The goals of the UAS committee are laid out in the original position statement. [http://c.ymcdn.com/sites/www.nsps.us.com/resource/resmgr/UAS/5.2.4.13_NSPS_UAV_Statement.pdf](http://c.ymcdn.com/sites/www.nsps.us.com/resource/resmgr/UAS/5.2.4.13_NSPS_UAV_Statement.pdf) The following action items are being actively pursued:

1. NSPS should have a role in getting surveyors involved in UAV/UAS technology and provide surveyors the knowledge to assist in accurate mapping.
2. NSPS should define the surveyor’s role in UAS policy to affect initial FAA policy as legislation related to UAS comes up.
3. NSPS should assert a role in ensuring that all mapping products from UAV meet the standards of conventional sources.
4. NSPS should establish programs to educate clients/end-users of the required skills and certifications to produce accurate maps.
5. NSPS should affirm what a surveyor’s role should or could be on a project where UAS mapping is a component.
6. NSPS should actively Liaison with ASPRS and UAS associations.
7. NSPS should take the lead in developing and implementing UAS curricula for new and existing education programs and certifications.
8. NSPS should establish a data bank, via the website to provide the most current laws, regulations and changes from the FAA and related agencies.
9. NSPS should foster safe use of airways by responsibly using UAS vehicles without violating or infringing on the safety and privacy rights of others.

**SUBCOMMITTEES**

UAS Legislative Sub-Committee
Chair- Craig Amey
In 2017, the US House and Senate introduced bills for FAA Reauthorization through 2022. The bills (S.1405 and H.R. 2997) are still in committee, even though the current FAA Reauthorization expired months ago. Congress did approve a six month extension, expiring on March 30, 2018. This will give Congress more time to resolve issues such as privatization of air traffic control responsibilities and pilot training requirements.

State legislation is active throughout the US. AUVSI’s 2017 State Legislative Map lists 224 bills active in state legislatures. [http://cqrcengage.com/auvsi/statelegmap](http://cqrcengage.com/auvsi/statelegmap) NSPS members should be encouraged to access this site and see how legislative bills in their state could affect surveying services.

At least two states (Illinois and Michigan) have undergone UAS studies to advise their state on UAS legislation and suggested government action. In Michigan, PA 436 of 2016 created a 27 member task force, including a member of the state-wide surveying association. The task force was directed to submit a report within 90 days of their first meeting. The report, submitted on November 20, 2017, contained the following recommendations listed below. For the full report, please see the indicate link.

Michigan Unmanned Aerial Systems Task Force (UASTF) has made the following recommendations:

- Establish an Unmanned Aerial System Joint Program Office (UASJPO) to coordinate public agency efforts and provide a unified voice for Michigan’s citizens seeking UAS information.
- Recognize the Michigan Unmanned Aerial Systems Consortium (MIUASC) or other appropriate entity as the primary association for private entities and universities to collaborate and interface with the UASJPO.
- Reaffirm the Michigan Aeronautics Commission as the state body responsible for all aeronautical activity in the state with authority to develop rules, regulations, policies, and procedures for the use and integration of UAS in Michigan.
- Develop an education and outreach strategy to address coordinated educational outreach efforts for local governments, law enforcement and users.
- Design and distribute recommended guidelines for public agency data sharing and record retention policies for state agency data collected by UAS.
- Recommend the Legislature enact legislation establishing an extension of self-principle. This means actions that are currently allowed or prohibited by persons would apply to persons using an UAS.
- Explore deployment of a UAS traffic management (UTM) system in Michigan to explore feasibility of state airspace protections.
- Enact a state law to prohibit UAS interference with the operation of key and unique facilities. Mackinac Island is a strong example of a unique facility in Michigan.
- Clarify Michigan Compiled Laws (MCL) Section 259.321, which regulates UAS interference with official duties of police officers, firefighters, paramedics, or search and rescue personnel to ensure other appropriate public safety officials are included.
- Develop a submission for the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) UAS Integration Pilot Program.
- Coordinate with other state and federal agencies to address current and future regulatory barriers.
- Identify opportunities to share technological innovations among industry partners.
- Expand the mission of the American Center for Mobility (ACM) to include Unmanned and Autonomous Aerial Vehicles and Systems.

(Source: [http://www.michigan.gov/som/0,4669,7-192-29907_34764-453034--,00.html](http://www.michigan.gov/som/0,4669,7-192-29907_34764-453034--,00.html))

There were many interesting and informative discussions held at the Michigan UAS Task force meetings. One discussion clarified the FAA’s extent of regulated airspace to be any airspace above the “blades of grass”. FAA Advisory Circular 91-57A defines an “aircraft” as “a device that is used or indented to be used for flight in the air.” Additionally, the NTSB has stated that the extent of FAA regulation begins at the top the “blades of grass”. Therefore, regulation of the airspace, any airspace, is under the authority of the FAA. State and local government cannot legally implement any airspace restrictions. (Source: [https://www.faa.gov/documentLibrary/media/Advisory_Circular/AC_91-57A.pdf](https://www.faa.gov/documentLibrary/media/Advisory_Circular/AC_91-57A.pdf))

If the FAA is the only agency that can implement and enforce airspace regulations, how does this impact the ability of local or state law enforcement agencies to take action against a UAV operating above a homeowner’s property? Simply, local and state police are not authorized to enforce FAA regulations, and therefore can take no action against a UAV considered to be in violation of such regulations. Police officers can, however, take any appropriate action when responding to reports of invasion of privacy, stalking, harassment or other such local laws. So there may be some possible enforcement action.

Perhaps the one definitive statement that can be made at a time when there are many questions yet to be answered, is that there are changes to come with respect to UAS legislation. NSPS members are encouraged to monitor their state and local governments with regards to UAS legislation. NSPS will assist in monitoring and shaping legislation on a national level, as well as the local level when requested by a state affiliate.

Respectfully Submitted:
Craig Amey, PS.

**UAS Liaison Sub-Committee**
**Chair: Brent Birth**

The committee is proposing an MOU with AUVSI. JB Byrd has shared a template for the committee to use. The MOU with AUVSI will be a great opportunity to influence the commercial UAS community by promoting surveying and surveyors as integral to developing the commercial mapping industry on the national level. Details of the MOU will be worked out in the subcommittee and proposed to AUVSI.
Program Development  
**Chair: Brad Guinther**

Brad Guinther reached out to his state government, also to SAM Inc. It will be beneficial to reach larger firms and commercial ventures for their insights and UAS standards and practices as our goal is national guidelines for Standard Operating Procedures. A contact at SAM Inc. expressed an interest in attending our meetings. He will coordinate efforts with commercial ventures such as Aerotas.

UAS Survey Certification Sub-Committee  
**Chair: Jolene Hoffman**

The intent of the initial draft of UAS certifications was to designate that a surveyor knows how to use drones safely and effectively. It is up to that individual to learn the regulations of their own state. Certifications may be state specific in the future, like surveying licenses. Some universities offer similar programs. A further meeting at the conference in Las Vegas will refine the path forward with certification.

**NOTE:** Monthly meeting notes posted on NSPS site [http://www.nsps.us.com/page/UASMonthlyMeet](http://www.nsps.us.com/page/UASMonthlyMeet)  
Conference calls are the 2nd Monday of the month. All are welcome to participate in the conference calls. Please contact Joanne Williamson at joanne.williamson@heco.com or 808-436-6725 for call-in information.