

**Aviation Advisory Board Meeting Minutes  
April 25, 2014 – Anchorage**

**Meeting held at Central Region DOT&PF Building - Anchorage, AK**

**Meeting called to order by Chairman Lee Ryan at 8:40 a.m.**

**PRESENT:** Lee Ryan, Jim Dodson, Tom George, Steve Strait, Frank Neitz, Dave Karp, Tom Nicolos, Mike Stedman, Bob Hajdukovich

**EXCUSED ABSENCE:** Ken Lythgoe

**OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:** Pat Kemp (DOT&PF), John Binder (DOT&PF), Linda Bustamante (DOT&PF), Megan Byrd (DOT&PF), Bart Rudolph (DOT&PF), Alex Moss (DOT&PF), Merle Akers (GA Pilot – Lake Hood), Jim Seely (Seaplane Pilots Association), Dave Hall (PenAir), Carol Anderson (UAA Student), Mark Mayo (HDR Alaska), Carl Seibe (HDR Alaska), Jamie Sims (Flight Instructor), Steve Colligan (E-Terra, UAS Task Force), Jen Haney (Peak 3), Jay Skaggs (FAA), Ron Stafford (EAA), Howard Martin (FAA), Ken Acton (Consultant)

**MINUTES: Motion:** Steve Strait motioned to accept minutes with no changes, and the motion was passed unanimously.

**AGENDA: Motion:** Steve Strait requested the addition of Merle Akers to the agenda. Motion was passed unanimously. Agenda was approved with that addition.

**Chairman Ryan** – Welcomed all to the meeting and reviewed board’s agenda. Steve Strait motioned to accept the agenda, which passed unanimously.

**Commissioner Kemp** – DOT&PF took on a new policy this session, with three simple rules: no whining, start with yes and work your way to no, and speak in simple terms so everyone can understand. Commissioner Kemp felt the new policy is working well for the Department and is improving relationships.

DOT&PF will once again produce its quarterly newsletter, “In Transit”. He asked the board and staff to submit ideas of articles of interest.

Commissioner Kemp asked the board for suggestions on how to lower costs, without cutting service. He queried staff recently and had gotten a lot of great ideas, but DOT&PF is always looking for more.

He requested the Board’s support of the DNR land transfer bill. The bill would give DOT&PF ownership of the airport properties, land that our facilities are built on, and several materials sites. If the bill were to pass, DOT&PF would not have to get permission from DNR for projects involving these properties, thus streamlining the process and potentially be significant savings to the state. Tom George asked for follow up information at the summer Aviation Advisory Board meeting.

**John Binder:** Welcomed the new Statewide Aviation Division Operations Manager – Judy Chapman.

Budget reductions this year were primarily travel reductions, and categorized as efficiencies. Part 139 Airports also saw reductions with the rise of de-icing chemical prices. But with a mild overall winter it evened out.

AIAS Strategic Plan: AIAS has completed several projects and added 4 new initiatives. The updated initiatives are Strategic Communications, Scenario Planning, Budget, Metrics & Data, AeroNexus, Technology, and Higher Education.

Rural System Strategic Plan: Statewide Aviation has been working on their strategic plan. The current initiatives are Performance Scorecard, Staff Training, Resource Optimization, and External Communications, and Airport Database.

Title 17 is under review. The state is working to update the regulations.

**Lake Hood:** The AIA Master plan is almost completed. Lake Hood is about to begin its Master plan study. DOT&PF is looking for suggestions for improvements, and also looking for comments about what is working well.

General concerns from those present were the lack of slips available; tourists and local residents using the floatplane base as a park, and climbing on aircraft. It was suggested there may be a need for additional fencing and security; water conditions and weed control.

DOT&PF acknowledges the need for additional slips in the Anchorage basin, and has tried in the past to locate an acceptable location for another float plane basin. However viable locations seemed to be scarce, Environmental impacts were significant, and the cost of creating the slips were very high.

**Unmanned Aircraft Systems:** Howard Martin spoke to the board on what to expect for UAS in Alaska over the next years.

### **Public Comment:**

Merle Akers submitted several requests to the board regarding the Lake Hood Floatplane Base. Full copies of these requests were given to Deputy Commissioner Binder and Chairman Ryan.

### **Board Member Comments:**

Jim Dodson offered that the State of Alaska Department of Revenue has projected the state will be in a deficit position by 2022 and as a whole needs to begin looking for new ways to collect additional revenue. Unmanned Aircraft Systems may be a way.

Bob Hajdukovich commented that the new Bypass Mail amendment has more potential for major impacts. DOT&PF and the Board need to remain aware as the situation unfolds.

Mike Steadman thought that Lake Hood was a part of Statewide Aviation, and questioned if it was possible to separate the Lake from Ted Stevens Anchorage International Airport. Others offered that being a part of the Alaska International Airport System both presents problems but offers much better services, including maintenance and Police and Fire.

Tom Nicolos said that he feels like Lake Hood belongs more with Statewide Aviation, but it is a unique situation. He also mentioned that he would like to see the board set goals that they could accomplish together, e.g., lobby to fix the worst airports.

Steve Strait offered that the airport master plan should address some of the Lake Hood issues. He suggested that Legislators be invited on the western tour.

Tom George gave suggestions on how to get youth interested in Aviation.

Frank Neitz said he liked the Board's vision, supports DOT&PF and Governor Parnell. With budget shortfalls, he felt that the Board needs to make more recommendations to the Governor.

Chairman Ryan told the group that there would an aggressive agenda in Nome for the one-day meeting. He asked board members if they would like to extend the meeting, but it was decided to keep it a one-day meeting.

**Public Comments:**

Merle Akers passed out handouts and spoke to the board on the good and bad points of Lake Hood. He asked that the state consider putting in more slips, and to not require leaseholders to maintain a current medical certification.

**Next Meeting** will be held in Nome, Alaska, tentatively set for July 29<sup>th</sup>, 2014.

**Meeting adjourned at 1:40 p.m.**

Board members took a tour of the Lake Hood Seaplane base, guided by Tim Coons, LHD Airport Manager.