



**STORMWATER MANAGEMENT COMMISSION**

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**Lake County Stormwater Management Commission Small Unmanned Aircraft Systems (sUAS) Policy – APPROVED at SMC Commission Meeting July 6<sup>th</sup>, 2017**

**FAA Part 107 Authorization**

On February 18<sup>th</sup>, 2017, the Lake County Stormwater Management Commission received a Remote Pilot Certificate with an sUAS rating from the FAA. The FAA terminology of sUAS is synonymous with Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAV) and drone. This Pilot Certification, or license, allows for qualified, licensed personnel to operate an sUAS under the 14 CFR Part 107 guidelines for the purposes of business and aerial data collection. County owned sUAS are only to be operated by FAA Remote Certified Pilots. The pilot in command (PIC) shall adhere to the conditions and limitations outlined in this document.

**Conditions and Limitations:**

1. Use of sUAS's owned by Lake County for any purpose other than County business is prohibited.
2. The maximum flying height shall not exceed 400 ft. above ground level.
3. To ensure visual capabilities during inclement weather conditions, the sUAS shall be operated at a minimum of 500 feet below the cloud ceiling or 2,000 feet horizontally from a cloud.
4. sUAS operations shall be conducted during daylight hours. All operations shall be conducted under visual flight rules (VFR).
5. The sUAS shall be operated within visual line of sight (VLOS) of the pilot in command (PIC) at all times. This requires the PIC to be able to use human vision unaided by any device other than corrective lenses.
6. All operations shall also utilize a visual observer (VO). The sUAS shall be operated within the visual line of sight (VLOS) of the PIC and VO at all times. The VO may be used to satisfy the VLOS requirement as long as the PIC always maintains VLOS capability. The VO and PIC shall be able to communicate verbally at all times; electronic messaging or texting is not permitted during flight operations. The PIC shall be designated before the flight and cannot transfer his or her designation for the duration of the flight. The PIC shall ensure that the VO may perform the duties required of the VO.
7. Prior to each flight, the PIC shall conduct a pre-flight inspection and determine the sUAS is in a condition for safe flight. The pre-flight inspection shall account for all potential discrepancies, e.g., inoperable components, items, or equipment. If the inspection reveals a condition that affects the safe operation of the sUAS, the aircraft is prohibited from operating until the necessary maintenance has been performed and the sUAS is found to be in a condition for safe flight.

8. The operator is responsible for maintaining and inspecting the sUAS to ensure that it is in a condition for safe operation.

9. The sUAS may not operate within 5 nautical miles of an airport reference point (ARP) as denoted in the current FAA Airport/Facility Directory (AFD) or for airports not denoted with an ARP, the center of the airport symbol as denoted on the current FAA-published aeronautical chart, unless permission is granted by the airport's Air Traffic Control (ATC) or otherwise permitted by an FAA Certificate of Airspace Authorization issued to the PIC.

10. The PIC shall abort the flight in the event of unpredicted obstacles or emergencies.

11. The PIC is prohibited from beginning a flight unless (considering wind and forecast weather conditions) there is enough available power for the sUAS to conduct the intended operation and to operate after that for at least five minutes or with the reserve power recommended by the manufacturer if greater.

12. The sUAS shall remain clear and give way to all manned aviation operations and activities at all times.

13. The sUAS shall not be operated by the PIC from any moving device or vehicle.

14. Part 107 prohibits a person from flying a sUAS directly over a person who is not under a safe cover, such as a protective structure or a stationary vehicle.

15. All operations shall be conducted over public property; or privately owned property with written authorization from the property owner or an authorized representative. Authorization from property owner or authorized representative shall be obtained for all flight(s) to be conducted.

16. The Remote Pilot Certificate, sUAS registration, and necessary authorizations obtained shall be present at all times during a mission flight and available upon request.