

MINUTES
AERONAUTICS COMMISSION
February 22, 2007
Meeting 10:00 a.m. – Division of Aeronautics
West Columbia, South Carolina

Commission Members in Attendance

H. Neel Hipp, Jr., Chairman, At-Large
B. Michael Marlowe, Secretary, District 1
Jim L. Hamilton, Vice-Chairman, District 2
Steven Edwards, District 3
Joseph R. Frasher, A.A.E., District 4

DOA Staff in Attendance

Michael J. O'Donnell, A.A.E., Executive Director
Paul G. Werts, Airport Development Team Leader
Revé M. Richardson, Recording Secretary
Walter I. Johnson, Director of Flight Operations

Commission Members Absent

Jeremy D. Bauer, District 5
William L. McMillan, District 6

Visitors in Attendance

Chris Eversmann, P.E., Wilbur Smith Associates, Inc.
Dan Porter, The Louis Berger Group, Inc.
Steve Walker, W. K. Dickson Co., Inc.

Welcome and Call to Order

Chairman Hipp called the meeting to order and announced a quorum in attendance. He welcomed everyone to the meeting. The invocation was given by *Vice-Chairman Hamilton*. *Chairman Hipp* called on Mr. O'Donnell to introduce our guests.

Approval of Minutes

Chairman Hipp presented the minutes of the November 30, 2006 Commission meeting for approval. *Vice-Chairman Hamilton* made a Motion the minutes be approved as presented, *Commissioner Frasher* seconded, and all approved.

Election of Officers for 2007

Commissioner Frasher made a Motion to keep the officers as they are, *Commissioner Edwards* seconded, and all approved.

Update on State System Plan Advisory Committee

Mr. O'Donnell stated negotiations on the State System Plan contract with consultants, Talbert & Bright, have been completed. Mr. O'Donnell and the Airport Development staff were able to negotiate the contract down from well over \$800,000 to \$585,751. The first meeting of the State System Plan Advisory Committee (the Committee) chaired by *Commissioner McMillan* is scheduled for March 6, 2007 at the DOA offices. The Commission requested minutes of each Committee meeting be e-mailed to the Commissioners following each meeting.

Project for Consideration

Florence Regional Airport

Mr. Werts presented a capital improvement project for Florence Regional Airport to refurbish an existing community aircraft storage hangar. The total project amount is \$385,200 with the state portion being \$192,600. This project was originally presented to the Commission at the November 30, 2006 meeting. Mr. Werts stated he does not recommend approval of this project or funding for hangars, in general with the limited financial resources available to DOA of \$3.2 million. The current DOA policy presently in

effect, does not allow for the refurbishing of existing hangars or for construction of new hangars; and therefore, would need to be modified before this project could be approved by the Commission.

Commissioner Frasher made a Motion to amend the DOA policy to allow up to 50 percent participation in a major refurbishment to an existing hangar, contingent on the airport ensuring that reasonable and fair rents are collected by the airport on the hangar space and that the rents are reinvested in the airport, *Vice-Chairman Hamilton* seconded, and after discussion, all approved.

Commissioner Frasher made a Motion to approve the major refurbishment of the existing community aircraft hangar at the Florence Regional Airport at a 50/50 percent participation contingent on the airport ensuring that rents collected are fair and equitable; and they are reinvested in the airport, *Commissioner Edwards* seconded, and all approved.

Financial Update

The financial reports were accepted as presented except for a wording change to Line #5 of the Business Plan - from "Hire Aeronautical Engineer" to "Hire Engineer for Aeronautics." Mr. O'Donnell gave an update on the various provisos. The first proviso concerned the language DOA wanted amended concerning matching federal funds and it has been passed. The request for an engineering position at DOA has been passed but it passed without state funding for the position. However, it can be funded through the State Aviation Fund in July if DOA and the Commission decide to utilize the State Aviation Fund as the funding source.

District Reports


Secretary Marlowe stated that there was an article in the Sun News announcing that the Horry County Department of Airports has received \$2 million from the SC General Assembly for the Myrtle Beach International general aviation terminal in addition to the \$1 million from DOA and \$1 million for the local match. This terminal will be approximately 10,000 square foot and will cost approximately \$4 million. This terminal is not tied in any way to the Myrtle Beach Commercial Terminal under discussion. *Secretary Marlowe* reported that the fencing project at Berkeley County Airport is underway and will be a good addition for that airport.


Vice-Chairman Hamilton stated he attended the South Carolina Aviation Association (SCAA) Conference at Hilton Head in his District. The Conference was very successful with 322 attendees. During the conference, everyone had an opportunity to meet the new Southern Region Administrator for the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) who the *Vice-Chairman* feels will be a very good administrator. Four new aviators were inducted into the SCAA Hall of Fame including Senator Leventis who was very instrumental in having the Commission re-established. The Senator was also named the Aviator of the Year.

During the Conference, a meeting was held with officials from the Hilton Head Airport, the FAA, citizens of Hilton Head, and the Town of Hilton Head to address the rumor that a Mayor of Hilton Head planned to close the airport. Following the meeting, the Mayor agreed not to close the airport; however, the citizens of Hilton Head are adamant about not wanting a lengthening of the runway. *Vice-Chairman Hamilton* suggested looking at a "river approach" such as they have at Washington National and offered to try to get it accepted by the ATC. One of the citizens in attendance who is a retired pilot, drew the approach for the *Vice-Chairman* so he could begin the process for a new published approach.


Commissioner Edwards stated that the ribbon-cutting event for the runway extension at the Anderson County Airport was a great success.

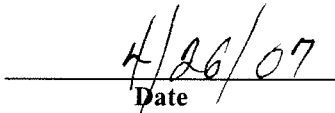
Commissioner Frasher announced that Mr. Cevallos has been named as Interim Executive Director of Donaldson Center upon the unexpected death of Mr. Vardry Ramsuer. Mr. Ramsuer was greatly respected and loved by not only his family and staff of Donaldson Center, but by his peers and everyone throughout the aviation community. There will be a search for a permanent replacement for the executive director position of Donaldson Center.


Signature
B. Michael Marlowe
Commission Secretary


Signature
H. Neel Hipp, Jr.
Commission Chairman


Signature
Revé M. Richardson
Commission Recording Secretary


Signature
Jim L. Hamilton
Commission Vice-Chairman


Date

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