

WAOA General Membership Meeting

Friday, February 26, 2010

Little America Hotel & Resort Cheyenne, WY

1. Meeting is called to order by John Stopka at 0843L. According to the members in attendance there is not a quorum present.
2. Members Present – Chance Warne, Orville Moore, Bill Holder, Craig Wilbur, Dave Jenkins, Jim Fluhr, Bill Urbigkit, Leah Henderson, Jeremy McAlister, Jeff Rose, Pete Schoonmaker, John Cox, David Flitner, Rick Patton, Christina Spindler, Greg Hampshire, John Jordy, Tim Wick, Bill Sedlick, George Larson, Jim Schell, Jeremy Easum, Jay Lundell, Craig Logan, and Steve Doak. All board members are present – John Stopka, Glenn Januska, Tim Reid, Dave Haring, Jim Parker, Bob Hooper, Sean Christensen, and Jack Skinner.
 - a. Airports Represented: Casper/Natrona County International, Cheyenne Regional, Gillette, Cody, Big Horn County, Dubois, Jackson Hole, Laramie, Pinedale, Sheridan, and Powell.
3. Financial Report – Tim Reid discussed the current balances of the operating checking account as of January 31, 2010 = \$52,016.00 and Savings Account as of January 31, 2010 = \$43,252.51. Currently the organization has been collecting revenues for the WAOA Legislative Conference, and has been meeting, if not possibly exceeding, the budgeted amounts.
4. Membership Report – Tim Reid discussed only one member has joined this year so far, and the membership drive will begin in May for the years 2011/2012. He also stated he would like to work on increasing membership and participation by GA Airports.
5. Scholarship and Educational Assistance – Jay Lundell was absent at the beginning of the meeting so Glenn discussed the boards concerns about the criterion for selecting which courses and individuals would be eligible for the scholarships/educational assistance. The Board will reach a final recommendation during the Board Retreat.
6. Continuing Education Credits for Fuel Tank Certification – John – Board will draft a letter in support for continued education credits versus taking a test every two years.
7. Legislative Agenda – Dave – NBAA did a great job discussing national issues during the conference. Dave discussed the governor's recommended budget proposal for State Aeronautics funding, and how historically we received \$7 million more than what is currently proposed. Dave supports the Governor's request.

Another issues Dave discussed was concerning tax exempt status for aeronautical use facilities, which could become a concern later down the road if the Legislature considers such a measure especially for business development.

Dave also explained to the membership he performed some research regarding hiring a lobbyist for the group. After speaking to Pete Illoway, however, Dave believes the organization would be best served to have representatives from WAOA speak to Legislators regarding aviation concerns because, from what he gathered from Pete, Legislators may be more interested in what members may have to say as opposed to Lobbyists.

Dave also asked each member to take a look at the State's Economic Impact Study and to use this study when talking to their local and State elected officials to show them the value of their Airports to the community.

Governmental Competition Act – Dave explained this act, which is currently in committee at the Legislature, would allow individuals to make a claim against any government entity if the individual believes they could perform the duties of that entity better. Glenn explained this is just a proposed complaint program and really has no teeth at this time, but is something worth keeping an eye on in the future.

8. Property Tax – Glenn discussed his concerns over different County Assessors assessing and taxing properties full value of the property to non-profit organizations such as airports. This is a big issue especially for economic development, and because it is an inconsistent enforcement of taxation across the State.

- a. Glenn added only building exempt from these taxes are one strictly for airport operations, not ones that are used to collect revenues.

The Board is going to wait for the result of a similar case in the State's Supreme Court regarding a community college arguing against taxation of a business park owned by the college to see where this tax issue is heading.

9. Fall Conference – Leah Henderson – Will be held September 15-17th 2010 at the Best Western Ramkota in Casper, WY. Currently WAOA is considering multiple tracts that will include pilots and airport operators. Program for it is in the works including a banquet speaker for the event. John, Dave, and Jim will be the committee to work on the Golf competition.
10. Glenn – Website – The WAOA website has a page for use by members for a document library. This library should consist of documents used by airports across the state that are available for viewing by other airports for assistance with writing documents such as rules and regulations, leases, and minimum standards. Chance mentioned he will be addition operational documents for use such as inspection forms. Glenn asks each airport to consider adding to the library any documentation they would like to share with other airport members.

11. Dave – NWAAAE 2011 Conference will be held in Cheyenne, WY. Also, the Colorado Airport Operator’s Association is scheduled to be held in Fort Collins, CO in May, and they have invited members from WAOA to attend.

12. GA Roundtable – Sean – There was a good turnout in attendance for the roundtable, with discussions about document sharing and more involvement needed by the GA community in the State. WYDOT Aeronautics Administrator Dennis offered to explain the Economic Impact Study to the GA airports. The group also discussed the possibility of hiring a part-time staffer for WAOA to help with lobbying and organizing conferences.

13. Dave Flitner asked the Board to consider working on GA involvement. What can the board do to prioritize this issue? He suggested hiring a part-time coordinator to help with calling GA Airports to brief them or find a mechanism to get the word out to those airports.
 - a. John discussed this issue with Dennis and is planning to work on it and make it a priority.

14. John asked if there would be a survey for the conference. Tim advised yes a survey would be sent out to attendees, and asked that people take time to fill it out. The survey will be online.

15. John Thanked the corporate sponsors for the event.

16. Orville Moore asked the board seriously consider encouraging more GA participation.

17. Meeting was adjourned at 0915L.