

**Aviation Advisory Board Teleconference Meeting Minutes  
March 4, 2019**

**Meeting called to order by Chairman Lee Ryan at 1:32 p.m.**

**PARTICIPANTS:**

**Board Members:** Jim Dodson, Tom George, Lee Ryan, Mike Stedman, Gideon Garcia, Dennis Parrish, Mike Reeve, Marilyn Romano, Frank Neitz, Bob Hajdukovich, Bob Kaufman,

**DOT&PF:** Commissioner MacKinnon, John Binder, Troy LaRue, Linda Bustamante, Meadow Bailey, Kenny Gallahorn

**OTHERS:** Robert Venables, Marine Transportation Advisory Board Chair, and Kristi Warden, FAA Airports Division Acting Director

**AGENDA and MINUTES** – Marilyn Romano moved to accept agenda, Gideon Garcia seconded. Tom George moved to adopt minutes. Dennis Parrish seconded. Motions passed unanimously.

**Chairman Lee Ryan Remarks**

Thanked Earl Samuelson for his service to the board and welcomed Mike Reeve as the new board member representing the public.

Reviewed the history of the Aviation Advisory Board and their role in providing advice to the DOT&PF Commissioner, review of Title 17, consultation when new Airport Director appointments are made to International Airports, and the numerous resolutions passed by the board. A complete list of AAB resolutions is available at this link: <http://dot.alaska.gov/stwdav/AABresolutions.shtml> The Bypass Mail Study is available online at this link: [http://www.alaskaasp.com/media/1087/mail\\_service\\_in\\_ak\\_short\\_paper\\_-\\_8-1-11\\_1\\_.pdf](http://www.alaskaasp.com/media/1087/mail_service_in_ak_short_paper_-_8-1-11_1_.pdf)

Chairman Ryan noted that the reduction of state owned airports has steadily decreased. In 2009 there were 256 airports owned and operated by the state and today there are 239 airports.

The Alaska Airport Needs Directory (sometimes called the "Binder binder") is a complete list of state owned airports that includes information such as enplanements, revenue and expenses, and a list of needs/improvements identified by DOT&PF staff for each airport. Directory available online at this link: <http://dot.alaska.gov/documents/aviation/Alaska-Airports-Needs-Directory-2019.pdf>

**Commissioner Remarks**

Commissioner MacKinnon discussed three directives to the Department that support the Governor's desire to improve services for Alaskans and reduce costs and streamline processes. DOT&PF will evaluate the rural airport systems, the Alaska Marine Highway System, and state-owned property for potential divestment, transfer or other management options. The Commissioner discussed his plans for an ad hoc Transportation Advisory Board to assist him and the department with these multi-mode issues. This board will be comprised of representatives from the Aviation Advisory Board, Marine Transportation Advisory Board, and the Highways and Roads Advisory Board.

## **DC Binder Update**

Deputy Commissioner Binder advised the board that both aircraft registration fees and airport landing fees are not in the current budget, and not being implemented by the Department at this time (except at the Sand Point airport where the community and the air carrier requested them).

Three airports have been identified to meet the directive of reducing airport maintenance costs of \$47,000 - Aleknagik, Ugashik, and Portage Creek.

Automated Weather Observing System (AWOS) – Recent congressional language in the FAA Re-authorization bill directs the FAA to take over the maintenance and operations in rural areas of new AWOS systems, which must be purchased with AIP funding. Guidance to execute AWOS deployment and ongoing maintenance will be coming from the FAA shortly. Discussions are underway to figure out how to acquire and transfer new units from airport to federal management. Congressional language also included RCO's and RCAG's, DOT's focus will remain on AWOS deployment at this time.

## **Board Discussion**

A missed opportunity has occurred for lease lot development/building at the Kotzebue Airport this year because of four airport lease lots that were advertised then closed and now reopened. Troy explained that there was unfortunately language in the original bids that needed changing. The board recommends that the department continue to look at ways to remove barriers for investing at rural airports.

Board would like a draft of the airport evaluation directive before it's submitted to the Governor's office. The board advocates strongly that all Alaskan communities should be guaranteed of at least one method of transportation and any changes to a community's level of service needs to be publicly discussed.

The board is looking forward to the final version of the 2018 economic study report.

Meeting adjourned at 2:47 p.m.

Next board teleconference is tentatively planned for June.