

Airport Advisory Committee Meeting  
St. Mary's County Regional Airport  
September 22, 2008

***Approved Minutes***

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Mr. Jim Davis, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 6:04 PM. Committee members Ned Clarke, Skip Shephard, Rich Richardson, Jacque LaValle ,and Randy Willis were also present. Mr. Joe Mitchell was not present and excused. 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 July 28th meeting. Skip Shephard moved and Rich Richardson seconded a motion to approve the July minutes as drafted. The motion passed by a vote of 6-0.

**III. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

Mr. Davis briefly discussed the Maryland Department of Transportation handout regarding the 2005 Economic Impact from the Airport and it's tenants. In short, the direct and indirect impacts reported were; 105 jobs, \$6M in personal income, \$5.7M in business revenues, \$3.7Min local purchases and \$618,000 in state / local tax revenues. Businesses such as Massey Coal Company, Boeing, Coleman Microwave Company and the Washington Hospital Center use the airport as do tourists for access to special events such as the Budds Creek Motorcycle Races, Potomac Jazz Festival, the various Seafood Festivals and the County Fair.

Mr. Davis also discussed the August 14, 2008 final ruling from the Federal Aviation Administration regarding ADIZ / FRZ special training as described by Article 14 of the Code of Federal Regulations Part 91. The program is a one-time on-line training via the FAA's [www.faa.gov](http://www.faa.gov) training site for anyone flying VFR within 100 NM of DCA VOR. This requirement will be effective February 9, 2009. Mr. Erichsen included copies for distribution as the FAA requested the County share with the local pilot community.

Mr. Bill Rhinehardt reported that fuel was missing from his aircraft recently, and he reported the discrepancy to the Office of the Sheriff. With the price of aviation fuel rising, pilots are encouraged to be on the look out for suspicious behavior. Our active Airport Watch program should help deter any such behavior.

**IV. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Mr. Davis then opened the floor to public comment. Mr. Doug Poole requested information regarding a possible Club Fuel Tank Request with 6-12 members. Mr. Erichsen stated that as long as fuel is made available at reasonable prices that the County tries to keep the proliferation of tanks to a minimum. He also advised that there are Self Fueling Permits that can be obtained on a case by case basis. There is a fuel flowage fee required by the County, insurance premiums / requirements, lease provisions, Fire Marshall training and tank monitoring which would also have to be addresses. As Mr. Bildman is the primary FBO responsible for the distribution of fuel, he agreed to meet with Mr. Poole to discuss and resolve any availability issues that he might be having. Mr. Erichsen also advised that storage of auto fuel and other combustible chemicals in T-hangars is somewhat limited per the existing Rules and Minimum Standards.

Mr. Richardson requested that copies of the operating and capital budgets for the airport be presented at one of the next Advisory Committee meetings. Mr. Erichsen agreed that the January meeting would be best as the Federal Aviation Administration should be forwarding the ACIP (Airport Capital Improvement Program) to the County and the Board of County Commissioners will have met on the baseline operating budget. Mr. Richardson also requested that the perimeter fencing be sprayed, especially along Airport Road. Mr. Erichsen concurred and agree to supply the specification sheet of the chemical(s) used at the next regularly scheduled meeting.

Mr. Poole suggested that the number of new airfield directional signs was excessive. Mr. Erichsen advised that the number of signs was far less than the originally proposed signage plan previously submitted to the Committee for review. The Committee held several work sessions regarding placement, location and content which was subsequently forwarded to the Federal Aviation Administration for approval in accordance with Federal standards.

Randy Willis suggested that the Committee entertain that an AOPA open house be held at the airport. Mr. Ned Clarke advised that the Advisory Committee meetings are established open meetings for any interested parties and that AOPA representatives have attended same within the past year. Nonetheless, the Committee would not object to a coordinated open house between users and tenants.

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

Mr. George Erichsen represented the Department of Public Works and Transportation. He reported that the local Land Use code and FAA coordination has resulted in potential tower hazards to be identified earlier, prior to impacting approaches to the Airport. The most recent Temporary Determination of No Hazard to Air Navigation resulted from an FAA aeronautical study (Case #2008-AEA-3451-OE) regarding the temporary placement of a 207 foot tall crane that would be installing antennas on a monopole approximately 5,420 feet north/northwest of the approach end of runway 11. Copies of the report were distributed.

Mr. Erichsen mentioned that on behalf of the Committee and Board of County Commissioners that on August 25, 2008 he formally requested the FAA's review and approval of a temporary non-standard separation of the parallel taxiway for a distance of 208'. In short, current practice of back-taxiing is unsafe and presents queing issues during take-off. In addition, any capital monies expended would be solely the responsibility of the County, an environmental review and Airport Layout Plan (ALP) modification would be required.

Mr. Erichsen also reported that at the request of the Maryland Aviation Administration, a reciprocal weblink to the Maryland Office of Regional Aviation Assistance was added to the County's Airport website under the Links of Interest page located at <http://www.stmarysmd.com/dpw/airport/>.

Mr. Ned Clarke requested Mr. Erichsen to obtain some clarification language to the existing Letter of Authorization (LoA) with the Patuxent River NAS. The operational arc within the restricted airspace is graphically shown as measured from the midpoint of the runway. However, it was agreed that the original intent of the LoA was to maintain the measurement from the end of runway 29. The major concern is as the runway lengthens over time, the ability to operate in restricted airspace becomes less and less even though the end of runway 29 is fixed. The Committee concurred and Mr. Erichsen agreed to follow up prior to the next meeting and that no motion from the Committee was required.

## **VI. FBO AND LEASEHOLDER REPORTS**

Mr. Bildman advised that he was working with the Maryland State Police and the Department of Natural Resources Fish and Wildlife division to update the wildlife mitigation licenses for geese and deer control. Mr. Erichsen also added that Delta Airport Consultants will be drafting a Wildlife Management Plan for the County and Committees review based on past presentations by Mr. Rambo and the September 2, 2008 correspondence to the Maryland Aviation Administration.

Mr. Bildman advised that the Maryland State Police would be replacing the current medevac with a larger rotary wing aircraft within the next two years. The current hangar will not have the height needed to accommodate the new helicopter. Options include building a new hangar adjacent to the existing MSP facility, raising the roofline of the existing structure, or separating the rotary wing operation from the fixed wing operation by moving the medevac operations to the R/W 11 end of the airfield. He agreed to keep the County and Committee updated. Mr. Erichsen advised that availability of water and sewer may make the relocation no very cost effective, but that he would be requesting the County Commissioners fund a water and sewer extension to promote the availability of pad sites for new hangar construction on-site.

Mr. Bildman also provided an update to the Cessna 310 fuel theft that was reported at the last meeting. Mr. Erichsen reminded the Committee that with the price of aviation fuel rising, that all pilots are encouraged to be on the look out for suspicious behavior. The airports AOPA active Airport Watch program should help deter this type of behavior.

Mr. Bildman concurred with Mr. Erichsen previous report that there are approximately 146 fixed based aircraft at the facility, four (4) of which are rotary wing (MSP medevac and three R-22 two-seaters).

## **VII. NEW/OLD BUSINESS**

Mr. Jacque LaValle agreed to provide a future report and recommendation(s) regarding the airport's IFR approach, GPS capabilities, possible movement of the VOR to Pax NAS, and what he feels is needed for the future of the airport. The Committee agreed to review same once submitted.

Mr. Skip Shephard voiced his concern that students are flying too long of a pattern when landing at the 29 end of the runway. His comment was directed to student pilot instructors and requested they take appropriate action.

Mr. Davis asked if the County had selected a new Airport Consultant. Mr. Erichsen advised that the County had selected Delta Airport Consultants and that one of their first tasks was to update the Airport Rules & Minimum Standards to address outstanding issues raised by the Committee over the last several years (ie lock boxes, fuel distribution, driving on the taxiway, auto parking on the ramp areas, personal vehicle parking within the fence etc). Mr. Clarke requested that the consultants attend a future meeting. Mr. Erichsen advised that would be the approach he would use to ensure that the recommendations of the Committee were fully captured within the updated document.

The next scheduled meeting is October 27, 2008. The meeting begins at 6:00 PM in the Walter F. Duke Terminal Building Conference Room. Ned Clarke moved and Skip Shephard seconded a motion to combine the November 24th and December meeting on December 8, 2008. The motion passed by a vote of 6-0.

**VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

Having heard no additional comments, Mr. Mitchell indicated that the agenda for the meeting was complete. Mr. Jacque LaValle moved, and Mr. Skip Shephard seconded, a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed by a vote of 6-0, and the meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:35 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Approved,

---

George A. Erichsen, P.E.  
***Recording Secretary***

---

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