

# **LOGAN - CACHE AIRPORT AUTHORITY BOARD MEETING MAY 1, 2025**

## **DRAFT MINUTES**

The Logan-Cache Airport Authority Board convened in a regular session on Thursday May 1, 2025 at 8:30 a.m. in the Cache County Historic Courthouse, County Council Chambers, 199 North Main, Logan, Utah.

### **ATTENDANCE**

#### **Members of the Airport Authority Board in Attendance:**

David Zook – Chair -- Cache County Executive  
John Kerr – Vice Chair – At large appointment by Airport Authority Board  
Mayor Holly Daines – Logan City Mayor  
Jeannie F. Simmonds – Logan City Council – At large appointment by Logan City  
Ryan Snow – At large appointment by Cache County  
Kirk Jensen – Logan City Economic Development Director – Ex-officio Advisory Member

#### **Members of the Airport Authority Board Absent:**

Brett Hugie – At large appointment by Logan City  
Keegan Garrity – Cache County Council – At large appointment by Cache County  
Shawn Milne – Director of Regional Economic Development – Ex-officio Advisory Member

#### **Also in Attendance:**

Bob Low – Airport Manager  
Judd Hill – Lochner Engineering  
John Michener – J-U-B Engineers  
Baron Wesemann – USU Aviation  
John O'Neill – USU  
Scott Perkes – North Logan City  
Scott Weaver – Leading Edge Aviation  
Kim Hall  
Robert Kidd  
Joe Bates  
Brad Wursten  
Andrew Erickson – County Council Staff  
Janeen Allen – Minutes

### **1. CALL TO ORDER**

Chair, David Zook, called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

## **2. ACTION ITEMS**

### **a. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – March 13, 2025 and April 3, 2025**

**ACTION: Motion was made by Mayor Holly Daines and seconded by Jeannie Simmonds to approve the minutes of March 13, 2025 and April 3, 2025 as written. The vote in favor was unanimous, 5-0 (Keegan Garrity, and Brett Hugie absent for vote)**

## **3. MANAGER REPORT**

Bob Low reported that one of his interns, Kate Scott, had been selected for an internship at Salt Lake International Airport. He is sad to lose her, but happy for such a great opportunity for her. He is interviewing to fill her position and the one left when Kasey Maxwell moved to a full time position.

The tower project is still on hold while we are waiting for the glass to arrive. However, he just heard that the glass is being shipped now. They are working on the frames for the glass right now. Once the glass arrives, they will frame it, and the roof will go on hopefully within a week's time.

Inspections are almost complete. Mr. Low is working on compliance education rather than eviction. For the most part, hangar owners have been working with him towards compliance.

Implementation of the new landing fees begins today. They have been working closely with Vector to make sure there are no fees charged erroneously.

Mr. Low and his crew have been out working with rakes and shovels trying to mitigate erosion from the winter.

AARF training begins Monday. Mr. Low and Casey Maxwell will both participate and get qualified so they can respond to incidents, as well

The Master Plan Open House was very successful. According to Lochner it was the most people they have had attend at one time. It was held in conjunction with the FBO's breakfast, so that brought people who had a lot of questions and comments which Lochner was able to respond to.

Mr. Low reminded the board members of upcoming events:

- June 28<sup>th</sup> - Cache Air Fest
- September 13<sup>th</sup> – Run the Runway

Mr. Low asked Connor Butterfield from Lochner to update the Board members on airport summer projects:

- Paint Project – Weather is now warm enough and he anticipates that will be completed very shortly. It should only take 3-5 days to complete.

- Acquiring SRE Equipment – This project is being reviewed right now by the FAA. Once Lochner receives their feedback, they will proceed to look for a 10-wheel dump truck with front plow and a side plow for the airport.
- Taxiway Charlie – The Preliminary design is done, but they waiting on survey and geotech soils report and a topographical map in order to make more precise plans.

#### 4. **PUBLIC HEARING to receive input regarding potential changes to the makeup of the Logan-Cache Airport Authority Board**

Chair Zook introduced the hearing by giving a background about recent discussion meetings about the potential for adding another seat, maybe more, to the board, specifically to provide representation for somebody from Utah State University. It was discussed at the last meeting that the Board would hold a public hearing and receive input from anybody who would like to share their thoughts with the Airport Board.

**ACTION: Motion was made by Mayor Holly Daines and seconded by Ryan Snow to open the public hearing to receive input regarding potential changes to the makeup of the Logan-Cache Airport Authority Board. The vote in favor was unanimous, 5-0 (Keegan Garrity, and Brett Hugie absent for vote)**

Public comment:

**Aaron Dyches:** “I think it'd be great to have at least a position on the board as director of flight operations for Utah State we have 400 students actively flying, 60 flight instructors, 10 maintenance personnel. We do over \$2 million of fuel purchases a year. So having an ability to at least help steer and guide where we are ending up and things that would affect the students for Utah State is something I highly would like to be part of.”

**Joe Bates:** “Hanger owner. Putting USU on the Board, aside from the fact that it would make the board have eight members, which is never recommended for any board, USU is the epitome of self-interest. Dr Jones report pointed out that USU football is the only reason we have part 139 status that USU has enjoyed a free ride for years, until the report made public and embarrassed the board and resulted in negotiations that got USU to kick in some money for last year, not for the previous years where they enjoyed their free ride. Basically, the message was, either pay up or we're going to drop the one part 139 status. They chose to pay up with the current budget cuts, whether they can pay in the future or not. There's a real question. Wasn't a gift, as some board members have tried to characterize it, it was a payback for something that only USU needed, and forced the airport to continue for years asking USU to join the board is wrong for all number of reasons. It's like giving the fox a key to the hen house.

Just because you have 400 students and you buy a couple million dollars' worth of gas doesn't mean you should sit on the board. You're not a dis district party. You're not going to act in the best interest of the airport. You're going to act in your best interest, and that's all you can really do because of your program and the money you're spending. Dr Jones reports specifically recommended in his recommendation number three against allowing members to be selected as representatives of specific cities, towns, counties, customers or other organizations. Parentheses, it has been suggested that USU should have a seat on the authority trying to create a representative process on the airport board introduces conflicting loyalties, can politicize the group more than it already is, and distract the authority from its single focus of making the airport the most successful facility it can be.

If the board wants to reconstitute itself in some other form, as Dr Jones recommended it should start a committee, maybe, of board members and interested outside parties, and explore, first of all, what qualities those new board members should have and what abilities they should bring to the board. Should not add people willy-nilly to the board as a reward for past bad conduct. Please vote against this motion.

**John O'Neill:** "I am John O'Neill, Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer of Utah State University. I've been here in Cache Valley and at the University for 14 months now, and so I apologize that the university did not contribute more to the financing of the airport prior to my arrival, but now that I'm here, it is and it will. We don't invest for the short term here, the university is dedicated to being a fair partner with the county and the city in making sure that the airport, number one benefits from the the components of part 135. They really bring safety and security to the airport and professionalize the experience for all the pilots in the in the valley. Yes, our students benefit from that tremendously. There's no question. Do we care about the professionalization of their experience? Yes, would we like to move towards controlled airspace, to de conflict, the chatter on the radio and all of those things? Sure. We care about this being an essential growth element of. Our partnership and the economy of the valley, I came to my interest in aviation, not because I'm a pilot, although I have flown aircraft, there is a person who has had tremendous influence in my life, my grandfather, who was a pilot in the Navy in World War Two, and who developed all of the instruments that allowed the A 10 warthog to fly properly because the Gatling gun overpowered the gyroscopic instruments in the plane. So I grew up flying in sailplanes with him as a very young child, and had a tremendous impact on my life. So I care about aviation. I care about the programming and the activities of our aviation program, and the success of those students who the legislature has told us are a high value interest of the reinvestment activities that we do at the university. Yes, we are facing cuts, but there are cuts that can be reinvested, and we intend to make sure that we are carrying our weight and contributing appropriately to the benefit of this county, this city in our region. So thank you. Thank you."

**Scott Perkes:** "I am the Community Development Director, City Planner North Logan City. One of the things that was interesting, as we were kind of observing

this discussion from the outside is that we're happy to see the airport is taking steps to look to the towards the future. We all recognize the airport as an important regional asset. And while North Logan city isn't necessarily an ownership interest in the airport, we are, you know, a shareholder in the sense that we're a neighbor, and we see that there's potential opportunity for growth and development in and around the airport. A little bit about myself. I'm a pilot as well. I have a private certificate in rotorcraft. I haven't flown in a while. As a public servant, it's quite cost prohibitive to be out there flying helicopters, but I do love aviation. I mean whatever this board reconstitutes itself as, or re envisions itself as, I think that North Logan city is supportive of more public involvement from outside of the rest of the community. So as a Hyrum City resident, North Logan city employee, I think we would all like to see the airport look towards the future benefit the community as a whole, recognizing that there's a lot of behind the scenes impacts that the public don't see. If you look at the economic impact study that was done by UDOT, there's millions of dollars that are basically invisible to the public because it's all behind the scenes, economic activity that needs to be explained to the public and say, Hey, this, this is actually something that benefits everybody. I mean, there's opportunity for us to look to the future. So wanted to just offer a word of support to the airport. Thank you guys for your efforts to lead the airport in a positive direction. Happy to field any questions or comments."

No other comment was received.

**ACTION: Motion was made by Mayor Holly Daines and seconded by John Kerr to close the public hearing to receive input regarding potential changes to the makeup of the Logan-Cache Airport Authority Board. The vote in favor was unanimous, 5-0 (Keegan Garrity, and Brett Hugie absent for vote)**

Board member, Jeannie Simmonds, suggested there be an email address made available for anyone else who would like to contribute opinions and feedback on this issue. Chair Zook agreed and said that the Airport Authority Secretary, Janeen Allen's email address (janeen.allen@cachecounty.gov) would be added to the website for people to submit feedback.

## **5. DISCUSSION ITEMS**

### **a. OPEN ITEMS**

- Mayor Daines and John Kerr discussed the importance of the airport's FAA status and regional designation.
- Professor Baron Wesemann gave a more detailed description of the Cache Air Fest coming June 28<sup>th</sup>: "We're moving forward. The division of aeronautics is meeting today to initialize some of the speakers and presenters. So it's a two-day event, the 27th and 28th of June, being hosted here in Cache Valley. The Friday events will be up on campus for the training and education summit. There'll be

hands on workshops in the maintenance labs. There'll be drone flying on the quad. There'll be presentations about the update of the part 141 training in the United States. So there'll be everything from helicopters to gliders, and it's a great opportunity that evening in the USU FL9. There'll be the annual awards ceremony for the Division of Aeronautics. We'll have live music with the Cache County Community Big Band. FL9 hanger will have hors d'oeuvres in a buffet style. But then we'll give out the annual awards that night meet the air show performers. It'll be an opportunity, but the Saturday the 28th is going to be a free event. You see this is our draft poster. We're going to update it with some the finalized will be ready next week, but I just want to get it out today, but that's Saturday. There'll be open house, so we will have air show demonstrations the morning and afternoon. There will be static aircraft. We got the B-17 and B-25 for the Commemorative Air Force. We've reached out to Driggs. We've got about a dozen wonderful airplanes, as well as all the fly in airplanes that are there Utah State. We've invited the other training programs to come up, but it'll be a great opportunity. The big information here for all the airport users, there will be a NOTAM from Friday one to three, so 1300 to 1500 closure for a demonstration practice. And then there'll be opportunity for the ARF trucks to go out there and do a simulated response on Friday, so that'll be available for training. And then on Saturday, the NOTAM expected from nine until three, again, no flying during that time for the open house, but we expect three to 5000 maybe more folks. We're working with the city and the county. Tomorrow at 930 there'll be a Zoom meeting if anybody wants to be on the county wants to be on the committee or have information, please see me after this meeting. We'll add you to that meeting. Any questions for the cash air fest, questions from the board. So we appreciate all the support from the board. It's good. It's been 10 years. So Scott Weaver is the deputy for this event, and he'll help out.

Working with Bob and Casey and the interns at the airport, and thanks for the shout out for the run the runway Memorial. 5k will be on the 13th of September, and then the 27th of September, we're going to have our annual girls in Aviation Day bring folks out to the airport. So we're trying to make sure people know that the aviation is alive and well in the valley and helping out with all these community activities.

- Bryce Moore with Campbell Scientific announced a spring users meeting. He asked for anyone interested in being a part of it to add their names and email addresses to his list.

## **6. NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING**

Thursday, June 5, 2025 at 8:30 a.m. – Historic Courthouse County Council Chambers

## **7. ADJOURN**

The meeting adjourned at 8:57 a.m.