

MINUTES
Maine Aeronautical Advisory Board Meeting
Waterville, Robert LaFleur Airport
January 21, 2015

In attendance: Scott Rollins, Stacie Haskell, Tim LeSiege, Sue Moreau, Mike Watson, Duke Tomlin, Heath Marsden, Jeff Northgraves, Allison Rogers, Scott Wardwell, Frank McCutcheon, Jr., Rick Lanman, Paul Pottle, Marty McMahon, Zlatko “Z” Necevski, Shawn Collins and Ervin Deck.

- The meeting was called to order at approximately 9:00 a.m.
- New Chair of the Board was nominated and accepted: Marty McMahon. The Chair term will be effective January 1, 2015 to December 31, 2015.
- New board members accepted: Marty McMahon, Lisa Reece, Greg Brown, Zlatko “Z” Necevski, Frank McCutcheon, Jr., Ervin Deck, Thomas M. “Mike” Watson, III. The new terms are effective January 1, 2015 to December 31, 2016.
- The board members accepted the minutes from the meeting on July 16, 2014. Motion to accept, Allison Rogers, 2nd Scott Wardwell.

MaineDOT Update:

- A question was asked regarding the MaineDOT purchase of the online subscription to Kelly Blue Book. MaineDOT cannot purchase and share the password due to software license. It was brought up that any old book will work unless you have a new plane, the prices do not change.
- **Maine Revenue Service Aviation Fuel Refunds** – We are getting information from Revenue Service. The recent update from FAA states that excise tax collected must be used for aviation purposes. This is already happening in Maine.
 - Rick Lanman indicated that the State grant program was the basis for the question.
 - MAAB members had researched the Aviation Fuel Tax refund – should this be taken off the books? Is it worth leaving on the books? Basic research indicated that it was not worthwhile to apply for the refund as the State sales tax would kick it and it wasn’t worth the effort for the small amount of money on the return. Decision was to leave alone.

- Tim provided an update on the crack sealing project that the State submitted a grant for in 2014. All went well overall on the project. Originally we did not expect to be able to complete all crack sealing at the airports that were being done. Due to exceptionally good bids, we were able to complete all of the crack sealing/crack repair needed at each airport. The MaineDOT is looking to submit a grant again in 2015 to complete crack sealing at more airports across the State. Rules with FAA have changed; the MaineDOT can no longer use State Apportionment to fund these projects as they did with the 2014 grant. Instead, any airport interested in being part of the project this year must transfer their non-primary entitlement to the State of Maine in order to be able to be included. In addition, there is a new FAA Advisory Circular (AC) that is requiring that painting/markings must be done as well; they were not done as part of the 2014 project and it was not required. In addition, the new AC requires 75 - 90% removal of existing markings before painting the new markings. This could lead to very costly layout of markings.

- **Customer Surveys** – Scott gave an overview of the customer survey's and how the responses look to date on some of the areas. Overall, the responses are positive. Surveys are now to be done by the new Outreach Section of the Bureau of Planning. The surveys are part of the Performance Measures that MaineDOT has implemented.

- **Work Plan** – Scott explained the new three (3) year MaineDOT Work Plan. It encompasses all of the transportation projects expected. It can be found at the following web link: <http://maine.gov/mdot/projects/workplan/>. You can search this website for each Town's past and future projects.

- **MaineDOT Bureau of Planning Reorganization** – Scott explained the reorganization of the Bureau of Planning. The two (2) biggest changes are the Outreach Division and Multimodal/Planning Division.
 - The Outreach Division will get out and help the public on how to get projects and funding. They also want public input on projects. We are currently working on the Long Range Needs Assessment and the Department will host 18 – 20 meetings statewide. Discussions of the entire transportation system and all modes will be the primary focus.
 - This is an FHWA requirement.
 - Ongoing public dialogue will be a cornerstone.
 - There will be public notifications and the locations are quasi-identified already.
 - There will be 4 – 5 meetings per MaineDOT region.
 - Regional Planners will be part of these meetings.

- Airport Managers will be invited to these meetings as well.
 - The Aviation Program now falls under the Multimodal/Planning Division along with Transit, and Bike/Ped under the direction of Sue Moreau. An organization chart was handed out.
- A question was brought up about the webpage and if we are going to have one and keep Board information on it. Currently it is very difficult to find the information on the web. Right now the Department is working on updating the webpage; there are many old, outdated documents. The Board would like to get a page for the Maine Aeronautical Advisory Board where we can post members, minutes, agendas, etc. Tim will send out an e-mail to all board members and attendees to where the webpage can currently be found, <http://www.maine.gov/mdot/aviation/maab.htm>. We will keep this item on the agenda to update how progress is going.
- **FAA CIP Meetings** – All of the meetings have taken place, there will be a few changes to individual airport programs. Of interest to note, FAA will no longer allow separate design and construction grants; they want them combined into one grant with very few exceptions.
- **Maine Transportation Conference** – Marty gave an update on the Maine Transportation Conference. There was a session called “Economic Impact of Airports in Maine” that was well received and good attendance. They will be pursuing keeping Aviation on the agenda for future conferences.
- **Maine Aviation Business Association** – The Maine Aviation Business Association attended the NBAA Conference in October and represented all of Maine. They are planning on attending the MRO Conference in April. The goal of both of these conferences is to acquire good business leads for the State, the NBAA conference was very good and they received many good business leads, with a solid one for the Bangor International Airport.
- **Meteorological Evaluation Tower (MET)** – Duke provided a presentation regarding MET Towers. The problem is mostly out West (Oklahoma, Iowa, etc.). Oklahoma has passed a rule requiring marking of MET towers that are between 50’ and 200’. Currently the FAA only does obstruction studies on structures 200’ and taller or are within 20,000 feet of an airport. MET companies are erecting towers 190’ tall to bypass the FAA approval system. At 200’ a company is required to mark and light structures (a tower would be alternating white and orange paint, a light bulb on top, and orange balls on the

guy wires). There have been 5 people killed in aircraft/MET tower accidents because the under 200' towers are not marked and very difficult to locate.

Duke has contacted LifeFlight of Maine to discuss the hazards in Maine. They do exist for LifeFlight and the few cropdusters in Maine. He has also tried contacting Maine Helicopter Association but has not received a response. Duke also indicated that night vision light requirements would be nice and notes that not all wind towers are lit with obstruction lights. Ultimately, he indicated that a MET Tower/Turbine map would be very helpful to pilots. Tim was asked to obtain the Oklahoma law and send it to the board members. (please note that this has been done.) Also, Stacie forward information to the board members from NASAO on January 23, 2015.

- **Other Business:**

- Maine Aviation Forum is scheduled for February 28, 2015 at the Owls Head Transportation Museum with an inclement weather date of March 1, 2015.
- Second hand equipment was discussed. Those that want some should check the Federal Surplus Program if you are an FAA funded airport. The State Surplus is also a good source to check. The State surplus website is <http://www.maine.gov/bgs/centralserv/surplus/>.
- LR 522 – The MaineDOT will suggest to repeal the law requiring cropdusters to register with MaineDOT as this is already done with Agriculture and Forestry.
- There is an LD in front of Legislature with regards to UAV and privacy. Some wording bans UAV usage with all State agencies until 2017. It is suggested that members take a look into this.
- Parker Montano has achieved his Eagle Scout for his guide to pilots who fly into Maine project.

- **Agenda Items for next meeting:**

- Webpage Status
- MET Towers – review info sent out prior to next meeting
- Avgas Update
- Send any other future agenda items to stacie.haskell@maine.gov.

Motion to adjourn by Duke Tomlin, 2nd by Mike Watson – meeting adjourned 10:55 a.m.