

MINUTES
SOUTH CENTRAL REGIONAL AIRPORT AGENCY
SPECIAL MEETING
THURSDAY, JUNE 7, 2012 - 6:30 P.M.

Committee Members Present: David Barnes, Pamela Blomgren, James Hansen, Donna Smith, Stave Van Weelden and Joe Warrick. Also present: Jim Mueller, Mayor of Pella; David Krutzfeldt, Mayor of Oskaloosa; Mike Nardini, Pella City Administrator; Michael Schrock Jr., Oskaloosa City Manager; Jerry Nusbaum, Mahaska County Engineer; Bruce Schiebout, Pella Council Member; Ken Allsup, Oskey News, and Marilyn Johannes.

Meeting called to order by Mayor Mueller at 6:30 p.m. in the City Hall meeting room.

Mayor Mueller and Mayor Krutzfeldt explained board function, responsibilities and vision of the board, the importance of the regional airport project, and emphasized that open meeting rules need to be followed and asked that board and staff members introduce themselves.

The 28E Agreement/Bylaws and maps were distributed. Schrock asked the board who would be interested in serving as chair, vice chair and secretary/treasurer stating that according to the bylaws all three entities needed to be represented. A slate of candidates that included Jim Hansen as chair, David Barnes as vice chair and Joe Warrick as secretary/treasurer was presented for approval. It was moved by Blomgren, seconded by Van Weelden to accept the appointments as presented. Motion carried unanimously. Mayor Mueller indicated terms were for one year and the vice chair would become chair at the end of the term.

Hansen asked for an outline of the regional airport process, where we are currently. Nardini gave a brief history as to where the regional airport concept originated. He explained that Pella cannot accommodate larger aircraft needs and cannot expand. He said the first step is to interview consultants for preparation of an aviation site study, and that at least 2, preferably 3 sites should be selected in case first choice does not meet FAA approval due to environmental concerns.

Schrock gave an overview of Oskaloosa airport operations stating the airport basically accommodates recreational aircraft and rental of airport farmland pays for operations.

Nardini said the FAA is allowing a large volume of Category C aircraft to land at Pella's Category B airport temporarily, that safety is the issue. He said the FAA has indicated they would fast track the project because of the need.

Nardini said three studies are required – Site Selection, Master Plan (operation of the airport) and Environmental Assessment. He indicated the FAA waived the feasibility study because it is a safety project. Nardini explained the time frame for the project

indicating by the end of the year hopefully will have prepared site determined and prefer it is within 4 miles of Hwy. 63 and within 10 miles of both communities. He said the 28E Agreement outlines minimum requirements for the project.

Hansen asked who pays for the studies. Nardini said Pella entitlement funds and grant funds with 90% reimbursement by the FAA. Oskaloosa and Pella would share 10% of the cost with Pella billing Oskaloosa for their share. Schrock said each city receives \$150,000/year in entitlement funds from the FAA. Nardini said Pella entitlement funds will be used because Pella can only use their entitlement funds for safety or new projects and if they don't use them they lose them.

Schrock said cities have to pay for road to the regional airport at an estimated cost of \$1,000,000 per mile. Barnes asked if the City Councils will approve budgets for the regional airport and Nardini said yes.

Schrock said once the runway and road are in place the FAA considers the airport operational and Pella and Oskaloosa will have to close current airports and dissolve their respective boards with the SCRAA assuming oversight of the regional facility.

Nardini and Schrock asked for authorization from the board to proceed with the process. It was moved by Barnes, seconded by Blomgren to authorize staff to take any and all steps necessary to initiate the statement of qualifications (SOQ) or request for qualifications (RFQ) process for consultant selection with the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). Motion carried unanimously.

Hansen requested that public comment item be added to board agendas. Warrick said he had received several comments against condemnation of property. Barnes emphasized that no one was to discuss property acquisition; a certain procedure has to be followed. He said before negotiations with property owners can begin, the properties have to be appraised, and the FAA has to approve compensation. Staff indicated they expect few condemnations; settlements will be negotiated to try to avoid condemnation.

Schrock brought up the fact that Mahaska County is questioning the appointment of Joe Warrick because of gender balance concerns. Hansen wanted to know if they should get an opinion from legal counsel so don't get future action of the board invalidated. Mayor Mueller said the issue needs to be resolved before the next meeting.

The group discussed scheduling the next meeting and asked that the administrators set the next meeting. Schrock suggested location of meetings alternate between Oskaloosa and Pella with the next meeting taking place in Pella. The board agreed.

The meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.
Minutes by Marilyn Johannes