

Maine Aeronautical Advisory Board

June 2, 2021
1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Meeting Minutes - **DRAFT** *Decisions and commitments in bold italic type.*

Call to Order and Roll Call

Scott Wardwell called the meeting to order at 1:03 p.m. Tim LeSiege called the roll.

Attendance

Board Members Present (93%):

Seat 3: Kenneth Ortmann, Belfast Municipal Airport
Seat 4: Sean Collins, Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association
Seat 5: Evan McDougal, MCD Consulting, LLC
Seat 6: Ron DeFilippo, Eastport Municipal Airport
Seat 7: Josh Dickson, LifeFlight of Maine
Seat 8: Marty McMahan, U.S. Navy
Seat 9: Allison Navia, Sanford Seacoast Regional Airport (co-chair)
Seat 10: Guy Rouelle, DuBois & King
Seat 11: Parker Montano, Pine Tree Helicopters
Seat 12: Scott Wardwell, Presque Isle International Airport (chair)
Seat 13: Randy Marshall, Waterville Robert LaFleur Airport
Seat 14: Lisa Reece, Maine Aeronautics Association
Seat 16: Caleb Curtis, Curtis Air
Seat 17: Jacklyn Marks, Gale Associates

Board Members Absent:

Seat 15: -excused medical reasons - Rick Lanman, Auburn-Lewiston Municipal Airport

Other Attendees with Role in Meeting:

Nate Moulton, MaineDOT
Tim LeSiege, MaineDOT
Jennifer Grant, MaineDOT
Tom Reinauer, MaineDOT
Ken Knopp, FAA
Ralph Nicosia-Rusin, FAA
Sean Tiney, FAA
Jim Nall, Brunswick Executive Airport
Frank Roy, Deep Cove Associates
Jeff Campbell, Millinocket Municipal Airport
Kenneth Carle, Penobscot Island Air
Barry Brown, Portland Jetport
Laura Canham, McFarland Johnson
Cheryl Nadeau, Town of Jackman
Leroy Muise, Hancock County – Bar Harbor Airport
Jorge Panteli, FAA
Kate Trapani, Stantec
Bill Gerrish, Stantec
Rick Yarnold, Ballentine Aviation
Tony Caruso, Bangor International Airport

Heath Marsden, Jacobs
Pete Donaher, Biddeford Municipal Airport
Patrick Sharrow, HTA
Steve Bourque, McFarland Johnson

Review and Accept Meeting Minutes of March 17, 2021 – Scott Wardwell

The draft minutes had been provided via email prior to the meeting. Kenn Ortmann moved to accept the minutes as presented. Sean Collins seconded. *The motion to accept the minutes as presented passed unanimously.*

Moment of Recognition / Silence– Lisa Reece

Lisa asked for a moment of silence for the loss of colleagues in our aviation family. The following colleagues were recognized and remembered.

Roger Currier – Currier Flying Service and Currier Aviation Museum
Duane Lander – Founding member of the International Seaplane Fly-in

Statewide System Plan Update – Jennifer Grant

Jennifer has taken over project management of the Statewide Aviation Systems Plan. She came in three months ago and will be helping wrap up Phase 1, MaineDOT expects the final draft this week. The Department has been negotiating Phase II over the past few months. The Department believes this scope strikes a balance between what is eligible and what they need to accomplish.

Ken Knopp – FAA

Scott Wardwell welcomed Ken to the meeting and asked him to if he could introduce himself and provide the attendees some information regarding his background and his role at FAA. Ken is the Deputy Regional Administrator for New England in the office of National Engagement and Regional Administration.

Small Community Air Service Development Grant – Ron DeFilippo

This grant application has been two years in the planning. Background given about Eastport. Deep water port, Customs facility in Eastport. Has never had scheduled service out of Eastport Municipal Airport (EPM). Now working on the 2019 grant to reconstruct the runway. A recent study indicated that the Airport and the Port facility are the two biggest economic opportunities in the City. They have been working with Cape Air on plans to bring passenger service to EPM. Large groundbreaking last year on the runway project, Senator Collins, a number of state legislators, MaineDOT representatives and many other guests. Received 12 letters of support for the SCASDG to include with the grant application indicating how important scheduled air service to EPM could be. The plan is to schedule flights for folks from EPM to BHB and have the passenger screening done at BHB before flying on to Boston. Hoping to start with two flights a day and add as necessary in the summer months. The application was submitted March 1, 2021. Results in expected to be announced in August.

Question posed regarding potential Canadian passengers using this service. Answer, yes, the expectation is that this will happen.

Maine Collaborative Weather Instrumentation Program – Tim LeSiege

The CWIP program was started a few months ago but put on hold temporarily due to workload and changes in office staff. Work is expected to resume soon. The program is a collaboration between numerous state agencies, NOAA, the National Weather Service, FAA – Non-Federal AWOS program, the FAA Weather Camera program, LifeFlight, Maine weather meteorologists, and pilots. There are over thirty representatives in the group. The plan is to study the existing weather instrument infrastructure in Maine including AWOS, weather cameras, state weather stations and National weather stations. There exist numerous facilities all with power and internet. In the spirit of cooperation and getting better weather data for forecasting, the plan is to help integrate systems to allow agencies to integrate equipment and facilities while providing quality weather data to the NWS and interested forecasting parties. The plan will also be looking at

upgrading aging AWOS systems at airports wherever we can and installing weather cameras that will help the pilot community. Qualified weather cameras will be submitted to the FAA Weather Camera program for data storage and dissemination. Interested parties should contact Tim. - Kenn Ortmann asked Tim if there will be a state bond for the equipment and what is the time frame for it? The answer was the goal is to obtain funding and start upgrading equipment no later than 2023. There is no definitive funding source at this time, and the answer to this is part of the program goals. Josh Dickson asked if the AWOS replacements will be happening and where does it stand in the program. The answer was yes, but FAA AIP funding of AWOS-III, while eligible, may be difficult due to the FAA siting requirements which many airports may not be able to meet.

MaineDOT Update – Nate Moulton

With regards to funding the CWIP, we need to come up with a plan, leverage partnerships, state funding, bond, multimodal, aviation fuel tax, private. Timing will also come into play. We will try to leverage to the best of our ability. We are trying not to earmark bonds. We haven't for 10 years now which has allowed MaineDOT to be more flexible. A project like this will be in the workplan when we start looking at funding.

Personnel – Stacie Haskell changed jobs effective in early May. The position had been advertised and was closed last Friday. Hope to fill position by end of June. The position was advertised internally and externally. In the meantime, and the foreseeable future, Jenn Grant and Tom Reinauer will be helping on the grant side of things, both planning and engineering. This will help expand and integrate the aviation workload into our system.

- **CIP meetings – Tim LeSiege**
 - Meetings will start after MaineDOT brings on the new staff member.
 - Expect Late June early July.

- **Airport Managers Training – Tim LeSiege**
 - <https://www.maine.gov/mdot/aviation/> - All the documents for the program are now available online. For those that take the test, submit your answer sheet to Tim.

- **Airport Construction Projects for 2021 – 2022 – Tim LeSiege**
 - Tim indicated a large number of construction projects expected to be underway this year – projects include Eastport, Jackman, Lincoln, Frenchville, Portland, Waterville, Augusta and others. He noted that most of next year's projects scheduled in the CIP are be airfield pavement maintenance projects. He was asked about a delay of the start to the Wiscasset reconstruction – Tim cited long lead time / delivery schedules for some items (lights), Sean Tiney also noted it was a supplemental grant project has not been funded yet. -- He also noted that Jackman's runway reconstruction was ramping up and on schedule.

FAA Update/Questions and Answers – Ralph Nicosia-Rusin and Sean Tiney

Ralph thanked those who participated in the Pre-CIP planning training session / meeting. That training discussed the new FAA-New England Project Worksheet that will replace the Project Readiness Form. Sean noted that airports and consultants should start thinking about CIP meetings, consultant selection, and the need for a pavement management plan. He also indicated that anyone doing any drone work should work with him. He also noted that if anyone is considering Electric Vertical Take-off and Landing (EVTOL) vehicle or charging stations, please work with Ralph and himself as those need to be passed by the FAA. Question from Parker Montano, are you doing EVTOL landing pads differently than helicopter pads – Yes was the answer from Sean. Ralph -Any improvement you want FAA funding for, has to have at least 500 ops or reasonable expectations to have that in 5 years.

Scott Wardwell – noted that Covid19, so far, has provided for 3 relief packages – where are we in regards to grants and installments as far as the 2nd and 3rd packages are concerned – Ralph indicated there is currently no guidance on the 3rd package and will have Priscilla Scott call Scott Wardwell on the second round. Ralph will forward Priscilla response to Tim who will forward the data to everyone.

Other Business

- **Event updates and announcements – Lisa Reece**
Lisa noted more traditional annual events are already starting up again. Bowmans field event, Short Take-Off and Landing (SToL) events are happening and there will be 3 in Maine this year. All event updates on the MAA website – events. If you have any events, please let Lisa know. First Saturday of every monthly, Limington breakfast, last Saturday a breakfast in RKD, International Seaplane Fly-in – not official yet, but the plan is to do it. Pilot bikes now at PQI, BXM, Pittsfield and other locations. MAA has initiated pop-up fly-ins for coffee and donuts. Throughout the state. Keep an eye on the website. Jeff Campbell wanted to thank Lisa for doing the pop-ups!! It's wonderful!
- **Board Nominations (2-year term effective July 1)**
 - Scott Wardwell had Tim list those whose terms will be expiring and have chosen to not seek reelection. Scott thanked, with great appreciation for their involvements and achievements, the folks that will not be renominated – Marty McMahon, Rick Lanman, Evan McDougal, and Caleb Curtis .
 - Kenn Ortmann motioned to re-nominate the four that currently serve – Josh Dickson Seconded... ***Motion passed unanimously.***
 - Allison Navia made a motion to use the same process as last year and let the Department make the decision on the remaining four seats – Randy Marshall seconded. ***Motion passed – 1 against, 1 abstention***
- **Election of Officers (1-year term effective July 1)**
 - Kenn Ortmann motioned to elect Scott Wardwell as Chair, seconded by Ron DeFillipo – discussion, the question was asked if this should be done after the new board is seated – answer can't as the bylaws require it done at annual meeting – motion called. ***Motion passed with one abstention.***
 - Kenn Ortmann motioned to elect Allison Navia as Vice Chair – Sean Collins seconded. ***Motion passed with one abstention.***
- Next Meeting – Date, Location, Agenda (In-Person w/ Zoom) -
Sept 15 or Sept 22 in person at Waterville Municipal Airport – w/Zoom

UMaine Survey Technology Program – Class /Capstone Project – Obstruction Analysis? – Tim LeSiege

Tim wanted to know general consensus of having a capstone project with UMaine students to use drone technology to fly the approaches at airports to determine obstructions prior to an 18B survey to assist in the maintenance of clearing approaches. This effort can help airports and help train the future workforce. General consensus thinks it's a good idea. Rick Yarnold raised some concerns about liability with data and publication and certification. Tim assured the group that the plan was not to certify clear approaches, and not publicize the information. Airport Managers use only. Scott Wardwell suggested three options – airports go directly to UMaine and organize or go through MaineDOT as an umbrella organizer – the third is to not do anything. Scott's recommendation was to have MaineDOT play a role in organizing but stay back. Any agreements should be between airport and UMaine but keep MAAB and DOT out of it. Randy Marshall motioned to table to next meeting. Kenn Ortmann seconded but amended motion to invite UMaine rep to next meeting. Randy Marshall accepted amendment. ***Motion passed with those still in attendance.***

Public Comment

No additional comments.

Ralph Nicosia-Rusin provided Scott and update on the PQI CRSSA grants.

Kenn Ortmann motioned to adjourn at 3:34, Allison Navia seconded. ***Motion passed.***