

**Aviation Advisory Board Meeting Minutes  
December 11 & 12, 2012 – Fairbanks, Alaska**

**Meeting held at the Fairbanks International Airport – Fairbanks, AK**

**December 11, 2012**

**Meeting called to order by Chairman Lee Ryan at 1:10 p.m.**

**PRESENT:** Lee Ryan, Jim Dodson, Tom George, Steve Strait, Frank Neitz, Mike Stedman, Bob Hajdukovich, Ken Lythgoe, Judy McKenzie

**EXCUSED ABSENCE:** David Karp, Tom Nicolos

**OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:** Steve Hatter (DOT&PF), Penny Adler (DOT&PF), Linda Bustamante (DOT&PF), Jessica Della Croce (DOT&PF), Megan Byrd (DOT&PF), Judy Chapman (DOT&PF), Mike Coffey (DOT&PF), Todd Hanley (DOT&PF), Verne Skagerberg (DOT&PF), Bill O’Halloran (DOT&PF), Jesse VanderZanden (DOT&PF), Alex Moss (DOT&PF), Jeremy Worrall (DOT&PF), Clark Milne (DOT&PF), Nick Mastrodicasa (DOT&PF), Jeff Roach (DOT&PF), Robert Ragar (Evert’s Air Cargo), Adam White , Jonathan King (Northern Economics), Connie McKenzie (DOT&PF)

**JOINING BY PHONE:** Jane Dale (Alaska Airports Association), Roger Maggard (DOT&PF), Jim Lomen (FAA), Robert Van Haastert (FAA)

**MINUTES: Motion:** Motion to approve minutes as stand - passed unanimously.

**Chairman Ryan** – Welcomed all to the meeting; reviewed board’s agenda; and briefed the board on recent aviation news around Alaska.

Steve Strait requested to amend the agenda to add a motion for resolution regarding erosion control at the Anchorage International Airport. Amendment was approved.

**AGENDA:**

**Statewide Aviation Issues:** Deputy Commissioner Hatter introduced Alex Moss, newly hired transportation planner for the Alaska International Airport System, and updated the board on the following key topics with ensuing questions and comments noted:

- Akutan Airport– the project finished on schedule and under budget. DOT&PF/Stakeholder working group continue to meet regularly to discuss operations. Grant is operating scheduled daily flights.
- Vertical Obstructions – Wind turbines and cell towers are being built around the state. DOT&PF is looking for a way to track the existing structures as well as those being constructed. Currently Jessica Della Croce is working to get the “notes” section of the 5010 reports (where obstructions around airports are

currently being notated) added to the AASP website. But this process will often have outdated information, as the inspections are done every 3 years on most airports.

Robert Van Haastert, Supervisor of Obstruction Evaluation for the FAA, participated in the meeting via teleconference. He told the board that FAA considers the many “imaginary surfaces” at each airport for penetration by the vertical obstruction before it issues a letter of determination. The letter is not a permit, only a recommendation. The FCC regulates all towers with transmitters. Form 7460 (notice of proposed construction or alteration) are available online, along with a set of questions to let businesses know if the form is required.

When a structure is built within one of the surfaces of the airport, the FAA's recourse is to change the approach to the airport, though for FCC regulated towers, the FCC can require they be removed.

Deputy Commissioner Hatter applauded the Mat-Su Borough for their recent statues on vertical obstructions. He also suggested that the board may consider a resolution of its own regarding vertical obstructions. The board requested a white paper on vertical obstructions to be better educated on the subject before drafting their resolution.

- Alaska International Airports System –
  - Strategic Plan - Deputy Commissioner Hatter was happy to report that the AIAS is 90% completed on their 10 priority items. At the recent one year meeting, staff took inventory and assigned a new list of projects.
  - HR Study – DOA announced a Statewide Classification review. In the meantime, they are working with the System in a top down plan.
  - Operating agreement –the new 10 year operating agreement should be in place by July 2013.

**Fairbanks International Airport:** Jesse VanderZanden gave an update on FAI, and an overview of upcoming capital improvement projects.

**Statewide Digital Mapping Initiative:** Nick Mastrodicasa briefed the board on SDMI. Alaska is the worst mapped state in the union, and the current charts are grossly inaccurate. Accurate digital maps will provide better simulator training and safer conditions for pilots statewide.

**Transportation Security Administration:** Melissa Osborn brought the board up to date on some recent TSA issues at FAI. Ideally the state would like to work towards a risk based system with TSA. Deputy Commissioner Hatter has been fostering a relationship with the regional contact – Jesse Sanchez.

**Erosion Control ANC:** Steve Strait requested the board adopt a resolution concerning the erosion of land around the Anchorage International Airport. Jim Dodson moved to accept the resolution, Judy McKenzie seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

**December 12, 2012**

**Airport Project Evaluation Board:** Roger Maggard gave a presentation via teleconference on the APEB process. DOT&PF owns/operates 253 airports statewide, not including the AIAS. 82% of Alaskan communities are not connected to the road system, and rely heavily and sometimes solely on aviation. Due to limited funding for airport improvement projects, the state has developed the APEB process to determine which airport projects should take priority in the upcoming funding years.

The projects are judged on several factors, Airfield Improvement Projects – with 16 weighted criteria, and Buildings Evaluation – with 8 weighted criteria.

**FAA :** Prioritization of Airport Improvement Program, and Development of the Airports Capital Improvement Plan - Jim Lomen (FAA) participated via teleconference to review with the Board the FAA's AIP and ACIP programs. He noted that FAA is seeing an increase in communities offering a higher match amount for their projects in order to get their funding priority level increased. Alaska has not made any of these offers, add to this the widespread idea that Alaska has an abundance of riches, and as a result FAA is starting to look at Alaska as not willing to contribute to preserving and improving their airports. He strongly encouraged the Board and DOT&PF staff to keep this in mind as federal funding is drying up. Communities that are willing to invest in their infrastructure will likely be seeing more projects being funded.

Steve Strait recommended a working group on Title 17 regulations. Tom George agreed and suggested the group look for ways to educate the public, even though the rates are increasing; this is a good thing for the aviation community. The higher rates will help the airports succeed. Chairman Ryan requested a white paper on the subject, and Title 17 will be added to the Juneau agenda.

**Bypass Mail Study:**

Jonathan King from Northern Economics gave a presentation on the Bypass Mail Study. A two page summary of the study has been created for legislative meetings.

**Alaska Aviation System Plan Status Update:**

Jessica Della Croce updated the board on the Aviation System Plan. She requested that the Board spread the word we are still needing photos and videos of harsh weather conditions at Alaska airports for the second video.

**Final Comments:**

Judy McKenzie – thanked everyone for a good meeting, great reports and is eager to see the white paper on Title 17.

Frank Neitz gave thanks to everyone. The community of Bethel appreciates the upcoming 24/7 service. He was sad to report that the YK delta has been seeing a lot of crashes in the past weeks, luckily no serious injuries.

Steve Strait thanked staff members for hard work. He also appreciated the updates on TSA, and thanked the board for approving his request for a resolution.

Mike Stedman said it was a good meeting, he was looking forward to the upcoming Bypass mail study. He asked for updates on Bethel, Nome, and Sitka airports

BET – saw gravel/asphalt mix issues. A surface was applied before winter, and the effectiveness of the surface will be tested this spring. For now it is operations as usual.

OME – Hump in runway was fixed, there is another project coming up in 2014 for improvements. The runway is open.

SIT – is scheduled for a facelift. Alaska Airlines is concerned half the runway will be inoperable during this time, but the state will do its best to have a minimal impact to carriers.

Stedman also said that the meeting in Unalaska was good and he is hoping for reliable air service to Akun. He welcomed Connie and Alex to the DOT&PF team.

Tom George felt gratified that the system plan is making great progress. He gave some constructive comments on the newly created special events template. George is looking forward to the white paper on vertical obstructions, and he wanted the board to bring the message to legislators that the state needs a general funds program to compliment the federal funding.

Steve Hatter gave thanks to the board members for their passion, wisdom and perspective. He also thanks Chairman Ryan for his leadership.

Lee Ryan thanked DOT&PF. He said the Juneau meeting is coming up soon, and the board needs a clear message to bring, along with deliverables. There are a lot of new legislators and staffers, which gives the board a great opportunity to make a positive impact. Chairman Ryan suggested a meeting planning task force, and making the schedule early.

Dates and location of the next board meeting –Juneau, January 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>, 2013.

**Meeting Recessed at 2:20 p.m.**