

Airport Advisory Committee Meeting
St. Mary's County Regional Airport
January 26, 2009

Approved Minutes

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Jim Davis, Chairman called the meeting to order at approximately 6:02 PM. Committee members Ned Clarke, Rich Richardson, Skip Shepard and Jacque LaValle were also present. Since a quorum was present, official business could be conducted. Others in attendance are reflected on the Sign-In Sheet.

II. MINUTES

The Committee reviewed the draft minutes from the December 8, 2008 meeting. It was noted that the next scheduled meeting is January 26, 2009 not 2008. Mr. Richardson moved to accept the minutes as amended and Ned Clarke seconded a motion to approve the December minutes. The motion passed by a vote of 5-0.

III. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Mr. Davis advised that Mr. Erichsen was unable to attend this evening as the Board of County Commissioners had scheduled a Capital Budget work-session for fiscal years 2010-2015.

The Chairman advised that on January 20, 2009, the Board of County Commissioners accepted the Committee's recommendation of Michael R. Brunnschweiler to fill the vacant committee position. The County's Public Information Office will contact Mr. Brunnschweiler and upon his acceptance, will prepare the formal appointment letter.

Mr. Davis announced that on January 20, 2009, the Board of County Commissioners approved the DMTU, LLC Lease and Operating Agreement Addendum as recommended by the Committee at their December 8, 2008 meeting. The primary purpose of the addendum was to transfer Allied Hangers, Inc. assets (one 60' x 75' building and associated 3,000 square feet of parking lot area) to the DMTU, LLC entity.

The Chairman advised that the Committee was responsible for submitting an Annual Report to the Board of County Commissioners. After discussions with Mr. Erichsen, it was agreed that the Department of Public Works & Transportation would submit a draft for consideration by the Committee at the February or March 2009 meeting(s).

The Chairman also acknowledged receipt of an email from a member of the Dahlia Park Homeowners Association in the Wildwood development. In short, it is requested that planes continue to fly as close to the standard approach / departure patterns as possible. In addition, if pilots could follow the guidelines in the Airport's voluntary Fly Quiet Program: reducing power or propeller RPM as soon after take-off as possible; approaching at an appropriate altitude; and flying a tighter pattern, then collectively pilots will be able to help keep noise as close to the airport as possible.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Davis then opened the floor to public comment, of which there was none. However, the Committee took the opportunity to invite Mr. Art Nalls, Jr. from Nalls Aviation, Inc and Major General Joe Anderson, USMC Retired to publicly discuss the British Aerospace Sea Harrier FA2 operations and to provide responses to the written request for additional information

made on behalf of the Committee by the Department of Public Works & Transportation in a correspondence dated December 8, 2008. Most importantly, the extent and duration of the Harrier operations and the extent of documented safety planning Mr. Nalls presented a copy of his Airworthiness Certificate and letters of Authorization from the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) which expired on October 11, 2008. Mr. Nalls advised that the FAA authorization was only for the initial mandated proficiency flight test phase, which has now been completed. Mr. Nalls reported that since the mandated phase is completed, no additional authorization from the FAA was required. There was considerable discussion regarding the on-going maintenance operations as well as the request Mr. Nall's discussions with the FBO, Steve Bildman, regarding the possible construction of a 100' x 100' concrete pad, specifically for self-maintenance and vertical takeoffs and landings, which will be separately addressed through the adopted Development Review Procedures for proposed construction on Airport property.

It was both of the presenters opinion that in the event of a real flight problem, they would much rather and will go to the base in case one that requires a vertical landing. They have the impression that they will gain more access to the base and possibly the Harrier pad with a change of personnel and more diplomatic liaison strategy. Both agreed that the ground runs at a high power pad would very loud and could last for several minutes.

Mr. Ned Clarke reiterated his concerns regarding the potential safety and noise nuisances that would be created by Tactical Jet Aircraft. These operations will impact an area of already developed residential, commercial and business locations established around the airport. Mr. Clarke suggested that the existing noise contours and noise studies currently on record demonstrate that these types of operations really should not be permitted at 2W6 nor should they be solicited or encouraged.

V. DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS & TRANSPORTATION REPORT (Chairman)

In Mr. Erichsen's absence, the Chairman provided several updates and reports. Mr. Davis announced that on January 20, 2009, that the Board of County Commissioners approved the Special Maryland Aviation Administration (MAA) grant. The grant will provide 50% funding for the Airport Security Plan (ASP), Airport Emergency Plan (AEP) Wildlife Management Plan updates and for crack-sealing of additional public ramp areas. The executed grant package was forwarded to the MAA on January 22, 2009 by Mr. Erichsen.

Mr. Davis also advised that Delta Airport Consultants had completed a PAPI Obstacle Clearance Surface survey. Based on the December 2008 assessment, there does not appear to be any penetrations into the PAPI Obstruction Clearance Surface at this time. An updated survey could also be performed at a later date.

As requested by the Committee members at the last meeting, copies of the Capital and Operating Budgets were distributed for informational purposes along with selective statistics / indicators associated with Airport operations. Most notably was that the Committee's request to replace the rotating beacon was moved for FY 2011 to FY 2010 as recommended. Mr. Erichsen's prior comments to the Committee included that the Airport was not treated as a cost center and that all the operational costs such as airfield lighting, utilities, insurance, mowing, etc were included in other Departmental accounts in County government. It has been the Department of Public Works & Transportation's historical recommendation to place all operational accounts associated with the airport into the Airport Operations budget.

With respect to the update to the Airport Rules and Minimum Standards, Mr. Davis advised that Mr. Erichsen would have a draft available for the Committee at the February or March

2009 Meeting. It was further agreed that the consultant should be present to present the major changes and rationale behind their recommendations.

As a result of a request by Mr. Clarke, excerpts from Chapter 43 the County Zoning Ordinance were distributed. The relevant sections discuss in detail the Airport Environs (AE), the respective approach surfaces, noise level contours, sound level reduction requirements and land use compatibility guidelines around the Airport. In addition, Chapter Six of the Environmental Overview as prepared by Delta Airport Consultants regarding noise was provided as reference.

VI. FBO AND LEASEHOLDER REPORTS

Mr. Bildman reported on several items of interest to include; weather related NOTAM's, current gas pricing and other minor operational issues.

VII. NEW / OLD BUSINESS

The next scheduled meeting is February 23, 2009. The meeting begins at 6:00 PM in the Walter F. Duke Terminal Building Conference Room.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Having heard no additional comments, Mr. Davis indicated that the agenda for the meeting was complete. Mr. Ned Clarke moved, and Mr. Richardson seconded, a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed by a vote of 5-0, and the meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:34 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Approved,

George A. Erichsen, P.E.
Recording Secretary

Jim Davis, P.E.
Chairman