

KAAA BOARD MEETING  
FEB. 29, 2008  
FLIGHT DECK RESTAURANT  
GARDEN CITY KS 12:30 PM

ROLL CALL:

Robert Grace  
Kathy Diehl  
Jill Jordan  
Craig Stratton  
John Holzmeister  
Tim Tyree  
Rick Vrbas  
Tim Bonnell, Jr.  
Tom Miller  
Jeff Chanay

Guests: Randy Hardy, Sean Kelley, Randy Smith

MINUTES: Motion to approve. Second. Carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Kathy

Year end total is less this year due to convention expenses, PAASS went up and we covered that increase, plus we paid for a speaker. In addition, we didn't have quite as much sponsor money as in years past.

CD rates will continue to drop – Kathy anticipates 3% or even as low as 2% when the next round of CDs come up on April. Randy questioned if we should look into different investment sources for the CDS, since those aren't very high yield now. Tim Bonnell reiterated that fact, but suggested that at least those funds are FDIC insured, where money markets or other forms of stock investments aren't, although they are producing higher yields right now.

Credit card account has been left open for ease.

Motion to approve. Second. Carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Legislative – Tony not present. Chris had called Robert earlier in the week to advise this is “turn-around” week, which means that any bills that have not yet been acted upon, won't be. Immigration law is a hot topic, due to its impact on employers. Water rights are also being highly fought. Nothing directly related to KAAA or having a direct impact on us.

Insurance – Tim Bonnell, Jr. Not many changes – still 5 ag markets. Rates very competitive. ProAir is still active, not much knowledge on the program. Since our insurance committee is the only committee we have that isn't made up of multiple people, Tim recommends that we involve all the insurance allied members on this committee, and intends to direct any correspondence for this committee to all those people.

At NAAA board meeting, PNW association put together a self-funded accidental death program for PNWAAA members, to pay a minimal amount of money to beneficiaries of members who die in the course of aerial application. Their program is set up to pay a \$1,000. benefit. New Mexico has started a similar program.

Jill asked if disability insurance was available for people in the ag industry. Tim and Randy will check into this and keep the board advised.

Membership: Robert, Kathy and Angie. Totals are within 20 members of last year. Lower this year than last, but there are usually years when we have this type of disparity. Some members only join in the year they need to come to convention.

NAAA: Doug asked Randy to give a report. Membership is up, the NAAA financial status is good. The 2008 convention will be held in Las Vegas again this year, at the SouthPoint Casino in Henderson, NV. It appears there may not be aircraft on display, but some of the manufacturers have said they may try to send mock-ups this year to try, since this year's location can't hold aircraft, and there's no way to get the aircraft to the convention center. Ft. Worth is being looked at heavily for 2010. 2009 convention will be held in Reno. Other sites are being looked at, if not having airplanes doesn't have an adverse affect on the convention this year. This year's convention will be the second week of December 8<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup>. That's also the week of national finals rodeo, so NAAA suggests getting tickets and hotel reservations quickly this year, because hotels will fill up.

Public Relations: No report.

Safety and Safe Fly-Ins: Tom Miller. We will have two fly-ins this year. March 17-19 at Burlington, and April 29 and 30 at Ingalls, KS. Equipment is always an issue. Right now things appear to be running okay. Dr. Wolf is trying to get Mr. Whitney to work on the equipment and keep it in good working order. Tom has found that the equipment may be able to be recreated in a digital format, and the price for that continues to come down. He feels that for less than \$30,000., the equipment could possibly be created in a digital format. Tom feels that the droplet size spectrum is more important than the string. The droplet card equipment is very up to date and working great. Robert feels that perhaps we should try to put more emphasis on the droplet size spectrum since that equipment works great and can be updated and maintained better. Also perhaps we should promote the fly-ins more for PR than for safety and information.

Sean suggested that perhaps the association should seek a grant to purchase equipment, for the safety issue of the testing.

Tom said that Rick Vrbas has worked on maybe hosting the fly-in as an informational meeting and getting CEU credit, to host a mini chemical information meeting. Rick said he's trying to get some speakers lined up, manufacturers, distributors and Dr. Wolf. Fly in the morning, have a lunch, then do the informational session in the afternoon. Sean also suggested that this would be an opportune time to invite school kids in to watch the flying.

Fire Suppression: WASP is in ongoing contact with KS Forestry Service, and developed a CD of operators who are still participating in the program, and a map of their locations, which has been sent to KS Forestry Service who in turn was to forward that information to all the KS fire dept. chiefs. Fall training is being planned, to keep the program and pilots current.

Convention: We're booked at Hutchinson for 2008 and 2009, but Angie will look into other facilities to see if we can move somewhere else for 2010, or if we want to stay at Hutchinson for the longterm like CO and OK do. Also, this will be our 50<sup>th</sup> annual convention, we need ideas on something special to do for this convention. We'll try to contact the lifetime members and send them a special invite to attend this year, and request photos of old conventions to put together some type of powerpoint or video presentation. Tim Bonnell, Jr. has a list of speakers that we can contact also, and will spearhead that effort. The convention committee will work on this. Board approved a budget of \$5,000. for any special speaker or efforts for the program this year. Motion – second – carried.

Old Business:

Nominations for VP, NAAA director. John Holzmeister and Jeff Chanay have both volunteered to serve their terms again. Doug will serve again as NAAA director unless someone else is willing to take the position. Craig, John and Jeff all prefer to not take the VP position at this time. John and Sean will work on finding a VP nominee.

#### NEW BUSINESS:

TV ads. Jeff showed the new ads made by KSN. One includes fire bombing and kids, but lots of vegetable pictures also (goes to the produce aisles twice). The second ad was nice. It was suggested that they take a little bit of footage from the second ad and incorporate it into the first video, instead of all the vegetables. On the first video which included the footage of a water drop, the actual drop didn't get included in the ad, it stopped short of the drop. Board would prefer that the water dropping be actual fire fighting footage, not just a water drop. Tim suggested that we contact Kristen Snow, she may have some firefighting footage.

Fundraising for the TV ad program is a problem for this year. Rick took care of that last year, but this year is really tight on time. He'll get the information to Angie to help out this year.

Leadership Training. Jeff Chanay completed the program last year. It consists of attending the fall and spring board meetings. Three days of training at each board meeting. Travis Lattin said he would participate in the program this year. There being no other nominees, Travis Lattin will be our nominee for the leadership training program this year.

Dues: Our dues are \$75. for the voting category, compared with OK, CO and NE who are \$150, \$170 and \$200. The board feels we should leave our dues as-is for now, especially since we're increasing the registration fees this year. Our financial situation is stable, we're not having problems meeting our expenses, so leave it as-is for now. We'll table this issue for another year.

Reciprocal Licensing: Due to problems with other states having an "aerial category" in the business licensing requirements, but Kansas not having that category, reciprocal agreements with other states is becoming hampered. KDA is currently in negotiation with MN on this particular issue. KDA is looking into adopting an aerial category into our licensing requirements. That change would have to go before KDA legal review before adoption.

Do we urge KDA to adopt an aerial category for licensing issues and reciprocal agreements with other states. Discussion about the fact that we try to get different insurance requirements for aerial applicators, so it goes along that same line of thought that there should be an aerial category to our licensing requirements. Would this special category end up being a hindrance, or cause more problems for us than to leave the licensing as it is.

Should KAAA contact KDA and tell them that we want to take action toward adopting an aerial category, or wait for KDA to contact us and ask us if we're on board or not. Robert is going to contact Chris and let her know that we'd be onboard to adopt an aerial category, provided we are involved in the process of establishing the provisions for the category.

Kansas Aviation Advisory Committee's Airport Improvement Plan has \$3 million set aside for improvements that had been agreed to for the 2008 year, however, because the money has been setting in their budget for over a year, state budgeting people saws the unused funds and are about to pull the plug and take away the funding, thinking the KAIP wasn't using it. The committee is fighting to retain the funds, however, it is in jeopardy right now, so anyone on an airport who has been committed funds under the program may have those funds taken away if the Committee is listened to.

Back in the '20's, the governor did an air tour of all the airports within the state. The KAAC is going to try to relive that trek, and do a week of air travel across the state during the first week of April. More airplanes are needed, so Randy presented to the board that if anyone would like to participate in this program, they need to sign their airplanes up to participate. [KS.org/divofaviation](http://KS.org/divofaviation).

Newsletter: We were going to try very hard to put out newsletters four times this year, but so far we haven't put one out yet this year. The last time we did, last fall, we polled people at convention and found about 10 people who said they actually read it. Do we go and send paper newsletters, do we only do an e-mail newsletter, both, or not at all? Tim suggests that we send an e-mail of important items at the time, rather than putting a full newsletter together, because it's short and quick to read. Those e-mails would, of course, point to the website. Tim Bonnell suggest that instead of sending out a forced newsletter that we struggle for information to include, we send only important notices or news items via e-mail. Tim Bonnell suggests that we use Constant Contact which is an e-mail broadcasting service. There is a small fee for this service, but it would provide constant service, instead of depending on different officers to send the notices, which would come from a different address year by year

Website: Moving downloads to one of the actual buttons, instead of the small click bar at the top of the homepage as it is now. We would then change the name from "downloads" to a name that would allude to the fact that this is a valuable resource page, where forms can be downloaded.

Also, why do we have a "links" page, and a sponsors page? The Sponsor page was originally designated for allied members who sponsored items during convention, with the links page being all the allied members in the directory. Can we combine the two, listing all of the allied members on the "links" page, with a special designation on those names who do sponsor at convention or other events. This was general consensus of the board. Robert was told to make menu and navigational changes as he sees fit. Currently the legislation and "find an aerial applicator" pages are members only, with the user id and password required. Board wants the "find an aerial applicator" page made open, so that people who are really looking for a pilot can easily access that information.

Be sure to link to NAAA website under a heading "learn more about our industry".

Pictures on home page need to be updated, with higher resolution photos. Maybe include a gallery section.

Ask the web administrator to see how many hits we're getting, which search engine or terms did they use, etc?

Our tabs are all lower case, change to first letters upper case.

Other new business: NE allied industry meeting was that they would like to combine with Kansas.

Motion to adjourn. Moved. Second. Carried.

Adjourn