

Airport Advisory Committee Meeting
St. Mary's County Regional Airport
March 23, 2009

Approved Minutes

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Jim Davis, Chairman called the meeting to order at approximately 6:03 PM. Committee members Skip Shepard, Michael Brunnschweiler 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 February 23, 2009 meeting. Mr. LaValle requested that the Chairman's Report reflect that proof of training is required when flying within a 60 mile radius of DCA. Also, that under the Public Comment section, Garrmond should be spelled Garmin. Mr. Richardson moved to accept the minutes as amended and Skip Shepard seconded a motion to approve the February minutes. The motion passed by a vote of 4-0.

III. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Mr. Davis reminded the Committee that a special Federal Aviation Administration NOTAM #9 / 6186 would be in effect on March 24, 2009. The NOTAM is a temporary airspace restriction and is in place for President Obama's scheduled joint session at congress similar to the NOTAM's filed for presidential State of the Union address.

Mr. Davis requested Jacque LaValle provide an overview of the current flight plan requirement within the AIDIZ. IN short, flight plans must be filed if a pilot is planning to fly within a 30 to 60 mile radius of DCA. The website www.faasafety.gov provides the on-line training required and pilots must keep a copy that they have completed the training on board their respective aircraft(s). The AIDIZ is now referenced as the SFRA and violations will now include the imposition of criminal charges as a means of enforcement.

The Chairman brought up the fact that the Verizon pay phone had been removed from the pilots lounge due to lack of use. It was expressed that not every one has a cell phone. It was expressed that this is a safety issue and a convenience for the pilots. It was stated that the cost of having the pay phone reinstalled will be investigated by DPW&T and possibly paid for by DPW&T. DPW&T will be investigated the cost and to whether the County will pay for this phone and include in the FY 10 operating budget request for the Board of County Commissioners consideration.

Mr. Davis also advised that there is now a Pax River Noise Hotline for use by citizens. The number is 866-819-9020 and is posted on the County Airport Operations website.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Davis then opened the floor to public comment.

Mr. Davis requested that all members provide e-mail address on the sign in sheet in order that the minutes could be sent in advance of the meeting for the members to review, if no e-

mail a fax number. This would help facilitate the finalization of the Annual Report and comments on the Airport Rules and Minimum Standards.

There was discussion regarding access to electrical outlets for pre-heaters. Jim Davis agreed to report back to the Committee as to number and location. Mr. Davis placed the proposed location on the airport aerial.

Rich Richardson suggested the Committee consider implement an Annual Safety Inspection program. Mr. Carlton advised that Mr. Erichsen previously suggested that historically the months of April and October were targeted by the Committee. The Committee agreed to select April 18, 2009 and would convene at 9:00 AM at the Piedmont Flight Center building (Blue Hangar).

It was noted that the Rotating Beacon is on all the time. Mr. Carlton stated that he would notify Building Services of this and it would be corrected prior to the next Committee meeting.

It was brought up that the airport runways were not cleared of snow and that a pilot was snowed in on Monday because of this. Mr. Carlton advised that the Medevac pad was the primary priority which was cleared. For heavier snows, the FBO is unable to plow and the DPW&TT assists once all roads have been completed. The FBO is required to issue a NOTAM in the interim. As such, the runways were cleared by Tuesday with the help of the Recreation and Parks Department. Mr. Carlton also advised that County Government was closed because of the snow.

V. DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS & TRANSPORTATION REPORT

Comments were made on Page 6 of the draft of the Annual Report requesting we compare St. Mary's Regional to other airports in the surrounding area. Maybe there are benchmarks that can be used as a comparison as to what the airport needs to address in the present and future years. Mr. Carlton advised the Committee that they should include language to that effect and submit the Annual Report to the Board of County Commissioners by May 2009.

Mr. Carlton read House Bill 1356 / Senate Bill 650 that explained the combination of aircraft that the state of Maryland is requesting proposals on. Basically, Section 15-1105 of the legislation states that; "the Department shall consider a state operated helicopter fleet for emergency medical services. In evaluating the proposals submitted under the request for proposals, the Department may consider: (1) helicopter leasing; (2) refurbishing of helicopters; or (3) any other option to improve the safety and efficiency of the fleet".

It was also stated that the FAA is performing Aeronautical Study #2009-AEA-433-OE regarding a test Tower in St. Indigoes and a temporary crane operation in Hollywood is under review by FAA Aeronautical Study #2009-AEA-669-OE. Mr. Carlton pointed out that the FAA now notifies the County of all their studies as a part of the development review process.

In order to help facilitate future discussions on the airport, Mr. Carlton advised that a 1"=200' scale aerial photo of the airfield would be brought to subsequent meetings.

VI. FBO AND LEASEHOLDER REPORTS

Mr. Pat Weaver reported that some aircraft had left the airfield, but that the waiting list for hangar space was able to fill all but one space. Many of the individuals on the waiting list (50-70%) advised him that they had planned to purchase a plane to place in a hangar, but were not planning to make the investment at this time, most likely a result of the recent economic

downturn. Mr. Weaver stated that the ramp had been cleared after the snow storm and that the runway had not.

Mr. Bildman, FBO operator, explained that Medstar was currently a temporary transient and that they were trying to work out an agreement with at their former location. The pilots lounge is open 24/7 and has a computer, phone, microwave and refrigerator in it. It was noted that door is not locked at the present time. It was stated that there was an accident last month and that the aircraft was totaled. The pilot only had minor injuries. Committee member Jacque Lavalle asked about the timing of the runway expansion. The explanation was that until the wetlands mitigation is completed, the FAA reserves the right to be less generous with future funding. It was explained that the FAA Airport Capital Improvement Program (ACIP) was a very long and drawn out process, and that much work was to be completed.

The FBO operator explained the process that has to be done for the airport expansion and that a great deal of up front work has to be done before the construction of the runway begins. This includes relocating roads, acquiring land, building new roads, installing possible new water, gas line, relocating power cables, etc. Mr Carlton agreed to provide the Committee with the FAA's timeline at the next regular meeting, but it is not known whether the present economic conditions will postpone the construction or not at this date.

VII. NEW / OLD BUSINESS

The next scheduled meeting is scheduled for April 27, 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. Jacque LaValle 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 6:59 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Approved,

Bob Carlton, Project Manager DPW&T
Recording Secretary

Jim Davis, P.E.
Chairman