

# STATE OF COLORADO

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Division of Aeronautics

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## MINUTES Colorado Aeronautical Board

March 24, 2006

Jefferson County Airport  
Broomfield, CO

### MEMBERS PRESENT:

Harold Patton, Chairman  
Harold Felderman, Vice Chairman  
Pat Wiesner, Secretary  
Dale Hancock  
Larry Romrell  
Dennis Heap

### OTHERS PRESENT:

Richard Baker, Fremont County Airport  
Walter Barbo, Colorado Pilots Association  
Jim Congrove, Jefferson County Commission  
T.K. Gwin, CDOT-Aeronautics Division  
Tim Head, Boulder Municipal Airport  
Nikki Koplitz, CDOT-Aeronautics Division  
Carisa Lane, Jefferson County Airport  
Bob Lohne, Jefferson County Airport  
Kenny Maenpa, Jefferson County Airport  
John Morietha, Fremont County  
Dennis Moss, Erie Municipal Airport  
Ed Norden, Fremont County Commission  
Chris Pomeroy, CDOT-Aeronautics Division  
Caroline Scott, CDOT-Aeronautics Division  
Shahn Sederberg, CDOT-Aeronautics Division  
John Sweeney, CDOT-Aeronautics Division  
Bill Totten, Colorado Pilots Association  
Travis Vallin, CDOT-Aeronautics Division  
Darci Wert, CDOT-Aeronautics Division  
Kaithlyn Westendorf, Front Range Airport  
Danny White, Executive Flight Training

### 1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Patton called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM. He thanked Jefferson County Airport for its hospitality and welcomed attendees to the meeting. He acknowledged that Aeronautical Board member, Leo Large, was recovering from surgery and wished him good health.

## 2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – January 25, 2006

Larry Romrell moved and Harry Felderman seconded a MOTION to approve the Minutes of the January 25th meeting as presented. The MOTION was carried by a vote of 6 to 0.

## 3. AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA

Director Vallin requested that the Agenda be amended to allow discussion of the concrete research program recently added to the Division responsibilities as **Item 10A**.

## 4. CHAIRMAN/ BOARD MEMBER REPORTS

Dennis Heap reported that the Front Range Airport had made a presentation to the selection committee responsible for determining a venue for the *2007 Gathering of Mustangs and Legends*. He indicated that a location would be announced within the next few weeks. Only Jefferson County Airport and Rickenbacher Airport in Columbus, OH, remained in the running for the 4-day fly-in of North American P-51 "Mustangs", the USAF Thunderbirds, World War II aircraft and surviving World War II Mustang pilots.

Mr. Heap was encouraged that the event would likely be held in Colorado, and noted that the majority of fly-able aircraft were located in the West.

Dale Hancock reported that Garfield County had agreed to construct new offices, snow-removal equipment storage and condo hangars at the Garfield County Regional Airport.

Larry Romrell, Harry Felderman, Pat Wiesner and Harold Patton had nothing to report.

## 5. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Richard Baker, Airport Manager at the Fremont County Airport, showed the Board photos of the recently-refurbished quick-response vehicle and the new front-loader equipment purchased for Airport vehicles with state grant funds.

## 6. GUNNISON COUNTY STATE INFRASTRUCTURE BANK LOAN REQUEST

County Administrator, John DeVore, requested that the County's application to the State Infrastructure Bank (SIB) Aviation Loan Program for Gunnison-Crested Butte Regional Airport for the purchase of a runway broom truck be approved and forwarded to the **Colorado Transportation Commission** for funding. Mr. DeVore explained that the equipment, which is likely to be used during every snow event, must meet FAA specifications. He stated that the loan would be repaid to the SIB fund with **FAA Airport Improvement Program** grants coming to the Airport over the next three-to-four years. Because of unforeseen issues with up-coming

taxiway reconstruction projects, however, he noted that he was requesting a repayment period of ten years.

Harry Felderman moved and Dale Hancock seconded a MOTION to recommend funding from the **State Infrastructure Bank Aviation Loan Program** for the purchase of snow removal equipment meeting FAA specification for the Gunnison-Crested Butte Regional Airport in the amount of \$557,000.00 be forwarded to the Colorado Transportation Commission for approval.

The MOTION passed by a vote of 6 to 0.

## 7. **PLATTE VALLEY AIRPARK AVIATION FUEL TAX REIMBURSEMENT**

A MOTION was made by Harold Patton and seconded by Larry Romrell to fund a grant equivalent accrued excise tax funds accountable to Platte Valley Airpark in the amount of \$4,027.94. The MOTION was passed by a vote of 6 to 0.

## 8. **LEGISLATIVE UPDATE**

HB 06-1244, which allows budgeting authority for the Aeronautics Division be placed under the **Colorado Transportation Commission** on recommendations from the **Colorado Aeronautical Board**, had moved through the House of Representatives and was being undertaken by the Senate.

Mr. Vallin noted that the reauthorization of the **FAA Airport Improvement Program** was currently being debated by the Congress, including 5-year funding levels, the continuance of General Aviation Entitlement, Essential Air Service Program and Contract Control Tower program funding as they impact the continued viability of the **Aviation Trust Fund**.

The Director spoke briefly regarding issues presently being debated on the national level, including the recurring matter of possible "user fees", which would place charges on the pilot for the use of air traffic control and pilot briefing services. He noted that the **National Association of State Aviation Officials (NASAO)** was preparing a position paper within the next 3-4 months asserting the effects of such changes on the general aviation community.

Harold Patton noted the effects of user fees in Europe effectively "dismembered" general aviation and he wondered if the intentions were the same in the U.S.

Mr. Vallin stated that all of the "alphabet" groups serving general aviation were into the fray against user fees.

Harry Felderman noted that the introduction of user fees was contrary to the mission statement of the FAA. Harold Patton commented that the industry was better off with half the general fund revenues than with user fees.

## 9. **FINANCING PLAN FOR MOUNTAIN RADAR SERVICE IMPLEMENTATION**

Mr. Vallin reported that a budget for the test area mountain radar to serve the airports at Hayden, Craig, Steamboat Springs and Rifle had been established at \$6.8M. He stated that he was confident of the CDOT Executive Director's willingness to fund \$3.4M from the

**Colorado Transportation Commission** and that the **Aeronautical Board** was tapped for the remaining \$3.4M.

Mr. Vallin then reviewed the current financial status of the **Colorado Aviation Fund**, noting that the current balance stood at \$4.2M. With a "safety net" of \$1.5M set-aside, \$2.7M was available to meet the Board's commitment to the radar service project. He proposed that the remaining be drawn from the State Infrastructure Bank (SIB).

Pat Wiesner moved to support the mountain radar test area development in the amount of \$3.4M. He further moved that funding in the amount of \$2.7M be authorized from the **Colorado Aviation Fund** and that the shortfall of \$700,000.00 be drawn from the **State Infrastructure Bank Aviation Loan Program**, repayable over a ten-year period at the rate of \$83,000.00 per year, contingent upon the commitment of Transportation Commission funding as proposed. Harry Felderman seconded the MOTION.

The Board passed the MOTION by a vote of 6 to 0.

## 10. **AWOS SERVER FUNDING REQUEST**

T.K. Gwin reviewed recent action to create a national database able to receive information from the more than 400 non-federal Automated Weather Observation System (AWOS) facilities in the country. He noted that the **National Association of State Aviation Officials (NASAO)** had agreed to carry forward an agenda item to the FAA Administrator requesting approval for a dedicated portal capable of receiving and transmitting incoming non-federal AWOS information for national dissemination. Mr. Vallin stated that there was a confidence that the Administrator would sign the request for an FAA national portal.

Mr. Gwin requested funded in an amount not-to-exceed \$37,500.00 to establish an AWOS server to accept Colorado information, configure non-federal AWOS sites and send information to the national database.

Harry Felderman moved and Larry Romrell seconded a MOTION to fund establishment of a server dedicated to the acceptance of non-federal AWOS information and its dissemination to the national database in an amount not to exceed \$37,500.00. The MOTION was carried by a vote of 6 to 0.

## 10A. **CONCRETE RESEARCH STUDY**

Mr. Gwin informed the Board of a study currently in the planning stages that will evaluate the use of potassium acetate as a concrete pavement de-icer and the detrimental effects it is having on the aggregates composing the concrete. He indicated that the Federal Aviation Administration had agreed to provide \$300,000.00 to support Aeronautics Division and the CDOT-Research commitments of \$40,000.00 each to investigate this reactive problem and determine a solution. Test areas at three airports will include Denver International and Colorado Springs Airports. Mr. Gwin stated that the problem is an international concern, that Colorado is particularly vulnerable and that a solution is vital.

## 11. **NON-NPIAS AIRPORT PCI FUNDING REQUEST**

T.K. Gwin requested funding in the amount of \$5,000.00 to perform pavement condition inspections at the non-federally funded Colorado airports. He indicated that these were smaller, less complicated airports and that inspections would be fairly simple, but were critical when determining maintenance needs at those airports.

Pat Wiesner moved and Harry Felderman seconded a MOTION to provide funding in the amount of \$5,000.00 for the pavement condition inspections of Colorado non-NPIAS airports. The MOTION was carried by a vote of 6 to 0.

## 12. **2006 FEDERAL PLANNING GRANT MATCHING FUNDS REQUEST**

Chris Pomeroy reported that the Division had been offered grant funding by the **Federal Aviation Administration** to provide system planning, pavement inspection, airport planning document review and land use assessment. He requested funding in the amount of \$26,193.00 to match these funds as required.

Larry Romrell moved and Harry Felderman seconded a MOTION to fund local match in the amount of \$26,193.00 for a **Federal Aviation Administration** planning grant awarded to the Division. The MOTION was carried by a vote of 6 to 0.

## 13. **PROPOSED COLORADO AVIATION PHOTO CONTEST AND CALENDAR**

Shahn Sederberg proposed that the Board consider offering a aviation photo contest to local photographers that would be the basis of a calendar produced by the Division. He felt it would generate interest from the pilot community and be a "good will" piece for free distribution. He proposed total costs of 1000 calendars to be \$3000-\$4000.

It was the consensus of the Board that calendars were too common and that quality photos would be difficult to acquire. They complimented Mr. Sederberg on the quality of the aerocharts, directories and the recently-completed AWOS information card.

## 14. **REGIONAL AIRPORT REPORTS**

Mr. Tim Head, new manager at the Boulder Municipal Airport, briefly reviewed his career with the United States Air Force. He reported that the Master Plan Update was anticipated to be complete in July 2006. He noted that an Open House at the Airport was being planned. He commented on the exceptional service he had received from the Aeronautics Division.

Dennis Moss reported on the progress in construction of a new taxiway, security gate and AWOS installation at the Erie Municipal Airport funded with FAA and Aeronautical Board grants. He expressed concern over the town's recent approval of a large adult-living community at the south end of the runway. He noted that airport disclosures and aviation easements were in place, but anticipated likely noise complaints when traffic was departing Runway 15.

Tim Barth, manager of the Vance Brand Municipal Airport in Longmont, was not present.

Kenny Maenpa, Jefferson County Airport manager, discussed quick changing events at the Airport, including relocation of the "lake" on the east portion of airport property, relocation of a primary taxiway, and business development of 40-50 acres on the southwest area of the Airport. He noted that partial funding was in place to begin design and site selection for the relocation of the Air Traffic Control Tower, with ground-breaking for construction to begin in early 2007. Mr. Maenpa stated that development of the *Northwest Parkway* would mean relocation of the Jeffco doppler VOR which was an initial gateway to **Denver International Airport** and looked forward to CDOT support of the Airport's relocation concerns.

**15. OTHER MATTERS BY MEMBERS**

There were no other matters brought forward by members.

**16. NEXT MEETING AND AGENDA**

Caroline Scott noted that the **Colorado Aviation Conference** dates had been changed to October 12 and 13 in order to accommodate the Division's support of a Colorado presence at the **National Business Aviation Association** fall conference.

Ms. Scott also reminded the Board of the May 10th meeting planned for 4 PM at the Hotel Colorado in Glenwood Springs, in conjunction with the **Colorado Airport Operators Association Spring Conference**. She asked that members inform her of registration and hotel requirements by April 9th.

**17. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:15 AM.