

MINUTES
AERONAUTICS COMMISSION
September 25, 2008
Meeting 10:00 a.m. – Division of Aeronautics
West Columbia, South Carolina

Commission Members in Attendance

H. Neel Hipp, Jr., Chairman, At-large
Raymond E. McKay, Jr., JD, CPA,
District 2 & Secretary
Ira E. Coward II, District 3
Joshua D. Houston, District 4

Commission Members Absent

William M. McKown, District 1 &
Vice-Chairman
Jeremy D. Bauer, District 5
District 6-Vacant

DOC Staff in Attendance

Chris Huffman, Chief Financial Officer

DOA Staff in Attendance

Paul G. Werts, Executive Director
Revé M. Richardson, Recording Secretary
Mihir P. Shah, Airport Associate Engineer
Delphin A. Gantt, State Airport Planner

Visitors in Attendance

Chris Eversmann, Wilbur Smith Associates
Joseph Barkevich, W. K. Dickson & Co., Inc.
Ken Holt, LPA Group
Wayne Corley, Corley Engineering
John M. Ferguson, Anderson Regional Airport

Frank Manning, Columbia Metropolitan Airport
and President, SC Aviation Association
Eric Ramsdell, Administrator, Rock Hill/York
County/Bryant Field

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 asked for the invocation. The invocation was given by *Commissioner Coward*. *Chairman Hipp* called on Mr. Werts to introduce the guests.

Approval of Minutes

Chairman Hipp presented the minutes of the July 24 and July 29 Commission meetings for approval. *Commissioner Coward* made a Motion the minutes be approved as presented, *Secretary McKay* seconded and all approved.

Presentation Charlotte Expansion Impact

Mr. Gantt gave a Charlotte Class B Expansion briefing and discussed how it is affecting airports in South Carolina. The airports are Rock Hill/York County, Lancaster County; and in particular, Chester Regional Airport. The airspace issue could close Skydive Carolina; a major economic engine for the Chester community and the airport. The Chairman requested that Mr. Werts present a resolution to the Commission for consideration at the next meeting. If approved, the resolution will be sent to the FAA and the South Carolina delegation requesting their help for a satisfactory solution for the Chester Catawba Regional Airport.

Presentation – Anderson Regional Airport

Mr. Ferguson presented a hangar feasibility study for the Anderson Regional Airport.

Projects for Consideration

Robert F. Swinnie (Andrews) Airport

Mr. Werts presented as information to the Commission an FAA capital improvement project for Robert F. Swinnie (Andrews) Airport to install perimeter fencing, which was issued by DOA on September 15, 2008 utilizing the Commission guidelines for director issuance. The state portion of the project is \$1,140 and the total project amount is \$45,585.

Oconee County Regional Airport

Mr. Werts presented an FAA capital improvement project for Oconee County Regional Airport to extend Runway 7/25 and the associated parallel taxiway-Phase III consisting of engineering design services, construction administration, and resident engineering inspection services, including quality control testing for the line-of-sight modification and for Phase I of the Runway 25 extension. Project includes environmental permitting and mitigation, construction services for line-of-sight modifications and Phase I construction for extending Runway 7/25 and the parallel taxiway. The state portion of the project is \$31,392 and the total project amount is \$1,255,661. The DOA staff recommends approval of this project. *Commissioner Coward* made a Motion the project be approved as presented, *Secretary McKay* seconded, and after discussion, all approved.

Rock Hill/York County/Bryant Field

Mr. Werts presented an FAA capital improvement project for Rock Hill/York County/Bryant Field to construct a corporate hangar and t-hangar taxilanes, including the entrance road serving the corporate hangar area. The state portion of the project is \$24,046 and the total project amount is \$961,847. The DOA staff recommends approval of this project. *Secretary McKay* made a Motion to approve the project as presented, *Commissioner Coward* seconded, and after discussion, all approved.

Pageland Airport

Mr. Werts presented an FAA capital improvement project for Pageland Airport for clearing and grubbing of the Runway 5 approach and grading Runway 5 safety area, land acquisition development plan, install two box precision approach path indicator lights, terminal building upgrades, and for updating the disadvantaged business enterprise plan. The state portion of the project is \$8,215 and the total project amount is \$328,580. The DOA staff recommends approval of this project. *Commissioner Houston* made a Motion to approve the project as presented, *Commission Coward* seconded, and after discussion, all approved.

Georgetown County Airport

Mr. Werts presented a state and local capital improvement project for Georgetown County Airport to construct a hangar apron and taxiway to serve a corporate hangar area including a paved auto parking area. The state portion of the project is \$93,404 and the total project amount is \$155,674. The DOA staff recommends approval of this project. *Commissioner Coward* made a Motion to approve the project as presented, *Commissioner Houston* seconded, and after discussion, all approved.

Financial Reports

Mr. Huffman presented the DOA budget, which DOC has just recently put together through the different funding streams that DOC has available. DOA will be working with a zero based budget of approximately \$1.8 million. There was an approximate \$366,000 deficient in FY07/08 and we have a mechanism to cover this hole from last year. These funds will either come from DOC or DOA sources but this issue will be decided further down the line. There are funds to cover this budget; however, projections are that we will need \$270,000/\$200,000 from somewhere. Looking at FY09/10 state revenue sources when the General Assembly meets, they are not going to be handing out a lot of money to agencies.

District Reports

Secretary McKay reported that there is good news and bad news in Beaufort County. The good news is that there is a move to try to get the assessment rate lowered from 10.5 percent to four percent on aircraft. The Aviation Advisory Board is supporting that but the mood in Beaufort is they are reducing it to six percent because it is six percent on boats. However, it is the first attention we have gotten from County Council concerning airplanes. The bad news is Delta is retiring their ATR Turboprop and so the airport down there is not suitable to them bringing in jets. Therefore, what that will mean for the airport in Hilton Head is that they have shot themselves in the foot. Hopefully, we will have to see if they will reconsider their runway length action.

Commissioner Coward stated that he had attended the meeting with Mr. Ferguson, at Mr. Ferguson's invitation, when he made his presentation on the hangar project to the County Council. He asked Mr. Ferguson to keep the Commission in the loop and that we would do all we can to assist. However, it runs out; it will be a good situation for the state. He attended the South Carolina Breakfast Club meeting at Aiken Airport and said a few words in August. He attended the South Carolina Aviation Safety Council

Wings meeting at the Civil Air Patrol building where they made a presentation on aircraft accidents and lessons learned. They had an FAA representative from Washington there to make the presentation. He has been working with the manager from the Laurens County Airport concerning issues involving obstructions, which could lead to legal action.

Commissioner Houston reported that he had a meeting with the managers of Greenville Downtown and Greenville/Spartanburg and will have a meeting next week with the manager of Donaldson Center. Across the board, business is down on the commercial side. Greenville/Spartanburg's enplanements are down slightly, exact percentages are varying between four and six percent and one month, they were down about eleven percent. Greenville Downtown's traffic is about the same, fuel volumes are down slightly and he thinks that is a trend pretty much around the state. He stated he did see a draft grant proposal from Greenville/Spartanburg for the General Aviation terminal facility that they will be submitting before November 2008. Looks like a nice clean, no frills facility.

Executive Director Briefing

Open Grants & Flight Operations Reports

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

Executive Director's Report

Mr. Werts announced that the Ground Communication Outlets are now operational except for Sumter and Summerville. He announced that he is leaving for the NASAO Annual Conference in Alaska and will return to the office on October 6, 2008. Also, he will participate in the FAA/SCAA Grants Conference on October 22nd at the Clarion Hotel in Columbia.

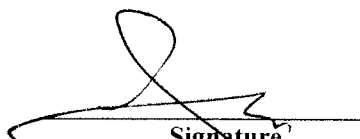
Executive Session

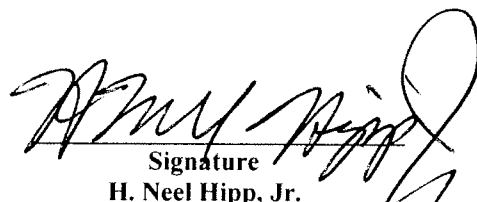
Commissioner Coward made a Motion for the Commission to go into Executive Session to discuss contractual matters, *Commissioner Houston* seconded the Motion, and all approved.


Following the Executive Session, the Commission came back into open session and announced that no action was taken during the Executive Session.


Adjournment

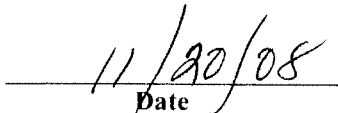
There being no further business, *Commissioner Coward* moved the meeting be adjourned, *Commissioner Houston* seconded, all approved, and the meeting was concluded.


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 M. McKown
Commission Vice-Chairman


Date

AERONAUTICS
SEAL