

Airport Advisory Committee Meeting
St. Mary's County Regional Airport
February 26, 2007

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, Erin Lesko, Skip Shepherd, Walter Gillette, and Ned Clarke. Joe Mitchell was excused on travel. 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 January minutes. Korey Smith moved and Ned Clarke seconded a motion to approve the January minutes as drafted. The motion passed with a vote of 4-0. The approved minutes for December are posted to the County website.

III. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Mr. McNamara began his Chairman's Report by reporting that Mr. Joe Mitchell had volunteered to serve as Vice Chairman for calendar year 2007. Mr. McNamara opened the floor to the committee for additional nominations or volunteers. Hearing no objections, nor receiving additional nominations, Ned Clarke offered a motion to elect Mr. Mitchell as the Vice Chairman, and the motion was seconded by Korey Smith. The motion passed by a vote of 5-0. Subsequently, Korey Smith offered a motion to re-elect Mr. McNamara as the Chairman, and the motion was seconded by Ned Clarke. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. McNamara advised the rest of the committee about the review comments received for the 2006 Annual Report. Mr. Whipple handed out copies of the revised draft for review. After subsequent review and minor clarifications, the committee authorized the Department of Public Works and Transportation to prepare the final report, to be submitted to the committee before presentation to the Board of County Commissioners.

Mr. McNamara noted that the committee had received the February 2, 2007 memorandum from the Department of Public Works and Transportation to the Board of Education with respect to the Wildewood Elementary School project. Mr. McNamara deferred further discussion on the matter until after the Guest Presentation.

Mr. McNamara also noted that the Hollywood Volunteer Fire Department remains interested in meeting with the subcommittee for emergency response. A date for the meeting has yet to be determined but will be forwarded to the subcommittee members when established.

IV. GUEST PRESENTATION

Mr. McNamara introduced Mr. LeRoy Mattingly from the Air Operations Division, Naval Air Station Patuxent River, who presented a short video about the Air Installations Compatible Use Zones (AICUZ) program. Mr. Mattingly also had in attendance Senior Chief Willis, Senior Chief Hess and Petty Officer First Class Bennett to discuss specific issues about air traffic control during the comment period.

The video presentation referenced how military airfields have been traditionally sited in more remote and rural areas for physical security and safety reasons, but the strong economic magnet created by employment opportunities at such installations has drawn development

into closer proximity. The video detailed how air operations dictate specific zones (Clear Zones and Accident Potential Zones). The video highlighted the recent Maryland legislation enacted this past fall concerning real estate disclosure requirements for property near military installations. Mr. Mattingly also presented to the committee copies of the new AICUZ Planning Map for NAS Patuxent River and OLF Webster Field, based upon the Chief of Naval Operations Instruction (OPNAVINST 11010.36B) "Air Installations Compatible Use Zones Program".

After the video presentation, the NAS personnel responded to questions from the committee and the public in attendance. A summary of their comments is as follows:

- NAS Patuxent River Approach Control controls approximately 6,800 square miles of airspace, extending from the Potomac River up to the Mechanicsville area, to Ocean City in the east, and as far south as Accomack County, Virginia.
- Any flight out of NAS Patuxent River that flies in the Patuxent Restricted Areas goes through a rigorous test plan procedure that includes safety and contingency plans.
- OLF Webster Field has two Air Traffic Controllers (ATC's) assigned to provide services to rotary & fixed wing aircraft, air space monitoring and test events.
- Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS's) have redundant safety features and are not operated outside of restricted areas unless under an approved Certificate of Authorization granted by the FAA.
- Flights approaching the county from the southwest come through the transition from Potomac Control too high (5,000 feet), often not being able to make the descent to the county airport. NAS Patuxent River Approach Control cannot control aircraft out of their airspace, but will work with pilots to ensure that their descent requests are expeditiously handled.
- The **general** rule for flight operations for the four private airstrips in the county is to stay under 800 feet. Specific guidance is given for each flight operation.
- The Letter of Agreement (LoA) between the AAC and NAS Patuxent River Approach Control has been reviewed and will be forwarded back to the Department of Public Works and Transportation for action.
- NAS Patuxent River will review the current Airport Emergency Plan for the base's role in contingency planning for the county airport. A copy will be provided by the Department of Public Works and Transportation.

V. PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. McNamara thanked Mr. Mattingly and the ATC personnel for their presentation and valuable information. He then opened the floor to discussion, specifically the Wildewood Elementary School. Mr. McNamara expressed interest in two specific issues; 1) the site selection process and 2) what specific noise study information can the committee review to minimize the likelihood that current and future noise levels do not either interfere with the school or cause undue restrictions to flight operations at the airport.

Mr. Mattingly noted that noise studies are not based upon single-event operational data, but Day/Night averages (DNL's). He suggested that noise study data could be reviewed to delineate operations for certain periods of the day. Mr. Whipple indicated that the County has information regarding the same and will also check with the consultant who prepared the Environmental Assessment for the airport expansion. Additionally, the Maryland Aviation Administration (MAA) may also be a source for such data. Finally, Mr. Whipple asked the NAS Personnel if they would review their records for flight operation data from the county airport, and they said that they would determine what data could be feasibly obtained and report back to Mr. Whipple.

(Note: DPW&T can request a Board of Education planning staff member present site selection criteria at one of the next meetings).

Mr. Terry Adair mentioned that the committee and the airport users should take action to educate the public on the value of the airport to the community. He suggested that programs such as EAA and Young Eagles be re-emphasized to further the community's appreciation for general aviation. Mr. Mattingly noted that Fly-ins attracted him to aviation in his youth. Mr. Adair also expressed his strong appreciation for the personnel at NAS Pax River Air Operations.

Mr. Pat Weaver noted that even if safety and noise levels are within acceptable standards, it may be difficult to evaluate and quantify the "distraction" effect of aircraft on students.

Receiving no further public comment, Mr. McNamara turned the floor over to Mr. Jim McCarthy, who gave a presentation on his research project, entitled "The Effectiveness of New Instrument Approaches at 2W6". Mr. McCarthy noted that his study was in final draft form and that his presentation to the committee was a courtesy preview. The purpose of his study was to evaluate the effectiveness of reduced instrument landing minimums in terms of improvement of accessibility, cost effectiveness and usage. His study recommends that the County pursue the implementation of an RNAV (GPS) approach capability with LPV or LNAV/VNAV altitude minimums and one mile visibility to achieve the least costly but greatest incremental improvement in access to the airport. Additional improvements can be realized as funding becomes available.

VI. DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS & TRANSPORTATION REPORT

Mr. Gary Whipple represented the Public Works and Transportation Department. The Airport Lease Consolidation and Operating Agreement were approved by the Board of County Commissioners on February 6, 2007.

Mr. Whipple also noted that the Department forwarded a memorandum on the Wildewood Elementary School to the Board of Education. The memorandum, dated February 2, 2007, and its attachments were included in the meeting handouts. The memo referenced the Zoning Ordinance Chapter 43 requirements for the Airport Environs Overlay and the required notes to be placed on the final site plan.

Mr. Whipple also included in the meeting handouts a memorandum to the Department of Land Use and Growth Management updating the Regional Record Plat Checklist. The updates include references to Chapter 43.5 of the Zoning Ordinance and the new name for the airport.

The meeting handouts also included the February 2007 Key Findings & Recommendations of the Southern Maryland Navy Alliance's Encroachment Study Committee. The recommendations of the report address five overall objectives; 1) Improving on-going St. Mary's County/Navy Communication; 2) Eliminating future residential development in APZ-2; 3) Creating a Buffer Zone; 4) Addressing encroachment issues at Webster Field; and 5) Analyzing merits of a Joint Use Land Study.

Mr. Whipple provided a copy of the February 14, 2007 letter to the Federal Aviation Administration requesting clarification on their aeronautical study concerning the tower extension proposal for the site near the intersection of Indian Bridge and St. Andrews Church Roads. The intent of the letter was to ensure that the FAA took into account the County's approved plan to increase to B-II (large) category of service and to ask them to comment on the impact to existing approach minimums.

Gary Whipple provided a brief update to the Wetlands Mitigation Plan. Delta Airport Consultants, the County, and the Metropolitan Commission continue to work together to identify the best wetlands mitigation solution at the St. Clements Shores Treatment Plant. Delta Airport Consultants and MDE representatives visited the St. Clements Shores facility on January 17, 2007 to delineate the potential areas for the wetlands mitigation. Efforts continue to obtain all necessary METCOM and County approvals.

Gary Whipple noted that the FAA's comments on the airfield signage package were addressed and forwarded back to the FAA on February 13, 2007.

VII. FBO AND LEASEHOLDER REPORTS

Mr. Pat Weaver gave the FBO report, and indicated that the first payment under the new consolidated lease and operating agreement had been made as scheduled. Mr. Weaver also stated that the building permit for the second to last building was being finalized and that construction should start in late May. Finally, a NOTAM was issued on February 25, 2007 for thin snow on the runways.

VIII. NEW/OLD BUSINESS

The next meeting is scheduled for 6:00 PM on March 26, 2007 at the County Airport in the Walter F. Duke Terminal Building Conference Room.

The committee will plan and prepare an Airport Crash & Rescue Drill with the Emergency Management Agency and the Emergency Operations Center for the summer of 2007. The committee wants to ensure that the Hollywood and Bay District Volunteer Fire Departments are aware of their responsibilities under the Airport Emergency Plan. The subcommittee for this exercise will be Bill McNamara, Ned Clarke, Erin Lesko, and Walter Gillette. Tentative plans are to meet with the Hollywood VFD in the near future.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Having heard no additional comments, Mr. McNamara recommended the meeting be adjourned. Korey Smith moved and Ned Clarke seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting, which passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Approved,

Gary B. Whipple, P.E.
Recording Secretary

Bill McNamara
Chairman

Joe Mitchell
Vice Chairman