

**Aviation Advisory Board Meeting Minutes  
February 1, 2012 – Juneau, Alaska**

**Meeting held at Baranof Hotel, Juneau, AK**

**Meeting called to order by Chairman Lee Ryan at 8:37 a.m.**

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

**EXCUSED ABSENCE:** Dave Karp

**OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:** Marc Luiken (DOT&PF), Steve Hatter (DOT&PF), Byron Huffman (FAA), Mike Coffey (DOT&PF), Becky Iles (DOT&PF), Linda Bustamante (DOT&PF), Lyn Campbell (DOT&PF), Jessica Della Croce (DOT&PF), Paul Kere (DOT&PF), Mary Siroky (DOT&PF), Megan Byrd (DOT&PF), Brenda Hewitt (DOT&PF), (DOT&PF), Jeanie Johnson (Juneau Airport), Pete Carlson

**JOINING BY PHONE:** Jane Dale (Alaska Airmen's Association), Kip Knudson (Governor's DC office)

**MINUTES: Motion:** To accept minutes with no changes. The motion was seconded by Ken Lythgoe, and passed unanimously.

**Chairman Ryan** – Welcomed all to the meeting and reviewed board's agenda.

**Commissioner Luiken** – Thanked the board for their valuable input, time and effort involved in taking on these significant aviation issues. He also thanked Byron Huffman and staff for their partnership with DOT&PF.

**AGENDA:**

**Statewide Aviation Issues:** Deputy Commissioner Hatter updated the board on the following key topics with ensuing questions and comments noted:

- Bypass Mail – Kip Knudson gave his view of the political picture in Washington DC regarding Bypass Mail. He has been contacting legislators and staff members and it seems that most are well educated and waiting for approval from the air carriers on the changes. PAWS (postal air carrier work group) is currently working on amendments. Legislators understand Alaska's needs and the importance of the Bypass Mail system. The State is doing well by collecting information and posturing itself to act in the future.
- Service Based Budgeting – Commissioner Luiken touched on the philosophical victory DOT&PF had with this new approach to managing M&O. He was happy to report that DOT&PF has been using better asset management for filling what had previously been viewed as budget shortfalls. A recent example of which includes shifting resources to areas in need prior to heavy snowfall, rather than purchasing equipment and retaining full time staff for areas that do not require

their use on a regular basis. This way of operating will greatly reduce the projected budget.

- Bypass Mail- Education remains vitally important. The governor's Rural Action Subcabinet is tracking bypass mail as an agenda item and the Board is considering a resolution. Judy McKenzie noted that the Post Office is not asking the State of Alaska to pay for the full cost of the program, only the gap in revenue vs. costs.
- Airport Improvement Program (AIP) – delays in FAA funding due to the expiration of the FAA's reauthorization could potentially cause delays in airport construction projects. Because DOT&PF does not advertise projects until funding is assured, some projects may not have time during the 2012 construction season, and may be pushed back to 2013. There was word of a possible bill to fund FAA for a 4 year term at approximately FY 12 funding. Deputy Commissioner Hatter gave kudos to his staff at Statewide Aviation and the Alaska International Airport System for working hard to get grants processed when FAA returned from their last furlough. Byron Huffman added his thanks to DOT&PF for working hard and sending solid proposals to FAA, making the program more successful.
- NASA/NextGen – DOT&PF signed a Memorandum of Understanding with NASA to collaborate on the NextGen project. Anchorage International Airport has mixed use and congestion which make it a great location for NextGen testing. UAF has received substantial grant funding for NextGen research and has really made Alaska stand out for NASA.
- Alaska International Airports System (AIAS) – AIAS has been meeting every 2 weeks to get the strategic agenda completed in the next year. Cargo revenue is currently down 12% from projection. Making the budget for AIAS into a service based process will allow the state to have more clarity and accuracy in revenue and rates when renegotiating fees with carriers.

### **Alaska Legislative Process:**

Brenda Hewitt briefed the board on House bills currently pertaining to the board. She also gave the board pointers for their meetings with legislators following the Advisory Board meeting.

### **Land Use Compliance Part 3:**

Byron Huffman talked about the FAA's national initiative on compliance policy. Planning for compliance uses the planning process to support compliance and educate stakeholders. Making planning for compliance part of a Master Plan allows for additional education tool where resources are tight. He reminded the Board that sponsors get in trouble when they fail to correct a non-compliance issue, not for having issues. FAA recognizes that fixes are not instant and wants to work with airport sponsors to resolve issues and move forward.

### **Budget Review:**

Mary Siroky gave an overview on the state budget cycle.

### **Southeast Region Airports Update:**

Andy Hughes gave a Southeast Region aviation update. 2012 projects include Sitka runway safety area; Hoonah runway extension; and Ketchikan apron and taxiway rehab. project status update.

### **Maintenance and Operations Update:**

Mike Coffey advised the Board that the department is continuing to revise what they measure by. Judy asked if the state has looked at asset sharing with communities as an option. Mike answered that it is being looked at but it is still a new system and not completed.

M&O is working on manuals for airport managers as well as manuals for the high speed plow truck operations, and looking for suggestions for rejuvenating products for grooved runway treatment that won't affect traction.

The Bethel 24 hour tower has been getting good feedback. And maintenance has been more timely. Bob Hajdukovich said he would like to make sure that the message is carried out to the legislators that the money spent on the Bethel tower operations was well spent.

### **Alaska Aviation System Plan Status Update:**

Jessica Della Croce (DOT&PF) gave a presentation on the Alaska Aviation System Plan. Airport Emergency plans are almost completed. Reference books for bookshelves, and flip books for everyday use were completed and distributed. Jessica passed around a sample of a flip book.

Next steps for the AASP website were discussed to include further web development, pilot and user comments, and enhanced functionality.

A rough cut of the Lifeline video was shown. The board had some suggestions and Jessica said the final version should be available in March.

### **Final Comments:**

Frank Neitz gave a brief update for Bethel area airports.

Jim Dodson commented that the Department of Defense was planning to cut their budget, which would have an effect on all 50 states. Alaska needs to be very concerned about the impact of closures as 16% of the state's economy is Military generated.

Bob Hajdukovich offered up data he had collected in the recent past for use in the system plan study.

Tom George mentioned that Land Use Compliance classes were being offered in Anchorage and encouraged everyone to attend.

Byron Huffman thanked the board for its desire to understand Land Use Compliance.

Steve Hatter thanked the board for all their hard work.

**Meeting Recessed at 5:37 p.m.**

**February 2, 2012**

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

Overall legislators seemed very interested in the Service Based Budgeting concept, and were anxious to hear more, and questioned why it was not funded this year. Many felt left out because they had heard of the new SBB system from outside sources rather from DOT&PF. Information spread quickly through the building. It seemed the first meetings people hadn't heard much about SBB, but as the Board Members went on to the next meetings, calls and discussions had already taken place. SBB was well received all around.

There was also a strong interest in Bypass Mail, Senators Olson and Hoffman spoke of a possible legislative resolution.

**Board Comments:**

1. Tom George – It was a long day with a lot of new information.
2. Bob Hajdukovich – Would like to be better prepared with more specific requests when they meet with legislators in 2013. Overall it was a good AAB meeting with a lot of great information. SBB is a positive message from DOT&PF and is a better way of doing business.
3. Judy McKenzie – The AAB fall meeting talked about going forward with SBB and she felt well educated after this meeting. Would have liked more developed purpose when heading into the legislative meetings.
4. Mike Stedman – Appreciate learning about the budget process. He felt like there was no hard agenda for the legislative meetings, but they were worthwhile in getting the word out on SBB, educating about Bypass Mail and the low lead fuel issue.
5. Tom Nicolos – Felt that the implemented asset management on the department's part would go further in the future when requesting funding.
6. Frank Neitz – Next year he would like to make sure that there are more issues and be better prepared for legislative meetings.
7. Steve Strait – It's important to share success stories in asset management – gives a positive image for DOT&PF.
8. Steve Hatter – Appreciated everyone's comments and candor. DOT&PF is already looking ahead to the 2013 meeting and will have a better plan for the

board members. There is a need to be proactive in order to make things happen. He complimented the board on their outstanding work and being fully engaged.

9. Chairman Lee – noted that this meeting was very similar in feel to the first Aviation Advisory Board legislative meetings. Most groups come to Capitol Hill to ask for something and he felt that there was real value in bringing education to the legislators.

**Next Meeting and Adjournment:**

The board is planning to hold their next meeting in May in Palmer.

**Meeting adjourned at 5:45 p.m.**