**Minutes**

**Alabama Space Authority**

**Meeting  
  
November 17, 2020**

Alabama Department of Economic & Community Affairs

Webinar

**Call to Order:**   
10:00 A.M.  
  
**Welcome Remarks**

Chairman Livingston called the meeting to order.

**Roll Call**

Present: 12  
Dr. Dale Thomas  
Dr. William Hutto  
Dr. Daniel Wims  
Greg Canfield

Kenneth Boswell  
Dr. John Eagerton  
Tim Crosby  
Kelly Butler

Luther Roberts

Stephen Cook

Senator Steve Livingston, Chair  
Senator Tom Whatley, Vice Chair

Visitors:16Lieutenant Governor, Will Ainsworth

Dave Ruppel  
Maureen Neighbors

Debbie Batson  
Keegan Jackson  
Kenneth Tucker  
Lucia Cape  
Mike Ward  
Naveen Vetcha  
Robert LaBrance  
Lee Lankawski  
Cassandra Hawthorne

Via call-in: 4

Unidentified

**Minutes**

Motion to approve by Senator Livingston.

Second by Senator Whatley.

Vote called – unanimous.

**Reports and Presentations**

**Presentation by Will Ainsworth, Lieutenant Governor for Alabama**. Lieutenant Governor Ainsworth delivered background information on his involvement and interest in Alabama Space Authority. He discussed:

* The Alabama Space Authority provides great network advocate for our State.
* Huntsville is ground zero for Aerospace industry with all the other industries they already have established.
* Alabama should push for more aerospace jobs within our State.

Steve Livingston, Alabama State Senator, asked Greg Canfield about the bill for Research and Development Credit supported by industry.

* Mr. Canfield stated Virginia is the model state and they have a successful program, supported by private sector investment.

**Presentation by Dave Ruppel, Director of Colorado Air and Space Port (CASP)**. Mr. Ruppel provided an update on Colorado Space Port. Some of the highlighted topics of his discussion are below:

* He discussed the proposed commercial spaceports in the United States which are: Alabama, Arizona, Brownsville, Camden County, Guam, Hawaii, Michigan, Poker Flat, Puerto Rico, Stennis International Airport, Waco and Yuma.
* Currently there are twelve FAA licensed commercial spaceports in the United States (US) and twelve government-operated launch and landing sites.
* In addition, there are four additional private launch sites developed by commercial launch operators and twelve additional sites/locations having begun pre-application or having announced intended plans.
* Mr. Ruppel gave a snapshot of the economic benefits of Colorado’s Aerospace Industry. He stated that Colorado is number one in the space jobs industry. Their space related industry employs 190,290 individuals with $3.5 billion in payroll.
* They have a joint venture of success with providing education and training, space hardware testing and validation, reentry site licensing, hypersonic technologies, data and fusion centers and workforce development.
* The government leadership in Colorado is very supportive to the Aerospace Industry. They are currently looking at a space tourism and space pilot training program for their State.
* PD Aerospace is based in Nagoya, Japan. It is a great company to have connection with. CASP and PD Aerospace are working together to explore the possibilities of the development and expansion of PD Aerospace’s commercial activities at Colorado Air and Space Port. Their relationship was established by Letter of Intent on April 19, 2019.

Presentation is attached.

Senator Livingston opened the floor for anyone who might have any questions for Mr. Ruppel.

* What’s the timeline in space board master plan?
  + They were licensed in 2018
  + Some will be defined in plan
  + Trying to get the planning process complete
  + Looking for opportunities for infrastructure improvements
* Where do they obtain their funding?
  + Dual use facilities
  + Airports
  + FAA does not support spaceport
  + You must be careful how you identify expenses. If you would like to use FAA funding, you would need to have aviation application; otherwise, you’re looking at private funding
* What was your coordination with the airlines?
  + Will always be challenging
  + Communicate their launches

**Old Business**

None.

**New Business**

* Robert LaBranche suggested that we extend an invite to Calhoun Community College and Auburn for the Alabama Space Authority next meeting. They are partners to build a curriculum that will educate a workforce with digital engineering skills required to support future technology development.
* Senator Livingston added that the invite should also be extended to NASA.
* Keegan Jackson invited participants to virtually join the SOS event by going to spacechannel.com

**Next Meeting**The next meeting will be held at 11:00 a.m. on February 16, 2021. The location will be announced later.

**Adjourn**10:44 A.M.