

**MINUTES**  
**AVIATION ADVISORY BOARD**  
**ALASKA ROOM**  
**FAIRBANKS AIRPORT**  
**OCTOBER 10<sup>TH</sup>, 2006**

**D R A F T**

**Board Members**

Chairman Richard Wien  
James Dodson  
William Fowler  
Dan Klaes  
Paul Landis  
Felix Maguire  
Wilbur O'Brien  
Mike Salazar  
Ken Lythgoe

**Others**

Commissioner Barton  
Deputy Commissioner Torgerson  
Jess Vanderzanden  
Becky Isles  
Bill O'Halloran  
Roger Maggard  
Tom George  
Andrew Niemiec  
Patty Miller  
Cindy Little  
Jeremy Worall

**11:00am**

Chairman Wien called the meeting to order.

Approve the agenda with the following additions:

1. Added an executive session to talk about the future of the board and its' members.
2. Added a discussion and update for the Bettles Airport.

Board Member Dan Klaes brought up the Bettles Airport and the need to have it paved. The Northern Region Staff handed out a white piece of paper on the status of the upgrade projects that are currently in the spending plan.

None of the upgrades included paving the Airport.

Mr. Klaes explained the importance of Bettles location in relation to a half way point between Fairbanks and the North Slope. And the importance to the new gas line project. Bill O'Halloran indicated the Northern Region would like to see it paved as well. It would save Maintenance funds and would provide an alternative airstrip in case of an emergency in that area.

Chairman Wien brought up that the Airport is centrally located and used for a fire fighting staging area, and that he believes that it has never been evaluated as an emergency alternative.

Board Member Fowler mentioned that Northern Air Cargo would like to see it paved and made an emergency landing airport.

Board Member Landis said the same for ERA.

Board Member Maguire made a motion that the Advisory Board adopt a resolution in support of the State upgrading and paving Bettles Airport.

Board Member Salazar seconded the motion.

Motion passed.

Approved the minutes of the February 14<sup>th</sup>, 2006 meeting

Chairman Wien called on Jessie Vanderzanden, manager of the Fairbanks Airport, to give the board an update on the Airport.

1. Jessie gave a presentation of the following:

- Terminal Construction Project
- Cargo Marketing Plan

USDOT Small Community Air Development Grant Program

**12:30**

Roger Maggard gave an overview of next fiscal years FAA/AIP Spending Plan.

**1:00**

Tom George, APOA gave a presentation of the suggested role of DOT and DNR to promote and preserve our back country air strips.

Mr. George was prepared with a power point presentation and copies were distributed.

Mr. George indicated that an industry working group has been working with DNR to educate DNR about the importance of Back Country Strips. Several points were made; (1) that these airfields are not a part of the 258 airports now under management of DOT. (2) That the legislature passed a statute limiting the liability and set up the procedures for the strips to be maintained on a volunteer basis, or by a volunteer group.

He is recommending that DOT establish the Office of “Back Country Air Strips”.

This new office would:

- Provide an inventory of all strips
- Define the network of Back Country Strips
- Update all the charts
- Define expectation of maintenance
- Partner with aviation groups
- Coordinate with DNR on transfers and future back country strips

General discussion of the possibility of creating this new office. Commissioner Barton was supportive of looking into the issue to determine how many strips, what the cost would be, and what volunteer groups are interested in taking on the maintenance. He indicated that we should not run from the liability issue, that this would probably take legislation to create and that it all needs to be looked at then.

Board Member Landis made a motion that the Advisory Board creates a resolution in support of Back Country Airstrips and asked the administration to look into the recommendation of Tom George and APOA.

Board Member Salazar seconded the motion.

Motion passed.

Board Member Maguire will take the issue to the Airmen's Association Board.

The board had a general discussion about title 17 regulations and when they will be completed.

Commissioner Barton indicated that they are in review and would have them ready soon. Deputy Commissioner Torgerson indicated that he had been holding them up until the new rate and fee appraisal was complete, which should be by the end of October.

General discussion on having another meeting prior to the end of this administration. It was decided to have a meeting on November 21<sup>st</sup> in Anchorage and to invite the Governor-elect or some senior staff members to the meeting to discuss aviation issues.

The following are agenda items for the November 21<sup>st</sup> meeting:

1. Chairman Wien will write up a report on actions and positions that the Advisory Board has taken over the last few years.
2. Board Member Klaes and Deputy Commissioner Torgerson will write up the resolution for Bettles Airport.
3. Deputy Commissioner Torgerson will write up a resolution on Back Country Air Strips.
4. Board Member Landis will write a position paper of the creating an airport authority.
5. Board Member Dodson will write a resolution concerning by pass mail.

Board Member Comments; Chairman Wien thanks Commissioner Barton for traveling to Fairbanks to attend the meeting. Other Board Members also thanked the Commissioner.

There was a question from a Board Member about members need to file an APOC report for serving on the board.

Board Member Maguire asked questions about a municipal agreement restricting hangers on the East side on Lake Hood.

**4:00pm**

Meeting adjourned.