



# Airport Governance

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Cultivating your  
Airport Board



# Introduction

- Various airport governances and how you can utilize them to your advantage
- Bill Towle, St. Cloud Regional Airport Director
  - ◆ UND graduate
  - ◆ County – small GA county airport in WI
  - ◆ Municipal Authority – commercial service airport in ND
  - ◆ City – St. Cloud Regional



# County Boards

- Typically larger and covering larger area.
  - ◆ Lots of things on their plate other than the airport.
- Rusk County Board
  - ◆ Big, 17 member County Board
  - ◆ Very poor county
  - ◆ Generally made up of “steadfast in their ways”
    - ★ Didn’t like change so much
  - ◆ Smaller Airport Commission
    - ★ Decision Making Authority
    - ★ Understood the need to expand the airport.



# Airport Authorities

- Generally 5-7 members
- Get to concentrate on only airport issues.
- Usually very pro airport
- Dickinson Airport Authority
  - ◆ Five member board appointed by City
  - ◆ Municipal Authority with stipend from County
  - ◆ Budget based on mils from the city
- ND has enabling legislation
- MN now has it too!



# City Council

- Usually 5-9 members, depending on the size of the city.
  - ◆ They also have lots on their plates
  - ◆ Sometimes political agendas
- St. Cloud City Council
  - ◆ Seven member Advisory Board – advisory in nature only
  - ◆ Very pro airport
  - ◆ Large Council just went from 9 to 7
- This is a typical governance in MN and cities usually are favorable to airports due to federal and state funding.



# How I worked with each different board

- Rusk County, WI
  - ◆ Didn't have to do too much. Powerful Board member on the Airport Commission
  - ◆ Copper mining revenue
  - ◆ They understood the airport = economic development
- Airport Authority
  - ◆ Strategic Planning
  - ◆ Helped appoint County Board member
  - ◆ Survey of Board for priorities
- City Council – Advisory Board
  - ◆ Working off of B. Ryks' progress
  - ◆ Monthly meetings
  - ◆ Strategic Planning



# Finally, My pros and cons

- Dickinson Airport Authority
  - ◆ Had lack of resources
    - ★ Depends on how you set it up.
    - ★ Can help with financial resources.
  - ◆ Focused on the airport
- County had a smaller decision making commission
- City Council needs re-educating
  - ◆ Resource rich (sometimes not financially).



# Small Groups

- How is your airport governed?
- Talk about pros and cons
- What is your ideal Airport Board?