

**AVIATION COUNCIL OF ALABAMA
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
MONTGOMERY REGIONAL AIRPORT BOARD ROOM
September 20, 2006
MINUTES**

The Board of Directors met in session Wednesday, September 20, 2006 beginning at 10:05 a.m. in the Board Room of the Montgomery Airport Authority. President Perry noted the meeting was being held 30 minutes earlier than usual in an effort to adjourn at an earlier time for those members having to travel. Those members and guests present were:

President:	Phil B. Perry
Treasurer:	Art Morris
Secretary:	Rick Tucker
Members:	Wayne Cameron Terry Capps Menzo Driskell Ray Miller Fred Sington
Executive Director:	Stephanie Blankenship
AL Aero Director:	Dr. John Eagerton
Members Absent:	Vice President Russ Kilgore Past President Bill Hutto Member Col. Ro Lewis Member Kent Kelly

President Perry called for the approval of the minutes from the regular meeting on August 2, 2006. Motion for approval of the minutes, as presented, was made by Member Fred Sington and seconded by Member Ray Miller. The vote was unanimous for approval of the August 2, 2006 minutes.

President Perry called for the Treasurer's report. Treasurer Art Morris distributed the balance sheet and profit and loss statement and noted that he had been unable to review the reports prior to the meeting due to business commitments. The bank balance of \$34,900 should soon begin increasing as memberships come in as well as income from the upcoming 2007 conference. He stated that as directed, he had researched the cost of directors and officers liability insurance coverage for the association. He has revised the budget to include an estimated cost of \$1,000 annually for the directors and officers insurance coverage and respectfully submitted the revised proposed budget for consideration. A motion was made by Member Ray Miller to adopt the proposed budget as presented and seconded by Member Fred Sington. President Perry noted that staff would need to incorporate the revised budget figures so that the next profit and loss statement would reflect the changes. President Perry called for the vote on the budget and the vote was unanimous for approval. President Perry asked Treasurer Morris to update the Board on the final quote for the coverage. Treasurer Morris asked if anyone could provide the name of the Huntsville firm which provided the insurance previously and Stephanie Blankenship said she would provide that information to him. Treasurer

Morris indicated he would get a quote from the Huntsville firm and inquired whether he had authority to purchase the insurance. President Perry stated that he had authority to purchase the insurance if it did not exceed the \$1,000 as approved.

President Perry called on Aeronautics Bureau Director, Dr. John Eagerton for his report. Dr. Eagerton reported that the grant cycle for the year had come to an end with the FAA awarding a total of \$49.2 million in grants to 55 airports in Alabama. The State Aeronautics Bureau awarded a total of \$865,000 to 45 airports in the State and noted that the majority of these monies were matching grant funds. He stated the total FAA funds received was somewhat less than previous years and attributed this to the fact that so much money has funneled to hurricane relief efforts as well as some held back in anticipation of another bad hurricane season. He announced that ALDOT and FAA Regional Office will host a workshop on October 5th for the purpose of reviewing with state airport consultants the previous grant year. The Aviation Council of Alabama has agreed to sponsor the luncheon for this workshop.

Dr. Eagerton reported that he and Phil Perry and Stephanie Blankenship met recently with Ron Sparks, Commissioner of Agriculture and Industries as well as some of his staff to discuss problems caused by the department's inspections of airport refueling systems. Many airports' refueling systems have been red tagged because they do not show the dollar amount of fuel as it is going into the airplane, just as at an automotive gas station. There have been no real issues with accuracy and calibration. Commissioner Sparks indicated his willingness to work the Aeronautics Bureau and the Aviation Council of Alabama to try to resolve any outstanding issues however his staff has been slow to respond. Rick Tucker reported that when the department inspected Signature Flight Support that their inspectors actually contaminated the fuel they were testing so quality control is definitely an issue. He noted that in the past when the State did these inspections, they provided notice of the inspections so that the operators could have their fuel calibration companies on site to immediately correct any calibration errors. This prevents any equipment being shut down. Following discussion, Dr. Eagerton strongly recommended that others among the Board make an effort to meet with Commissioner Sparks to express their concerns prior to the October 10th workshop. He pointed out that the Agriculture and Inspections Department is on the agenda for the workshop. Rick Tucker stated that he would make an effort to contact Commissioner Sparks on the issue.

President Perry announced that the Fall Workshop is scheduled for October 10th, 10 a.m. -3:00 p.m. at the Beard Building and encouraged all Board members to participate. Executive Director Stephanie Blankenship announced she had taken bids from the Embassy Suites, Marriott Hotel and Holiday Inn for the 2008 Airport Conference Workshop to be held in Huntsville. After discussion of Ms. Blankenship's recommendation to select the Embassy Suites Hotel, a motion was made by Member Ray Miller to approve The Embassy Suites Hotel as the host hotel/site for the 2008 Airport Conference. Seconded by Member Rick Tucker, the vote in favor was unanimous.

In the absence of Nominating Committee Chair Bill Hutto, Ray Miller noted that they had not met and he would call Mr. Hutto in an effort to have a nomination ready for the next Board meeting.

Ms. Blankenship reported that the Council's print ad in Auto Pilot had expired and she had been contacted regarding buying a new ad. Following discussion, it was decided to wait on purchasing any new print ad at this time.

President Perry presented his President's Report. President Perry noted that all Board members should have received packets with information on airport contacts for the visits to non-member airports for the Aviation Council of Alabama membership drive. He reported that he had visited the Clanton Airport, Prattville Airport and the Wetumpka Airport and urged the Board to do their airport visits soon. Ray Miller reported he had visited all but one of his airports and was following up each visit with a letter that contained information regarding membership in the Aviation Council of Alabama.

Executive Director Stephanie Blankenship presented her report. Membership invoices will be mailed in October. President Perry noted that she would need to activate the credit card payment process through the end of November so that membership dues could be paid by credit card.

Ms. Blankenship distributed a draft of the proposed agenda for the 2007 Airport Conference to be held in Birmingham and noted that the Birmingham Airport had agreed to host the Wednesday evening reception at the hotel. She requested approval to go ahead and order the promotional and speakers gifts for the 2007 conference and noted she anticipated costs not to exceed \$3,000. A motion was made by member Fred Sington, seconded by Member Ray Miller to approve the purchase of the 2007 Airport Conference promotional and speakers gifts at an expense not to exceed \$3,000. The motion carried with a unanimous vote.

President Perry and Stephanie Blankenship will be guest speakers on the Troy Public Radio on Thursday, September 21st and they will also attend the League of Municipalities Committee on Transportation Meeting on September 26th. Following discussion regarding upcoming legislative issues, it was recommended that the Legislative Committee schedule a meeting with ALDOT Director to present the Aviation Council of Alabama's position on key issues such as eminent domain and tall towers.

Dr. Eagerton stated his office would be reviewing the Part 77 changes and asked the Board to provide comments on how the changes will affect their airports.

The next meeting of the Board of the Aviation Council of Alabama is scheduled for Wednesday, November 15th beginning at 10:00 a.m. in the Board Room of the Montgomery Airport.

There being no further business before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 11:45 p.m.

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