

**Aviation Advisory Board Meeting Minutes
May 8, 2017 (teleconference)**

Meeting called to order by Chairman Lee Ryan at 1:04 p.m.

PARTICIPANTS:

Board Members: Jim Dodson, Tom George, Lee Ryan, Steve Strait, Frank Neitz, Dennis Parrish, Marilyn Romano, Gideon Garcia, Bob Hajdukovich, Earl Samuelson

DOT&PF: John Binder, Marc Luiken, Linda Bustamante

OTHERS: Jason with Security Aviation

AGENDA and MINUTES – Steve moved to accept agenda, Dennis seconded. Steve moved to accept minutes, Gideon seconded. Motions passed unanimously.

Commissioner Luiken Remarks:

Commissioner advised that the motor fuel tax is still in play in legislative budget discussions. He feels it is incumbent upon the Board to have a conversation about revenue options in order to help pay for the costs to operate the aviation system. Jim asked about the foreign fuel tax exemption and if that discussion in Juneau is causing air cargo carriers to reevaluate using ANC as a tech stop? The Commissioner encouraged the Board to let legislators know their concerns and potential impacts to business at the ANC airport should that exemption be eliminated. DC Binder was asked to send the Board information on fees at ANC and how they compare to competitive airports. Chairman Lee asked board members to copy him with all correspondence sent to legislators.

Deputy Commissioner Binder Update:

DC Binder talked about the FY18 DOT&PF operating budget – as of today it is mostly seeing cuts to the Alaska Marine Highway System. If the motor fuel tax bill is passed the department could see \$72M of unrestricted general funds (UGF) replaced in the budget by fuel tax revenue.

The President's proposed budget eliminates the federally funded Essential Air Service Program. This program sends \$21M to Alaska where there are 60 EAS sites. Alaska's congressional delegation is working with other states to keep this program funded.

The Department's after hours service agreements for staffed airports should go into effect May 28th. Forms and fees were requested to be posted on the DOT&PF website. Rural airports rates and fees will be increased effective July 1st.

The department's Capital Improvement and Maintenance Program (CIMP) looks at service levels and measuring performance targets at rural airports. An Airport Needs Directory is updated through data pulled from the AASP website and is available through the internal link on the website. Board requested access to the directory. The board also suggested that air carrier pilots might be able to perform the CIMP inspections. This idea will be discussed more with the program manager.

Board Discussion

Opioid Committee Report - Steve and Gideon met with Lindsey Holmes on April 11th to discuss communications between DOT and DPS - looking to improve overall security through better info sharing and understanding of the department's abilities and limits. Steve also met with Michael Duxbury, Statewide Drug Enforcement Unit on April 14th. The AST goal is to build relationships with individual air carriers. Copy of AAB Drug Committee notes attached. Earl asked if the board could bring air carriers, Trooper Duxbury, and Senator Murkowski together for the next discussion. Bob Hajdukovich and Steve Strait will work on this request.

Drone UAS Task Force - Steve reported there is a new bill from Senator Shelley Hughes relating to the task force on unmanned aircraft systems (see attached) Steve will remain on the committee. DOT&PF is now using drones and Northern Region recently issued an RFP for professional services utilizing UAV's. It was recommended by the board that educational PSA's be issued about drone operations. Steve Strait and his media company offered to assist with this.

There was discussion about HB 242 - an act establishing landing fees for the Deadhorse Airport and establishing an oil and gas company contribution toll for use of the Dalton Highway by certain vehicles. DOT&PF submitted fiscal notes that the board would like copies of. DC Binder also advised the board that a toll on the Dalton Hwy is not likely because the highway is part of the national highway system and federal regulations have strict guidelines on toll roads.

Next meeting – the board would like to hold a summer meeting in Dillingham to focus on revenue generation for the aviation system. Jim requested revenue generation information from previous meetings be sent to the board. It was also requested that at the next meeting this information be presented using DC Hatter "Quad Charts". Tentative meeting dates are July 19-21. This meeting will also provide the board an overview of recent and upcoming projects in Dillingham such as Airport Improvements and the Aleknagik Wood River Bridge.

Meeting adjourned at 2:22 p.m.