

St. Mary's County Airport Advisory Board 2020 Annual Report

25 January 2021



James Alexander, Chairman
Robert Lightstone, Vice Chairman
Ted Klapka, Secretary
Albert Babcock
Bryan Barthelme
Carrie Kelly
Robert Zaorski
Gerald Meyerman, Alternate

Appointed Ex-Officio Member:
Allison Swint, Airport Manager

Assigned Technical Advisor and Staff Support:
Gary B. Whipple, P.E.

MESSAGE FROM THE AIRPORT ADVISORY BOARD



2020 was the 50th Anniversary year of the St. Mary's County Regional Airport (2W6), which was dedicated on May 23rd, 1970, and what a year it was. The COVID-19 global pandemic took center stage in early March and had a major impact to the planned anniversary celebrations, along with nearly every other aspect of life. The airport terminal building was closed most of the year.

Despite COVID-19, there was some good news at the airport this year too. After 26 years, the new Airport Rules, Minimum Standards for Businesses Providing Aeronautical Services to the Public, and Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) were approved by the Commissioners of St. Mary's County on June 16th, 2020 following a virtual public hearing on June 2nd. The Rules and Minimum Standards were adopted as County Ordinance No. 2020-29 and took effect on July 1st. The SOP supplements the County ordinance and will be updated as required. This major milestone resulted from several years of focused effort by the Airport Advisory Board, discussing and debating, gathering and addressing public comments, and revising the three important but outdated documents until they were unanimously approved by the Board in January 2020.

Airport Phase 1 construction (West Ramp, Taxiway Alpha, and Airport Road) was also essentially completed in 2020. Phase 2 construction grading for a 1,200 foot runway extension, along with terminal building renovation, should begin in early 2021. Phase 3 is paving and lighting the 1,200 foot extension and full-length parallel taxiway.

Our airport remains a unique regional asset, an important economic engine and center of academic excellence and innovation in the county, and a safe source of recreation for the general aviation community. The challenge of balancing responsible economic development with maintaining the friendly general aviation flavor of the local hometown airport is ongoing. We encourage local citizens to attend scheduled meetings of the Airport Advisory Board and provide their valuable input on the future direction of this county treasure.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The St. Mary's County Airport Advisory Board (AAB) submits this 2020 annual report in accordance with Bylaws Article III. The report includes the following highlights:

- ✈ Celebration of the airport's 50th Anniversary! COVID had a great impact unfortunately.
- ✈ New Airport Rules, Minimum Standards, and Standard Operating Procedures were submitted by the AAB in January 2020 and approved by the Commissioners of St. Mary's County in June 2020. This was a complete update of the original documents dating back to 1994.
- ✈ Taxiway construction (with lighting) and relocation of Airport Road were essentially completed in 2020. The West Ramp was completed in 2019. Runway extension and terminal building renovation are slated for 2021.
- ✈ The airport received \$69,000 in funding through the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act. The AAB recommended the funding be used for planned terminal building renovations in 2021 to accommodate an airport restaurant.
- ✈ Airport Manager Allison Swint was promoted to Deputy Director, Transportation in the Department of Public Works and Transportation during a reorganization in August. The AAB supported the promotion as being in the best interests of the County, but recognized that her broader responsibilities would diminish her focus on airport issues.
- ✈ Continued development of airport-related facilities by S. Hunt Aero, LLC. No additional land is available to S. Hunt Aero for future development.
- ✈ Notable airport activities that advanced technology; stimulated research, development, and innovation; promoted general aviation and STEM education with local youth; and encouraged the general public to visit the airport.
- ✈ Start of food truck service at the terminal in March, and addition of an airport courtesy car in October to attract visiting pilots to the airport and local businesses. The AAB thanks Piedmont Flight Center for providing the vehicle after the County was unable to do so.
- ✈ Economic Impact – Based upon the State's 2018 report, business revenues exceeded \$35M with 499 direct and indirect jobs producing in excess of \$32M local income and \$6M in tax revenue. These figures are expected to grow in the future. The next report is due in 2021.
- ✈ Annual Budgeting – Capital Budget Improvements remain on track with the 2002 Master Plan with major construction planned for completion within the next few years. In FY2020, the airport operated at a net gain of \$69,479 when comparing direct operational expenses and direct revenues. This is the second consecutive year of operating at a net gain.
- ✈ Airport Activity and Capacity – 2019 MAA data shows more than 40,000 operations annually, an increase of 13.1% from previous data. The next report is due in 2022. A total of 206 aircraft reside at the airport as of December 2020. The airport is currently at aircraft storage hangar capacity with 51 aircraft on the waiting list for occupancy. Outdoor tie-downs remain available.

INTRODUCTION

Purpose and Goals of the Board

The Bylaws of the St. Mary’s County Airport Advisory Board, adopted January 15th, 2019, govern the purpose, composition, and procedures of the Board. The purpose of the Board is to “advise the Commissioners of St. Mary’s County concerning the development and management of the St. Mary’s County Regional Airport.” This broad purpose encompasses airport operations, planning, economic development, responsible growth, and identification of the needs and best interests of the citizens of St. Mary’s County. Specific goals of the Board are:

- ✈️ Ensure safe and secure facilities for general aviation;
- ✈️ Promote safe ground and flight operations;
- ✈️ Maintain a friendly environment for the aviation community and the general public;
- ✈️ Improve economic development potential and revenue;
- ✈️ Provide a restaurant, observation area, and pilot store/gift shop for the benefit of the airport community and general public;
- ✈️ Complete the extension of the runway to meet or exceed Federal Aviation Administration standards for the Airport Reference Code (B-II large, aircraft less than 12,500 lbs);
- ✈️ Protect and enhance airspace and approaches;
- ✈️ Ensure that commercial, private and public development in and around the airport meets standards with respect to safety and noise;
- ✈️ Promote the sustainment and growth of general aviation through local activities that showcase the airport to the general public, introduce youth to potential aviation careers, and support Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) education;
- ✈️ Focus on identifying and resolving airport-related issues

The Board currently consists of eight volunteer members appointed by the Commissioners of St. Mary’s County. Board officers are elected by the Board each January or as required. The Board meets on the fourth Monday of each month in the conference room of the Captain Walter F. Duke Terminal Building in California, Maryland unless otherwise indicated on the county website or a special meeting is necessary (most 2020 meetings were virtual). The table below details the attendance record of the Board members in 2020.

Last Name	First Name	JAN 1/27	FEB 2/24	MAR 3/23	APR 4/27	MAY no mtg	JUN 6/22	JUL no mtg	AUG 8/24	SEP 9/28	OCT 10/26	NOV no mtg	DEC 12/7
Officers:													
Alexander	James	P	P	C	C		P		A	P	P		P
Lightstone	Robert	P	P	C	C		P		P	P	P		P
Klapka	Ted	P	P	C	C		P		P	P	P		P
Members:													
Babcock	Albert	P	A	C	C		A		P	P	P		A
Barthelme	Bryan	P	A	C	C		A		P	A	P		A
Kelly	Carrie	P	P	C	C		P	R	====	====	====		====
Zaorski	Bob	P	P	C	C		P		P	P	P		A
Alternates													
Meyerman	Gerald	P	A	C	C		P		P	A	A		P
	P	Present											
	A	Absent											
	R	Resigned											
	X	Place holder, new board position											
	C	Meeting Cancelled											
	====	Not on Committee											
						By-Laws Section 6: If any appointed member fails to attend three (3) consecutive regular meetings, with or without reasonable cause, or is absent from 50% of the regularly scheduled meetings during any calendar year, the Chairperson shall notify the County Administrator of the absences.							

The Airport Operations Division of the Department of Public Works & Transportation (DPW&T) provides administrative staff support and valuable technical input to the Airport Advisory Board. The Airport Manager, Allison Swint, serves as an ex-officio member of the Board. The St. Mary's County Building Services Division assists the Airport Manager by providing facilities maintenance services. A Private-Public relationship for airfield operations was established via the 2005 Operating Agreement with the primary Fixed Base Operator (AIRtec, Inc.), who provides daily operational support. Some services provided by the FBO have been or will be transitioned to the County.

Hail, Farewell, and Thank You

The Board would like to recognize Mr. John Deatruck, Director of Public Works and Transportation, for his continued support of the airport. Mr. Deatruck is assisted by outstanding staff support which he directs through his deputy, Mr. Gary Whipple. Day-to-day airport operations are managed by Allison Swint. The Board wishes to extend its recognition of the County Highways & Building Services Divisions of the DPW&T, Department of Recreation & Parks (snowplowing), Department of Economic Development, Department of Land Use & Growth Management (LUGM), Department of Finance, Civil Air Patrol (CAP), Experimental Aircraft Association (EAA), and fixed-based tenants on the airfield for their continued assistance over the past year. The Board also recognizes the service of those members who departed in the past year: Carrie Kelly and Ted Klapka. Finally, we wish to recognize the outstanding leadership provided by Mr. James Alexander as Board Chairman.

MISSION STATEMENT

“To satisfy aviation demand and promote airport development that both integrates with the community and serves the region's general aviation needs.”



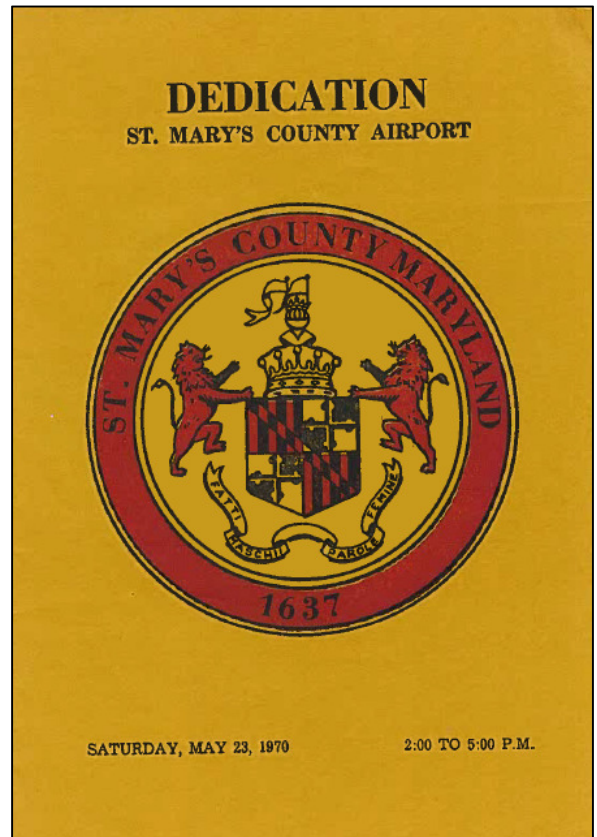
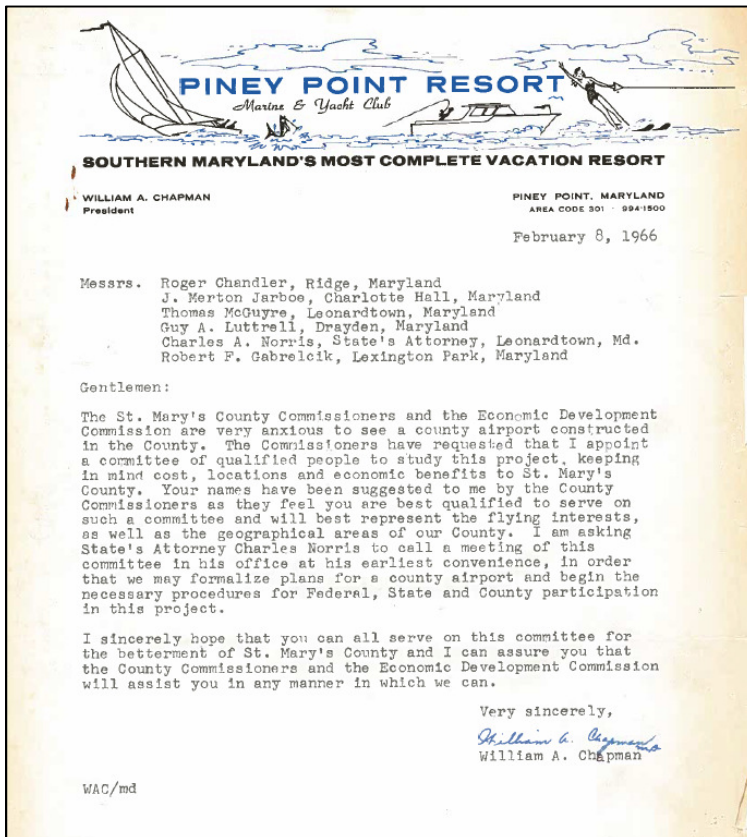
HIGHLIGHTED ACTIVITIES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS FOR 2020

Airport 50th Anniversary

The 50th Anniversary celebration started out well with several events early in the year, but was abruptly curtailed in mid-March by the COVID pandemic. Many planned events on the anniversary website (<https://www.stmarysmd.com/dpw/airport-operations/anniversary/>) were cancelled or adapted to accommodate social distancing. One important event that was added was the “Aerial Salute to Healthcare Workers” at MedStar St. Mary’s Hospital in May. The Open House in October, which was to be the main public event of the anniversary celebration, was also downsized to specifically honor healthcare workers and first responders for their tireless work during the pandemic.

The airport did get some good nationwide exposure with an article about the 50th Anniversary in *General Aviation News*, a periodical with a print circulation of 24,000 and an online circulation of 110,000. A related article was also published in *Aviation Week & Space Technology*.

While this wasn’t the celebration that was deserved or hoped for after 50 years, everyone made the best of it. Thanks to the Planning Committee co-chairs James Alexander (AAB), Ken Reed (S. Hunt Aero airport developer), and Allison Swint (Airport Manager); and all the organizations and individuals who hosted, supported, or participated in events! We all hope live events will soon return to the airport!





Celebrate the 50th Anniversary of St. Mary's County Regional Airport!

Something for everyone!

The St. Mary's County Regional Airport has its 50th Anniversary in 2020, and numerous events are planned to celebrate the milestone throughout the year! The events are for the airport community, aviation enthusiasts, and the general public -- something for everyone!

Events are listed below. Details of each individual event can be found at the links below once the information becomes available.

[Looks like we picked the wrong year to have our airport 50th Anniversary](#)

[Aviation Week article on 2W6](#)

December 21, 2019	Holiday Farmer's Market / See Santa Fly In!
January 11, 2020	Indoor Radio-Controlled Aircraft Display/Demos/Sims
January 18, 2020	VMC Club (monthly pilot safety/proficiency forum)
January 29, 2020	Civil Air Patrol Open House
February 8, 2020	2020 AOPA Rusty Pilots*



February 8, 2020 [AOPA's How to Start and Run a Flying Club](#)

February 15, 2020 [Fly-In Farmers Market](#)

February 15, 2020 [VMC Club \(monthly pilot safety/proficiency forum\)](#)

March 6, 2020 [Movie Night - 1970 Oscar winner "Airport"](#)

March 14, 2020 (Cancelled) [VMC Club / FAA Pilot Forum / WINGS Event](#)

March 21, 2020 (Cancelled) [Fly-In Farmers Market](#)

April 4, 2020 (Cancelled) [Fur-Ever Home adoption event hosted by the Easter Bunny](#)

April 18, 2020 (Cancelled) [VMC Club \(monthly pilot safety/proficiency forum\)](#)

May 9, 2020 (Cancelled) [Vintage Aircraft / Vintage Cars / EAA Young Eagles](#)


May 10, 2020 [Drive-Thru Farmer's Market](#)



Download Video



May 16 2020 (Cancelled) ["World's Fastest Bourbon" / Art Nalls' Harrier \(ticketed event\)](#)

May 16, 2020 (Virtual)	VMC Club (monthly pilot safety/proficiency forum)
May 20, 2020	WINGS Webinar General Aviation News Article, Part 1 General Aviation News Article, Part 2 General Aviation News Article, Part 3
May 23, 2020	50th Anniversary of Airport Dedication - Inception to Dedication and Recollections
May 29, 2020	Aerial Salute to Healthcare Workers
May 30, 2020 (Cancelled)	EAA Young Eagles (free flights for youths age 8-17)
June 2, 2020	Airport 50th Anniversary Proclamation
June 14, 2020	Drive-Thru Farmer's Market - Event time 10-1
June 17-19, 2020 (Cancelled)	Maryland Airport Managers Assoc (invitation only)
June 20, 2020 (Virtual)	VMC Club (monthly pilot safety/proficiency forum)
June 27, 2020 8am-noon	Open Hangar Day (Open to any airport based tenant) 
July 12, 2020	Farmers Market
July 25, 2020 (Virtual) (Cancelled)	VMC Club (monthly pilot safety/proficiency forum)
July 28, 2020 (Virtual)	National Aviation Day Event (Leonardtown) Proclamation
August 8, 2020 (Cancelled)	Taxiway 5K Run
August 2020 (Cancelled)	Fly-In and Shuttle to Pax River Naval Air Museum
August 15, 2020 (Virtual)	VMC Club (monthly pilot safety/proficiency forum)
September 6, 2020	Farmer's Market
September 19, 2020 (Cancelled)	Fly-In Breakfast and WINGS Event
September 2020 (Cancelled)	UAS (drone) Airshow (invitation only)
September 19, 2020 (Virtual)	VMC Club (monthly pilot safety/proficiency forum)
September 26, 2020 (Cancelled)	International Girls in Aviation Day Event
October 17, 2020	MedStar Day (invitation only)
October 17, 2020 (Virtual)	VMC Club (monthly pilot safety/proficiency forum)
October 25, 2020 (Cancelled)	Farmer's market
November 2020 (Cancelled)	Civil Air Patrol Open House
November 7, 2020. Time: 10 am – 2 pm.	Open Hangar Day (Open to any airport based tenant)
November 21, 2020 (Virtual)	VMC Club (monthly pilot safety/proficiency forum)
November 22, 2020	Farmer's market
December 19, 2020	Holiday Farmer's Market
December 19, 2020 (Virtual) - Cancelled	VMC Club (monthly pilot safety/proficiency forum)

Airport Rules, Minimum Standards for Businesses, and Standard Operating Procedures

The previous Airport Rules and Minimum Standards, adopted in August 1994 as County Ordinance 94-19, underwent review and update for the past several years to better align with the growth and future of the airport. The County, Airport Advisory Board, and local aviation community were committed to creation of a compliant, workable, and amenable set of documents for all airport stakeholders. From 2013-2019, this process included lively debate, discussion, and some contention; however, the best interests of the airport stood paramount throughout the entirety of this effort.

The Airport Advisory Board, with public input, initially developed a final draft of the proposed Airport Rules and Minimum Standards in 2017. These documents were reviewed by the FAA and MAA without comment, then forwarded to the County Attorney for review as a county ordinance. Following that review, the newly revised documents were posted for the public in late 2018 in advance of a scheduled public hearing with the Commissioners of St. Mary's County on January 8th, 2019. The documents included some significant changes which caused concern with both the Airport Advisory Board and the airport community. More work was needed, so the public hearing was deferred. A public forum was hosted by the AAB on January 28th, 2019, to get public comment and perspective on the latest draft documents, with about 70 citizens attending. Revising the airport documents and addressing public comments was the top priority and focus of the Board from late 2018 and throughout 2019. The August 2019 drafts of the documents were reviewed by Government Advocacy Specialists at the Experimental Aircraft Association. EAA is the world leader in recreational aviation with more than 220,000 members in over 100 nations, and they stated "EAA believes the draft airport rules have been successfully modified to satisfy the interests of both St. Mary's County as well as the airport's general aviation users, including our members." The November 2019 issue of *EAA Sport Aviation* magazine highlighted this success, noting that "the county and the airport advisory board were highly receptive to the feedback they received in the comments from both the chapter and EAA headquarters."

The AAB's Rules Subcommittee completed the final draft documents in December 2019, and the full AAB unanimously approved the drafts in January 2020. A public hearing on the final draft documents was planned for March 17th, 2020, but was delayed until June 2nd due to COVID. There were no public comments at the hearing, and the Commissioners of St. Mary's County approved the draft documents on June 16th, 2020. The Rules and Minimum Standards were adopted as County Ordinance 2020-29 and took effect July 1st. The SOP supplements the County ordinance and will be updated as required.

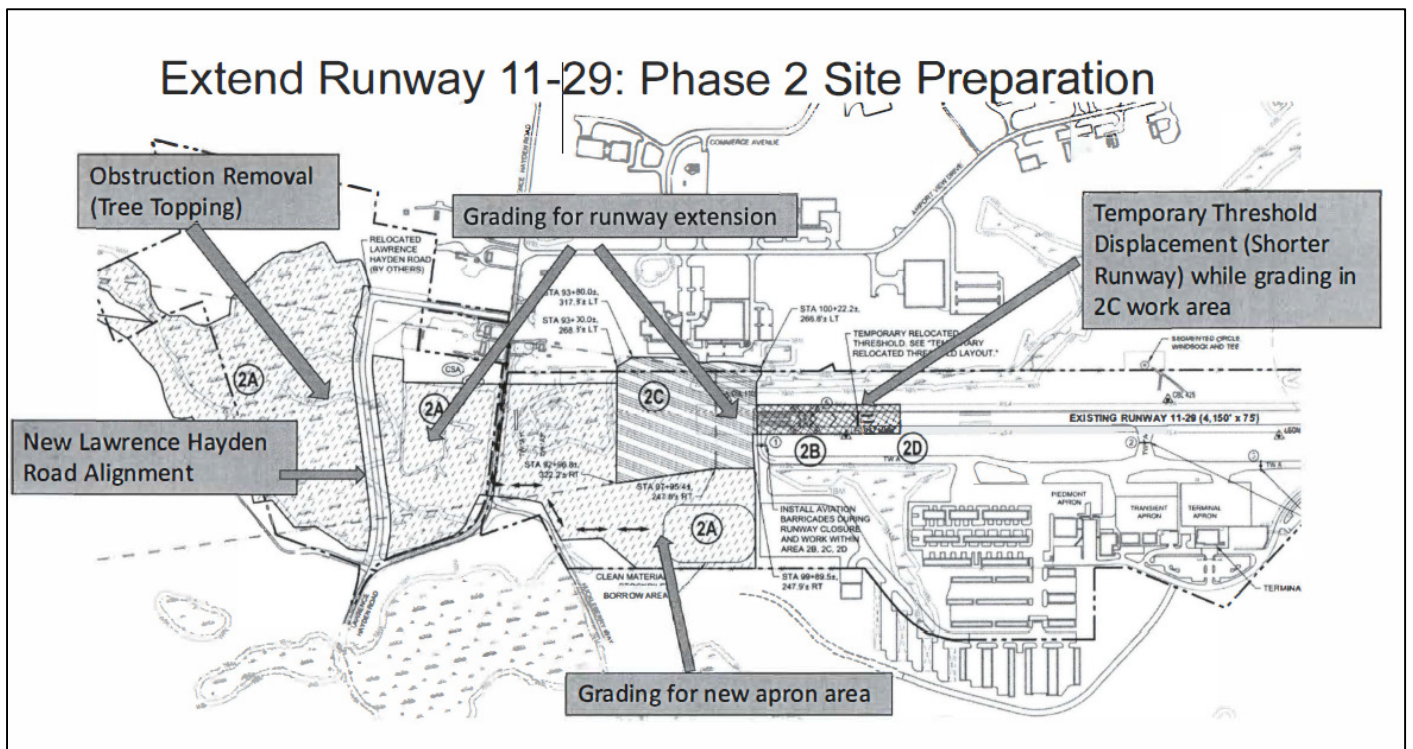


Airport Construction

In 2020 the airport continued with three concurrent construction projects: relocate Airport Road, relocate Taxiway A, and relocate Lawrence Hayden Road. Lawrence Hayden Road was the first project to finish and opened in April 2020. Both the relocation of Airport Road and Taxiway A were completed by the end of 2020 with only punch list items remaining.

Penn Ave Construction, LLC was awarded the contract for Site Prep for the Runway 11-29 extension on January 9, 2020. While the county was awaiting final agency approvals, Penn Ave was given a limited Notice to Proceed on April 21, 2020 to begin clearing/obstruction removal where there was to be no ground disturbance. Unfortunately, due to delays of the Airport's Tier II review with Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE), construction on this project was unable to start in 2020. It is anticipated the construction will start in March 2021.

Early in the year, airport construction activities and Foreign Object Debris (FOD) reportedly resulted in some unsafe conditions and aircraft damage, including flat tires and nicked propellers. Contractors were reminded about safety requirements and potential safety impacts to people and aircraft.



S. Hunt Aero, LLC

S. Hunt Aero, LLC is a private entrepreneur development company with a vested market-driven approach to excellence in developing aviation-related facilities at St. Mary's County airport. 2020 airport activity included the following.

On Airport:

- Completed Hangar Y, an 11,000 SF storage/commercial hangar now occupied by AIRtec's fleet.
- Completed the first 2,200 feet of Airport Loop Road pavement.
- Commenced construction of Hangar AA, a 12,000 SF hangar and office. To be completed 1st quarter of 2021 and occupied by AIRtec. Also poured foundation for Hangar Z.
- Expanded Hangar BB with a 1,250 SF addition.
- Completed Paving of apron area to serve Hangars Y, Z, and AA.
- Opened 1,600' taxiway extension between Hangar Row W and Runway 11.

Adjacent Airport:

- Completed Building 8 (12,000 SF), now partially occupied (6,000 SF) with offices for Alion Science and Technologies as of October 2020.
- Completed Building 5 (5,000 SF); occupied by MTech, an aircraft engineering and modification contractor.

Land for additional airport construction by the County or other developers is available at the west end but is subject to engineering and clearing by the County.



1970



2020



The COVID-19 global pandemic had a major impact to the UMD UAS Test Site, along with everyone else, in 2020. The year started out well with the Test Site supporting flight research on a large, long-endurance UAS in Maryland and Nevada in February and early March. As the pandemic quickly took center stage, UMD students were sent home and telework became mandatory for faculty and staff as of March 19th. With the hangar facility closed, flight operations were suspended.

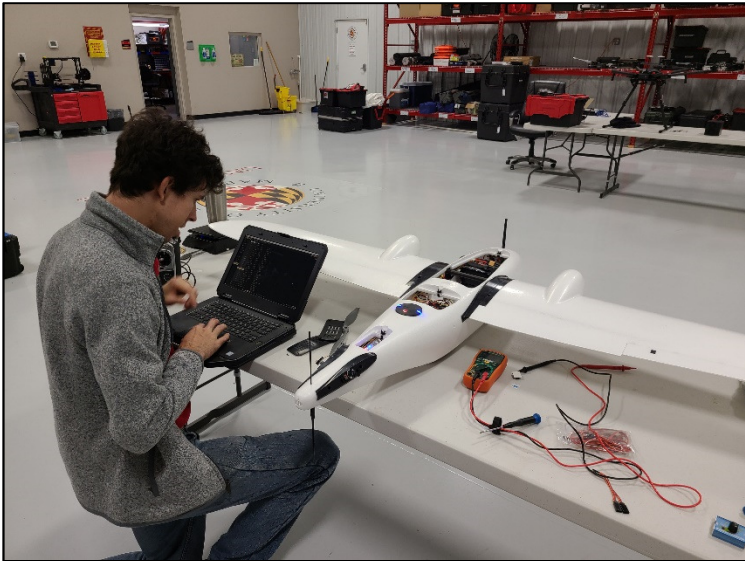
The Test Site adapted and turned to work that could be done from home, including design and manufacture of a cargo container and other UAS components for MissionGO, a startup in Baltimore founded by former Test Site employees. The cargo container was used to successfully transport a research kidney via UAS in Las Vegas for a record-setting distance of over 10 miles on September 17th, building on the Test Site's first-ever delivery by drone of a human organ for transplantation in April 2019. The Test Site also completed the airworthiness review of the Velos transport UAS that was used by MissionGO in their operations.

With COVID restrictions in place, the Test Site was partially reopened on June 10th for those who specifically needed to be in the hangar to work with UAS hardware and equipment. That allowed return to flight of the large TigersShark Block II UAS in August. Flight operations supporting NASA Search and Rescue beacon testing, Puma solar wing research, Navy emissions sampling, and additional research on long-endurance and innovative-design UAS were also conducted during the second half of the year. Unfortunately, the summer intern program was cancelled.

The Test Site began work in earnest to determine the feasibility of a Chesapeake UAS route network that would allow UAS to routinely transit between key locations in the Chesapeake Bay region including St. Mary's County Regional Airport, NAS Patuxent River, Aberdeen Proving Ground, NSWC Dahlgren, Baltimore, Salisbury, Crisfield, NASA Wallops Flight Facility, and the Atlantic Ocean. Such a network would support industry growth in the region and beyond, and be a major advancement towards integration of UAS into the National Airspace System. The feasibility study kicked off in September, with numerous stakeholders participating virtually in an Industry Day and workshops in October. Completion of the feasibility study is planned for January 2021.

The Test Site provided drone demonstrations and static displays at the airport open house on October 17th to honor first responders for being on the front lines of the COVID battle. October also brought two prestigious awards recognizing the Test Site's historic delivery by UAS of a live organ for transplant into a waiting patient. The first was the AUVSI XCELLENCE Award – Humanitarian, presented by the Association for Unmanned Vehicle Systems International, the world's largest nonprofit organization dedicated to the advancement of unmanned systems and robotics. The second was the AHMEC Achievement Award, presented by the American Helicopter Museum and Education Center. In support of the FAA's second annual National Drone Safety Awareness Week in November, the Test Site gave a webinar presentation on airspace for drones.

Construction began on the third building at the University System of Maryland at Southern Maryland (USMSM) in March 2020 and is progressing well. The 84,000 square foot facility is expected to be complete in 2022. Upon completion, it is envisioned that the UAS Test Site will become a key part of this research enterprise focused on unmanned and autonomous systems technologies across domains.



TechPort Business Incubator



TechPort 2.0 UAS Business Incubator and Community Innovation Hub for the Southern Maryland region focuses on accelerating the unique UAS innovator ecosystem and incubating a full house of startups and entrepreneurs drawn to the region's unique resources and opportunities. TechPort 2.0 promotes the region's wealth of potential opportunities and resources for talented businesses, innovators and entrepreneurs interested in joining the innovation ecosystem. TechPort's hangar, built out to include maker space and workshops, is located adjacent to the UMD UAS Test Site and The Autonomous Research Building, with direct access to the St. Mary's regional airport. Designed to be responsive and agile to the diverse needs of the community, TechPort offers a base of operations for startups seeking an environment that encourages entrepreneurship and the ability to pivot to the ever changing needs of the region's commercial and federal customers.

Highlights of 2020 include a leadership role in recruiting community volunteers to work with inhouse innovators in response to Southern Maryland community needs for personal protective equipment (PPE) to mitigate the impact of COVID-19. In the first four months of 2020, TechPort volunteers provided over 2000 community service hours, creating and providing PPE for county health department and emergency responders, while launching a new non-profit, Southern Maryland Loves You, to develop and patent a unique technology solution. The heat-based sanitizing product for PPE – called the “Hot Box” – is currently awaiting FDA approval for commercial launch as one of the few “Made in USA” and “Made in Maryland” COVID-19-related innovations to sanitize and re-use PPE, resulting in significant cost savings while extending the use of existing PPE resources. Following these initiatives, TechPort strengthened its relationships with regional manufacturers to support prototype development of future innovative technologies. In July, TechPort hosted a Lockheed Martin Additive-Manufacturing Supplier Identification Challenge Info Day and in October, developed and produced Manufacturing Month 2020 video projects for the Dr. James A. Forrest Career and Technology Center in partnership with St. Mary's Department of Economic Development, J.F. Taylor, Inc., Coherent Technical Services Inc (CTSI), and TechPort clients Jordan Research and TABASCO to create interactive learning modules for Forrest Tech students exploring careers in manufacturing.

Over the past year, as businesses moved to virtual platforms for training, networking, and customer engagement, TechPort quickly built a reputation as a social media influencer in the innovation space by hosting interactive virtual and limited in-person events including the 700 MPH Bourbon fundraising event in October, when TechPort partnered with over ten organizations, small businesses, St. Mary's County Tourism and Department of Economic Development. A new program launched in October, TechBridge at TechPort, will provide a monthly live-streamed and recorded program at TechPort to assist NAWCAD in reaching broader regional and national audiences interested in the federally-funded Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) and Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) programs. TechPort served as a virtual and in-person regional hub for the annual MidAtlantic AR/VR/Mixed Reality Conference (MAVRIC 2020), and also hosted a weekly live-streaming program, Spirit of Innovation and Freedom, promoting regional artists as an integral asset to the region's Science Technology Engineering Arts Mathematics (STEAM) community. Weekly programs include over 5000 viewers on social media. TechPort developed over 70 videos showcasing innovators, small businesses,

and startups of Southern Maryland, with all content accessible through their website www.techportsomd.org, Facebook page and YouTube.

Due to its proximity to Patuxent River Naval Air Station, USMSM, and College of Southern Maryland, TechPort's environment is conducive to hands-on experiential learning for Pax River base employees, regional university students, professionals, corporate training, and intern and apprentice programs in the region. In June 2020, TechPort hosted Flight Engineering Technology Training by Florida Institute of Technology (FIT) for NAWCAD base employees. FIT professors flew their equipment to St. Mary's Regional Airport to host local training. This year, TechPort hosted four local high school and college-aged interns and a University of Maryland robotics team. The first Forrest Tech Center student apprentice started working with TechPort client Jordan Research in October. TechPort leadership is working with the county NAACP to grow outreach for 2021 to economically-disadvantaged youth programs to improve diversity and access to opportunities.



St. Mary's Composite Squadron, Civil Air Patrol

From 2002 through March 2020, the St. Mary's Composite Squadron of the Civil Air Patrol (CAP) met weekly at the Walter Duke terminal building at St. Mary's County Regional Airport. Under the COVID-19 pandemic response restrictions, there were only two in-person squadron meetings held at the terminal building. The CAP Mission Statement is: Supporting America's communities with emergency response, diverse aviation and ground services, youth development, and promotion of air, space, and cyber power. CAP is a federally chartered corporation that is also the official Auxiliary of the United States Air Force. It is mainly made up of volunteers who dedicate their time to helping others and improving the community. Nationally, there are more than 21,000 cadet members and more than 33,000 adult members. Cadet members range in age from 10 to 21 years old but mainly consist of middle and high school students between the ages of 12 and 18. Senior Members (adults) conduct the supervisory and execution roles of the organization. Aircraft and automobiles are provided to CAP units for their use in training and providing services in emergency conditions and are funded by the United States Air Force. CAP, like many volunteer organizations, has observed reduced participation and membership under COVID-19 restrictions.



Cadets are beneficiaries of many unique and valuable opportunities presented through CAP. The Cadet Program is an outstanding leadership opportunity, with many of the cadet leaders moving on to graduate from college and continue to be a positive influence in their community. There is no military commitment incurred by participating in the Civil Air Patrol, however, it does allow youth to see how a military-like organization is structured and offers education and leadership activities to benefit the whole community, both here locally and elsewhere in the state and country.

St. Mary's Composite Squadron has an association with the Esperanza Middle School Flight and the two organizations operate together as one large unit. Membership consists of 120 members made up of 66 Cadets and 54 Senior Members. St. Mary's Composite Squadron conducted more than 250 events during 2020; a majority of them were completed virtually. The squadron meets weekly on Wednesday nights where they conduct training in aerospace, leadership, core values, character development, and physical fitness. St. Mary's members participated in disaster relief operations and contributed to the 130 lives saved by CAP in FY 2020 alone! The squadron operates a corporate aircraft from the St. Mary's Airport to perform Search missions and can use the aircraft and ground vehicles to locate Emergency Locator Transmitters (ELTs). Across eleven pilots, the squadron completed more than 55 qualification events in nine qualification levels.

Other activities in 2020 included COVID response missions to Baltimore and Montgomery County, Flight Operations, Pilot training (more than 250 hours flown on squadron aircraft), STEM events, Army National Guard cook team support, leadership training, regional aerospace education and leadership training, Emergency Services training, and tutoring events. St. Mary's Squadron hosts a top-ranked CyberPatriot cyber defense competition team and has made a podium finish in the UAS4STEM national UAS competition for the past four competitions. In 2020 the Maryland Wing awarded the squadron of the year to St. Mary's Composite Squadron for their activities and achievements.

The Walter Duke terminal building is absolutely essential to the continued success of the St. Mary's Composite Squadron and the outstanding positive influence provided to our local youth.



Experimental Aircraft Association Chapter 478

EAA Chapter 478 was unable to hold its annual Young Eagles rally at the airport this year due to COVID, where normally youth aged 8 to 17 can receive a free airplane ride. The chapter was able to adapt and hosted two open hangar days (June and November) for those pilots based at 2W6. On both occasions, people were able to get out of the house for a while and enjoy the great weather, great food, great airplanes, and the company of socially-distanced and/or masked aviation enthusiasts!

The monthly VMC Club meetings were cancelled in March and April, but resumed in May in a virtual format. Rich Byrnes does a fantastic job as organizer and facilitator. VMC Club is a free pilot safety and proficiency forum open to all pilots. It meets the third Saturday of each month.

The chapter also sponsored the commemorative patches in support of the airport's 50th Anniversary celebration, for which the Airport Advisory Board is grateful.



AIRPORT DATA

Safety & Security

The Maryland Aviation Administration (MAA) conducted their annual licensing inspection on April 15th, 2020 without any significant issues noted.

The FAA Safety Team (FAASTeam) mission is to “lower the Nation’s aviation accident rate by conveying safety principles and practices through training, outreach, and education; while establishing partnerships and encouraging the continual growth of a positive safety culture within the aviation community.” The FAASTeam Program Manager at the Washington Flight Standards District Office (FSDO) provides national policy and guidance for the southern Maryland region. Local FAASTeam Representatives are James Alexander, Jacque La Valle, and Bill Posnett.

The voluntary Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association (AOPA) Airport Watch Program continues to enhance safety, security, and a sense of ownership among airport tenants. The program features a centralized nationwide toll-free hotline (1-866-GA-SECURE) for reporting and responding to information provided by the airport community. In 2020, the Office of the Sheriff responded to two reported security-related matters at the airport which turned out to be non-incidents.

Economic Impact

The MAA issues an economic impact report every three years. Below is a graphical depiction of the economic impact at St. Mary’s County Regional Airport as of December 2018. New data is expected in December 2021.



The following commercial services are provided at the airport:

- ✈ ABSI Aerospace and Defense: Expertise in Unmanned Systems Training and Curriculum Development, Acquisition and Program Management Support, Manned/Unmanned Test and Evaluation, and SecondSky Live, Virtual, Constructive (LVC) Training Environment.
- ✈ AIRtec Inc. (FBO Services): Since 1987, AIRtec provides aircraft maintenance, line service, transient aircraft support, and aircraft fueling. AIRtec is also an aviation and technology integration company that specializes in maritime radar surveillance, range safety, airborne telemetry flight operations, priority air transport; Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance (ISR); maintenance, training, equipment integration and sensor operation. Several aircraft are based at 2W6.
- ✈ Alion Science and Technology: An engineering, science, and technology firm with expertise in Artificial Intelligence; Intelligence, Surveillance, Reconnaissance (ISR); LVC Training; Modernization & Sustainment, Networks & Software, Systems Engineering & Integration, and Weapons Platforms.
- ✈ Atkinson Aeronautics and Technology, Inc.: A dedicated full-service general aviation maintenance facility offering maintenance, repair, overhaul, interior refresh, and modification for all reciprocating engine and light turbine powered aircraft. Also offering 14 CFR Part 91.411 and 91.413 IFR aircraft certification services under a 14 CFR Part 145 Repair Station certificate.
- ✈ Aviation Systems Engineering Company (ASEC): Systems engineering, test and evaluation, logistics, flight operations, and training. ASEC has a North American Navion and Beech Super King Air 300 based at 2W6.
- ✈ Chesapeake Technology International: Offering advanced technology engineering including systems work on Electronic Warfare, Tactical/Unmanned, and Training/Simulation.
- ✈ Navy Annapolis Flight Center (NAFC): Part 141 and Part 61 flight training programs.
- ✈ PAE: Training, Logistics, Operations, and Maintenance services.
- ✈ Pax Aero Solutions: Aircraft engineering, fabrication, modification, integration, and repair.
- ✈ Piedmont Flight Center: Aircraft rental, Part 61 flight training, and a Part 107 UAS (drone) license course.
- ✈ S. Hunt Aero, LLC: The company continues in developing/leasing general aviation hangars, commercial hangars, office/R&D buildings and production facilities. The rapid growth of St. Mary's County Airport would not be possible without this substantial corporate involvement.
- ✈ St. Mary's Hangar Association, Inc.: Hangar Leasing.

New additions in 2020 include:

- ✈ MTech: Aerospace structural design, analysis, and certification.



Annual Budgeting

Since 1978, the Federal and State Aviation Administrations have funded 30 grants at the St. Mary's County Regional Airport in excess of \$34 million. FAA funding is 90% with the State and County providing 5% each. However, beginning in FY2021, the State of Maryland will only provide the 5% match for construction costs due to significant State budget constraints. Planning, design and construction management will not be funded by the State.

The draft FY2022 Capital Budget Master Plan Improvements include:

- a. \$3M in FY2021 and 2022 for the Hangar Access Road extension (Local funding).
- b. \$5.4M in FY2021 for Phase 3 airfield construction (FAA Airport Improvement Program, 100% federally funded under CARES Act).
- c. \$1.075M in FY2021 and 2023 for perimeter fence replacement and airfield and ramp pavement repairs (Local funding).

The airport also received an additional \$69,000 in discretionary funding through the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, which will be applied to terminal renovations.

The table below presents the costs and revenue associated with maintaining and operating the airport. Expenses are grouped by type. Revenues include tie-down and hangar rentals, office space rent, and fuel sales.

Facility Expenses	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Facility Maint/Utility	\$ 92,861.00	\$ 43,363.34	\$ 36,186.17	\$ 25,359.22	\$ 12,076.30
Electric (incl. Nav Aids & Lighting)	\$ 18,388.00	\$ 24,479.82	\$ 31,139.32	\$ 20,724.16	\$ 18,336.77
Airport Lighting	*-0-*	\$ 320.69	\$ 180.88	\$ 833.56	\$ 1,615.44
Liability Insurance	\$ 6,160.00	\$ 6,160.00	\$ 6,160.00	\$ 6,160.00	\$ 6,160.00
Property Insurance (structure)	**-0-**	\$ 3,116.00	\$ 3,116.00	\$ 3,479.00	\$ 3,847.00
Grounds	\$ 18,700.00	\$ 12,949.00	\$ 11,366.00	\$ 11,762.00	\$ 10,495.00
Runway/Taxiway Maint.	**-0-**	\$ 82,862.40	\$ 93,324.22	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00
Total expenses	\$136,109.00	\$173,251.25	\$181,472.59	\$ 66,317.94	\$ 52,530.51
Income					
Direct Revenue	\$ 96,205.00	\$111,996.22	\$ 88,812.80	\$ 84,358.79	\$122,009.68
Gain/Loss					
Asset / (Liability)	\$ (39,904.00)	\$ (61,255.03)	\$ (92,659.79)	\$ 18,040.85	\$ 69,479.17

Notes / Comments

-0- Runway lighting was included in terminal utility cost

-0- Was not provided in the previous years

Airspace Protection and Encroachment

The Comprehensive Zoning Ordinance Chapter 43 provisions with respect to Airport Environment and Tower installations implemented by the Commissioners of St. Mary's County has served the airport well by preventing penetrations to 14 CFR Part 77 surfaces and preserving airport approach minimums.

Airport Capacity

The FAA's National Based Aircraft Inventory assists the FAA in administering its various national airspace planning programs. The data update ensures that all planes are accounted for by location and tail number and is a requirement for receiving continued Federal and State funding. The FAA required each airport to review and update their based aircraft inventory by January 1st, 2020. Since then, the based aircraft inventory has been updated as aircraft come and go at 2W6. As of December 31st, 2020, **206** total aircraft are recorded in the inventory; 200 fixed wing (including 175 single-engine, 13 multi-engine, seven gliders, four jets, and one ultralight) and six rotary wing. Total airport capacity is 74 tie-down spaces, 123 general aviation hangar spaces, and 13 commercial hangars (including the county hangar). The waiting list, as of December 31st, 2020, contains 51 requests for T-hangar space. While outdoor tie-downs are available, there continues to be a shortage of hangar facilities for indoor aircraft storage which is unlikely to change.

The shortage of maintenance providers to support the general aviation aircraft based at the airport, as well as transient aircraft, has significantly improved in the past year. Atkinson Aeronautics and Technology, Inc. has successfully completed its first year at St Mary's County Regional providing full-service general aviation maintenance, repair, overhaul, interior refresh, and modification for all reciprocating engine and light turbine powered aircraft. Ataero moved into Hangar X2 in December 2019 and over the past year has serviced over 200 aircraft, including tenants, our Civil Air Patrol Squadron, the Patuxent River Navy Flying Club, and planes from local Mid-Atlantic operators. They have an established full service avionics shop and are a distributor/installer for numerous avionics solutions.

To meet the increasing demand for services at 2W6, Ataero has expanded its workforces with an additional seven full time/part time maintainers at their facility. Their hangar has supported meetings for the local chapter of the Experimental Aircraft Association (EAA), and assisted the St. Mary's Public School's Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) program through the use of their aircraft to gather airborne data for local students to analyze and report. Ataero is working with the Forrest Tech Center and College of Southern Maryland to assist in the development of an Aviation Maintenance Apprenticeship program. Ataero looks forward to its continued growth in 2021 and continued support to our local community.



Airport Operations

Each take-off and landing is considered a separate aviation-related operation. The Maryland Aviation Administration conducts a study every three years for aircraft operations at all Maryland airports. A new study was conducted in 2019 and St. Mary's County Regional Airport had 40,263 operations in 2019, an increase of 13.1% over the previous report. The next study will be conducted in 2022.

Annual Aircraft Operations

Local GA	24,311
Transient GA	14,692
Air Taxi	1,059
Military	201
Total Operations	40,263



Maryland State Police Trooper 7: The Maryland State Police Aviation Command, which also celebrated its 50th Anniversary in 2020, continues to provide critical community services through Trooper 7 located at the airport. According to the Aviation Command, Trooper 7 flew 384 medevac, 31 search and rescue, and 27 law enforcement missions out of the airport in calendar year 2020 for a total of 442 missions. Trooper 7 continues to enhance airport security by providing a continuous law enforcement presence.



MedSTAR Transport: MedSTAR Transport, a non-profit service based out of MedStar Washington Hospital Center, provides enhanced response times to better assist critical care patients in the Southern Maryland region. MedSTAR's aircraft and crews are single-pilot IFR and night vision goggle qualified to ensure immediate response 24/7 in a wide variety of conditions. MedSTAR flew 695 patient transport flights out of the airport in 2020.



Nalls Aviation: Nalls Aviation is an especially noteworthy aerobatic team based at St. Mary's County Regional Airport. Art Nalls, a retired Marine, holds the distinct honor of owning and operating the world's only civilian AV-8A Sea Harrier (SHAR) jet and has been recognized by the Washington Post, Classic Aircraft magazine, Aeroplane Monthly, and Jets Monthly publications. The Harrier team includes local county residents who maintain the aircraft during the busy national airshow season. Nalls Aviation obtained a second Harrier in 2015, and also has an L-39 Albatross jet trainer, a BD-5 microjet, and a 1939 Piper J-3 Cub. Art Nalls and Scott Sanders, part owner of Hollywood's Tobacco Barn Distillery, were featured on CNBC in November for their upcoming "700 mph Bourbon" project.



Operations Equipment and Navigation Aids:

- ✦ The Automated Weather Observing System (AWOS) is inspected three times per year, one of which by the FAA. The last FAA inspection was in November 2020. The AWOS struggled some in 2020 with many inoperative periods. The MAA continues to fund the AWOS connectivity to the national FAA weather database.
- ✦ For Instrument Flight Rules (IFR) operations, the airport is serviced by non-precision RNAV GPS approaches for both runways 11 and 29.
- ✦ While a GPS WAAS signal is available via Channel 70502 W11A, the GPS approaches have not been developed for CAT II approach minimums and are currently restricted to a decision height of 298 feet Above Ground Level (AGL).
- ✦ On October 17, 2016, the County signed a support letter to MAA for an Automatic Dependent Surveillance-Broadcast (ADS-B) demonstration project to test a ground station at 2W6 for coverage from approach altitude to the airport surface. The results of this project were briefed by the University Research Foundation on June 25th, 2018. Future plans are undetermined. ADS-B Out is required as of January 1st, 2020 on all aircraft that operate in airspace requiring a Mode C transponder.

CHALLENGES ENCOUNTERED OR EXPECTED

- ✈ The AAB recognizes the challenges faced by the Commissioners of St. Mary's County and the DPW&T Director, especially with only limited financial resources and staffing available. The Board will continue to search for ways to increase a revenue stream and enhance the economic value of the airport. The ultimate goal is for the airport to remain self-sustaining financially.
- ✈ As the airport and surrounding area continues to grow and expand, it must be top priority to ensure the airport remains an airport. While there's no reason to believe that may be in jeopardy here, there are examples of general aviation airports in other communities that were closed or restricted to accommodate other priorities. Notable examples include Santa Monica Airport, CA and Chicago's Meigs Field.
- ✈ The AAB recognizes the unique operational demographics of the airport when attempting to maintain appropriate Rules, Minimum Standards, Standard Operating Procedures, and other documents. The Board will continue to engage the airport and surrounding community in order to provide sound recommendations to the County regarding these important documents.
- ✈ The AAB recognizes the significant nationwide shortage of pilots and mechanics to sustain and grow the aviation industry, and the implications for national defense, commercial air transportation, business aviation, and our local airport. FAA data indicates there were 827,071 active pilots in 1980 and only 664,565 in 2019. While the numbers have trended positive since 2017 after years of decline, the Boeing Commercial Outlook 2020-2039 estimates there will be a demand for 129,000 additional pilots and 123,000 additional maintainers in North America over the next 20 years. This takes into account the unprecedented industry disruption this year due to COVID, and the expected strong recovery over the next 3-4 years. It's evident that a shortage of pilots and maintainers is detrimental to the future of general aviation and general aviation airports such as St. Mary's County Regional. We should do all we can to generate interest in aviation and inspire people to fly or fix airplanes.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE FUTURE

- ✈ The Board continues to fully support the goals and objectives of the 2002 Airport Master Plan and is pleased to see great progress made in recent years with more to come. It has been 19 years since the Airport Master Plan was last updated. Now that the Airport Rules documents are complete, the Board plans to support review and revision of the Master Plan to account for growth in the southern Maryland region and at NAS Patuxent River. The review process can start once the current airport consultant updates the Airport Layout Plan, the County contracts a new airport consultant(s), and develops a Plan of Action and Milestones.
- ✈ Work with the Department of Economic Development and airport stakeholders to further develop and market the airport and surrounding area as a regional asset for all of Southern Maryland. A primary goal is establishment of a restaurant, observation area, and pilot store/gift shop to increase utilization of the airport terminal building, attract transient pilots and the general public to the airport, and increase revenue. By providing a convenient airport with attractive amenities, St. Mary's can lure pilots looking for an excuse to go flying and the local community looking for an excuse to enjoy a good meal while watching an operating airfield.
- ✈ Continue to provide and support activities that promote interest in general aviation, flight/maintenance training, and STEM education. One great example is Atkinson Aeronautics' initiative to help create an Aviation Maintenance Apprenticeship program in conjunction with the Forrest Tech Center and College of Southern Maryland. The ultimate goal is to locally grow a qualified workforce to meet the demands of the airport, the Patuxent River Naval Air Station, and the Patuxent River Naval Air Museum.

- ✈ Continued monitoring of development within the Airport Environs and in the vicinity of the airport property to provide sound technical recommendations to the Commissioners of St. Mary's County in order to protect the County's and the FAA's substantial investment in this important public asset.
- ✈ Update airport website <https://www.stmarysmd.com/dpw/airport-operations/> to be more current and better organized.
- ✈ Create a master email contact list of airport tenants, airport businesses, and other interested parties to create a community atmosphere where airport information and events can be quickly and easily shared.
- ✈ Maintain the new airport Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/StMarys2W6/> as another source of information for the airport community.
- ✈ The Board concurs with the Airport Operations action items that have been integrated with the DPW&T's 2006 Transportation Plan. The Board will continue to monitor and address these issues as presented for recommendation and/or action. Specific Action Items of particular interest to the Board are as follows:
 - Develop an Airport Business/Finance Plan that is integrated with the Airport Master Plan and in conjunction with the Department of Economic Development. As the County deals with growth, budget challenges, and FAA requirements, it is essential the County has a vision on how to manage this essential resource.
 - Once the runway is extended, "open up" the southwestern portion of the airport for development by extending water and sewer with County funding resources as shown in the capital improvement plan, and providing a second entrance to the airport via Lawrence Hayden Road connection to the planned Airport Loop Road.
 - Work with the Emergency Services Director to provide annual updates of the disaster preparedness plan.
- ✈ Ensure increased safety for pilots, aircraft, persons and properties through the review and update of existing safety processes, and encouraging participation in FAA Safety Team events (WINGS pilot proficiency program), VMC Club, and other pilot forums.
- ✈ Pursue and obtain all required navigation and obstruction removal easements.
- ✈ Track, monitor, and assist new activities on the airfield to ensure they are conducted with all notifications, permits, and notice. Facilitate the process of allowing new businesses to operate on the airfield in a timely manner.
- ✈ Continue to work with the County and the FBO to evaluate and provide recommendations on the Airport Layout Plan, identify additional areas for tie-down spaces, and consolidate parking areas where available in order to meet current and future demand.
- ✈ Seek FAA funding for the installation of an Automatic Dependent Surveillance Broadcast (ADS-B) antenna so as to facilitate 978 MHz ADS-B broadcast to aircraft during ground operations. This will serve to increase safety in flight operations by providing pilots with weather, traffic, airspace, and other critical information prior to takeoff and during air traffic pattern operations.

