

Airport Advisory Committee Meeting
St. Mary's County Regional Airport
June 26, 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, 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 May minutes. Korey Smith moved and Walter Gillette seconded a motion to approve the May minutes as drafted. The motion passed with a vote of 4-0. The approved minutes for April are posted to the County website.

III. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Mr. McNamara reviewed the Terminal Re-Dedication ceremony held on June 6, 2006 and expressed his appreciation for this who could attend the successful event. He stated that the family of Captain Walter Francis Duke appreciated the request to rename the Terminal Building after Captain Duke.

Mr. McNamara also noted that the Young Eagles Rally held on June 10, 2006 was another successful event. Gary Whipple took the opportunity to point out the Special Permit procedure that was followed and noted the handout that included the permit form, the map, and the detailed traffic control plan. This special event permit is the standard for a successful application.

Mr. McNamara opened the floor to the public for open comment and discussion.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT

With respect to geese control measures, it was noted that Ocean City, NJ has successfully implemented a program using silhouettes of large dogs to scare off geese. This approach is fairly cost effective. Mr. Steve Bildman of AirTec noted that he had taken measures to ward off geese approximately six weeks prior to the date of the meeting and that his efforts have been effective to date. It was decided to comprehensively review all options of Wildlife Hazard Management at the July meeting to implement an on-going program.

The public inquired as to whether the Pilot's Lounge is intended to be a 24/7 operation, which is the intent. The signage for the airport will need to reflect this for clarification.

The public also inquired as to the advertisement procedures for the monthly meetings. The Committee noted that the County website announces the meeting schedule for the public.

The public also inquired about the status of the approach lights on Runway 11. The Committee noted that a photo-cell has been replaced by the Building Services Division of the

Public Works Department, and this action appears to have rectified the problem. Gary Whipple requested any feedback otherwise.

The public inquired as to the eligibility for obtaining a key card; specifically can someone not named on the lease and insurance be issued a card, such as a spouse or a member of a corporation. Gary Whipple indicated that the eligibility will be reviewed at the July meeting.

It was noted that the grounds maintenance crew often leaves the gate near the AWOS open while cutting the grass on the north side of the airport. This is not necessary, since the gate should be closed behind them once they pass through it, and it is possible that deer or stray dogs could move through the gate onto the airfield. The Department of Recreation, Parks, and Community Services will be contacted to put an end to this practice.

Finally, the public inquired as to the nature of the new development at the Northwest Corner of the airport property. A placard was not readily observable on a recent drive-by, so Gary Whipple is to provide an update at the July meeting.

V. DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS & TRANSPORTATION REPORT

Mr. Gary Whipple represented the Department. Gary Whipple noted that the final Environmental Assessment for the airport development was forwarded to the FAA on June 16, 2006. The public notice for the Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) will be posted per the direction of the FAA.

As mentioned during Public Comment, a photocell was replaced on the PAPI on R/W 11 on June 19, 2006. The Department requests any feedback concerning this repair.

The AirTec lease proposal recommendation is under review by the County Attorney's office at this time. The County comments on the lease proposal, as well as AirTec's response to those comments, were reviewed by the committee during earlier meetings this year.

The April 29th walkthrough inspection was reviewed, and the items already addressed were noted, such as the Taxiway B sign, portions of the crack sealing, and the photocell for the R/W 11 VASI lights. The action plan for other items were also discussed, such as the wood post and cable fence (removal), the wind T segmented circle (replacement of wood supports and metal surfaces), the wiring for the wind T (replace gasket / bolts), the removal of vegetation near wind T (remove / chip in place), unauthorized dumping (removal / posting of signs), and unauthorized parking (coordination with owners / Sheriff Dept). The Department will provide a summary of the actions for review and progress tracking.

Gary Whipple noted that there has been no official acknowledgement by the FAA of the name change to the airport despite repeated efforts on the part of the Department and Delta Airport Consultants to ascertain the status. It was noted that the next Airport Facility Directory (AFD) and sectional charts will be published in August, and it is the expectation of all concerned that the changes make the August update.

On June 20, 2006, the Department responded to a request by the Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD) concerning potential development of the north parcel. The Department's response, included as a handout to the committee, summarized the size and constraints of the parcel, as well as prior (1991) plans to include an additional taxiway, access to Airport View Drive, and alternate access across the airport to Airport Road. The response to DECD also reiterated the committee's concern that any development in the area should be "aviation-related and have direct benefit to the airport" per the 2004 Annual Report.

The recent round of crack-sealing on the apron / ramp areas was completed, and 80% of the funding was reimbursed to the County from MAA. Follow-on work to provide crack-sealing in the parking lot is pending review of the Airport Improvements capital fund balance.

The Department presented the Airport Environs Buffer and Zoning Map indicating the zoning classifications and the various aviation-related control zones that govern airport operations and development in the vicinity of the airport. The committee will use this graphic, in conjunction with excerpts from Chapter 43 of the Zoning Ordinance, handed out at the April 2006 meeting, to review land use compatibility and the airport environs overlay. The intent is to form a subcommittee to develop recommendations to the Board of County Commissioners concerning general aviation and development standards by late summer or early fall.

The Department is working with the County Attorney and the airport consultant to retroactively obtain FAA reimbursement for land acquired back in 1997 for the purpose of extending R/W 11 in accordance with the Airport Improvement Plan (per the handout provided to the committee). The Department will advise the committee on the progress of this effort as it develops.

The Department is taking action to extend the maintenance services for the AWOS system provided by Vaisala, Inc., which are currently under warranty, and due to expire in September 2006. The extension will be for one year only and will be evaluated for continuation at a later date. Ned Clarke indicated that contact has been made with the County's IT Department to provide the necessary coordination with Vaisala to link the AWOS to the FAA database. This data link will upgrade the current service.

VI. FBO AND LEASEHOLDER REPORTS

Mr. Bildman provided an update to the Pilot's Lounge, indicating that work to the ADS-B was complete, providing a radar feed from NAS Pax River. The GCO radio is to be moved out of Room 11 in conjunction with a work request to the Building Services Division. The key lock box will be moved to Room 12. Furniture is on-hand, to include a flight planning table. Once the radio is moved, the lounge can be opened.

Mr. Bildman reported that appropriate seal coating equipment and herbicides are on hand to continue the on-going maintenance of the airfield.

A boat and trailer appeared on the property the last week of June, and Steve Bildman will work to ascertain its status and take appropriate action.

The upper gate appears to malfunction approximately once a month, and Building Services has been responsive in addressing the service calls. This past month, someone apparently pulled the chain to disengage the motor to the gate, which is an unacceptable security violation subjecting any perpetrators to the full prosecution under the law.

VII. NEW/OLD BUSINESS

The next meeting is scheduled for July 24, 2006 at the County Airport in the Terminal Building Conference Room. The committee will not be meeting in August per earlier agreement, therefore the subsequent meeting will be held on September 25, 2006. Public notice will be provided. The meetings are normally held on the 4th Monday of the month.

Ned Clarke's May 22nd report on Canada Geese was discussed, and it was determined to summarize all available options for the Wildlife Hazard Management program at the July meeting.

Mr. Bildman provided the air emissions data requested by the Maryland Department of the Environment. The State is required to develop an emissions inventory by the US EPA since Maryland is not in attainment with the National Ambient Air Quality Standards for ozone. The data collected for calendar 2005 estimates 180 Landing and Take-Offs (LTO's) for small jets, 9,125 LTO's for single engine piston, and 1,095 LTO's for twin-engine piston aircraft operating out of the airport. Additionally, 7,200 Touch & Go's are estimated for single engine piston aircraft and 200 Touch & Go's for twin-engine piston aircraft. The information will be forwarded to the Air Quality Planning Department of MDE.

Mr. McNamara agreed to take on the completion of the Airfield Signage package with the assistance of Mr. Bildman. The package is complete and was reviewed during the April airport inspection. Once the package is finalized and endorsed by the FAA, procurement of the signs will commence.

VIII. 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. Gillette and passed by a vote of 4-0. The meeting was adjourned at 7:10 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Approved,

Gary B. Whipple, P.E.
Recording Secretary

Bill McNamara
Chairman