

SUMMARY
GOVERNOR'S AVIATION ADVISORY BOARD

March 12, 2008 Meeting
Anchorage, Alaska

10:00am Chair Paul Landis called meeting to order

Attendees:

Dan Klaes	Commissioner Leo von Scheben
Bob Jacobson	Deputy Commissioner Christine Klein
Mike Salazar	Tom George
Paul Landis	Jack Barber
Wilbur O'Brien	Bill Fowler
Lee Ryan	Jim Dodson
Ken Lythgoe	

Deputy Commissioner Christine Klein introduced herself, Alaskan aviation background, and spent time outlining her goals and priorities for Statewide Aviation – Safety, Alaska Aviation System Sustainability, and Customer Service (attached). She is excited to work again with many of the members of the aviation board, glad it has been formalized to advise the administration, and appreciative of having such a great depth and range of expertise and experience with the board to assist her in helping strengthen Statewide Aviation. Christine mentioned she would like to have the board to actively assist and be involved in aviation advocacy efforts and issues in the future if they are amenable to that and she looks forward to their help.

Commissioner Leo von Scheben joined via teleconference and gave the Board an overview of Christine's job duties from her job position description. He added that Aviation Safety and construction to improve airports are his goals. He mentioned any opportunities to promote Aviation in the State would be good for the department and to let him know as the group thinks of such opportunities to educate the public on the positive things going on.

Christine asked each of the Board Members to share what their vision, goals, thoughts, ideas and priorities for the Governor's Aviation Advisory Board (GAAB) are so she has a better understanding of the directions they are headed in setting up future efforts.

Board Members comments (greatly abbreviated and paraphrased):

Bob Jacobson: Would like to see Angoon, Ketchikan, and Juneau in the ASP as some communities and airports have not been included. He'd like to see other non-state airports included and more of a system statewide approach taken.

Lee Ryan: Goals of: improved Safety for Western & Northern Alaska; Utilizing a process that is systematic in risk analysis for runway priorities, funding for South West Alaska; Standardization of runway lengths 3,000 – 3,300 – 3,500 feet; Economic forecasts for rural priorities; How to focus efforts integrating roads and airports to connect communities such as St. Mary's, Nelson Island, Nightmute, Chignik, Stebbins, and Kobuk; and require life cycle analysis, and cost benefit assessments for economic, energy, and safety issues.

Dan Klaes: Work on safety changes for rural Alaska. He noted it would be helpful to know how the board could be better utilized in the future as well.

- Action Item: Identify a plan of how the board help DOT Aviation

Paul Landis: Summarized all of the past work of the board, issues that had been addressed, and work yet to be done. He had questions on the AIAS operating agreement negotiations and requested an update on what they heard were stalled, as well as what the deputy commissioners' role is in this position. Commissioner gave the update on the AIAS negotiations and that Frank Richards would be the state's representative to avoid additional changes in the middle of the process...and his intent to have an open and transparent process wrap up in late April. Paul asked if the board could help or serve in an advisory role or would be happy to as several are concerned about the process. Paul also reminded members that several seats are up for renewal so if people are interested in remaining on the board they should get their information in to the Boards and Commissions Director Frank Bailey in Juneau. All members expressed interest in remaining on the board.

Bill Fowler: Expressed support for Christine in her new role and looked forward to working with her on her agenda. He noted that in following up on the airport operating agreement issues, that he supports Commissioner's position and that the AAAC representatives, the Carrier's, and AIAS— that there are all different goals and objectives within it. He hopes that the process is a negotiation and not just a "show down". Commissioner noted that he hopes to make a reasonable offer.

Ken Lythgoe: Reminded the group that at one time there was a Division of Aviation outside of DOT and he wanted to know who to talk to about it being separate from DOT since there continues to be issues such as: statewide aviation having no authority and all the responsibility; the ANC project of over \$200M with a large over run, not led by ANC per Mort and not his issue; how to provide Advocacy for Aviation System and Structure; and can these issues be addressed in the ASP. Christine noted that she intends the ASP to be the vehicle to assess a number of aviation issues and recommendations on how to improve the system.

- Action Item: Use the ASP to identify shortcomings in Aviation and how best to improve the authority to go along with the responsibility of Statewide Aviation, structure, health...

Wilbur O'Brien: Would like to address Back Country airports and potential staff support for that; Are there any actions going on there for back country airports? He would like to find the past resolutions and know what the DOT has done on or about those resolutions. He also suggested a web page for the Advisory Board.

- Action Item: Identify all past GAAB resolutions, and determine if any DOT actions were taken on implement of those resolutions.
- Action Item: Add the GAAB members to Statewide Aviation Web page.

Jack Barber: Noted that Aviation is an extremely complex specialty with different levels of users, airports, regulations, and certifications... airports are not simply longer wider roads or highways, and that it is very hard to cover all of these areas with one Board or small DOT division; There is a multitude of perceived needs and not enough people, money, resources, and time. He reminded the group that the board needs to focus on policies for the entire Alaska System and that the board must also focus on limited 'most significant' type issues at the 30,000 foot level to be effective.

Tom George: Discussed the ASP and importance of the Health of the Aviation System as goals; priorities of what we need, where, and a more strategic process; . How are we doing with what we have today; need for more Maintenance funding; better DOT Organizational Structures focused on aviation; how to maintain our Airports, State, Private and other; the fact that there is no airport users group; the news that Capstone is working its way through Legislative, while it may not have enough money it is a step forward; how do we get a Staff person dedicated to this in DOT to coordinate and move it further ahead to the 4,019 requirement that FAA has agreed to for the infrastructure in the near time and future; and the need for a DOT person dedicated to this issue and the board is needed.

- Action Item: Staff person dedicated to capstone and equipage implementation program and the Aviation Board support is needed at DOT&PF

Mike Salazar: No additional comments to add beyond those already discussed which he generally agreed with.

Jim Dodson: Agrees with Bob Jacobson and Lee Ryan's ideas. He noted that Safety costs money, and we need a viable Aviation system and industry that hubs the primaries into a better management system structure

All of the members expressed enthusiasm with where the board could head with the new Deputy Commissioner Christine Klein, noted that the board had 100% attendance, and that they all look forward to working with Christine. They asked Commissioner and Deputy to identify how they the board could most effectively and best be utilized to assist the department in moving towards improving Statewide Aviation. The group discussed that the next meeting should be held in early May right before the summer season gets too busy in order to meet and orient any new members that may or may not be added to the board.

Action Items:

- Action Item: Identify all previous Board resolutions that have been passed, and any DOT follow up actions taken to implement those resolutions for the next meeting.
- Action Item: Add the Board members to the Statewide Aviation Web page.
- Action Item: DOT&PF will identify a plan of how the Board can help DOT&PF strengthen Statewide Aviation.
- Action Item: Direct the ASP to identify shortcomings in Statewide Aviation: how to improve authority to go with the responsibility, organization structure, system health, and advocacy
- Action Item: Obtain a staff person dedicated to statewide aviation safety related issues such as capstone/equipage implementation and Aviation Board support at DOT&PF

Meeting was Adjourned at 12:30pm