Charles R. “Chip” McDowell serves as Director for the State of West Virginia Aviation Division, a position he has held since March 2014. He has been employed by the state since March 1999.

Chip has been a pilot since 1983 and has flown professionally since 1991.

Chip spent six years in Lexington, KY working as a Flight Instructor and later as a Charter Pilot for a flight school based at Bluegrass Field. Prior to returning home to West Virginia, he was employed as a pilot at an electronics manufacturing company.

Chip was born in Charleston, WV. He graduated from South Charleston High School and received his Bachelor of Science degree from Marshall University. He is dual-rated in both airplanes and helicopters. He is an Airline Transport and Commercial rated pilot, and is a Certificated Flight Instructor-Instrument (CFII). He also holds a type-specific rating for the state King Air 350 aircraft. He has logged more than 6,600 hours as a pilot.

Chip and his wife Sara currently reside in South Charleston, WV. Their daughter, son-in-law and four grandsons live in Missouri.

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The mission of the State of West Virginia Aviation Division is to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of State Government by providing safe and professional aviation support. Reducing travel time and increasing productivity for state executives is a primary goal of the Aviation Division.