

**St. Mary's County Regional Airport  
Airport Advisory Committee Meeting  
27 April 2015 Minutes**



- I. CALL TO ORDER - Mr. LaValle called the meeting to order at 1800. A quorum was present with Mr. Lowry, Mr. Klapka, Mr. Willard, Mr. Anderson, Ms. Sawyer, Mr. LaValle in attendance. Mr. Adair was an excused absence. Mr. Whipple, St Mary's County Staff Advisor, was present.

Public present included: Mr. Lightstone, Mr. Bildman, Mr. Moody, Mr. Attebury, Mr. Reid, Mr. Scassero, Mr. Pucciarella, Ms. Capozzi, and Mr. Capozzi.

- II. March draft Minutes- Approved.

III. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

- Mr. Pucciarella and Mr. Scassero provided a follow-on briefing on the Southern Maryland Test Site plans for conducting Unmanned Air Vehicle (UAV) tests and demonstrations at St Mary's County airport. These included a small-rotor UAV demonstration as early as August of 2015. This brief expanded to a very productive open public forum with questions, comments, answers and discussion about numerous UAV topics.
  - Loss of communication protocols for UAV operations
  - Status of Maryland state "Pro-UAV" bill
  - Weather (ceiling and visibility) minimums for UAV operations
  - UAV visual identifier requirements and possible enhancements
  - FAA UAV directives

It was suggested that a conservative initial approach to UAV operations at St Mary's County airport may be beneficial to both the test site and the airport. This approach would likely mean exclusive use of the airspace for limited times (20 minutes) during a week day.

Mr. Jacque LaValle made a motion to "Endorse the continued development of the University of Maryland COA for UAV operations at St Mary's County airport in accordance with the operating rules proposal for the UAV demonstration in August". Mr. Anderson seconded this motion. It was passed unanimously.

- 2014 Annual Report – Mr. LaValle made a motion to approve the final draft, Mr. Lowry seconded. Unanimously approved.

IV. Public Comments

- A sizable pothole was reported on the ramp area adjacent to taxiway A. Mr. Bildman noted its location for repair.

V. Department of Public Works & Transportation Report

- Airport Capital Improvement Plan proceeding with bids. Funding is in hand to support utility work.
- Maryland Aviation Administration completed annual inspection of St Mary's County airport. The airport passed with some tree removals required to maintain 20:1 minimums for runway clearance.

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- April 2015 Development Review: Nothing significant to report.

VI. FBO and Leaseholder Report

- Airfield Operations Report/Updates
  - Minor repairs are needed to the asphalt areas of the airport which is roughly 20 years old.
  - An additional UAS company has expressed interest in hangar space on the main ramp of St Mary's County airport (public access to the facility).
- New Hangar Project update (T-hanger construction)
  - Five rows of hangars (31 total hangars) should be completed by this summer. There are no vacancies.

VII. New Business

- None

VIII. Next Meeting – The committee's 2015 annual airport inspection will be conducted on 30 May 2015 at 0900 in lieu of the regular meeting. The next regular meeting is scheduled for 22 June 2015 at 6:00 pm; Walter F Duke Terminal Building conference room.

IX. ADJOURNMENT- The meeting was adjourned at 1935.

Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Wilson R Lowry", written over a horizontal line.

Wilson R Lowry

**Secretary**

Approved,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jacques La Valle", written over a horizontal line.

Jacques La Valle

**Chairman**