

Aviation Council of Alabama, Inc.
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, November 12, 2008
J. Russell Kilgore Airport Administration Building
Gulf Shores, Alabama

Present

Rick Tucker
Buzz Sawyer
Russ Kilgore
Art Morris III
Fred Sington
Terry Capps
William Hutto, Jr.
Ray Miller
Phil Perry
Menzo W. Driskell
Stephanie Blankenship

Absent

Wayne Cameron
Roosevelt J. Lewis
Kent R. Kelly

Guest

Dr. John C. Eagerton IV, Aeronautics Bureau
Kline Jeffcoat, Aeronautics Bureau
Bobby Odom, Volkert
Kevin Van Deberg, BWSC
Thomas Hughes, Mobile Airport Authority

Meeting was called to order at 10:02 am by President, Rick Tucker.

Ray Miller made a motion to approve the October 15, 2008 minutes as read with Phil Perry providing a second. Motion passed.

Treasure's Report was given by Art Morris. The balance sheet as of November 5, 2008 and budget for June 1, 2008 – May 31, 2009 were presented. Fred Sington made a motion to accept the November 5, 2008 balance sheet and the June 1, 2008 – May 31, 2009 budget. Ray Miller provided the second. Motion was approved. The Board requested Mr. Morris make a recommendation on amending the budget to include expenses in connection with the Washington D.C. trip at the January meeting.

Russ Kilgore stated that AAAE had written a letter in support of the stimulus package and an extension of the existing resolution. Everyone is still waiting on final word from FAA. Rick Tucker added that everyone should have all design work completed on projects over the normal funding amount and that Rans Black, FAA will want all projects under grant as soon as possible. The State appropriation is being cut and entitlement funding will be cut. If anyone had rolled over any entitlement money he was uncertain as to how that would be treated.

Old Business – Rick Tucker stated that the conference call regarding the Airspace Safety Act with Charles McDonald and Al Jimmerson has been scheduled for 1:00 pm. After some discussion Ray Miller made a motion for the Board to draft a letter to be taken to the Alabama Department of Agriculture and Industries recommending airports

be made exempt from weights and measurement regulations. Fred Sington provided a second. Motion approved.

Stephanie Blankenship stated she would meet with Ag and Industries Deputy Commissioner Glen Zorn.

Fall Workshop – Ms. Blankenship informed the Board that the Workshop, Statehouse visit and Legislative Reception had been rescheduled and would now take place on Wednesday, February 25, 2009. Ray Miller made a motion to change the Workshop date to February 25, 2009, Russ Kilgore seconded, and motion was approved.


New Business – A trip to Washington D.C. has been proposed to lobby Alabama's Congressional Delegation. Dr. Eagerton offered to draft a legislative agenda for the trip. He suggested that the Board get the Aviation Council's name in front of the Delegation. Also, he will provide talking points, support the Board's effort and go if he can. No date was set for the trip. Dr. Eagerton also suggested the Board ask the State legislature to pass a resolution in support of the Federal Re-authorization Bill.

Executive Director's Report - Ms. Blankenship stated that postcards were being mailed to all ACA members giving her contact information and thanking them for their membership and support of the organization. The post cards also provide the dates of the Workshop and Conference. She informed the Board that Packets would be mailed soon that Conference plans were going well and that the Conference Committee would meet this afternoon. Ms. Blankenship will visit the Conference hotel tomorrow.

1:00 PM Conference Call - Charles McDonald and Al Jimmerson - Mr. McDonald began the call with a series of questions pertaining to the "Alabama Airport Airspace Safety Act". He asked if the Board had talked to Governor Riley and ALDOT Director Joe McGinnis. Russ Kilgore stated that the main sources of opposition were cell phone companies, rural electrical co-operatives and Alabama Power Company. Mr. Sington and Mr. Kilgore explained some of the difficulties encountered with moving the Bill forward in the first and second years. President Hunter asked Mr. Jimmerson to discuss problems he has run into. Mr. Jimmerson stated that opposition has come from unknown's not wanting to put more burdens on developers but, the airports this would protect are known quantities. Mr. McDonald asked what other states had similar laws. Russ Kilgore replied that Florida and Tennessee did. Mr. Jimmerson stated that Arkansas did. The conversation continued with Mr. McDonald recommending that the Bill be introduced in House and Senate at the same time, that a white paper be written explaining why the Bill is needed and that the ACA President write the President of the League of Municipalities asking them to write a letter of support. Mr. McDonald is requested to put a proposal together and email it to Ms. Blankenship by the Board.

The phone conference continues with Mr. Jimmerson. After some discussion the Board request Mr. Jimmerson revise Sub-Section (4) Lines 110 – 111. Mr. Sington states that the Board should get all municipalities to pass a resolution in support. Rick Hunter suggests that the Bill should be sent to the Reference Service, a sponsor needs to be selected and schedule a meeting with ALDOT to see where they stand. Conference call ends.

Motion to adjourn was made by Bill Hutto, seconded by Buzz Sawyer and unanimously approved to adjourn the Board Meeting.


Menzo W. Driskell
Secretary