

**Aviation Advisory Board Meeting Minutes
February 19th and 20th 2013 – Juneau, Alaska**

February 19, 2013

Meeting held at the Goldbelt Hotel - Juneau, AK

Meeting called to order by James Dodson 8:50 a.m.

PRESENT: Lee Ryan, Jim Dodson, Tom George, Steve Strait, Frank Neitz, Mike Stedman, Tom Nicolos, Bob Hajdukovich, Ken Lythgoe, David Karp

EXCUSED ABSENCE: Judy McKenzie

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE: Pat Kemp (DOT&PF), Steve Hatter (DOT&PF), Jeff Jones (Governor's office), Lyn Campbell (DOT&PF), Linda Bustamante (DOT&PF), Jessica Della Croce (DOT&PF), Megan Byrd (DOT&PF), Judy Chapman (DOT&PF), Mike Coffey (DOT&PF), Verne Skagerberg (DOT&PF), Alex Moss (DOT&PF), Nick Mastrodicasa (DOT&PF), Jeff Roach (DOT&PF), Connie McKenzie (DOT&PF), Becky Iles (DOT&PF), Paul Khera (DOT&PF), Marty Meyers (AOPA), Mary Siroky (DOT&PF), Kim Rice (DOT&PF), Ruben Yost, (DOT&PF)

JOINING BY PHONE: Jane Dale (Alaska Airports Association), Roger Maggard (DOT&PF)

MINUTES: Motion: Motion to approve minutes with one change, Tom Nicolos was not in attendance for the December meeting, motion passed unanimously.

Deputy Commissioner Hatter - Introduced the board to the two new Deputy Commissioners, Kim Rice, and Ruben Yost, and new Commissioner, Patrick Kemp.

Commissioner Kemp – Greeted the board. He told the board of his career with DOT&PF, and spoke of his appreciation for Deputy Commissioner Hatter. Two of his top priorities are building a strong executive level team, and working toward erasing the stigma against DOT&PF.

He discussed current fiscal restraints and some of the ideas DOT&PF has for gaining efficiencies.

He also told the board about the state's funding challenges. Alaska has many resources waiting to be harvested, but access to the resources is very limited. Due to a budget downturn, there is no funding available to create and maintain the infrastructure needed to access those resources.

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 AWOS is in place at the airport but not yet certified. FAA is working on the approach. The City of Akutan is evaluating the hovercraft as a permanent access from the airport to city.
- Special Events – current special events application has been revised. The recent aviation events at Willow Lake have taught DOT&PF many lessons. The information process needs to be streamlined, and a single point of contact needs to be appointed.
- Vertical Obstructions –DOT&PF is still 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.
- Statewide Digital Mapping Initiative (SDMI) – Nick Mastrodicasa continues to work towards accurate maps for Alaska, and good elevation data to increase safety.
- Alaska International Airports System – Operating agreement – By July the new 10 year operating agreement should be in place.

Alaska Legislative Process: Connie McKenzie provided a review of the legislative process with the board and information on how to track legislation.

Motion: was put forth that the board write a letter of support for the Statewide Digital Mapping Initiative (SDMI), after much discussion the motion was passed 8-2 with the board agreeing that everyone can benefit from accurate mapping data.

Budget: Mary Siroky spoke to the board about the Budget process, the many steps through the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to the Legislative process. She walked the board through the OMB website to familiarize them with the data available to the public. She asked the board to remember that OMB is balancing the greater needs of the state as a whole, so even though some do not agree with the budget, there are more factors involved than what one department needs. DOT&PF is under a lot of scrutiny due to its large budget.

Alaska Aviation System Plan Status Update:

Jessica Della Croce updated the board on the System Plan. The second video is wrapping up. There was a last minute cancelation for the narrator, and DOT&PF is currently looking for someone else to narrate. The final draft of the script is out for comment.

Title 17: Becky Iles spoke to the board about Title 17, which regulates lease rates at State owned airports. Currently DOT&PF is working to correct Title 17 issues at 13 airports.

M&O Update:

Mike Coffey briefed the board on Maintenance and Operation news around the state.

- The Federal Highways Administration Map 21 mandate and the Transportation Asset Management (TAM) requirements within. Alaska DOT&PF has opted to include aviation assets in the TAM process to help increase efficiencies.
- Copies of the Rural Airport Maintenance Manual and a sample of the wall poster that will be displayed in all maintenance shops across the state were shared with the Board.
- How to Videos on Airport Maintenance are in the works. The videos show airport managers the importance of proper maintenance on equipment.
- Safety shelters for M&O crews working at remote locations have been purchased and are being placed at airports around the state.

Board Member Comments:

Tom George: Northway Airport was destroyed in an earthquake, a new runway was put in, but in the interim the airport lost its traffic. The fuel vendor went out of business. The state should consider ways to encourage vendors to return to Northway.

Tom Nicolos: North Slope is facing an interesting couple of years. Oil companies are moving in.

Jim Dodson: Voiced support for the Commissioner and the Governor, and felt like it was not appropriate to push the budget issues when visiting the legislators.

Frank Neitz: Agreed with Jim, unless they have the numbers to back up, it doesn't do any good to bring up budgetary needs.

Dave Karp: Supports the governor. But felt that the budget could use more funding.

Meeting recessed 6:00 pm

February 20, 2013

The board met to review meetings with legislators and had the following comments and requests:

Several legislators voiced concerns about the change in the Department to drop the specific mode the Deputy Commissioners oversee. They especially wanted to keep a Deputy Commissioner of Aviation.

Many heard from legislators that they don't feel they have any say in DOT&PF projects. Tom George offered that a state funded program would let the legislature feel like they were more of a part of the process. Steve Hatter said he would like to see a future transportation fund with a clear and transparent selection process.

Steve Strait said he is disappointed with the apparent rift between the Statewide Digital Mapping Initiative and the Medallion Foundation. Steve Hatter said there seems to be confusion over the SDMI Project and the Aviation Safety Project. But neither have any connection to Medallion, but it seems to be a common misconception that the Aviation Safety Program was marketed as part of the Medallion foundation. The board asked for a more thorough brief later.

Tom Nicolos asked why the number of State operated airports dropped when Akutan Airport was opened this year. Steve Hatter said it was due to transferring ownership of two seaplane bases to local government.

Next Meeting and Adjournment:

The board plans to hold their next meeting in Anchorage. Due to funding, the meeting will be a teleconference with possible GoToMeeting presentations.

The summer meeting will be held in Barrow, Alaska on June 18 & 19.

Meeting was adjourned at 5:45 pm.