

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

**August 13, 2015**

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 the MAA (the “Board”) was held at 10:30 a.m. on Thursday, August 13, 2015, in the Community Room in the Main Terminal Building at the Jackson-Medgar Wiley Evers International Airport 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.**

Vice President Cotter stated that President Nash was unable to attend and that he would chair the Meeting. After calling the Meeting to order, Vice President Cotter noted that the following Directors were present at the Meeting:

Bill Cotter, Vice President/President-Elect, Stennis International Airport  
Carl Newman, Treasurer, Jackson Municipal Airport Authority  
Nick Ardillo, Neel-Schaffer, Inc.  
Mike Hainsey, Golden Triangle Regional Airport  
Elton Jay  
Clint Johnson, Cleveland Municipal Airport  
Mac McManus, University – Oxford Airport  
Dirk Vanderleest, Consultant/Waggoner Engineering, Inc.  
Samuel L. Washington, Vicksburg Municipal Airport  
Clay Williams, Gulfport-Biloxi Regional Airport Authority  
Tom Williams, Meridian Airport Authority  
Woodrow Wilson, Jackson Municipal Airport Authority

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

The following other persons were present at the Meeting:

Rans Black, Airports District Office, Federal Aviation Administration  
Tommy Booth, Director, Aeronautics Division, MS Department of Transportation  
Kathy Kenne, Tellos Creative, Executive Director of MAA  
Jeff Wagner, Baker Donelson Bearman Caldwell & Berkowitz, PC  
Rosa Kamau, Intern, Golden Triangle Regional Airport Authority

**2. APPROVAL OF MAY 14, 2015 BOARD MINUTES.**

After discussion, upon motion duly made and seconded, the Board unanimously approved the minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Board held on May 14, 2015, and directed that the minutes be filed in the minute book of MAA.

**3. PRESIDENT'S REPORT.**

Vice President Cotter thanked everyone for attending the Meeting, and expressed his appreciation to everyone for the spirit of cooperation among the airports represented on the Board.

**4. TREASURER'S REPORT.**

Carl Newman, Treasurer, presented a Balance Sheet and Profit and Loss Statement for the Association as of June 30, 2015 (the "Treasurer's Report"). Mr. Newman indicated MAA's cash position had improved by 2.2% with a total increase in assets of 2.3%. Mr. Newman also stated that expenses were down 12.9%, but mainly because scholarship checks had not been issued. Finally, Mr. Newman indicated that the Jackson Municipal Airport Authority will be considering an increase in its contribution to MAA for legal fees in order to help MAA cover those expenses.

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, reported that the 2015 Annual Conference was a great success with 172 conference attendees, 37 new individual attendees and 6 new exhibitors. Ms. Kenne noticed the current MAA Membership is 62. In all, MAA netted \$22,800 from the Annual Conference.

**6. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES.**

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

Mike Hainsey reminded the Board that the 2016 Annual Conference will be May 11-13, 2016 and will be hosted by the Starkville Airport. Mr. Hainsey indicated that the Committee had been working with Ms. Kenne and the Starkville Airport on conference plans and that the Starkville Airport would be looking to integrate Mississippi State University into the event, especially with a new conference center being completed in time for the conference.

**7. OLD BUSINESS.**

**A. Report re Air Service Development Program.**

Clay Williams reported that the Mississippi Development Authority (MDA) was working on application guidelines under the Mississippi Air Service Development Program. Mr. Williams indicated that, although he had not seen the guidelines, he and others had met with representatives of MDA regarding the guidelines and had been assured they would be issued soon with an opportunity for public comment. Mr. Williams advised that once the proposed guidelines had been published with the Mississippi Secretary of State, there would be a comment period with final guidelines being issued approximately 60 days later.

**B. Report re Ad Valorem Tax Exemption Issue.**

Vice President Cotter then asked Jeff Wagner, MAA's General Counsel, to update the Board on the ad valorem tax issue in Rankin County. Mr. Wagner briefed the Board on the current status of the dispute, advising the Board that he understood that several members of the Rankin County Board of Supervisors had openly discussed an initiative to have the statute granting an ad valorem tax exemption to developments on airport property repealed. Mr. Newman then stated that JMAA was very concerned with the issues and was considering its options.

**C. Report re Brochure Describing Economic Impact of Airports and Multi-Modal Grants.**

Tommy Booth of the Mississippi Department of Transportation ("MDOT") indicated that he and his staff and Ms. Kenne were working on the brochure discussed at the Board's Annual Meeting.

**D. Multi-Modal Transportation Improvement Fund.**

Mr. Booth reported that all grants to airports for the year under the Multi-Modal Transportation Improvement Fund had been extended with only a few remaining to be accepted. Mr. Booth noted to the Board that MDOT would be looking for quarterly updates on all funded projects. This will help MDOT to better monitor project progress as well as be in a better position to respond to inquiries from the Mississippi Legislature, especially concerning grant draw-down rates.

**8. NEW BUSINESS.**

**A. 2016 Legislative Priorities.**

Mr. Williams asked Mr. Booth whether there was a way to ensure that airports and ports are considered if there is a large transportation bill in the Legislature during its next session, for example, through an increase in funding to the Multi-Modal Transportation Improvement Fund. Dirk Vanderleest suggested the best way to ensure an increase in funding for airports and ports would be to provide Dick Hall, MDOT Transportation Commissioner, and Melinda McGrath,

Executive Director of MDOT, with supporting information on why additional funding for ports and airports would benefit the state. Any increase in state funding would require their support. Tom Williams stated that he thought the list of un-funded projects under the Multi-Modal Transportation Improvement Fund would be an excellent place to start by focusing on needed improvements.

Clay Williams also informed the Board that he expected a bill in the next session of the Legislature to exempt alternative ground transportation providers such as Uber and Lyft from local licensing requirements.

## **B. Conference with Senator Wicker re FAA Reauthorization.**

Mike Hainsey reminded the Board of the meeting scheduled for August 18, 2015 with Senator Wicker regarding the FAA Reauthorization Bill. Mr. Hainsey suggested that the MAA go into the meeting with Senator Wicker with a list of no more than four issues it would like addressed in the FAA Reauthorization Bill and offered the following as his suggestions:

1. Passenger Facility Charges.
2. The timing and funding of the Airport Improvement Program since the most recent round of grants had been issued on short notice with limited time for acceptance, thereby limiting access by many airports.
3. The Contract Tower Program, especially considering the potential loss in military flights for airports that lose a control tower.
4. Air Service Development issues, to include pilot shortage and the increase in required hours for pilot licensure and the Essential Air Service Program.

Mr. Hainsey asked that if anyone had any further thoughts to send to him in an email and he would circulate proposed talking points for everyone to consider before the meeting.

## **9. OTHER MATTERS.**

### **A. AMAC Conference.**

Mr. Newman advised the Board that the Jackson Municipal Airport Authority would be hosting the Airport Minority Advisory Council (AMAC) Regional Forum in Jackson October 14-15, 2015 and asked each of the represented airports to consider participating in some fashion. Clay Williams moved that the MAA be a Gold Sponsor for the event. Tom Williams seconded the motion, noting that JMAA had always been there to help other airports in the state, and this is an opportunity for the MAA to show its appreciation. There being no further discussion, Vice President Cotter called for a vote on the matter with all Directors voting in the affirmative.

**B. Calls to Close Vicksburg Municipal Airport.**

Sam Washington expressed his gratitude to all the members of MAA in their efforts to help block calls to close the Vicksburg Municipal Airport, especially to Mike Hainsey who travelled to Vicksburg to testify at a public hearing on the issue.

**C. 2017 Annual Conference.**

Clay Williams reminded the Board that Gulfport-Biloxi International Airport would be hosting the 2017 Annual Conference and asked if anyone objected to the date being moved to April in order to help ensure venue availability and to achieve some cost savings by having the Annual Conference before the beginning of the high season. The consensus was that would be acceptable, but to make sure that did not interfere with other conferences and events.

**D. Golden Triangle Regional Airport Authority Intern.**

Mr. Hainsey introduced Rosa Kamau who is finishing an internship with the Golden Triangle Regional Airport Authority. Mr. Hainsey stated that Ms. Kamau represented the high quality of aviation students coming from Delta State University. Mr. Hainsey also suggested that other airports that may be interested in hosting an intern in the future should contact the American Association of Airport Executives which has a grant program to help fund internships.

**10. 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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Carol Snapp, Secretary  
Mississippi Airports Association