

MINUTES
AERONAUTICS COMMISSION
May 22, 2008
Meeting 10:00 a.m. – Division of Aeronautics
West Columbia, South Carolina

Commission Members in Attendance

H. Neel Hipp, Jr., Chairman, At-large
William M. McKown, District 1
Raymond E. McKay, Jr., JD, CPA,
District 2 & Secretary
Ira E. Coward II, District 3
Joshua D. Houston, District 4
Jeremy D. Bauer, District 5
William L. McMillan, District 6 & Vice-Chairman

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, Program Manager, Airport Dev.
Revé M. Richardson, Recording Secretary
Mihir P. Shah, Airport Associate Engineer
Delphin A. Gantt, Airport Planner

Visitors in Attendance

Chris Eversmann, Wilbur Smith Associates
Joseph Barkevich, W. K. Dickson & Co., Inc.
Frank Manning, CFO, Columbia Metropolitan Airport
Wayne Corley, Corley Engineering
Gary H. Lott, LPA
Dan Porter, Louis Berger Group

Welcome and Call to Order

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

Approval of Minutes

Chairman Hipp presented the minutes of the March 27, 2008 Commission meeting. *Secretary McKay* made a Motion the minutes be approved as presented, *Commissioner Coward* seconded, and all approved.

Interim Director Appointment

Vice Chairman McMillan made a Motion to add an agenda item for the purpose of consideration of an Interim Director for the Division of Aeronautics in light of Executive Director O'Donnell's resignation as of June 6, 2008, *Commissioner McKown* seconded, and, all approved. *Vice-Chairman McMillan* made a Motion that Paul Werts be named Interim Director for up to 120 days, *Commissioner McKown* seconded, and all approved.

Airport System Plan Recap

Vice-Chairman McMillan gave a brief recap of the South Carolina Airport Advisory System Plan. He mentioned that we do not have full funding at this time for the plan and that we have experienced some information technology complications incorporating the data systems. The completion date now for the System Plan is October 2008.

Projects for Consideration

Georgetown County Airport

Mr. Werts presented an FAA capital improvement project for Georgetown County Airport to extend Runway 5 and the connecting parallel taxiway by 1,000 feet including medium intensity edge lights. The state portion of the project is \$53,725 and the total project amount is \$2,149,000. The DOA staff recommends approval of this project. *Commissioner McKown* made a Motion the project be approved as presented, *Vice-Chairman McMillan* seconded, and after discussion, all approved.

Lee County Airport

Mr. Werts presented an FAA capital improvement project for Lee County Airport for a new apron and stud taxiway. The state portion of the project is \$7,120 and the total project amount is \$284,781. The DOA

staff recommends approval of this project. *Vice-Chairman McMillan* made a Motion to approve the project as presented, *Commissioner Coward* seconded, and after discussion, all approved.

Newberry County Airport

Mr. Werts presented an FAA project for Newberry County Airport for paving and lighting of new Runway 4/22. The state portion of the project is \$52,632 and the total project amount is \$2,105,263. The DOA staff recommends approval of this project. *Commissioner Coward* made a Motion to approve the project as presented, *Vice-Chairman McMillan* seconded, and after discussion, all approved.

Financial Reports

Ms. Kibler reported that DOC will experience an overall 4 percent budget cut this fiscal year. The \$50,000 Civil Air Patrol pass through was eliminated this year; hopefully, it will be reinstated in next year's budget. The \$500,000 for the Aviation Fund stayed in the budget. If the Commission hopes for proviso money next year, she advises we begin working on it within the next four to six weeks. Contact members of Ways and Means (Senators McGill, Leventis, and Leatherman) and Representative Walker and Speaker Harrell. In addition, Ms. Kibler stated she and Mr. O'Donnell would meet with the Governor's office about Title 55.

District Reports

Commissioner McKown commended the Commission on the assistance they have given to District 1 airports. He stated the Georgetown County Airport is looking very good. He commended both Executive Director O'Donnell and Program Manager Werts on how they handled themselves at the Senate Transportation Sub-Committee meeting on Wednesday morning, May 21st concerning the Myrtle Beach Airport Authority hearings. *Commissioner McKown* stated that these discussions are now dead. *Commissioner McKown* announced that Horry County is behind the Myrtle Beach general aviation terminal and the ground breaking is set for June 13.

Secretary McKay inquired about the condition of the alternate runway at Georgetown. Mr. Werts stated that the FAA only supports primary runways and that the DOA has followed the same pattern. However, we should look at secondary runways when capacity needs dictate. *Commissioner Coward* asked if it is possible for the Commission to put secondary runways on the priority list for resurfacing. The answer.....certainly!

Secretary McKay stated that the Hilton Head Airport letter to the Mayor of Hilton Head struck a nerve and created movement in the aviation community and with some members of the Beaufort County Airport Advisory Board.

Commissioner Coward stated that District 3 didn't have any contested issues like Beaufort. He regretted he missed the Pickens County meeting and requested Executive Director O'Donnell to give an update on the meeting(s) with Pickens County. Mr. O'Donnell stated there was a first meeting in Pickens attended by the County Council Chair, the Airport Manager and the press along with others. Several issues were discussed including taxes. This meeting did not go well, which perpetrated the second meeting at DOA between the Pickens County Airport Manager, Mr. Werts and Mr. O'Donnell. The second meeting was to reassure DOA that everything was alright between what was happening at the airport and county council. There is now a new County Council Chair in Pickens County.

Commissioner Houston reported that Greenville Downtown Airport is doing well; SATSair's business has continued to grow in spite of, or because of, the economy. Union County Airport's ramp is cracked and needs resurfacing; Greenville/Spartanburg International Airport is discussing the need for a new terminal (3,800 square feet - \$1.5 M).

Commissioner Bauer reported that District 5 has been fairly quiet. He reported that Dillon County Airport's solutions deadline on choosing what they will do about an ALP or selling/closing the airport is June 15, 2008. There is a very low tax base in Dillon County and it has been approximately forty-two years since a federal project has been awarded or completed at the Dillon County Airport.

Vice-Chairman McMillan thanked Executive Director O'Donnell for his service, leadership and dedication to the Commission and the DOA. His management and guidance have advanced South Carolina aviation and moved DOA forward by: The completion in 2006 of The Economic Impact of Aviation, an expansion of the staff, completion of the State System Plan, and an update of the DOA web site just to name a few of

the accomplishments completed during his tenure. We all wish you the very best at your new position with the FAA.

Department Head Briefings

Open Grants & Flight Operations Reports

The open grants report and the flight operations report were accepted as presented.

Airport Development Section


Mr. Werts reported DOA has received two interns for the summer to assist with implementation of the data for the State System Plan. Darlington County race week was profitable for the Darlington County Airport and has helped resolve some of the issues faced by the airport. The 2008 Aeronautical Charts have been received and are being distributed. Mr. Werts also stated that we are not funding, but are supporting in various ways, the two major projects being undertaken by the Columbia Metropolitan and the Charleston International airports.

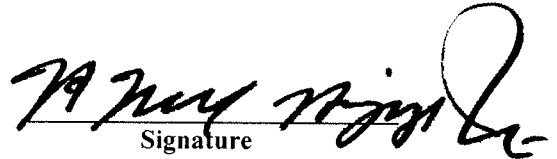
Executive Director's Report

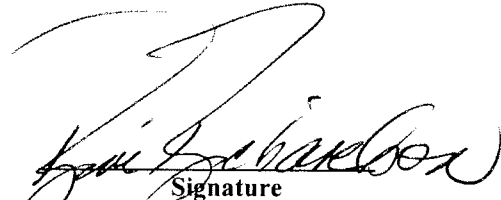
Mr. O'Donnell stated that he has discussed the Hemingway-Stuckey Airport with Senator McGill, and visited Mr. Hanvey at the SATSair headquarters in Greenville. In addition, he received a call from North Carolina about a two state initiative that would be eligible for federal funding and a call about new NEXTGen initiative into South Carolina Air Force bases with the FAA. He will brief Mr. Werts about both of these calls. Marlboro County will hold a final vote on a 4 percent aircraft property tax rate in the next couple of weeks.


Adjournment

There being no further business, *Vice-Chairman McMillan* moved the meeting be adjourned, *Secretary McKay* seconded, all approved, and the meeting was concluded.


Signature
Raymond E. McKay, Jr., JD, CPA
Commission Secretary


Signature
H. Neel Hipp, Jr.
Commission Chairman


Signature
Revé M. Richardson
Commission Recording Secretary


Signature
William L. McMillan
Commission Vice-Chairman


Date

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