

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE IDAHO AERONAUTICS ADVISORY BOARD

The Idaho Aeronautics Advisory Board met for a regular meeting at the State of Idaho Campus located at 1390 W Gowen Rd in Boise, Idaho and virtually via Microsoft Teams at 10 a.m. mountain time on Wednesday, December 4, 2024.

The following were present:

John Blakley, Chairman
Todd Hitchcock, Member
Chris Pomeroy, Member at Large
James Hoff, Member
Robb Bloem, Member
Mollie McCarty, Chief External Affairs Officer
Dave Tolman, Chief Administrative Officer
Tom Mahoney, Administrator
Tim Henderson, Aviation Mechanic
Shelly Towner, Admin Support and Secretary to the Board

Chairman Blakley called the meeting to order at 10 a.m. All meeting attendees introduced themselves to the group and stated their job title and role.

Board Minutes. Chairman Blakley asked if there were any discussion on the meeting minutes from Oct. 30, 2024. Nothing was stated. Member Hitchcock made a motion to approve the minutes, Pomeroy seconded. Chairman voted all in favor and none opposed; meeting minutes were approved.

Chairman Blakley asked Tom Mahoney to explain the Aircraft Replacement Study. Tom explained this subject has been a topic for several years due to the age of the 45-year-old King Air and projected maintenance costs. The aircraft will need an overhaul of existing engines or acquisition of new engines in 3.5 years. Lead time to fund, contract, and acquire a new King Air is approximately three years due primarily to a two-year manufacturing lead time. The Fleet Task Force was formed in the summer of 2023 to have an independent group of customers and aviation experts analyze the situation and form a recommendation. The work was mostly completed in early fall 2023 and the effort was paused until the aircraft experienced several aging aircraft maintenance issues this spring. In the first eight months of 2024, the King Air was available only 2/3 of the time and the other 1/3 was not airworthy due to inspections and unplanned maintenance. In a recent review of task force's report, Jim Kempton recommended adding a section modeled after a 2009 study entitled "What Can Aero Do for You." Subsequently Appendix D was added which compared the cost of ground vehicle transportation versus air travel. The analysis shows ground travel for a business trip from Boise to eastern or north Idaho is favorable for a small number of travelers. If the group is three or more then air transportation becomes more economical after accounting for employees' salaries, hotel rooms, and per diem.

Chairman Blakley asked Mollie for further comments on the process. She added the intention is to seek endorsement from the Aeronautics Advisory Board followed by the Idaho Transportation Department Board next week. The Fleet Task Force recommended adding a section articulating that a possible one-day business meeting to some locations in Idaho can

take up to three days of total whereas use of the State aircraft significantly improves efficiency by requiring only one day.

Member Pomeroy asked about potential funding of the aircraft. Tom advised funds should be available, but we must first have support from the Legislature. Mollie concurred.

Chairman stated the Fleet Task Force did not discuss funding. Tom answered the specific costs are unknown at this time and only the requirements of what the State needs had been discussed. Tom shared the State of Utah has recently acquired a new airplane, but the sales price is confidential.

Chairman added to be prepared for the argument of flying the Kodiak in place of King Air.

Member Hoff motioned to endorse the Fleet Task Force's Aircraft Replacement Study and recommend the Transportation Board accept it. Member Pomeroy seconded. All in favor and no opposition. Motion was approved.

Chairman asked if there is any other business to address. No remarks were made.

Tom thanked the Board and Mollie for all the inputs and work that has been done.

Mollie added moving forward between now and the Transportation Board meeting next week some discussions with legislative partners will take place. Chairman added to let him and other Board members know if they could be of service.

Chairman Blakley adjourned at 10:31 a.m.