

Oregon State Aviation Board

Meeting Minutes

November 21, 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 November 21, 2013, at Salem Municipal Airport in the main conference room.

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

ODA Members Present: Director, Mitch Swecker; Airports Manager, Matt Maass; Planning & Projects Manager, Heather Peck; Executive Assistant, Cindy Gauntz; Aviation Planner, Jeff Caines; Administrative Assistant, Roger Sponseller.

Presenters included: Aviation Board Chair; ODA Director; ODA Airports Manager; ODA Projects & Planning Manager; ODA Planner. Oregon Pilots Association (OPA) President, Mary Rosenblum.

CALL TO ORDER – INTRODUCTIONS

The meeting started at 10:05 am

Self introductions were made.

ACTION ITEM – Approval of minutes from September, 2013 meeting.

Motion to approve by: Joe Smith

Motion 2nd by: Jack Loacker

Motion passed unanimously

Public Comments:

Ted Millar: Mr. Millar, proprietor of Southend Corporate Airpark at Aurora Airport, spoke regarding the funding issue for Operations personnel for the planned control tower at Aurora airport. Mr. Millar offered assistance from his group in lobbying for support of the funding on a national level. Mr. Millar stated that it was an important issue that may need special attention in

a coordinated manner to get the funding. Board Chair, Mark Gardiner, replied that the control tower funding was on the agenda for this meeting and thanked Mr. Millar for his offer of help.

Director's Update (handouts):

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

- ODA Calendar of Events:

- Nov. Nov. 21st – Interim Legislative Session
- Nov. 21st – State Aviation Board Meeting
- Nov. 21st – Oregon Aviation Industry Cluster (ORAVI) Board Meeting
- Nov. 26th – 2014 Legislation due

- Dec. Dec. 9th – Oregon Business Plan meeting in Portland
- Dec. 11th – Oregon Freight Advisory Committee Quarterly Meeting
- No There Will Be No Aviation Board Meeting in December.

- Jan. Jan. 15th – Interim Legislative Session
- Jan. 16th – State Aviation Board Meeting (PDX)
- Jan. 21st – Legislative Filing Deadline

- Feb. Feb. 3rd – 2014 Legislative Session begins
- Feb. 15th – Oregon Pilot Association Quarterly Board Meeting
- Feb. 27th – State Aviation Board Meeting (Aurora Airport)

- March March 20th – State Aviation Board Meeting (PDX)

- Monthly Fiscal Report:

- Gross Revenues and Expenditures by Appropriation
- Comparison of Revenue by Appropriation
- Revenue and Expenditures
- Leading Revenues
- Expenditures
- AV/Jet Fuel Tax Revenue
- Operations
- Search & Rescue

- Aircraft Registration
- Pavement Maintenance Program (PMP)
- Operations Monthly Activity
- Operations Cash Balance
- Limitation Balances 2013-15 (as of November 5, 2013)
- Operations Expenses, Revenue & Limitation
- Expenses, Revenue and Limitation by Appropriation
- All Other State Owned Airport Profit & Loss Statement thru 10/31/13.

Further Updates (handouts):

Director Swecker introduced a number of documents concerning contract tower program funding. These documents included: A White Paper regarding the Colorado Aviation Fund from the Colorado Airport Operators Association; a series of e-mails from Spencer Dickerson, Director, Contract Tower Assoc.; Letter to Harold Rogers, U.S. House Appropriations Committee; Statistical paper on FAA Contract Air Traffic Control Tower Operations for 2011-12 (Quadrex Aviation, LLC). The board discussed tower staffing options.

Director Swecker also reported on his recent appearance before the Wilsonville City Council regarding concerns over the Aurora Master Plan (handouts). Director Swecker summarized to the council the goals of the Master Plan and the plan's consideration of minimizing the negative impacts and maximizing the positive impacts.

The final update concerned Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS) in Oregon (handout). Director Swecker spoke of updating Karmen Fore, of the Governor's staff, with a recent UAS fact sheet. The fact sheet shows the Federal government's stand on the issue and where things are right now. In addition, the sheet shows projected spending increases in the industry and the significant growth of UAS systems in Oregon. Director Swecker also highlighted HB 2710 which directs regulation of airspace above Oregon for UAS/drones.

To supplement the discussion, board member Joe Smith asked Ted Millar to explain the basis for a new radar system technology in Colorado. Mr. Millar explained the system is called Wide Area Multi Laderation and it's essentially ground based radar repeating stations in areas of Colorado that triangulate aircraft position at much lower altitude for additional safety in remote, mountainous areas.

Airports Update:

Matthew Maass: State Airports Manager, Matthew Maass, briefed the board on current airport topics. These topics included:

- Winter Closures: Crescent Lake, Santiam Junction, Tokette and McKenzie Bridge were NOTAM'd closed on Nov. 1st for the winter.
- Aurora Airport Instrument Approach Night Restrictions: First of week of the month a surveyor from the FAA came out to do VASI certification. Flight check is scheduled for first week of Dec. If VASI is not operational then night operations will not be authorized.

Capital Planning/Projects Update (handout):

Heather Peck: ODA's Planning/Projects Manager, Heather Peck, informed the board on current Capital Projects and Statewide Programs. Topics covered included:

- PMP 2013 is almost complete except for a few open items.
- Cottage Grove airport runway rehabilitation is in design stage.
- Joseph airport obstruction removal, fencing and steel grading project is in design stage.
- Wasco airport Beacon Tower is in design stage.
- Mulino airport obstruction removal project and Aurora airport apron rehabilitation.
- PMP Design for 2014
- ConnectOregon V applications due on Friday.

Jeff Caines: Ms. Peck asked Jeff Caines, ODA planner, to brief the board on Oregon Department of Transportation's (ODOT) State Agency Coordination Program. Mr. Caines explained that ODA is obligated under ORS 197.180 to carry out its programs affecting land use in compliance with the statewide planning goals and in a manner compatible with acknowledged comprehensive plans. At the direction of Ms. Peck he will be updating ODA's coordination program as far as land use practices and current/future processes.

Boardman Issue (handout):

Mitch Swecker: ODA Director, Mitch Swecker, touched briefly on the current aviation issue in Boardman, OR. Although he couldn't go too deep into the matter due to the fact that it's a contested case, Director Swecker explained that the issue is that the Boardman Bombing Range (federal property) is being encroached upon by wind turbines to the point that the Navy has asked ODA, as a state agency, to intervene and cite in statute that ODA has a responsibility to determine whether the structures are hazards to navigation or not.

OPA Proposals:

Mary Rosenblum: Mary Rosenblum, President of Oregon Pilots Association (OPA), remarked to the board that OPA recently held its quarterly board meeting and several topics came up for 2014. These items included:

- OPA coordinates with the Idaho Aviation Association in helping to maintain, on a volunteer basis, a number of airports including many back country airstrips. OPA wants to expand its efforts and Ms. Rosenblum said OPA could coordinate with Director Swecker and ODA in helping with maintenance with some of the more remote airstrips. Ms. Rosenblum acknowledged that there could be a liability issue and asked for ODA's help in streamlining the AERO volunteer process to help alleviate the problem.
- In conjunction to the first item, Ms. Rosenblum stated that OPA is encouraging people to be more communicative of how much they are using Oregon's smaller back-country airports. OPA is placing comment boxes at the airports for visitors who arrive by both vehicle and aircraft. Ms. Rosenblum hoped that by next year OPA will have more solid numbers on use.
- The final item Ms. Rosenblum wanted to bring before the board was a request for snow depth markers on wind sock poles located at state airports that are prone to yearly snowfall. There are a growing number of pilots putting skis on their aircraft; it would be useful to them to know the actual depth of the snow when attempting to land. Ms. Rosenblum also remarked that it was suggested to her that Santiam Junction and Toketee airports would be very good candidates for changing the winter NOTAM's from "Closed" to "Closed Except for Aircraft with Skis."

Airport Futures Workgroup (handout):

Mark Gardiner: Aviation Board Chair, Mark Gardiner, lead the discussion regarding the board taking a strategic look at Oregon's state airports and the state's airport system in general. It is a budget issue to some degree but there is an agency mission question as well as concerns about

safety and liability. ODA needs a strategic plan for its airports and a rationale for how it treats them; mission, cost and safety/liability are three ways to start looking at the issue. Mr. Gardiner suggested that the workgroup get back together and come back to the board with a plan for moving forward. Director Swecker commented that the working group should convene again and come-up with a concrete list of recommendations along the lines that the Chair suggested. Director Swecker said that he would try to get the meeting scheduled in December; Mr. Gardiner said January was fine.

Further Board Business:

Mitch Swecker: ODA Director, Mitch Swecker, reminded the board that a future fuel tax bill, or any revenue bill, is going to have to have a lot of leg work behind it. Director Swecker stated that he would like to take a tactical look at how ODA would go about getting support for a tax increase. By that remark, Director Swecker meant that he felt that the board should assign responsibility for talking to groups such as the Association of Oregon Counties, the League of Oregon Cities and all of the individual legislators from airport areas in lining-up their support. Board Chair, Mark Gardiner, agreed with the idea but cautioned that any such bill would have to be considered for the 2015 legislative session since the filing deadline was past for 2014. Director Swecker agreed and stated that he would like to ask for volunteers to help put together a plan of action to get the group moving through April (deadline for submitting for 2015) in contacting the before mentioned individuals and groups related to the issue. Board Chair, Mark Gardiner, agreed.

Joe Smith: Aviation Board member, Joe Smith, remarked to the board that he would like to push again for a legislative concept regarding full disclosure about Airport Zones in relation to real estate transactions.

Aviation Board Meeting ended at 12:50pm.