

**SPECIAL MEETING
OF THE
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
OF THE
MISSISSIPPI AIRPORTS ASSOCIATION**

November 20, 2013

In accordance with Section 6.4.2 of the Bylaws of the Mississippi Airports Association (“MAA” and the “Association”), a special meeting (the “Meeting”) of the Board of Directors of MAA (the “Board”) was held at 11:30 a.m. on Wednesday, November 20, 2013, at the office of Baker Donelson, Meadowbrook Office Park, 4268 I-55 North, Jackson, Mississippi. A copy of the notice of the Meeting is attached as an exhibit to these minutes.

1. ROLL CALL AND DECLARATION OF QUORUM.

President Heanue called the Meeting to order and called the roll of Directors. The following Directors were present in person at the Meeting:

Tom Heanue, President
Cliff Nash, Vice President/President-Elect
Nick Ardillo
Bill Cotter
Draylin Gant
Mike Hainsey
Elton Jay
Carol Snapp
Dirk Vanderleest
Tom Williams

President Heanue declared that a quorum was present, and the Meeting was competent to proceed with the business at hand.

The following other persons were present:

Rans Black, Manager, Airport Districts Office, Federal Aviation Administration
Tommy Booth, Director, Aeronautics Division, Mississippi Department of Transportation
Gary Cohen, JMAA Chief Financial Officer, and MAA Assistant Treasurer
Kathy Keene, Quest Marketing
Alan Moore, Baker Donelson Bearman Caldwell & Berkowitz, P.C.
Jeff Wagner, Baker Donelson Bearman Caldwell & Berkowitz, P.C.

2. APPROVAL OF BOARD MINUTES.

After discussion, upon motion duly made and seconded, the Board unanimously approved the minutes of the Special Meeting of the Board held on August 22, 2013, as submitted, and directed that the minutes be filed in the minute book of MAA.

3. PRESIDENT'S REPORT.

President Heanue thanked everyone for attending the Meeting. He encouraged everyone to attend the 2014 Annual Conference to be held in Tunica, Mississippi, on May 14-16, 2014.

4. TREASURER'S REPORT.

Gary Cohen, Assistant Treasurer of MAA, distributed a financial report for review. After discussion, upon motion duly made and seconded, the Board unanimously accepted the financial report, a copy of which is attached to the minutes of this Meeting.

5. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES.

A. 2014 Annual Conference Committee.

Cliff Nash and Kathy Keene led a discussion of plans for the 2014 Annual Conference to be held in Tunica.

- (i) Fee increase for non-members.

After discussing the possibility of increasing fees for non-MAA members to attend the Annual Conference, the Board decided to take no action on this matter at this time.

6. OLD BUSINESS.

A. MDOT Multi-Modal Fund.

Tommy Booth, Director, Aeronautics Division of the Mississippi Department of Transportation ("MDOT"), said that MDOT's FY2015 budget proposal calls for \$10,000,000 to be dedicated to the Multi-Modal Fund.

B. Open Gun Carry Legislation.

Mr. Wagner and others discussed the continuing confusion over the authority of airports to prohibit concealed weapons on airport property. No action was taken on this matter.

C. Scholarships.

Although not on the formal agenda, after discussion, upon motion duly made and seconded, the Board unanimously approved allocating \$4,000 to Delta State University, \$2,000 to Hinds Community College, and \$2,000 to Northwest Community College for scholarships for

students studying aviation and aeronautical matters, subject to any students receiving such scholarships being qualified.

7. NEW BUSINESS.

A. Proposed 2014 Legislation.

- (i) **Mississippi Air Service Development Program.** Mr. Moore asked the Board to endorse legislation to create the Mississippi Air Service Development Program. Mr. Moore reminded the Board that it had endorsed an unsuccessful effort to create this Program during the 2013 legislative session. Mr. Moore said that this matter was strongly supported by Gulfport-Biloxi Regional Airport Authority and other commercial airports in the State.
- (ii) **New Markets Tax Credits Legislation.** Mr. Moore asked the Board to consider endorsing legislation to add municipal airport authorities to the definition of “public entities” qualified under Section 57-105-1(7)(b)(iii) to participate in new market tax credit transactions, as a way to increase economic activity at municipal airport authorities. During discussion, Mr. Moore said that the statute already includes “regional airport authorities,” and it appears as if “municipal airport authorities” were left out by accident.
- (iii) **Sale of Surplus Property.** Tom Williams expressed concern with the publication requirements for sales of surplus airport property over the internet. The statute requires certain publications by newspaper. When publication is over the internet, as is now authorized, those publication deadlines make no sense. Tom proposed amending Section 61-3-19 to eliminate certain of the newspaper publication requirements.

After discussion of each of the above matters, upon motion duly made and seconded, the Board unanimously endorsed each of the proposed legislative matters described above, and authorized Tom Heanue, as President of MAA, to notify legislative leaders of MAA’s support for these measures.

B. Invoice for 2014 Mississippi Intermodal Council Legislative Breakfast.

President Heanue asked the Board to approve and authorize payment of \$1,198.00 to the Mississippi Intermodal Council to help fund the 2014 Annual Intermodal Legislative Breakfast, which will be held at the Old Capitol Inn in Jackson on February 6, 2014. Upon motion duly made and seconded, the Board unanimously approved and authorized such payment.

8. OTHER MATTERS.

A. Gasoline Tax Revision.

Mr. Moore and others discussed the work of the Transportation Task Force formed by Senator Willie Simmons, Chairman of the Senate Highways and Transportation Committee. The Task Force was reviewing the possibility of restructuring the gasoline tax to provide additional funds for maintenance and specific transportation-related projects. The Task Force has focused on similar efforts in other states, some of which were highly successful. No action was taken on this matter, although President Heanue, Mr. Moore and others encouraged those present to participate in public meetings and hearings to be held around the state on this subject.

B. Annual Intermodal Legislative Breakfast.

Mr. Moore encouraged those present to attend the 2014 Annual Intermodal Legislative Breakfast to be held at the Old Capitol Inn at 7:30 a.m. on Thursday, February 6, 2014. During discussion, Mr. Moore said that a meeting of the Mississippi Transportation Institute was scheduled to take place immediately after adjournment of the breakfast. Since that time slot has been used in recent years for a special meeting of the MAA Board, Mr. Moore suggested that the Board consider meeting the afternoon before the breakfast, February 5, 2014. President Heanue said he would poll the Board and distribute a call for a special meeting on either February 5 or February 6.

C. Air Service Study.

Dirk Vanderleest reported that he had spoken with Brett Christensen, Executive Director of the Mississippi Development Authority (“MDA”), about the possibility of MDA funding an air service study for MAA. Mr. Vanderleest said he had discussed the parameters of such a study with the Boyd Group, which had developed an outline of the study goals and developed a cost estimate of \$15,000.00. President Heanue reported that he had sent a letter to Mr. Christensen on behalf of MAA, expressing MAA’s support for such a study and requesting a grant from MDA for \$15,000.00 to fund the study.

After further discussion, upon motion duly made and seconded, the Board unanimously expressed its support for such a study and a grant from MDA to fund the study.

D. May as Airport Month.

Tommy Booth asked the Board to endorse, on an annual basis, asking the Governor to declare May to be Airport Month in Mississippi.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the Board unanimously approved and authorized asking the Governor to declare, on an annual basis, May to be Airport Month in Mississippi.

E. Passenger Facility Charges.

Mr. Vanderleest asked the Board to support an increase in passenger facility charges and authorize delivery of that endorsement to the Mississippi Congressional delegation.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the Board unanimously endorsed an increase in passenger facility charges and directed President Heanue to communicate that endorsement to the Mississippi Congressional delegation.

F. State Government Travel.

At President Heanue’s request, Mr. Vanderleest led a discussion of the loss of revenue to Mississippi airports resulting from state and local government employees using out of state airports for travel, for example, airports in New Orleans, Mobile, Birmingham and Memphis. Mr. Vanderleest and others acknowledged that fares may indicate a cost savings, but questioned whether the cost savings are actually there when time away from the office and travel to the airport are taken into account. In addition, when that happens, Mississippi airports are deprived of passenger facility charges and concession revenues.

After discussion, upon motion duly made and seconded, the Board authorized President Heanue, Mr. Vanderleest and others to (i) discuss this issue with the Mississippi Department of Finance and Administration and (ii) request a study of the actual savings and costs of such practices.

9. ADJOURNMENT.

There being no further business to come before the Meeting, upon motion duly made, seconded, and unanimously adopted, the Meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Tom Heanue, President
Mississippi Airports Association

Josh Abramson, Secretary
Mississippi Airports Association