

SUMMARY
GOVERNOR'S AVIATION ADVISORY BOARD

Meeting of MAY 2, 2008
Anchorage, Alaska

10:06 Deputy Commissioner Christine Klein called meeting to order

Attendees:

Dan Klaes	Deputy Commissioner Christine Klein
Al Orot	Tom George
Mike Salazar	Jack Barber
Wilbur O'Brien	Lee Ryan
Jim Dodson	Tom Middendorf
Roger Maggard	Rebecca Cronkhite

Deputy Commissioner Christine Klein did roll call and welcomed Al Orot to the Aviation Advisory Board. William Fowler requested to be teleconferenced in but attempts to reach him were unsuccessful.

New board member Al Orot introduced himself. Al was brought to Alaska by way of the military where he moved to King Salmon Alaska, and started working with Pen Air. Al eventually moved onto Pen Air where he has been for the past 19 ½ years. The board members each introduced themselves.

The last board minutes were approved. The agenda was also approved with two additions: Title 17 lease rate increases; and Bypass Mail.

Deputy Commissioner Christine Klein gave an update on the previous Action Items from the previous board meeting.

Some board members wanted to know who is responsible for selecting the new Chair. Deputy Commissioner Christine Klein said that it was up to the board to elect the new Chair as the Governor had delegated that to the board at this time. The board would also like a copy of the latest statute and regulation establishing the board. The Board agreed to make a decision during their lunch break.

Tom Middendorf and Rebecca Cronkhite gave an Aviation System Plan (ASP) update. DOWL is the prime contractor. ASP binders were passed out to each board member, the binders will have information to add to them in the future. Tom gave an overview of what an Aviation System Plan is along with a definition. 1996 is the last time that an ASP has been done. The decision making matrix and tentative issues were discussed. Christine and the board discussed the policy making focus of the board and need for the board to be actively involved and assist in serving as a decision making body. The board was amenable to this new development. Tom asked the board members to pick their top 5 issues that they would like to be addressed in the ASP and to start working on. Within the next 2 weeks Tom has requested that the members send in their top 3 priorities to begin work on.

12:00 Break

12:30 Meeting Resumes

Wilbur O'Brien nominated Lee Ryan to the Chair and Jim Dodson as the Vice Chair. It was a unanimous decision. Lee Ryan was elected as Board Chair, and Jim Dodson elected Vice Chair of the Board.

The Board discussed their past Operating Charter. Some items needed to be updated and changes made, which include the Membership section. The board will figure out updates and discuss them at the next Aviation Advisory Board meeting when they have the updated or latest regulation establishing the board to work from.

Tom George asked Deputy Commissioner Christine Klein to explain or identify any DOT actions that may have been taken on the Board's past resolutions.

- Request for \$12.0 M in Deferred Maintenance for airports. (See below).
- Alaska International Airport System port authority establishment. (A legislative bill was developed by Cowdery but no further action has been taken).
- Backcountry Airports. (Bill was passed by legislature limiting liability of owners of airports).
- Also identified: Bypass Mail Resolution. (A letter was sent from DOT to USPS on this).
- Also identified: Bettles airport paving. (Bettles airport is currently in the EA process).

Tom and the board wanted to know how much money the DOT actually got for the boards' past resolution, support, and request of \$12.M for deferred maintenance at rural airports in the past for example. Tom expressed the need to track the resolutions and the success or lack of success. Roger Maggard gave an update on Rural Airports and that there was \$3 million for rural airports for the year of the request. He and Deputy Commissioner Christine Klein will work on ensuring there is an annual request in the future. Roger also gave an overview of the APEB process.

Lee Ryan read a letter about DOT and Bypass Mail..... The board is concerned that USPS does not coordinate with DOT and is a money making non-government entity. Also brought up was the fact that they do not have to take public comments when they go out to the communities to 'hear concerns'. The board suggested that the deputy commissioner contact USPS regarding the bypass mail and hub issue. This is an important issue as the airlines operate around the bypass mail system. We may need to request congressional support and get re-engaged on this issue.

Deputy Commissioner Christine Klein went over the drafted Position Advocacy Action plan for the Board and gave an example of what the steps/process could be. She asked for comments. Jim Dodson thought the action plan was good. He thinks that when DOWL works with the Board on establishing priority issues of the ASP it will help with this process as well. Jim suggested and the Board agreed they want and need to have a technical paper to assess and understand the economical and social impact of rural aviation on the villages and state. The board requested a study or survey be put together on this and why people go where they go. How often they go? How much do they spend? The board agreed that the ASP needs to address economic impacts of rural aviation on Alaska as a top priority. This will provide solid economic reasons for future decisions and tie the whole system together in order to move ahead on other issues. It will also establish the facts needed for public education, awareness, and, the advocacy plans of the board on a variety of statewide aviation issues for this fall and the legislative session.

Title 17 was an item was added to the end of the Agenda. Jim Dodson commented that Rural Alaskans are moving out of rural villages due to the high costs of fuel and other needs right now. With all other costs going up he believes that raising the lease rates is absolutely the wrong thing to do at this time and right now on top of everything else rural Alaskans are facing. It is particularly bad in knowing that the state has \$64B in reserves and yet DOT is not helping with these issues. Dan Klaes echoed Jim's feelings stating that groceries, fuel and energy have all gone up and this is just not the right time to be raising fees. Jim made a motion that the Board will send a letter to the Governor and Legislature that the airport property lease rate increases be repealed for rural Alaska. The motion was seconded.

The group discussed the Capstone Bill that was passed and the Governor's signing ceremony scheduled for tomorrow's aviation trade show. Several Board members committed to being at the signing to represent the Board.

Next working meeting was tentatively scheduled for May 30th in Fairbanks.

Action Items:

- Board members will identify their top 3 issues for the Aviation System Plan (ASP) and submit them to Christine or Becky within 2 weeks (May 16)
- A letter will be drafted from the Board to the Governor and Commissioner requesting that the rural airport lease rate increases be repealed.
- Board will provide comments to update their charter in alignment with the latest statute/regulations establishing the board once those are provided by DOT to the Board.
- Next working meeting will be in Fairbanks May 30th to discuss and set ASP priority issues.
- ASP group will look into economic impact assessment of aviation on rural Alaska, and update the program decision making matrix on policy making group and work flow for update to the Board.
- Deputy will contact USPS on bypass mail and postal hub designation issue

3:40pm Meeting was Adjourned