

**Wyoming Airport Operators Board Meeting
February 16, 2014
Little America Hotel**

Attendees: Glenn Januska, Bob Hooper, Craig Wilbur, Craig Logan, Jack Skinner, John Stopka, Terry Doak, Gene Murphy, Wayne Hill, Dave Schultz, Jim Fluhr, Pete Illoway, Tim Orthmeyer, Barb Fritsche, Rick Patton, Todd Chatfield, Matt Nutter, and Dave Haring,

Meeting Called to Order – Glenn Januska called the meeting to order.

Approval of the Minutes from September 14, 2013 Meeting:

Motion by B. Hooper
2nd by J. Stopka
Discussion - None
Approved

Financial Report – Jack Skinner

Skinner presented the 2013 financial documents to the Board and pointed out the out of budget expenses related to of the Legislative Services Contract which had been recommended by the Board and approved by the General Membership at the September 17th General Membership Meeting.

Motion to approve by B. Hooper
2nd by G. Januska
Discussion – None
Approved

Skinner presented the 2014 YTD financial documents to the Board and explained that there would be expenses as a result of the current meeting, as well related to the coverage for the legislative session.

Motion to approve by J. Stopka
2nd by G. Januska
Discussion – None
Approved

Membership Report – Craig Logan

There was no membership update.

Legislative Update – Pete Illoway

Illoway began by reiterating that he needs Board and membership participation to improve our chances of success, and needs contact info for the individuals who will be participating throughout the session. The session is only one week old. Senate tried to introduce 120 pieces of legislation, 20 got dropped. The House tried to introduce 190 pieces, 45 got dropped. All proposed legislation has to clear committee by Thursday (2/20/14). First reading of the Budget is on Monday (2/17/14), they will be proposing amendments for two day, followed by a second reading on Wednesday. Friday (2/21/14) is the final reading and vote.

There will be a Conference Committee meeting next week, not sure of time or format, but importance is in ensuring identical mirroring amendments in both sides of legislature. If amendments are identical, then Conference Committee generally won't interfere, if there are differences, then the Conference Committee can play all kinds of games to reconcile differences in legislative proposals.

Illoway explained that the members of the Joint Appropriations Committee appear to have little or no knowledge of the importance of the ASE, and this became evident in their discussions of the budget. It is critical that we make our legislators aware of the Aeronautics programs that are important to us (crack seal, ASE, etc...). If they don't hear from us, and the Joint Appropriation Committee remains unaware..."they just do what they want".

There are carryover funds from ASE (\$2.6million) that the Joint Appropriations plans to sweep into the general fund, in addition to taking \$500,000 out of the exception budget for ASE. If you're in town this week make sure your legislators know how important air service is in Wyoming. We didn't hire Illoway to go out in our communities to tell our local constituents what we need. Illoway is here to go to the legislature, Minerals Committee, the Select Committee, other committees that deal with air transportation and tell them why we need air service. They also need to hear it from our local legislators and communities, and that's our job. Budget will be completed and passed within the next two weeks.

Januska asked if there are any other pieces of legislation that effect aeronautics or air service that we should be aware of and tracking. Illoway responded that the only proposed legislation that would affect us that he is aware of is the budget.

Lundell asked if there was currently an amendment proposed to ensure that the ASE carryover funds remain in the program. Illoway explained that statute allows that carryovers can remain however there is a budgetary footnote which would sweep carryover funds into the general fund at this time. Illoway's plan is to go to Senator Coe and Representative Berger to propose mirror amendments to protect the ASE funds.

Hooper asked if Illoway is requesting that we go out and solicit support for the Coe/Berger amendments. Illoway answered yes.

Illoway added that with Sheridan and Riverton may be looking for a (air service) contract, it would be great with we were all under contract before July 1, 2014, but we won't be. Right now there is money obligated only for RKS, GCC, YRA, and JAC. Other than that there is no money. There is no money for any new contracts.

Stopka indicated that he had spoken with Dennis Byrne and if this (ASE carryover) gets swept into the general fund, ASE will be \$1 million at least in the hole next year.

Lundell asked if the Coe/Berger amendment will contain any other legislation in addition to protecting the ASE funds. Illoway stated that he didn't know. Right now the goal is to protect the ASE carryover; there may be an opportunity to try to protect the other \$500,000 as well.

Legislative Session Coverage – John Stopka

John went over the schedule for legislative coverage and indicated that it was in good shape. John was hoping that the last week wouldn't be necessary to cover and Illoway agreed, however Doak and Logan were scheduled just in case.

Illoway explained that next year is the long session, so we need to be ready to cover the legislature, and get to the Governor if/when we can.

Fall Conference Update – Jack Skinner

Hilton Garden Inn reserved for the conference. Everything is coming together. Contract is finalized. Hooper and Stopka have the golf tournament. Januska stated we would start working on session topics/speakers soon.

Fall Conference Location 2015 – Glenn Januska

So far no one has volunteered to host in 2015. We will send out a solicitation for 2015 and 2016. Hooper stated that Griffin had indicated interest in hosting in Riverton. Januska explained that we've tried to get a GA community interested in hosting, should we ask Riverton? Murphy suggested sending out a letter of solicitation to the airports to find hosts for 2015 and 2016. The Board agreed. Januska will update the past letter and send out a draft for comment.

General Discussion –

Januska – We've received requests to post job openings on the website or sending them out to the membership. Do we want to establish a policy on distribution of information from members on the WAOA website? Murphy stated that he felt that any information from a member should be posted and or distributed to the membership. Stopka clarified that information for posting or distribution should go through the organization, rather than having members have the ability to post directly to the website. Januska agreed that information should go through the Board. Hooper asked if there was a cost associated with posting information, and that we should recover those costs. Januska answered that there is no cost, and there is also already a bulletin board on the site. Murphy opined that there should be no charge for posting. Haring wanted to ensure that no information posted on the page could be construed as endorsing any topics or entities, and should be informational only. Logan suggested blanket disclaimer and Januska added that anything submitted that could be construed as controversial will be shared with the Board prior to posting.

Januska - Sean Christiansen has taken another position and we have a vacancy on the Board. We've asked if anyone is interested in filling the vacancy and haven't gotten any response. Lundell asked if there was a requirement in the bylaws for the ratio of GA/commercial airports. Januska stated that he couldn't recall a specific requirement in the bylaws for a minimum number of GA representatives; however we've included two GA positions historically. Haring researched the bylaws and they do require two GA representatives. Januska will send out an email requesting nominations.

Illoway reiterated the importance of informing local elected, groups and legislators of the importance of the ASE and of other aeronautics programs.

Lundell brought up that a good point to make is that loss of air service equates to a loss of at least \$1 million in federal funding for a commercial airport.

Great Lakes' performance was discussed by Hill, Illoway, and Stopka. Hill explained that a single dude ranch lost \$20,000 in business as a result of Great Lakes failure to operate reliably. Stopka indicated 25% of Sheridan's flights were cancelled in the last quarter of 2013, 42% in January of 2014, 33% so far in February.

Logan stated that there is a perception issue with Essential Air Service (EAS) and Air Service Enhancement (ASE), and that the Air Service Enhancement Program suffers from guilt by association with the Essential Air Service Program. There are also resources directed to EAS which could be much better utilized by the ASE.

Januska asked if anyone had heard of any efforts within the industry to address the pilot requirement issues (Part 117). Haring indicated that he's heard/read of initiatives starting to gain traction among republican lawmakers, but they get stopped once they get to the leadership. The association with the Colgan crash, which drove a lot of the pilot requirements, causes a perception that any reversal or lessening of those standards would impact safety negatively.

Adjourn – Glenn Januska

Motion by C. Logan

2nd by J. Stopka

Discussion - None

Approved