

MINUTES
AERONAUTICS COMMISSION
April 26, 2007
Meeting 10:00 a.m. – Lowcountry Regional Airport
Walterboro, 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
Jeremy D. Bauer, District 5
William L. McMillan, District 6

DOC Staff in Attendance

Mandy Kibler, Director of Administration

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

Visitors in Attendance

The Honorable Charles H. Sweat, Jr., Mayor of Walterboro
Mary Anne Cannady, Walterboro-Colleton County Airport Commission
Chriswell Bickley, Walterboro-Colleton County Airport Commission
Thomas M. Rowe, Airport Manager
Chris Eversmann, P.E., Wilbur Smith Associates, Inc.
Joseph Barkevich, W. K. Dickson & Co., Inc.
Wayne Corley, Consultant

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 *Secretary Marlowe*. *Chairman Hipp* called on Mr. O'Donnell to introduce our guests. Mayor Sweat welcomed everyone to Walterboro and the airport.

Approval of Minutes

Chairman Hipp presented the minutes of the February 22, 2007 Commission meeting for approval. *Commissioner McMillan* made a Motion the minutes be approved as presented, *Secretary Marlowe* seconded, and all approved.

Project for Consideration

Rotating Beacon Project

Mr. O'Donnell presented a project for three new installations and one refurbishment of rotating beacons to be located at Newberry County, Twin City in Loris, Jasper County at Ridgeland, and Marion County airports. The total project amount is \$131,277. *Vice-Chairman Hamilton* made a Motion to approve the project as presented, *Commissioner McMillan* seconded, and all approved.

Financial Update

Ms. Kibler gave an update on the DOC budget. She stated that DOA's flexibility proviso on the State Aviation Fund passed both the House and Senate. In addition, the funding for the three positions at DOA in the amount of \$244,151 has passed the Senate with one position funded from the Aviation fund and three additional positions from state funds. The House version has one engineering position funded from the Aviation Fund. We should know in approximately two weeks if the Senate Bill survives in the final budget.

District Reports

Secretary Marlowe reported that the General Assembly has slightly decreased the \$2 million originally approved for the Myrtle Beach GA terminal but feels they will get it back before the end of session. He also reported that Wright Flight, Inc. is going very well. They have trained seventy-five youth so far this

year with an additional one-hundred and twenty presently in training. The program is currently thriving and they thank the Commission for their support. *Secretary Marlowe* reported on a meeting he had with Representative Walker and a Department of Revenue (DOR) official to discuss tax collection issues with fuel brokers. DOR is looking into how to ensure this group is being taxed and reported properly.

Vice-Chairman Hamilton – no report.

Commissioner Edwards – no report.

Commissioner Frasher stated that Mr. Jody Bryson has been hired as Executive Director of Donaldson Center and he will begin May 1, 2007. He also mentioned that the airline backed FAA proposal discussed in the news article would shift more taxes and user fees to general aviation. After discussion, it was decided that Mr. O'Donnell would draft a response from the Commission refuting these articles and presenting the GA position.

Commissioner Bauer stated that Cherokee County had completed the new airport justification study and submitted same to the FAA. They are awaiting word concerning inclusion in the NPIAS.

Commissioner McMillan stated he had attended the South Carolina Aviation Association Legislative Breakfast on March 29th and the Marion County Legislative Day on April 25th. On both occasions, DOA had good support from legislators on issues and attendance. *Commissioner McMillan* invited everyone to attend the May Fly event at the Florence Regional Airport on May 26 and 27, Saturday and Sunday, respectfully.

Hangar Financial Assistance & Administration Regulation

Mr. O'Donnell presented the *Hangar Financial Assistance & Administration Regulation* for discussion. After discussion, it was agreed to edit bullet number six by changing the percentage from forty to fifty and eliminating the balance of the sentence following the words *replacement value*. The second sentence of the bullet was kept. *Vice-Chairman Hamilton* made a Motion to approve the *Hangar Financial Assistance & Administration Regulation* with corrections, *Commissioner McMillan* seconded, and all approved.

Department Head Briefings

Open Grants Report

The open grants report was presented and Mr. Werts thanked all the Commissioners for their help in closing old projects. The Commission discussed the need to review and/or close terminal grants if they have not been started after a year or more.

Commissioner Frasher made a Motion as to future terminal grants that the grant offer is good for eighteen months and at the end of eighteen months, if the project has not been initiated then it is subject to Commission review as to whether we want to withdraw or extend it, *Vice-Chairman Hamilton* seconded, and all approved.

Airport Development Department

Mr. Werts reported on possible upcoming terminal projects, ongoing projects and the AWOS project.

Executive Director's Report

Mr. O'Donnell reported:

- Earthquake exercise at DOA on May 17th
- Lancaster and Sumter counties plan to adopt four percent tax rates on aircraft soon
- Aviation tax revenues are staying steady
- Title 55 updates completed by DOA staff and sent to *Commissioner Frasher* and Neil Rashley at DOC for review
- Discussed the Cherokee County justification study submittal to the FAA – feels it will come down to the thirty minute drive distance for inclusion in the NPIAS

New Business

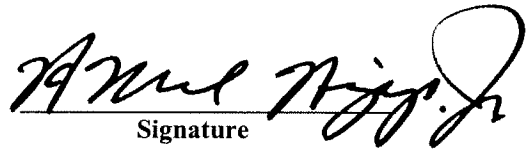
Vice-Chairman Hamilton made a Motion that the Commission should recognize Mr. Robert Sumwalt, Jr. for his many contributions to aviation safety, his inclusion to the five member Transportation Safety Board and his election as Vice-Chairman of same, *Commissioner McMillan* seconded, and all approved. It was agreed that Mr. O'Donnell would draft the resolution.

Adjournment

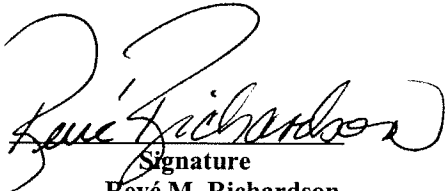
There being no further business, *Vice-Chairman Hamilton* moved the meeting be adjourned, *Commissioner Edwards* seconded, all approved, and the meeting was concluded.



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

6/28/07

Date

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