

**SPECIAL MEETING  
OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
OF THE MISSISSIPPI AIRPORTS ASSOCIATION**

**May 15, 2025**

**BE IT REMEMBERED**, that the Board of Directors (the “Board”) of the Mississippi Airports Association (the “Association”) convened a special meeting (the “Meeting”) of the Board at 11:30 a.m. on February 6, 2025 in the first floor conference room at Lefleur’s Bluff Tower, 4780 I-55 North, Jackson, Mississippi 39211, in accordance with Section 6.4.2 of the Bylaws of the Association.

**1. ROLL CALL AND DECLARATION OF QUORUM.**

President Kirkpatrick called the Meeting to order at 11:55 a.m. and called the roll of Directors. The following Directors were present and participated in the Meeting:

Wes Kirkpatrick, President, Monroe County Airport  
Clay Williams, Vice-President, Gulfport-Biloxi Regional Airport Authority (via  
teleconference)  
Tommy Booth, Michael Baker International  
Matt Dowell, Golden Triangle Regional Airport (via teleconference)  
Rosa Beckett, Jackson Municipal Airport Authority  
Tom Heanue, Hattiesburg-Laurel Regional Airport (via teleconference)  
Austin Jenkins, Stennis International Airport  
Clint Johnson, Cleveland Municipal Airport  
Tom Williams, Meridian Airport

The following additional individuals were present and participated in the Meeting:

Seth Hood, Adams & Reese, LLP  
Kathy Kenne, Tellōs Marketing, LLC, Executive Director  
Kristen Shaw, Tellōs Marketing, LLC  
Will Schuller, Federal Aviation Administration  
Josh Stubbs, Mississippi Department of Transportation (via teleconference)  
Jeff Wagner, Baker Donelson Bearman Caldwell & Berkowitz, PC, General Counsel

President Kirkpatrick noted that a quorum was present and declared that the Meeting was competent to proceed with the business identified on the Agenda attached to these Minutes as Attachment 1.

**2. LOBBYING PRESENTATION BY SETH HOOD.**

The first matter to come before the Board was a presentation by Seth Hood of Adams & Reese LLP to provide lobbying services to the Association. Mr. Hood noted that, although most of Adams & Reese’s experience in aviation has been representing manufacturers, logistics

companies and aviation operators, he believed that his firm could benefit the Association through lobbying on legislative matters. Mr. Hood indicated that he would be happy to work with the Association on a fee arrangement, but that he would expect a minimum monthly retainer of \$4,000.

President Kirkpatrick thanked Mr. Hood for his time and told Mr. Hood that the Board would consider his proposal. Mr. Hood then left the meeting.

### **3. APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY 6, 2025 BOARD MEETING MINUTES.**

The next matter to come before the Board was consideration of the minutes of the Special Meeting of the Board of Directors held on February 6, 2025. After discussion, upon motion duly made by Mr. Heanue and seconded by Mr. Clay Williams, the Board unanimously approved the Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Board held on February 6, 2025. President Kirkpatrick directed that the Minutes be filed in the Minute Book of the Association.

### **4. PRESIDENT'S REPORT.**

President Kirkpatrick thanked everyone that was able to participate in the meeting. President Kirkpatrick noted that things have been relatively quiet with the Association over the last few months, but that he has been working on getting the Natchez-Adams County Airport to rejoin the Association.

President Kirkpatrick noted that Mr. Forster had been unexpectedly delayed and would deliver the Treasurer's Report when he arrived.

### **5. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT.**

Ms. Kenne noted that membership numbers are good, and the Association has been receiving a steady stream of dues with the most notable outstanding dues being for the Laurel Airport and the Tupelo Airport. Mr. Heanue offered to speak to the Laurel Airport, stating that he believes it wants to continue to be a member of the Association.

### **6. COMMITTEE REPORTS.**

#### **A. 2025 Annual Conference and Meeting.**

Ms. Kenne reminded everyone that the 2025 Conference will be in Hattiesburg. Ms. Keene indicated that plans for the Conference were coming together, and that the Conference Committee (Tom Heanue, Tommy Booth, Levell Hawkins, Austin Jenkins, Matt Dowell and Clay Williams) have been busy working out details for the Conference. Ms. Keene noted that one addition to the Agenda for the Conference has been to add a discussion on government relations for airports featuring Clay Williams and Tamara Cascio. Ms. Kenne further noted that the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) is currently under travel restrictions, so its involvement in the Conference may be limited, and there likely will not be an opportunity for the one-on-one discussions with the FAA which were so popular last year.

**B. 2026 Annual Conference and Meeting.**

Ms. Kenne reminded the Board that the 2026 Annual Conference will be on the coast, September 30 through October 2, 2026. The venue tentatively selected (subject to confirmation by the venue) is the Beau Rivage.

**7. TREASURER'S REPORT.**

The next matter to come before the Board was the Treasurer's Report by Mr. Forster. Mr. Forster stated that he did not have a handout for the Board, but that the Association continues to be in good financial condition with expenses running less than budgeted with approximately 90% of membership dues received.

Following discussion, Ms. Beckett moved, and Mr. Heanue seconded, that the Board accept the Treasurer's Report. There being no further discussion, President Kirkpatrick called for a vote on the matter with all Directors present voting in the affirmative.

**8. LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE REPORT.**

Mr. Williams expressed appreciation for all that the Mississippi Department of Transportation (MDOT) is doing to continue the funding of the Legacy Multi-Modal Improvements Fund. Mr. Williams further noted that he understood that the second round of grant agreements for the Strategic Multi-Modal Investments Fund had been sent to recipients.

Mr. Stubbs reminded everyone that MDOT's budget was not addressed during the 2025 Regular Session of the Legislature, so he is not sure what to expect with the budget being addressed in a special session.

**9. OLD BUSINESS.**

There was no Old Business for the Board to consider.

**10. NEW BUSINESS.**

**A. Kris Godwin.**

Mr. Heanue noted that Kris Godwin, a wildlife biologist who has provided guidance to airports on wildlife issues for over twenty years has retired as State Director of the United States Department of Agriculture Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service. Mr. Heanue asked for concurrence in commending Ms. Godwin's contributions to airports in Mississippi at the Annual Conference.

There being no further discussion, President Kirkpatrick asked for concurrence from the Board on Mr. Heanue's request. There being no dissent, President Kirkpatrick asked Mr. Wagner to prepare a resolution commending Ms. Godwin's contributions to be presented at the 2025 Annual Conference. Mr. Heanue asked Ms. Kenne to consider something other than a plaque to honor Ms. Godwin.

## **B. Conference Fees.**

Ms. Kenne then asked the Board to consider an increase in fees for the Annual Conference since costs of presenting the Conference have increased since the last time the Board looked at attendance fees. Ms. Kenne suggested an across-the-board increase of \$25.00 so that the new fees would be: Member - \$275.00; Non-Member - \$350.00; Spouse - \$175.00. There would be no change in the cost to bring a guest to a single event (\$40.00).

After discussion, Mr. Heanue moved that the attendance fees for the Annual Conference be increased by \$25.00 as proposed by Ms. Kenne. Mr. Forster seconded the motion. There being no further discussion, President Kirkpatrick called for a vote on the matter with all Directors present voting in the affirmative. Mr. Kirkpatrick declared the motion carried and adopted.

### **11. MDOT REPORT.**

Mr. Stubbs indicated he had nothing to add to the discussion from earlier in the meeting.

### **12. FAA REPORT.**

Mr. Schuller noted that he did not have much to offer on behalf of the FAA. Mr. Schuller noted that Airport Improvement Program grants would be moving forward shortly – the FAA had to update some grant assurances to ensure that they comply with current legislation and executive orders. Mr. Schuller reminded everyone that 2026 would be the last year for Airport Infrastructure Grants. Finally, Mr. Schuller advised the Board that the Airports District Office had been told it would need to wait on any additions to staff FAA.

## **ADJOURNMENT.**

There being no further business to come before the Meeting, upon motion duly made, seconded, and unanimously adopted, the Meeting adjourned at 12:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Wes Kirkpatrick, President  
Mississippi Airports Association

## **ATTACHMENT 1**

### **AGENDA**