

St. Mary's County Regional Airport  
Airport Advisory Committee Meeting  
January 23, 2012

**Approved Minutes**

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Jim Davis, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM. Vice Chairman Jacque LaValle, and Committee Members Ray Bednarcik, Bob Mullennix, Jack Pappas, Rich Richardson and Skip Shepherd were present. Committee alternates Erik Anderson and Regan Hanson were also present. Since a quorum was present, official business could be conducted.

**II. MINUTES**

The Committee reviewed the draft minutes from the December 5, 2011 meeting. Receiving no comment from committee members, Jacque LaValle moved to approve the minutes as drafted. The motion was seconded by Rich Richardson and passed by a vote of 7-0. The approved minutes for prior meetings are posted to the County website.

**III. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

Mr. Davis introduced Regan Hanson as the new alternate committee member. LCDR Hanson is currently on active duty based at Patuxent River Naval Air Station with the Air Test and Evaluation Squadron. He gained his wings as a naval aviator in July 2003 and was recently a distinguished graduate from Test Pilot School in 2009. The committee welcomed him aboard.

Mr. Davis reported that an accident occurred at the airport on Sunday afternoon, January 22<sup>nd</sup>. An aircraft was being started for an engine check and inadvertently taxied full throttle into his hangar, damaging the structure. The operator of the aircraft received severe facial lacerations and was evacuated by air ambulance. The passenger in the plane declined medical treatment at the scene. The FBO is coordinating the evaluation and repairs to the hangar.

Mr. Davis reported that the County's solicitation for Expressions of Interest closed earlier in the afternoon (4:00 PM on 23 JAN 2012) with no offers received. Mr. Whipple indicated that the site visit was held on Thursday, January 5, 2012, and two companies were actively reviewing their options. Subsequently, one of the firms indicated via e-mail that they would not be submitting a proposal.

The committee reviewed the plan to add additional tie-down spots on Ramp A and Ramp D. The FBO and the County have determined the locations and marked them. The County has ordered the tie-down anchors and will have them installed by the Department's Highways Division. The committee also reiterated the need to address aircraft that appear to be abandoned or not airworthy. Mr. Whipple indicated that the County would contact the registered owner of the plane near Gate 3 and ascertain its status and determine if the owner would be agreeable to relocating to another spot.

Mr. Davis led a discussion on the pilot lounge improvements and handed out a sketch floor plan to the committee for review. The plan calls for a renovation of interior finishes, removal of the interior wall to create more space, and furnishings. The plan will be submitted to the FBO to review with a preliminary budget and schedule expected for the February meeting. The committee approved a letter to the County Commissioners from the Committee Chairman requesting wireless Internet service, which will be forwarded to the County Administrator's office for their action.

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Mr. Davis opened up the floor for discussion concerning the FAA study to decommission the Nottingham VORTAC and the expected impacts to the airport. The committee noted that the Nottingham VOR has been out of service for over a year already and that the FAA is moving away from the maintenance expenses of VOR as they transition to Nex Gen GPS based systems. Terry Adair stated that whether the VOR is out of service, VOR is still a viable procedure, and without it, access to 2W6 will be limited to GPS. He recommended that the committee disapprove the decommissioning since there are fixes in and out of the SFRA that depend on Nottingham VORTAC. Jacques LaValle moved that the committee withhold an official response on the Nottingham VORTAC, which was seconded by Rich Richardson. During discussion, Erik Anderson noted that an approach certified GPS is a significant expense. He suggested that the motion be modified to include that the committee request from the FAA their plan to address other fixes and approaches to 2W6. The amendment to the motion was adopted, and the motion passed by a vote of 7-0.

Mr. Davis and Mr. Whipple noted that the first draft of the 2011 Annual Report is in the package for committee review and comment. Most of the draft is complete save for the annual operational statistics that the County needs from the FBO. The FBO is working on providing that data which will be added to the final draft for the February meeting.

Mr. Davis nominated Mr. Pappas to be the first committee secretary, and the motion was seconded by Mr. LaValle. After little discussion, the motion passed by a vote of 6-0 with Mr. Pappas abstaining.

#### **IV. PUBLIC COMMENT**

The public in attendance was in general agreement that the decommissioning of the Nottingham VORTAC will impact 2W6 fixes and approaches. However, the general consensus is that the FAA will remove the Nottingham VORTAC and that the FAA should work with St. Mary's County to determine viable options.

The public in attendance also supports the alternations planned for the pilot lounge and look forward to the County installing wireless internet access per their request. The addition of tie-down spaces is also of interest to those in attendance, and they would like to see action on addressing several aircraft that appear to be under utilized, or even becoming a hazard, for the space they are occupying.

Doug Poole, representing the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association (AOPA), stated that the airport needs to review signage for airport security considerations. The subject will be on the February agenda to develop a plan of action to address.

#### **V. DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS & TRANSPORTATION REPORT**

Mr. Gary Whipple represented the Department of Public Works and Transportation and referenced the prior December 2011 hand out of the draft County Airport Capital Improvement Plan (ACIP). The committee has reviewed the draft and has no substantive concerns with how the draft is presented. Mr. Whipple stated that the draft will be presented to the County Commissioners at a February budget work session.

Mr. Whipple included the monthly report on proposed developments within the Airport Environs (A/E) overlay. For the month of January and February 2012, there were no development proposals with an apparent impact on airport operations. The Department will continue to monitor the monthly development review submissions.

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Mr. Whipple reported that the County had entered the requisition paperwork for the crack sealing project to address the taxiway and runway. The Construction Inspections Division will manage the project for the Department and coordinate directly with the FBO for appropriate notifications and clearances to work on the airfield.

**VI. FBO AND LEASEHOLDER REPORTS**

Mr. Steve Bildman and Pat Weaver represented the FBO and reiterated that all transient spots are full, necessitating the need to move quickly on installing additional tie down spots on Ramp A. Mr. Whipple indicated that he would move to schedule the work with the Highways Division once the anchors are in hand.

**VII. NEXT MEETING**

The next committee meeting will be on Monday, February 27, 2012. The meeting will begin at 6:00 PM in the Walter F. Duke Terminal Building Conference Room.

**VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Davis noted that the agenda was complete, and Mr. LaValle moved that the meeting be adjourned. Mr. Shepherd seconded the motion, which passed by a vote of 7-0. The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

*(signed)*

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C. J. Pappas  
**Secretary**

Approved,

*(signed)*

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Jim Davis, P.E.  
**Chairman**