

# Oregon State Aviation Board

## Meeting Minutes

**April 2, 2013**

**Salem, Oregon**

Pursuant to notice made by press release to newspapers of general and local circulation throughout the state and mailed to persons on the mailing list of the Committee, a meeting of the Oregon State Aviation Board was held on April 2, 2013, at the Salem Conference Center in Salem, Oregon in conjunction with the Oregon Airport Management Association.

**Board Members Present:** Chair, Mark Gardiner; Vice Chair, Chris Corich; Board Members Jack Loacker, Paul Hudgens, Nan Garnick and Joe Smith.

**Board Members Present by Polycom Phone:** Larry Dalrymple

**ODA Members Present:** Director, Mitch Swecker; Planning Manager, Heather Peck; Fiscal Rep., Melody Taber; ODA Planner, Jeff Caines; Airport Specialist, John Wilson; Administrative Assistant, Roger Sponseller.

**Presenters and Guests in Attendance Included:** ODA Director; ODA Planning Manager; ODA Fiscal Rep.; Steve Nagy, Port of Portland; Mary Rosenblum, Oregon Pilots Association.

The meeting started at 12:00pm

### **Executive Session**

At 12:05pm the Aviation Board went into Executive Session. Normal Aviation Board business resumed at 12:20pm.

***ACTION ITEM – Approval of minutes from January 8, 2013 meeting.***

**Motion** to approve by: Joe Smith

**Motion** 2<sup>nd</sup> by: Jack Loacker

**Motion** passed unanimously

## Public Comments

**Bill Olsen:** Mr. Olsen spoke to the Aviation Board regarding his support for House Bill 2016. HB 2016 amends ORS 105.672 in that it modifies the definition of “recreational purposes” for purpose of limiting liability of the landowner that allows access to land for recreational purposes. “Recreational purposes” includes, but is not limited to, outdoor activities, such as hunting, fishing, swimming, boating, camping, picnicking, hiking, nature study, outdoor educational activities, waterskiing, winter sports, viewing or enjoying historical, archaeological, scenic or scientific sites, noncommercial aviation activities or volunteering for any public purpose project. A hearing on the proposed amendment will be held on April 12, 2013.

***ACTION ITEM – Aviation Board member, Joe Smith, moved that the Chair submit a letter to the appropriate group supporting House Bill 2016.***

**Motion** to approve by: Joe Smith

**Motion 2<sup>nd</sup>** by: Nan Garnick

**Motion** passed unanimously

**Mary Rosenblum (handout):** Ms. Rosenblum, president-elect of the Oregon Pilots Association (OPA), spoke to the board regarding OPA’s concerns over the proposed Troutdale Energy Center (TEC) and the expected visual/thermal plume from the Center’s cooling towers. Specifically, the concerns included:

- All risk analysis must be related to the number of operations that will be performed in the airspace. Increasing numbers of operations result in an increased risk of low-altitude upset from an inadvertent over-flight.
- Hillsboro Aviation intends to remain at TD and increase its current level of student operations by 40% in 2013.
- The lack of a tower prevents a controller from directing traffic around an invisible thermal plume, leaving pilots at risk or forcing the closure of the entire north pattern.
- North pattern closure will potentially increase conflicts with traffic landing at PDX on 29 L and R, particularly since Class Echo airspace will apply and VFR traffic will fly at higher altitudes.
- North pattern closure will force a much higher density of traffic over residential sections of Troutdale.
- It is OPA’s position that the closure of the tower makes the siting of this plant, with its risk of low-altitude upset and stall-spin resulting from over-flight of an invisible obstacle, completely unsafe.

Aviation Board member Joe Smith noted that the CH2M report, apparently due to a study in Australia, assumed the danger threshold for a plume was in excess of 840 feet per minute. He showed how high 14 feet was on the wall, pointed out that 840 feet per minute meant that much in just one second, and stated that a Cessna 150 which encountered such a focused updraft on one wing would be turned upside down.

### **Director's Update (handouts):**

**Mitch Swecker:** ODA's Director, Mitch Swecker, briefed the board on agency business.

- Calendar of Events -

April: OAMA Conference – 4/1 & 4/2  
Oregon Aviation Historical Society Annual Meeting – 4/13  
Mandatory Furlough Day – 4/19  
PAAM Meeting – 4/25

May: Aviation Board Meeting (Port of Portland HQ) – 5/9  
Quarterly OPA Board Meeting – 5/12  
PAAM Meeting – 5/23  
Mandatory Furlough Day – 5/24

June: Aviation Board Meeting (Location TBD) – 6/20  
PAAM Meeting – 6/27  
Sine Die Target – 6/28

- Legislative Update -

Senate Bill 071 – Drone Legislation  
Senate Bill 178 – Civil Penalties Authority  
Senate Bill 179 – ODA / OMB Cooperation  
Senate Bill 602 – Bans Use of Motors on Waldo Lake  
House Bill 2710 – Law Enforcement UAS  
House Bill 2766 – Fuel Tax Increase  
House Bill 2763 – Establishes Economic Development Task Force

- Intermodal Leadership Team – Charter and Operating Guidelines (Sponsored by ODOT)
- Letter From Legislative Fiscal Office (LFO)
- UAV Consortium Update

### **Port of Portland / Troutdale Thermal Plume (PowerPoint):**

**Steve Nagy:** Port of Portland representative, Steve Nagy, briefed the Aviation Board on the proposed Troutdale Energy Center and the possible problems regarding the visual and thermal plumes emanating from the power-plant's cooling tower. Project analyses were conducted by Troutdale Energy Center, LLC (TEC) and Port of Portland. For TEC, CH2MHill was responsible for the Cooling Tower plume modeling and Williams Aviation Consultants did the airspace analysis related to the objections raised by Oregon Pilots Association (see handout). For Port of Portland, Trinity Consultants reviewed and validated CH2MHill's modeling analysis and Mead & Hunt did the airspace analysis (Visual and Thermal Plumes).

TEC Visual Plume Airspace Analysis results:

- Even when the TEC is operating at 100% capacity, the most common plume is no plume at all.

TEC Thermal Plume Airspace Analysis results:

Projected Impact:

- 1,034 aircraft operations potentially impacted
- 1.23% of 83,865 annual operations
- Operations Counts from August 2011 to July 2012

Actual impacts much likely lower due to the following:

- Continuous TEC Operation Scenario
- TEC running at 100% capacity, 24 hours a day, every day
- Visual plume causing VFR aircraft to avoid overflight of the TEC site.

### **Fiscal Statement (handout):**

**Melody Taber:** ODA Fiscal representative, Melody Taber, briefed the board on the current fiscal status of the agency. Topics covered included:

- Operating Revenue
- Revenue of AV/Jet Fuel Tax
- Revenue to date
- Cost Drivers
- Actual Operating Expenditures
- Search & Rescue
- Aircraft Registration
- Pavement Maintenance Program
- Cash and Limitation Balances
- All Other State Owned Airport Profit and Loss Statement

## **Project's Update (handout):**

**Heather Peck:** ODA's Planning & Projects Manager, Heather Peck, briefed the Aviation Board on the status of current projects. Topics covered include:

### Siletz Bay: Apron / Taxi-Lanes Reconstruction and Beacon Tower

- Final Design 90%
- Bidding Anticipated in May
- Construction Anticipated June / July Pending Grant

### Cottage Grove: Runway Rehabilitation

- Design Anticipated to Start May / June Pending Grant

### Aurora: Ramp Rehabilitation

- Design Anticipated to Start May / June Pending Grant

### Wasco: Beacon Tower

- Design Anticipated to Start May / June Pending Grant

### Mulino: Obstruction Removal and Safety Area Improvements

- Design Anticipated to Start May / June Pending Grant

### Joseph: Obstruction Removal and Infield / Shoulder Grading Improvements

- Design Anticipated to Start May / June Pending Grant

### Aurora: Air Traffic Control Tower

- Final Design Ongoing
- Bidding Anticipated Fall 2013

### Statewide Pavement Maintenance Program:

- Valley Region Airports – Final Program is Being Adjusted to Budget (Inspections Ongoing)
- Bidding Anticipated in May

### Airport Planning & Program Projects:

- Bandon: Master Plan – Planning Anticipated to Start May / June Pending Grant
- SCIP – Final Statewide Capital Improvement Project List is Being Finalized
- ConnectOregon IV – Awaiting Legislative Approval and Final Funding Announcement.

### **Airports Update (handout):**

**Mitch Swecker:** ODA's Director, Mitch Swecker, filling-in for Airports Manager Matthew Maass, reviewed for the Aviation Board the newest private airports to have opened within the last couple of months. These private airports include:

- Madison Ranches, Inc.
- Kaiser Hospital Sunnyside HP
- Swanson Group Aviation

Further airport updates included news that an aircraft had crashed at Wakonda Beach with no damage to the field and no injuries to the pilot.

Meeting ended at 3:00pm.