva – started working with Bell, initial project with NASA;
- Stakeholders: NCTCOG Transportation (Ernest Huffman leading), NASA, NASA North Texas Research Station, UNT, UTA, SMU, Bell, Public safety drone response teams, local start-ups
- Goal to develop infrastructure to support UAS. Arlington entertainment district example
- Do we need to create a committee for future planning?
- Molly McFadden – Opportunity open Build Back Better. \$3 billion grant. Apply for planning funds, expand and support CASA of non-public safety partners, expand the radar network coverage high priority. Brenda and Apoorva will look over the Notice of funding opportunity and put together a packet of supporting work and logs.

Next Steps/Priorities (10:18 AM)

CASA WX Members

- Announcement DJ Seo is retiring, replacement will be Dr. Zhang.
- Chase Wheeler – how to add or rotate chair positions for leadership opportunities

Adjournment (10:22 AM)

DJ Seo Motion to adjourn, Amanda second. Motion carried. (10:23 AM)

Resources: CASA WX Website: www.nctcog.org/CASAWX

**Next CASA WX Executive Council
Meeting: November 10, 2021
9:30 AM - 11:30 AM**