

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE IDAHO AERONAUTICS ADVISORY BOARD

July 18, 2024

The Idaho Aeronautics Advisory Board (IAAB) met for a regular meeting at the Idaho Division of Aeronautics (Aero) at 1390 W. Gowen Rd in Boise, ID.

The following were present:

John Blakley, Chairman
Todd Hitchcock, Member (virtual)
Chris Pomeroy, Member
James Hoff, Member (called-in)
Robb Bloem, Member
Scott Stokes, ITD Director
Tom Mahoney, Administrator
Jennifer Schildgen, Airport Planning & Development Manager
Tim Steffen, Director of Flight Operations, Search & Rescue Coordinator
Ruth Munoz, Business Operations Manager
Shelly Towner, Secretary of the Board, and administrative support
Lorraine Dennis, Executive Assistant for ITD Board (virtual)
Scott Swanson, Caldwell Airport Director of Aviation

Chairman Blakley called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m. and verified the members were present and welcomed the new board member, Mr. Robb Bloem. He then had all participants introduce themselves and state their position. Member Bloem gave a bio of his work experience and involvement with aviation in Idaho, which includes StanCraft Boats, StanCraft Jet Center as well as a construction company. The Chairman stated the backcountry tour had been canceled.

Board Minutes. Chairman Blakley asked if there are any revisions to the meeting minutes from April 15, 2024. All members stated there are no changes. Member Pomeroy made a motion to approve the minutes, Member Hitchcock seconded. Meeting minutes were approved by affirmative vote of all members present.

Board Member Reports

Member Pomeroy. Chris reported Allen & Company had its 42nd annual conference and all logistics went well at SUN (Friedman-Memorial Airport). He stated the jets are getting bigger, such as a Bombardier BD-700 Global Express. The Friedman Memorial Airport Authority (FMAA) Board Selection Committee approved Clay Lacey Aviation for the second FBO and negotiations have started.

Chris provided key elements of the FAA Reauthorization Act of 2024, which President Biden signed on May 16th, to reauthorize the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) through FY2028. The bill addresses a wide range of issues and Chris highlighted several of them. Included in the program are additional provisions related to federal contract towers (FCT) and the remote tower program. There are currently four Idaho airports with contract towers: LWS, IDA, SUN, PIH. Caldwell Airport has been accepted into the program and is currently planning for a new contract tower. Chris is the Vice Chairman of the United States Contract Tower Association

(USCTA) and is happy to answer any questions about the program. Chris also mentioned a few items that were not in the reauthorization bill.

Member Pomeroy also shared the he was elected President of the Idaho Airport Management Association (IAMA). The organization will be more engaged.

Member Hitchcock. At Magic Valley Regional Airport (TWF) two jets a day are coming through the airport, they have implemented TSA security badging, there is a new ramp east of the main terminal. Fuel sales are up over last year.

Chairman Blakley. John reported the Nampa Municipal Airport (MAN) is busy and is undergoing construction with the Warhawk Museum adding a display hangar. There is zero match for utility work from the FAA and three hangars will be built. The ramp at Cascade Airport (U70) is torn up since winter and is being replaced. There is no available parking at U70.

Fire season is rolling, and backcountry airstrips will be smokey. Pocatello tanker base is putting in a 3rd loading pit. Backcountry airstrips have many tourists and there have been a few accidents. The Boise Airport (BOI) has a new record of enplanements. At the Mountain Home Municipal Airport (U76) Mountain Home the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) will invest \$4.7 million for firefighting operations.

Scott Swanson. Scott attended the meeting and is the Director of Aviation at the Caldwell Executive Airport (EUL) and provided information for the IAAB. The Caldwell airport holds 547 based aircraft and an AIP plan has been added for an expansion ramp in front of the Hubler building. Scott thanked Jennifer Schildgen for finding funding for the project and JUB Engineering has been contracted for the project.

Idaho Division of Aeronautics Updates

Administrator Update. Tom shared the Cascade Airport has new cameras thanks to Paul Collins and the Idaho Aviation Association (IAA). He shared links to web cameras and weather stations. Aero has a compilation of resources on the itd.idaho.gov/aero website and the second is www.eye-in-sky.com.

Tom shared his presentation of Idaho Transportation Department (ITD) as part of the orientation for Member Bloem. The presentation provided the history of ITD and how Idaho Division of Aeronautics has been part of ITD for 50 years. There is an overview of funding resources, the vision, the mission, expenditures, and the core functions.

Aero currently has three airplanes for disaster response. They can also transport state employees to meetings. Member Pomeroy asked about the potential for a new aircraft. Tom shared there is a draft report which has life cycle costs of a 45-year old airplane. It is becoming increasingly more difficult to find replacement parts due to the age of the aircraft. Director Stokes added how State of Idaho Legislature would have to appropriate the cash to buy a new airplane. A proposal to the Governor's office will be made as necessary after a task force analyzes the current fleet and need for a change. Chairman Blakley suggested funds be put aside to purchase a new plane.

Tom shared how Hoodoo Meadows Airstrip (4D2) is open to the public. Chairman Blakley feels the safety videos are imperative to keeping Idaho pilots safe and SUN needs a training video. Autonomous electric vehicles are coming to Idaho.

Chairman Blakley asked about the Org Chart. Tom explained the org chart and the hierarchy and reporting, as well as there are two and now three open positions. The IAAB stressed the importance of their roles as they were appointed by the Governor. Discussions took place on how IAAB can work directly under the ITD Board and provide support. Director Stokes added that Mollie McCarty is working to define the roles of the board and the goal is a well-functioning advisory board and community involvement. A member of the Executive Leadership Team at ITD (ELT) will attend every advisory board meeting.

The IAAB continued discussions on the role of the board and brainstormed various ideas. Chairman Blakley added an agenda item for the Oct. 30, 2024 meeting where each member introduces what they think the priorities should be. Director Stokes recommended a workshop which allows for collaboration and exchanging ideas.

Flight Operations. Tim Steffen informed how mechanical components are failing on the King Air earlier than expected, costs are increasing, and availability of parts is decreasing.

Search and Rescue. Tim stated our role is to help with the search process for lost aircraft, beacon notifications, and overdue aircraft. We work with local county sheriffs. So far for 2024 there have been 21 accidents and 4 fatalities.

Safety and Education. Tim shared how this position analyzes accidents and creates the Idaho Aviation Accident Score Card (IAASC) annually. Most accidents result from loss of control on takeoff or landing and pilot training should focus on it. The Rudder Flutter is now a digital newsletter. Backcountry AOPA Safety Coalition has started again to promote safety. The Coalitions provides sponsorship and speaks at engagements in efforts to reach all pilot populations. ACE Academy 2024 was a great success. The Academy is a three-day event which introduces various careers in aviation to students.

Airport Planning and Development. Jennifer Schildgen developed the Idaho Airport Aid Program (IAAP) Guidelines. The manual is intended to assist airport sponsors, airport managers, local governments, and consulting firms in conducting business with the Idaho Division of Aeronautics. This manual will need to be updated with the most current information. Updates will be made online but the ultimate responsibility remains with the funding recipients to be current on policies and procedures. Legal requirements remain the responsibility of the manual user. Document references are Idaho Statute Administrative Rule 39.04.01, Idaho Title 21, and FAA AIP Handbook Order 5100-38. The purpose of the Idaho Airport Aid Program (IAAP) is to ensure that Idaho's aviation transportation system is in good repair and unrestricted. This program will meet ITD's Statewide Strategic Vision for Safety, Mobility, and Economic Opportunity.

Jennifer explained National Plan of Integrated Airport Systems (NPIAS) are federally funded airports while non-NPIAS are funded with state or local funds. She explained the Guidelines and discussions took place amongst the IAAB members. Feedback was provided by Member Pomeroy suggesting there should be some discretion and some mention to offer more

flexibility that says with “administrator approval”. Once the Guidelines are finalized it will be available on Aero website.

Member Hoff. James discussed safety in the backcountry and the idea of having a backcountry endorsement in Idaho. Currently there is a voluntary certification being suggested by the Backcountry AOPA Coalition. Member Hitchcock suggests having a syllabus for Idaho pilots which should include density altitude.

Airport Management. Dan Conner is in Stanley coordinating opening a temporary control tower and Tom provided his update. Dan recently went to Cavanaugh Bay Airstrip to offboard a caretaker, make minor repairs, and prepare for a new caretaker. Bill Lindenau has replaced Joe Fort who has retired. Deadwood Reservoir has been closed for a year and the Forest Service asked if Aero would manage the airport. An initial meeting will be arranged in the next couple of months. Tom reminded the board the main projects this summer are planning for a new irrigation project and construction of a new equipment shed at Big Creek plus a potential project to pave the middle 1/3 of the Stanley airport.

Financial Update. Ruth stated numbers are skewed due to Leading Idaho funds. There is personnel savings from two open positions. The fiscal year ended June 30, 2024.

The group scheduled the 4th quarter IAAB meeting to be on Wed. Oct. 30, 2024 and will include a backcountry location in Idaho.

Member Pomeroy made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Member Hoff seconded, the meeting adjourned at 11:49 a.m.