

**Aviation Advisory Board Meeting Minutes
February 17, 2015 – Teleconference**

Meeting called to order by Chairman Lee Ryan at 2:04 p.m.

IN ATTENDANCE:

Board Members: Jim Dodson, Tom George, Lee Ryan, Dave Karp, Steve Strait, Frank Neitz, Tom Nicolos, Dale Shaw, Ken Lythgoe, Mike Stedman, Bob Hajdukovich

DOT&PF: Marc Luiken, John Binder, Mike Coffey, Troy LaRue, Linda Bustamante, Megan Byrd, John Parrott

AGENDA: Motion: Steve Strait motioned to accept agenda with no changes, and the motion was passed unanimously.

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

Chairman Ryan – Welcomed all to the meeting and welcomed Commissioner Luiken back to DOT&PF. He talked about the importance of balancing fiscal responsibility with this teleconference meeting as opposed to a full board meeting in Juneau. However, it is still important to have a presence in Juneau during the legislative session to continue to foster relationships with legislators. Tom George and Jim Dodson were able to travel to Juneau to meet with legislators and the Governor’s office.

Commissioner Luiken – Thanked the board for being sensitive to the budget by holding a teleconference meeting, and was glad to have some of the board represented in Juneau.

His team will be focusing on performance metrics. DOT&PF already has some in place, and a lot of data, and more will be implemented soon. He said it is important to DOT&PF to be oriented around business lines and taking care of what we have. Moving forward, his team will be looking at the budget and its effect on safety in Alaskan communities. Safety is the one thing the department will not compromise on. We need to find a way to cut costs, and increase revenue generation to achieve a sustainable budget.

He spoke about the planned changes to the DOT&PF organization and the return of Deputy Commissioner Hatter to the executive team.

Deputy Commissioner Binder – Reviewed cargo and passenger activity with the International Airports and staffing levels at both Akutan and Bethel airports.

Landing Fees - The board had a lengthy discussion about the potential impacts of the implementation of landing fees at the Deadhorse Airport. Recognizing that revenue is necessary to support Alaska infrastructure, but also realizing the possible financial effects on rural communities, the board opted to talk to the Governor about the role of the Board and how they can provide assistance in looking at revenue streams for the rural airport system.

Board Comments:

Steve Strait suggested that the aviation leasing staff have more communications with the leaseholders to help prevent future disagreements.

Frank Neitz expressed his concern about the implications of budget cuts for the rural Alaskan communities.

Mike Stedman echoed Frank's concern.

Tom George said he would like to know if anyone had looked at the possible effect of wind turbines on airport properties.

Deputy Commissioner Binder welcomed Troy LaRue as the new Division Operations Manager for Statewide Aviation.

Lee Ryan said he felt that face to face board meetings were the ideal situation but thought that having the teleconference sent the right message that the board understands the fiscal crunch and is willing to do what they can to help. He will be looking for the right mix of full board meetings versus teleconference meetings throughout the year.

Meeting was adjourned at 4:52 pm