

MINUTES AERONAUTICS COMMISSION

January 26, 2006

*Meeting 10:00 a.m. at Florence Regional Airport
Florence, South Carolina*

Commission Members in Attendance

Jim L. Hamilton, Vice-Chairman, District 2
B. Michael Marlowe, Secretary, District 1
Steven Edwards, District 3
Joseph R. Frasher, District 4
Jeremy D. Bauer, District 5
William L. McMillan, District 6

Commission Member Not in Attendance

H. Neel Hipp, Jr., Chairman, At-Large

Press in Attendance

Andy Cole, Morning News

Visitors in Attendance

Bailey Hughes, Cherokee County Council
Colonel Coupe DeVille, Wright Flight, Inc.
Bill Pearson, Pearson Engineering
Clay Young, Dillon County Administrator
Hartsell Rogers, Director, Florence
Regional Airport

DOC Staff in Attendance

Mandy Kibler, Director of Administration

Division of Aeronautics Staff in Attendance

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

Visitors in Attendance

Bob Ferrell, Wilbur Smith Associates
Eric McClellan, Wilbur Smith Associates
Scott Sanders, Wilbur Smith Associates
Vic Sarratt, Attorney
Joseph Barkevich, W. K. Dickson
Wayne Corley, W. K. Dickson
Pete Rogers, Marion County
Bill McKown, Surfside Beach City Council &
Horry County Airport Advisory Chairman

Welcome and Call to Order

Vice-Chairman Hamilton called the meeting to order and announced a quorum in attendance. He welcomed everyone to the meeting and requested *Commissioner Bauer* give the invocation. Following the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag, introductions were provided by our hosts, *Commissioner McMillan* and Florence Regional Airport Director Hartsell Rogers.

Presentations were given by Mr. Young, Dillon County Administrator, concerning relocation of the Dillon County Airport, and by Colonel DeVille about Wright Flight, Inc. and funding of \$15,000 annually for their program through an education fund. In addition, Eric McClellan of Wilbur Smith Associates presented the Economic Impact Study that quantifies the economic impacts and other benefits attributable to South Carolina's airports and military airfields on the state. The executive summary of this impact study will be presented at the South Carolina Aviation Association (SCAA) Conference in Myrtle Beach, February 8-10, 2006.

At the conclusion of the Wilbur Smith Associates presentation, how fuel tax is collected by the Department of Revenue (DOR) was discussed. It was pointed out that the form for reporting fuel sales to DOR by suppliers has not been changed by DOR to reflect sales, accurately. *Secretary Marlowe* made a Motion that Executive Director O'Donnell send a letter to DOR on behalf of the Commission, requesting the form be changed to properly reflect fuel sales; *Commissioner Edwards* seconded the Motion and all approved.

Approval of Minutes

Vice-Chairman Hamilton presented the minutes of the November 18, 2005 Aeronautics Commission meeting for approval. *Secretary Marlowe* made a Motion for the minutes to be approved as presented, *Commissioner Edwards* seconded and all approved.

Projects for Consideration

Georgetown County Airport

The DOA staff recommends to the Commission, the Georgetown County Airport project to conduct environmental assessment for extending Runway 5 by 500 feet, improve the terminal access road and auto parking area, relocate the airfield lighting vault, remove and relocate the rotating beacon and expand the aircraft parking apron. The amount of this request is \$42,031. A Motion for approval was given by *Commissioner Frasher* and seconded by *Commissioner McMillan* and all approved the Motion.

Hilton Head Airport/Beaufort County

Hilton Head Airport requests \$129,073 in funding to purchase an aircraft crash rescue fire fighting (ARFF) vehicle, to expand the ARFF facility, acquire an emergency back-up generator for airfield lighting system, for widening and strengthening Runway 4/22 and to strengthen and expand the general aviation apron area. The DOA staff recommends this project. After discussion, *Commissioner McMillan* made a Motion to approve this project, *Commissioner Bauer* seconded and all approved.

Marlboro County Jetport-H. E. Avent Field

Marlboro County Jetport-H. E. Avent Field requests \$1,351 to update the airport layout plan and remark the runway and taxiway pavement markings and the DOA staff recommends the project to the Commission. *Commissioner Frasher* moved that this project be approved, *Secretary Marlowe* seconded and all approved.

St. George Airport/Dorchester County

St. George Airport in Dorchester County requests \$19,850 in funding to rehabilitate the asphalt pavement of Runway 5/23, stub the taxiway and apron area. The DOA staff recommends this project to the Commission. *Commissioner Edwards* made a Motion this project be approved and *Commissioner Frasher* seconded and all approved.

Woodward Field/Kershaw County

Woodward Field in Kershaw County requests \$4,473 in funding for engineering design services for a full parallel taxiway including rehabilitation of the existing partial parallel taxiway supporting Runway 6/24. The DOA staff recommends this project to the Commission. *Secretary Marlowe* made a Motion to approve the project as presented, *Commissioner Frasher* seconded and all approved.

Financial Update

Vice-Chairman Hamilton asked Ms. Kibler to present the financial statements. After a brief discussion, it was agreed that any questions about the financials could be e-mailed directly to Ms. Kibler, and she would respond via e-mail copying all the Commissioners with her response(s).

Ms. Kibler commended the DOA aircraft maintenance personnel for their work on the Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC) King Air C90, which saved MUSC approximately \$10,000. In addition, Ms. Kibler indicated that she felt the education fund for Wright Flight, Inc. would be beneficial to the entire state and she would begin drafting a proviso for the funding immediately.

District Reports

Secretary Marlowe and Commissioners Edwards, Bauer and McMillan deferred their reports on activities in their districts until the February meeting.

Commissioner Frasher reported that Greenville-Spartanburg International has completed its automotive on-ramp and that it looks very good. In addition, there is no news at present on the Cirrus project. There has been a complete turnover of the Board of Directors of the company so everything is moving very slowly.

Open Grants Report

Mr. Werts presented the Open Grants Report stating there are twelve (12) projects ongoing at present with a balance of \$4 million plus. Mr. Werts requested the Commissioners' help with closing out any projects in their districts.

Department Head Briefings

Airport Development

Mr. Werts reported that DOA Airport Development has contracted with Pace Pavement Technologies for airport marking and crack sealing.

Flight Department

Mr. Johnson announced greater flight hours being experience and feels that we will have overall more flying hours for the year than experience in recent years. Mr. Johnson stated that he would like to expand maintenance to include the MUSC C90 on a regular basis but this may require additional staff to achieve reasonable turnaround time for both the MUSC plane and the Department of Natural Resources planes currently handled.

Executive Director's Report

Mr. O'Donnell endorsed the Wright Flight, Inc. educational program and its being funded through the SCAA on an annual basis. He announced he has visited twenty-two (22) airports so far around the state. He held his first meeting with the managers of the six (6) commercial airports and they will be meeting quarterly in the future.

Mr. O'Donnell presented an alternative to the property tax, which would be a registration program for aircraft in the state. *Vice-Chairman Hamilton* suggested he make a presentation of this registration program to the Association of Counties to seek their support and *Commissioner Frasher* suggested he also seek the support of the Municipal Association. Both of these Commissioners felt it would be important to have them approve this approach before seeking further support.

New/Other Business

None was presented.

Adjournment

There being no further business, *Secretary Marlowe* 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

Date

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