

Minutes

Regular Board Meeting

Aviation Council of Alabama

A regular meeting of the Board of Directors was held on July 8, 2003, at the Montgomery Regional Airport. Board members present were Mr. John Lehrter, A.A.E., President; Colonel Roosevelt Lewis, Vice President; Mr. Tom Sharp, Treasurer; Mr. William Hutto, A.A.E., Secretary; Ms. Betty Meyer, Acting Executive Director; Mr. Daniel Boone, Esq.; Mr. Russ Kilgore; Mr. Bill Parker; and Mr. Phil Perry. Others in attendance were Dr. John Eagerton, Aeronautics Bureau; Mr. Frank Farmer, Aeronautics Bureau; Mr. Dexter McClellan, Mayor, City of Greenville; Mr. Dwight Jennings, Huntsville Madison County Airport Authority; Mr. Ray Miller, Talladega Municipal Airport; and Mr. Paul Blackford, Garver Engineers.

President John Lehrter, A.A.E., called the meeting to order at 10:40 a.m.

President Lehrter then declared a quorum.

Minutes

The minutes from the June 3, 2003, regular Board of Directors meeting were considered. Mr. Perry motioned for approval; seconded by Colonel Lewis. All voted aye.

Financial Report

Mr. Tom Sharp presented the financial report (copy attached). Mr. Sharp announced that he will begin supplying a detailed expense report to the Board members. The membership dues will be mailed in August, and they will be due in October. Colonel Lewis motioned for approval; seconded by Mr. Boone. All voted aye.

Old Business

Annual Conference - Ms. Betty Meyer announced that the contract has been signed for with the Perdido Beach Resort for the 2004 Conference, which will be held April 22-24. Mr. Sharp motioned to allow Ms. Meyer to use the credit card to guarantee the required amount of rooms. Mr. Kilgore seconded the motion all voted aye. Ms. Meyer said that volunteers are needed to serve on the conference committee to assist with items such as taking care of vendors and exhibitors. Ms. Robin Jones has volunteered to assist with the registration

process. Mr. Kilgore and Mr. Sharp volunteered to assist; Mr. Kilgore will seek additional volunteers from the Convention and Visitor's Bureau and will work with the golf outing.

New Business

Board of Director's Vacancies – Mr. Tom Sharp nominated Mr. Dwight Jennings to fill one of the Board of Director's vacancies. Seconded by Mr. Kilgore. All voted aye. President Lehrter reminded the Board to continue thinking of qualified candidates to fill the remaining vacancy.

New Members – Ms. Meyer read the list of proposed new members (copy attached). Colonel Lewis motioned for approval; seconded by Mr. Sharp. All voted aye.

Aeronautics Bureau Update – Dr. Eagerton addressed several issues, including some of the items discussed in the Spring 2003 issue of the *Flight Log*:

- He said that the former Director of the Alabama Department of Transportation (ALDOT), Mr. Mack Roberts, made \$12 million available for airports when Aeronautics was moved to ALDOT.
- He said that the latest funds the state had available for grants were spent in November 2001 and that there are not any funds available to match 2002 federal grants. Some money should be available this year, and the Aeronautics Bureau (AB) staff has already made recommendations to the ALDOT Director. Dr. Eagerton said it is their desire to know what state funds are available when the federal grants are issued. He clarified that the rate, not the cap, is adjusted downward if the fuel tax revenues exceed \$650,000 in a given year.
- Mayor McClellan expressed his support for Alabama airports. He said that our policymakers should be educated on the value and importance of airports. He offered to meet with mayors and councilpeople if needed to assist with the education process.
- Dr. Eagerton announced that the Aeronautics Commission met on April 23, 2003, to discuss how it will work with the new administration. He said he believes it should be a strong advisory board to ALDOT similar to the one operating in Tennessee. He said the AB wants to be accountable for investing public monies on Alabama airports.
- Mr. Kilgore asked Dr. Eagerton what he envisions as the direction of the AB. Dr. Eagerton said he feels that positive opportunities exist with the new administration. The new ALDOT Director is interested in airports and has expressed his desire for increased airport funding, whether it is through the proposed HB 122 or some other mechanism.
- Mr. Miller expressed his hope that the ACA and the AB can work together as he strongly believes in the value of airports to their communities.

- Dr. Eagerton said that an internal ALDOT meeting was held on July 7, 2003, to discuss the channeling of federal funds. They feel that the legislative language that setup channeling will allow airports alternate methods of obtaining federal funds without having to use the AB. ALDOT believes that there are administrative procedures that can be accomplished by going through the Administrative Rulemaking Process. He suggested that the Board establish an ad hoc committee to work with ALDOT during the process. He also said that the process of applying for state funds will be moved to later in the year so airports will have a better idea of the federal funds they expect to receive.
- Mr. Sharp asked Dr. Eagerton how they plan to coordinate with the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) since some federal monies may become available on short notice. Dr. Eagerton responded that moving the “call for projects” later in the year should help. Mr. Sharp suggested that the federal grant application serve as the state grant application as well. Mr. Farmer said that the AB is exploring issues along those lines in an effort to streamline the application process.
- Mr. Boone asked Dr. Eagerton what he envisions as the role of the ACA. Dr. Eagerton said he believes that the ACA’s role should be at the “grassroots” level.
- President Lehrter expressed to Dr. Eagerton that the ACA desires to work with the AB for the betterment of Alabama airports.

Membership Committee – Mr. Perry said the committee plans to meet before the next Board meeting.

Ad Hoc Legislative Committee – President Lehrter recommended that Mr. Boone, Mr. Kilgore, and Colonel Lewis serve on the ad hoc committee suggested by Dr. Eagerton. Mr. Perry motioned to establish the committee; seconded by Mr. Parker. All voted aye.

Alabama License Plate – Ms. Meyer said that a minimum order of 250 is needed to print the ACA Alabama license plate. A more decorative design can be done with an order of 1,000 or more license plates. After some discussion, it was decided that Ms. Meyer should put information about the license plate on the website to determine if there is any general interest in purchasing one.

Executive Director’s Report

- Ms. Meyer suggested that the Board consider being an exhibitor at the Birmingham Aero Club Airshow on September 13-14, 2003. Mr. Jennings suggested that the Board also consider purchasing some “giveaways” as well. Colonel Lewis motioned to purchase booth space and invest \$1,000 in “giveaways;” seconded by Mr. Boone. All voted aye.
- Ms. Meyer said that a nominating committee will need to be established soon.

- Ms. Meyer suggested that the Board consider joining the American Association of Airport Executives (AAAE); the cost will be \$275 per year. Mr. Jennings motioned to join AAAE; seconded by Mr. Sharp. All voted aye.
- Ms. Meyer said that she should keep all original documents since she currently has all of the previous records in her office.
- Ms. Meyer asked Colonel Lewis to discuss the proposed letter of support for Tuskegee. Colonel Lewis said the letter will be mailed to Norman Mineta, Secretary of the U.S. Department of Transportation, and expresses support in three areas: 1) upgrade of historic Moton Field, 2) four-year aerospace degree program at Tuskegee University, and 3) continued funding for the national historic site. Mr. Kilgore motioned for full support of the letter; seconded by Mr. Jennings. All voted aye.

ACA Telephone Line - Mr. Sharp recommended that the Board invest in its own telephone number as well as an answering machine and a fax machine to give us a presence. He motioned for approval of the telephone line; seconded by Colonel Lewis. All voted aye. Mr. Sharp will bring the Board cost information on the answering and fax machines at a later date.

Legislative Committee – At Hal Bloom’s suggestion, President Lehrter recommended that the Board establish a legislative committee to work with Mr. Bloom on the wording for the funding bill to be proposed next year. President Lehrter motioned that Mr. Jennings chair a committee consisting of Colonel Lewis and Mr. Parker; seconded by Mr. Sharp. All voted aye.

Next Meeting – The next meeting will be August 12, 2003, at 10:30 in the offices of the Montgomery Airport Authority.

Executive Session – The Board entered an Executive Session at 1:05 p.m. It ended at 2:15 p.m.

Ad Hoc Committee Report – Based on Colonel Lewis’s report from the ad hoc committee established in June to meet with Dr. Eagerton and the subsequent Board discussion, Colonel Lewis motioned that the Board oppose channeling in any form; seconded by Mr. Hutto. All voted aye.

Madison County Executive Airport Authority – Mr. Sharp stated that the Madison County Executive Airport Authority (MCEAA) is considering the option of suing ALDOT with regard to channeling. Mr. Jennings motioned that the ACA join the lawsuit against ALDOT if it is filed; seconded by Ms. Meyer. The motion passed with Mr. Perry voting nay. Mr. Sharp said that the MCEAA would not ask the ACA to contribute any funds to cover the expenses incurred in the lawsuit.

Aviation Aerospace Industry Association – Mr. Jennings said that the ACA should invite the Aviation Aerospace Industry Association to join the ACA. They would be good, supportive members; and they have a large database.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:38 p.m.

John B. Lehrter, A.A.E.
President

William T. Hutto, Jr., A.A.E
Secretary