

Airport Advisory Committee Meeting
St. Mary's County Regional Airport
December 8, 2008

Approved Minutes

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Jim Davis, Chairman called the meeting to order at 6:10 PM. Committee members Ned Clarke, Joe Mitchell, Rich Richardson 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 September 22, 2008 meeting. Mr. LaValle noted two spelling errors under the Chairman's Report. Mr. Richardson moved to accept the minutes as amended and Ned Clarke seconded a motion to approve the September minutes as drafted. The motion passed by a vote of 5-0.

III. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Mr. Davis advised that Committee member Randy Willis was unable to attend as he was in New Mexico on travel.

The Chairman reminded the attendees to utilize the Airport Users Group which the County placed a link to on it's web at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/2W6Users/> . The users group is an opportunity to share thoughts, suggestions and concerns about the airport. At last count there were approximately 96 members according to the website.

Mr. Davis advised that Mr. Erichsen had provided applications in the Committee members packages for review later in the meeting. Mr. Erichsen suggested that committee choose an applicant that has the individual qualifications and expertise that the committee feels it should have in order to make recommendations to the Board of County Commissioners. Mr. Mitchell added that if necessary, he could continue to attend meetings if an adequate replacement was not identified.

A copy of the adopted Committee By-Laws was distributed and referenced. The formal membership of the Committee shall consist of seven (7) members comprised of individuals with aviation and/or other business experience.

The Chairman also acknowledged the November 6, 2008 Enterprise newspaper article regarding the malicious burning incident at the Airport that the Mr. Bildman, FBO, briefly reported on at the last meeting.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Davis then opened the floor to public comment, of which there was none. However, the Committee took the opportunity to publicly thank Mr. Joe Mitchell for all his hard work and dedication to the Committee.

Mr Davis did mention that the green rotating beacon at the airport was not very visible from 3,000-4,000 feet away, even on an evening with fairly good visibility. Mr. Erichsen advised that the beacon was included in the Capital Improvement Program as a navigational aid and safety priority in an upcoming fiscal year. Rich Richardson moved to recommend that Mr.

Erichsen have the project moved up into the FY 10 fiscal request as a priority project. Mr. Joe Mitchell seconded the motion which passed by a vote of 5-0.

V. DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS & TRANSPORTATION REPORT

Mr. Erichsen represented the Department of Public Works and Transportation. He reported that on November 2, 2008 he made written application to the Maryland Aviation Administration for special grant funding that was made available in late September. In particular, up to 50% State funding is available for the drafting of an Airport Security Plan (ASP), Airport Emergency Plan (AEP), Wildlife Management Plan and public ramp crack-sealing project. The draft plans will be provided to the Committee for their review and recommendations.

Mr. Erichsen provided an update to the Letter of Authorization (LoA) clarification requested at the last Committee Meeting. Mr. Erichsen distributed a copy of the letter forwarded to Pax River NAS requesting that the intent of the LoA Exhibit be clarified. The request was a follow-up to Mr. Ned Clarke's observations at the last meeting. In short, the Committee and Department wants to ensure that the ability to operate in the restricted airspace is not further limited. The "arc" graphically shown on the Exhibit should be measured from the 29 end of the runway as extended, not the runway centerline.

Mr. Erichsen also provided written evidence of his notification to the owner of the Harrier who has been conducting operations out of 2W6. The aircraft owner has been requested to attend the January Advisory Committee meeting to discuss his intended operations, noise complaints from neighbors adjacent to the airfield, FAA authorization for operating out of 2W6, duration and number of flights planned per year, safety plans etc. Mr. Bildman advised that he would contact Mr. Art Nalls directly. Mr. Erichsen advised that vertical take-offs from the field should be prohibited and that a cease and desist order could be leveraged against the aircraft owner if the recent notice does not generate an appropriate response. Mr. Ned Clarke advised that the Harrier's safety record continues to be questionable and must be addressed.

With respect to the proposal for limited Harrier operations, Mr. Erichsen referenced the approved Development Review Procedures that were also provided to Mr. Nalls. The Procedures describe the minimum information needed from anyone proposing to conduct new aviation activities or services at the airport. All proposals must be routed through the Advisory Committee for comments and recommendations.

Mr. Erichsen provided the chemical specification sheet for the vegetation and weed control practices utilized by the Department of Public Works and Transportation along the perimeter fence line of the airfield. Pramitol 5PS is a pelleted nonselective herbicide that is EPA registered. According to the general use instructions, when applied to the soil, the product is intended to inhibit all plant growth for a year or more.

Mr. Erichsen reported that on December 1, 2008, the Federal Communications Commission Radio Station Authorization was renewed until October 10, 2018. He also noted the formal name change under the Licensee was now "Mary's County Regional Airport".

The final item reported on by the Airport Manager was that the 2W6 National Based Aircraft Inventory had been updated with the help of Airtec. Completion of this database update ensures the Federal Aviation Administration that all fixed based planes are accounted for at each airport and that any duplication of tail numbers is resolved between the respective airfields.

VI. FBO AND LEASEHOLDER REPORTS

Mr. Bildman advised that several youth had been reported walking around without official business at the airport. They were confronted and the Sheriff was contacted and the youths immediately left the premises. This is a testament to the fact that the AOPA Watch Program does appear to give tenants a greater feeling of ownership and responsibility on and around the airfield.

Mr. Bildman reported that there was a minor gyrocopter incident over the past month. The Volunteer Fire and Rescue Squad promptly responded, but a NOTAM had to be issued to close the runway for approximately 45 minutes. Mr. Erichsen was also notified and approved the NOTAM in accordance with the operating agreement between the County and FBO.

Mr. Bildman indicated that gas prices were lowering which should generate additional fuel sales and fuel flowage revenues to the County.

The final item of business from the FBO was the scheduled presentation of a Lease and Operating Agreement Addendum to transfer Allied Hangar assets to DMTU, LLC. In particular, Mr Bildman stated that this was a part of an overall business plan for FBO Site #4 which is comprised of a 4,551 square foot hangar and the associated 3,000 square foot parking lot. Mr. Joe Mitchell moved to recommend that the Board of County Commissioners approve the Addendum as presented. Mr. Ned Clarke seconded the motion which passed by a vote of 5-0.

VII. NEW / OLD BUSINESS

Based on the FBO report, there was some discussion about providing additional security signage (ie no unauthorized persons beyond this gate) and/or providing a keypad at the pedestrian entrance (w/ UNICOM frequency code), but no motion was passed. It was agreed to table the discussion until the draft Airport Security Plan (ASP) was submitted for review by Mr. Erichsen.

Mr. Jacque LaValle submitted his final written report to the Committee regarding the VOR 29 approach for non-GPS aircraft. In short, a VOR approach will benefit the airport. In March or April 2009 a NOTAM for a new and separate VOR approach to R/W 29 for missed approaches will be issued.

Mr. Richardson asked Mr. Erichsen to provide a copy of the Airport operating and capital budgets. Mr. Erichsen said he would bring copies for all the Committee members at the February meeting. He also advised 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. Mr. Erichsen stated that it has been his historical recommendation to place all operational accounts associated with the airport into the Airport Operations budget.

Mr. Ned Clarke requested that Mr. Erichsen provide information regarding the Airport Environs (AE) and existing / future Noise Contours for the airport to assist the Committee in further discussing the Harrier operations. Mr. Erichsen said the majority of text is clearly stated in the Comprehensive Zoning Ordinance which is available online, but that he would provide copies to all the Committee members at the February meeting.

The next scheduled meeting is January 26, 2009. The meeting begins at 6:00 PM in the Walter F. Duke Terminal Building Conference Room. Ned Clarke moved and Skip Shephard seconded a motion to combine the November and December meeting on December 8, 2008. The motion passed by a vote of 4-0.

The Committee members reviewed the applications provided by the County's Public Information Office in order to recommend a replacement for the vacant Committee seat. Rich Richardson moved to recommend that the Board of County Commissioners appoint Michael Bressemeir. Mr. LaValle seconded the motion which passed by a vote of 4-0. Mr. Joe Mitchell abstained as it was his former seat that was being discussed.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

For the record, Mr. Erichsen advised that the cancellation of the October 27, 2008 meeting was properly noticed to the public and posted at the terminal.

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 7:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Approved,

George A. Erichsen, P.E.
Recording Secretary

Jim Davis, P.E.
Chairman