

AVIATION COUNCIL OF ALABAMA

MINUTES

1/19/05

Meeting Began 10:26 a.m.

Present:

Ro Lewis	Daniel Boone	Russ Kilgore
Luanne Hayes	Art Morris	Stephanie Blankenship
John Leherter	Ray Miller	Tom Sharp
Frank Farmer	Bill Hutto	Guest: Mike Linginfelter

Ro: Welcome. It's a new year and we have a lot on our plate today. A lot of good things.

Phil is not here so, Stephanie will you give us a rundown of the last minutes?

Stephanie read through the synopsis of the December 8 meeting minutes.

RM: Made a motion to accept as read.

TS: 2<sup>nd</sup>

Ro: All in favor say aye. Aye's have it.

Ro: Thanks to Dr. Eagerton for the information at the last meeting. Welcome to Frank Farmer

Ro gave the President's report. Talked about his meeting with Senator Shelby. Senator Shelby was in the Auburn/Opelika area speaking to a select group of 250 people. They were a good cross section of the community.

Ro introduced Mike Linginfelter with TSA.

ML: The TSA office in Mobile is to handle all of Alabama except Birmingham. As far as General Aviation is concerned we still need to get around to them. I will be available for any questions.

(Passed out business cards.)

Ro: Mike was truly helpful at Tuskegee Airport. A "weird person" rifled all the aircraft on the ramp, helping himself to soft drinks and snacks, all that he could eat. He was able to start some of the aircraft. Knew how to pull the control locks from all aircraft. He then went through the building and into my office. One credit card was stolen from a hangar and used by him. He was then tracked to North Carolina. Described as having blue eyes, approximately 135 pounds, slight build, dark hair. He asked someone for matches and then disappeared. Reportedly he circled back to the airport on foot, stole a bike from a mechanic. His fingerprints were recovered. All this happened last Sunday evening. Reports were made to the Highway Patrol and Dr. Eagerton was briefed. This person also trashed the trailer used for summer encampment.

Senator Shelby visited last week for a 15-minute meeting. The Senator briefed the Lee County Country Club group. He talked about how good a job the ACA was doing in the State. He talked of how General Aviation had been neglected and was very much on point. His talk concerned General Aviation infrastructure and how he had worked hard to get money for the Auburn/Opelika airport. Senator Shelby introduced Ro as President of the Aviation Council and talked about upgrading Black Belt airports.

Ro talked to Dr. Eagerton and Frank Farmer about a systematic plan for the State. ALDOT is spending money where it will do the most good. ACA was not to make that call. Ro was invited to Washington, DC to talk about airports. We have a friend in Senator Shelby.

Ro was at the airport at 6:30 a.m. on a hand held radio to talk in the Challenger aircraft with CEO Bill Swanson of Raytheon on board. Bad weather around but clear at his airport. Mr. Swanson was there to give out scholarships of about \$880K. Mr. Swanson talked to Ro about the large number of engineering graduates last year (8,103) in the world. China produced about 75% of

these graduates with India a close second. The US is way behind and we must get students interested in engineering if we want to keep up. Mr. Swanson was interested in airports in the state and looking for places to expand using a dedicated work force.

Ro went back to his discussion of what occurred in Tuskegee with the riffling of his airport. He, Phil Perry and Dr. Eagerton discussed the seriousness of the situation. Before September 11 it would not have been a big deal as it is today. However, things did need to be kept in perspective so as to identify ordinary theft from terrorism.

#### Financial Report-

TS: We have \$26,725 in the bank. Some membership dues are still outstanding.

RK: Motion to accept report.

LH: Seconded

Ro: All in favor say aye. Aye's have it

#### ALDOT report:

FF: Airports are waiting on word from the FAA on funding. I'm working with airports to get ready to meet deadlines.

TS: What is the total funding for this year?

FF: Don't have the total as yet.

TS: How much is anticipated?

FF: Don't have a figure, but it's a good year.

Ro: Do you anticipate a funding short fall?

FF: A funding shortfall is not indicated, however we are watchful. I think we're in good shape.

RK: I've just returned from a conference in Hawaii. Panels were interesting. They were quite specific regarding budgets from 05-06. You can anticipate an Omnibus Bill.

Ro: Glad you brought it up. During the Presidential interview on TV, the President stated that there would be cutbacks, but some not funded at all.

RK: At the conference, AIP is anticipated to be fully funded.

FF: There have been a few more airports added to the list to be funded.

RK: Current legislation next year needs to insure AIP continues to be funded.

Ro: Excellent idea. Draft something ..... Frank, what was the name of the group briefed?

FF: Transportation Committee of the Black Belt Region.

Ro: The Black Belt Committee has funding out of Washington DC.

Ray Miller showed Ro a letter granting his airport \$1.44M.

FF: Whenever FAA issues a Grant offer the State follows with an offer.

#### OLD BUSINESS:

BH: It's not the year to pursue legislation.

RK: We're in pretty good shape for a match for this year.

BH: We need funding above and beyond. In FL the government will fund 80% of General Aviation. Their jet fuel tax is high (not capped) and the tourist funding helps.

Ro: We need to institute support for the Aviation Bureau in this area.

RK: If I may -- We need to back some type of legislation to create a requirement for anything over a certain height with approval through the council. Orange Beach needs to rewrite their ordinance. Gulf Shores can step in. My airspace is being penetrated by a condo complex close to the instrument runway and is encroaching on the airport. I would like the council to look at proposed legislative act. We need State laws to stop it. Frank will work with us on this.

Ro: Is it possible to have influence over condo's not built?

RK: I doubt it.

Ro: We need to request a copy of legislation through Ft. Worth office. ACA will request Congressmen to produce documents showing a 10 day suspense regarding height of condos.

(mixed discussion)

TS: The FAA has no authority over height restrictions.

(Discussion on various areas FAA can say no on height restrictions. Locals must involve themselves in this.)

Ro: This produces a serious safety situation.

(Discussion of Orange Beach and problem with building reaching 187 feet.)

Do we give support to this issue?

RM: Moved.

JL: 2<sup>nd</sup>

RM: At Lake Tahoe Conference. In California they have no problem with funding. There are two districts. Ad-Valorem, State wide and On-airport funding. Any airport can generate tax revenue. Local county government can't generate such without legislation. (Discussion of pros & cons on this.)

Discussion of the generation of tax revenue being redistributed for airport use. Can't call it tax revenue - it's a Service Fee. Stephanie will you work with Russ on this? Bill do you have anything in the legislative area?

BH: Currently there is no control on the height of towers in the counties. (Discussion)

Ro: Report on this at the next meeting.

BH: The Legislature starts February 1 we need to work quickly.

FF: We need to discuss a minimum standard for tall structures.

#### NEW BUSINESS:

Ro: We will hold the Directors Report.

Any feedback concerning the web page?

AM: No.

Ro: On the Marketing initiative, we will hold it for the next meeting.

Space Camp Initiatives were brought up. Discussion of the new GPS robot in farmers fields locating weeds. The government is funding 40 GPS repeater stations in the State. This covers not only airports, but farmers in the area. GPS is accurate to 3" of the center line. (Discussion of GPS with ILS correction.

ACA and ALDOT need to get with people with the 40 GPS repeater systems. A letter is needed. The FAA needs to field check to make sure it works. We need to step forward and grab the opportunity with both hands if Alabama is to benefit.

AM: We must meet all the FAA requirements.

Ro: If the board authorizes this a team would work with the FAA, the State, and ALDOT as a test bed for the country. (Discussion).

JL: Resolution to Coordinate with the Aeronautics Bureau on this.

AM: Moved.

DB: 2<sup>nd</sup>

Ro: All in favor say aye. The aye's have it.

Ro: The GPS is a no-cost item for us.

On a side note: Kent Kelly could not be here today. He has had back surgery for a pinched nerve. However, he is now up and about.

SB: I will be going to Anaheim on Feb. 4. I was at Enterprise Airport yesterday. 30 airports have renewed dues. I will be calling others that are not yet members. I am currently working on a tentative agenda for our conference in April. The reservation code for the conference is ACA. The exhibit and meeting room will be in the same location so that anyone can visit the exhibits at any time.

Stephanie gave a rundown on proposed topics for the conference and spoke again of the arrangements for meals (Lunch on Thursday & Friday, Reception on Saturday) in order to cut down on costs. There will be no banquet.

Ro: What is the over-all budget?

SB: Undecided as yet. Will discuss at the meeting this afternoon. The theme will be ACA/ALDOT as a joint team.

Ro: Rans Black will be the key speaker on Saturday. We want to make this an easygoing and informative session.

(Discussion of who would be in charge of each session topic.)

Ro: How many rooms have been blocked?

SB: 200-250

Ro: What are the room rates:

SB: \$119 single or double; \$189 suite.

Ro: The exhibitors will be in the same meeting room full time. We need to stress this to them.

Stephanie talked about the nametags, meal/drink tickets. Suggested they try to get companies to sponsor the meals in order to cut down on cost.

RK: Should we charge a registration fee of \$100-\$150?

Ro: I would like to see our bank account grow.

TS: Meal cost should be no more than \$2,500 per meal (overall). Also, vendors should be recognized, say 3 minutes each.

(Discussion of whether or not vendors should be asked to sponsor meals, and breaks.)

Ro: Have Phil Perry suggest strongly that the car rental agencies here join the conference as exhibitors.

We need to send Bill Parker a special invitation.

TS: We should get new members to join the board, rotating members, (new blood).

Ro: Put out a questionnaire at the conference inviting new members to join the board.

**The Next Meeting will be February 16 at 10:30 a.m. in Muscle Shoals.**