

Airport Advisory Committee Meeting
St. Mary's County Regional Airport
October 23, 2006

Approved Minutes

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Bill McNamara, Chairman called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM. Other members present were: Korey Smith, Ned Clarke, Stan Sweikar, Erin Lesko, Joe Mitchell and Walter Gillette. Recognizing that a quorum was present, Mr. McNamara noted that official business could be conducted. Others in attendance are reflected on the Sign-In Sheet.

II. MINUTES

The Committee reviewed the draft September minutes. Korey Smith moved and Ned Clarke seconded a motion to approve the September minutes as drafted. The motion passed with a vote of 5-0. The approved minutes for July are posted to the County website.

III. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Mr. McNamara began the meeting by noting that an airplane based at the airport crashed shortly after landing on October 12, 2006. To ensure that adequate time was provided to the guest speaker scheduled for the night's meeting, Mr. McNamara tabled further discussion about the incident until the Public Comment portion of the agenda.

Mr. McNamara reviewed the airfield walkthrough conducted on October 14, 2006, noting that the overall conditions were very good, with a few items needing attention. Specific concerns include: 1) the previously-noted (April 2006) utility trench settlement behind the main hangar and T-hangars, requiring warning and repair; 2) the crossing to the wind-t/segmented circle is experiencing erosion; 3) the King Air Crash area needs analysis/repair due to heat damage and prop strikes; 4) main runway and taxiways in very good condition with no visible cracking, but runway markings need paint and the approach of R/W 29 needs some grass clearing; 5) new signage is still needed; 6) dumpster area has damaged asphalt.

Additionally, the fuel pits looked good, and the automated entry gate was in working order. The T-Hangar area was very clean, and there was no observed trash or unauthorized dumping. The new striping for the transient tie-downs looked good, but was incomplete at the time of the walkthrough. The committee will continue to monitor the condition of the airport through its semi-annual walkthrough program.

Mr. McNamara reviewed the meeting schedule for the balance of calendar year 2006, noting that the fourth Monday of November will be the Monday after Thanksgiving and that the fourth Monday of December will be Christmas Day. The committee has already met the six-meeting per year requirement. After discussion, the committee decided to combine the November and December meetings to Monday, December 4th.

Mr. McNamara recommended that the St. Mary's County Historical Society be recognized for their loan of the display case for the terminal re-dedication ceremony. The committee agreed to have the Chairman and the Department of Public Works and Transportation draft a letter expressing the committee's gratitude.

IV. GUEST PRESENTATION

Mr. McNamara introduced Mr. LeRoy Mattingly, NASPAX Air Operations, who gave a presentation concerning the base's Air Installation Compatible Use Zone (AICUZ) Program. In calendar year 2005, the Navy conducted over 80,000 flight operations between NAS Pax and Webster Field. Highlights of the presentation include the following:

The goals of the AICUZ program are to; 1) protect public welfare while ensuring continuation of mission; 2) protect naval installation investment by safeguarding operational capabilities; 3) reduce noise where practicable; and 4) inform the public about the program and seek cooperative efforts.

The AICUZ is prepared in accordance with Navy-wide directives and is primarily advisory, requiring local government involvement of appropriate land use, zoning requirements and development regulations. The community's role includes recognizing problem areas, monitoring the Comprehensive Plan, conducting joint planning with the Navy, advising the public and developers, establishing zoning controls/sound reduction, and requiring disclosure statements. The County's Department of Economic and Community Development and the Department of Land Use and Growth Management are actively involved in the AICUZ program with the base.

The goals and methodologies of the AICUZ program are similar to the goals and methods of St. Mary's County Regional Airport. Mr. Mattingly agreed to return at a future meeting to continue the discussion about the AICUZ program and provide additional information about the Navy's ongoing efforts to maintain airfield operations in concert with local community development.

V. PUBLIC COMMENT

The public was also notified of the airplane incident on October 12, 2006. A King Air 200 crashed shortly after landing on R/W 29 at approximately 12:15 PM. The three occupants of the plane were able to exit the aircraft without injury, but unfortunately the entire right side of the plane was engulfed in fire. The preliminary cause of the accident was a collapsed landing gear that then penetrated the fuel tank of the right wing. Airport personnel called 9-11 immediately after the incident and attempted to control the fire with portable fire extinguishers. The Hollywood Fire Department was the first to arrive on scene at approximately 12:23 PM, and they had the fire under control within approximately ten minutes of arrival. The committee requested a review of the incident response for this accident and the overall emergency plan for the airport at the next scheduled meeting.

The public noted that the pavement approximately 200-ft in from the approach end of R/W 29 has a depression noticeable during flight operations. Similar to the utility excavation settlement between the hangars, the Department of Public Works and Transportation will review both short-term and long-term options to address this condition.

The public also noted that some of the transient tie-down ropes are starting to show signs of wear, specifically unraveling.

VI. DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS & TRANSPORTATION REPORT

Mr. Gary Whipple represented the Department. The committee reviewed the County's development review process as it relates to the airport, re-iterating the process for development plans as regulated by Chapters 60 (Site Plan Review) and 43 (Airport Environs

Overlay) of the Comprehensive Zoning Ordinance. The development review application is screened by both Land Use and Growth Management and the Department of Public Works and Transportation for development proposed within the Airport Environs (AE) overlay. If a development appears to impact the FAA control surfaces or other airfield-related restrictions, the developer is required to file a Notice of Proposed Construction or Alteration (Form 7460-1) with the FAA and receive approval before final zoning approval. The Department proposes a double faceted approach to continuing the review of development in areas adjacent to the airport; 1) the County agencies (LU&GM and DPW&T) will continue to monitor the development review process per established procedures and; 2) specific concerns will be addressed to the committee and the Department of Public Works and Transportation for evaluation and follow-up. The Department's preference would be that such specific concerns would be raised between meetings so that staff can be prepared to address any findings at the next available meeting. This approach was acceptable to the committee.

Gary Whipple noted that efforts continue to finalize the connection of the Automated Weather Observation System (AWOS) to the FAA's nation-wide automated reporting system. Mr. Bray Besse of URF and the County's IT Department have completed the connection of the AWOS system, using a temporary receiver provided by Vaisala. The target for completing this work and removing the temporary equipment was mid-October 2006 per Mr. Besse, but delays in receiving the permanent equipment from Vaisala have pushed the completion out to a later and unspecified date. Mr. Whipple and Mr. Besse will push Vaisala to provide the permanent equipment and report back at the next scheduled meeting.

The Department has coordinated winter operations with Airtech, Inc. by providing the FAA's list of approved winter-weather contractions for Notice to Airmen (NOTAM's), per the County's correspondence of September 27, 2006.

Gary Whipple also provided a summary of revenue and approved budgets for airport operations from FY91 through FY06, indicating four straight years of positive revenue since the airport was transferred to the Department and the advisory committee was established in 2001. Also of note is the fact that the current operating budget is approximately the same as the budget for FY91, with almost two and a half times the revenue being generated. Although revenues have decreased from 2000, operating expenses have experienced a much greater decrease for an overall increase in net revenue generated.

Gary Whipple also highlighted the Department's continuing efforts in improving the airport webpage. Specifically, under the Instrument Approach Section, the Department has provided information to the public for obtaining NOTAM's through an FAA website (<https://pilotweb.nas.faa.gov/distribution/home.html>) and an established 800 number (1-800-WX-BRIEF).

VII. FBO AND LEASEHOLDER REPORTS

Mr. Bildman reported that the paint machine is now operational. 50 gallons of paint have been received, and painting operations will continue depending on weather conditions. Mr. Bildman provided a copy of the National Transportation Safety Board incident report to Mr. Whipple for the County's review and files.

VIII. NEW/OLD BUSINESS

The next meeting is scheduled for December 4, 2006 at the County Airport in the Terminal Building Conference Room. The Public Works and Transportation Department will be responsible to forward the public notice information to the Public Information Office.

Gary Whipple notified the committee that the terms of three members, Mr. Clarke, Mr. Sweikar, and Ms. Lesko, were due to expire on December 31, 2006. Mr. Whipple requested that these members indicate their intentions for remaining on the committee by the meeting scheduled for December 4th.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Having heard no additional comments, Mr. McNamara recommended the meeting be adjourned. Ned Clarke moved to adjourn the meeting, which was seconded by Mr. Sweiker and passed by a vote of 7-0. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Approved,

Gary B. Whipple, P.E.
Recording Secretary

Bill McNamara
Chairman