

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

**February 4, 2016**

In accordance with Section 6.4.2 of the Bylaws of the Mississippi Airports Association (“MAA”), a special meeting (the “Meeting”) of the Board of Directors of MAA (the “Board”) convened at 8:15 a.m. on Thursday, February 4, 2016, at the Old Capitol Inn in 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 Nash called the Meeting to order and called the roll of Directors. The following Directors were present at the Meeting:

Cliff Nash, President, Tupelo Regional Airport Authority  
Bill Cotter, President-Elect, Stennis International Airport  
Carl Newman, Treasurer, Jackson Municipal Airport Authority  
Carol Snapp, Secretary, Trent Lott International Airport  
Mike Hainsey, Golden Triangle Regional Airport  
Elton Jay  
Clint Johnson, Cleveland Municipal Airport  
Mac McManus, University – Oxford Airport  
Clint Pomeroy  
Dirk Vanderleest  
Samuel L. Washington, Vicksburg Municipal Airport  
Tom Williams, Meridian Airport Authority

The following additional persons were present at the Meeting:

Rans Black, Airports District Office, Federal Aviation Administration  
Tommy Booth, Director, Aeronautics Division, Mississippi Department of Transportation  
Kathy Kenne, Tellos Creative, Executive Director of MAA  
Alan Moore, Baker Donelson Bearman Caldwell & Berkowitz, PC, General Counsel  
Jeff Wagner, Baker Donelson Bearman Caldwell & Berkowitz, PC, General Counsel

President Nash noted that a quorum was present and declared that the Meeting was competent to proceed with the business identified on the Agenda. Before beginning with the business identified on the Agenda, President Nash introduced Mary Ann Moon who had asked to address the Board concerning the Mississippi Transportation Institute (MTI).

Ms. Moon advised the Board that MTI was changing its focus to more broadly address economic development initiatives in the state rather than concentrating on transportation engineering issues. Ms. Moon told the Board of her experience working on economic development issues in Louisiana where she had learned that economic development requires coordinated efforts of each of the various modes of transportation. Ms. Moon further advised the Board that MTI would be hosting a large conference in Jackson in October and asked that MAA consider participating in the conference as well as providing the names of potential aviation speakers for the event.

**2. APPROVAL OF DECEMBER 16, 2015 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 December 16, 2015, and directed that the minutes be filed in the minute book of MAA.

**3. PRESIDENT'S REPORT.**

President Nash thanked everyone for attending the Meeting, and expressed his appreciation to everyone for the spirit of cooperation among the airports represented on the Board. Mr. Nash also thanked all for attending the Mississippi Intermodal Council Legislative Breakfast noting that this was the one opportunity each year for each of the transportation modes to interface with a large number of legislators.

**4. TREASURER'S REPORT.**

Carl Newman, MAA's Treasurer, presented a Balance Sheet and Profit and Loss Statement as of December 31, 2015, and a budget for 2016 (the "Treasurer's Report").

After discussion, upon motion duly made and seconded, the Board unanimously accepted the Treasurer's Report and directed that a copy of the Treasurer's Report be attached as an exhibit to the minutes of the Meeting.

**5. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT.**

Kathy Kenne, Executive Director of MAA, said that most of her recent work on behalf of MAA had been devoted to membership matters and the 2016 Annual Conference to be held in Starkville April 25 - 27, 2016. Ms. Kenne advised the Board that payment of membership fees were lagging but she would continue her efforts.

Finally, Ms. Kenne indicated that she had received numerous requests for an electronic version of the MAA logo so that members could place the logo on letters, emails, etc. Ms. Kenne stated the logo would be available on MAA's website shortly.

**6. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES.**

**A. 2016 MAA Annual Conference Committee.**

Ms. Kenne indicated she had nothing to add from her Executive Director's report.

7. **OLD BUSINESS.**

**A. 2016 Legislation.**

President Nash asked Jeff Wagner, General Counsel for MAA, to discuss bills expected to be introduced in the Legislature which might impact airports.

i. Ad Valorem Tax Exemption.

Mr. Wagner advised the Board that litigation in Rankin County, Mississippi regarding the ad valorem tax exemption granted by MISS. CODE ANN. §61-3-21 (which could also affect the ad valorem tax exemption for municipal airports under MISS. CODE ANN. §61-5-11) previously discussed with the Board remained ongoing. Mr. Wagner further indicated that, although he had no specifics, he continued to hear that efforts would be made in the Legislature to reduce or repeal the exemption.

ii. Uber, Lyft and Other Transportation Network Companies

Mr. Wagner indicated that he had been advised that a bill would be introduced to provide a regulatory framework for transportation network companies such as Uber and Lyft which do not currently fit within most vehicle for hire ordinances. This would provide greater ground transportation choices for airport patrons.

iii. Multi-modal.

Mr. Wagner asked Alan Moore to address Mississippi Department of Transportation funding. Mr. Moore advised the Board that several groups, including the Mississippi Economic Council (MEC) were supporting increases in the budget for the Mississippi Department of Transportation (MDOT) to help address road and bridge maintenance issues. Mr. Moore indicated that the Board would be asked to consider adopting a resolution (i) thanking the Legislature for the \$10,000,000 in multimodal funds appropriated for Fiscal Year 2016, (ii) requesting that the Legislature appropriate \$10,000,000 in multimodal funds for Fiscal Year 2017, and (iii) supporting MDOT's budget request for Fiscal Year 2017, to include an increase in funding for development of a long range plan to maintain and improve the road and bridge system in the state.

After discussion, upon motion duly made and seconded, the Board unanimously adopted the following resolution:

**RESOLUTION EXPRESSING APPRECIATION FOR MULTI-MODAL  
FUNDING AND SUPPORT FOR MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF  
TRANSPORTATION**

WHEREAS, the Mississippi Airports Association represents eight (8) commercial airports and sixty-nine (69) general aviation airports in the State of Mississippi (the "State"); and

WHEREAS, the Mississippi Department of Transportation (MDOT), through its Aeronautics Division, supports airports and aviation interests in the State, and

MDOT is responsible for developing and maintaining an intermodal transportation system in the State; and

WHEREAS, the Mississippi Airports Association recognizes the critical importance of a world class intermodal transportation system to the State's economic development and growth, and fully supports development of a world class intermodal transportation system within the State, including airports, roads and highways, gulf and inland river ports, inland waterways, railroads, and public transit;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, the Board of Directors of the Mississippi Airports Association, for and on behalf of the Mississippi Airports Association, states the following:

1. The Mississippi Airports Association expresses appreciation to MDOT Commissioners Dick Hall, Tom King and Mike Tagert; MDOT Executive Director Melinda McGrath; Charles Carr, MDOT Director of Intermodal Planning; Tommy Booth, Director of the MDOT Aeronautics Division; and other members of the MDOT staff for their commitment to airports and aviation in the State and development of a world class intermodal transportation system within the State.
2. The Mississippi Airports Association expresses special appreciation for the appropriation of \$10 Million to the Multi-Modal Transportation Improvement Fund for Fiscal Year 2016, which resulted in over \$3,400,000.00 in grants for airport improvement projects throughout the State.
3. The Mississippi Airports Association expresses its strong support for full funding of MDOT's budget request for Fiscal Year 2017, which includes \$10 Million for the Multi-Modal Transportation Improvement Fund, and for development of a long range plan to maintain and improve Mississippi's bridges, roads and highways, including funding.
  - iv. Change in Governance of the Jackson-Medgar Wiley Evers International Airport

Mr. Wagner distributed a copy of a "leaked" draft of a bill expected to be introduced by Senator Josh Harkins that would create a new Jackson Metropolitan Area Airport Authority to oversee operation of the Jackson-Medgar Wiley Evers International Airport. Mr. Wagner then summarized the draft for the Board.

Mr. Newman thanked Mr. Wagner for the summary and advised the Board that he had no idea what Senator Harkins was seeking to "fix" with the legislation, but that the City of Jackson and the Jackson Municipal Airport Authority (JMAA) intended to oppose any efforts to reorganize JMAA. He further noted that the Jackson Municipal Airport Authority (JMAA) was proceeding with its strategic plan which includes significant development and redevelopment components, but that the potential legislation was already a significant distraction.

After discussion, upon motion duly made and seconded, the Board unanimously adopted a resolution requesting that Mr. Wagner prepare a letter to the Legislature, to be circulated among the Board for comment and approval, on concerns that MAA had with the proposed legislation, including the method through which the governance would be changed (legislative fiat vs. negotiated agreement with the City of Jackson), the proposed membership of the Board (which would include the Executive Director of the Mississippi Development and Authority and the Adjutant General for the State of Mississippi) and offering MAA's assistance by providing information on airport operations, airport funding programs and regulatory constraints.

**8. NEW BUSINESS.**

**A. Unmanned Aircraft.**

Mike Hainsey advised the Board that he had been working on issues regarding unmanned aircraft/drones with the Transportation Research Board and the American Association of Airport Executives, Mr. Hainsey noted the biggest problem seems to be that few people know or understand the rules regarding the flight of unmanned aircraft/drones. Don Shepley noted that the Gulfport-Biloxi Airport has been facing this issue fairly regularly and tries to help operators through the approval process which, in the long run, benefits the airport by minimizing the potential for problems.

**B. Privatization of Air Traffic Control.**

President Nash indicated that he understood there is growing support to privatize air traffic control in the United States. President Nash noted that this proposal is different than the Contract Tower Program and would affect all air traffic control in the country. He asked whether the MAA should take a position on this matter at this point. The consensus of the Board was it was too early to take a position.

**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,

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Cliff Nash, President  
Mississippi Airports Association