

## **Airport Advisory Board Meeting (Monday, February 24, 2025)**

*Generated by Allison Swint on Monday, February 24, 2025*

### **Members present**

Albert Babcock, Robert Zaorski, George Hill, Sam Hughes, Adam Osborne Jr, Charles Stickney, Christopher Fuller, Matthew DiMarco, Douglas B Dickens

### **Meeting called to order at 6:01 PM**

A. CALL TO ORDER

B. ROLL CALL

C. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Information: 1. Chairman Report

2050 comprehensive plan - check county website for more info and sign up for mailing list.

Information: 2. DPW&T Report

Whipple provided timeline for runway extension completion. Paving contractor will not provide mix and paving. Expedited timeline: 3/24 relocated threshold. 3/31 control strip test. Rwy extension completed 5/9. End of April for FAA flight checks for PAPIs, 11 REILS.

Update Airport Master and Layout Plans. Draft SOW, timeline through process to submit to Commissioners in June for grant application submittal.

MAC Legislative night 2/25 @ 5:30pm.

Information: 3. FBO Report

Reed testing cell phone service, currently working with T-Mobile. Still need repeaters in buildings.

Information: 4. Pax Air Ops Report

Based pilot departed, did 360 in pattern, then exited westbound.

When PAX 14 in use. How do pilots know if 14 is in use? Does PAX have an ATIS phone number?

'Climb corridor'

Information: 5. DED AeroPark Update

No report

### **D. OLD BUSINESS**

Action, Minutes: 1. Approve January 27, 2025 Meeting Minutes & Action Items

Motion to approve the January 27, 2025 meeting minutes & action items

Motion by Charles Stickney, second by Christopher Fuller.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Albert Babcock, Robert Zaorski, George Hill, Sam Hughes, Adam Osborne Jr, Charles Stickney, Christopher Fuller, Matthew DiMarco, Douglas B Dickens

Discussion: 2. Discuss letter to volunteer AAB assistance to Commissioners

### **E. NEW BUSINESS**

Discussion: 1. Review/Update February Action Item list

Information: 2. Next business meeting March 24, 2025 at 6PM

### **F. PUBLIC COMMENT**

### **G. ADJOURN**

Action: 1. Motion to adjourn

Motion to adjourn meeting at 6:58pm.

Motion by Charles Stickney, second by Matthew DiMarco.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Albert Babcock, Robert Zaorski, George Hill, Sam Hughes, Adam Osborne Jr, Charles Stickney, Christopher Fuller, Matthew DiMarco, Douglas B Dickens

In Person Meeting at Regional Airport Terminal

Airport Advisory Board

Minutes –02/24/2025

Meeting Started: 6:01 PM

Roll Call: (\* Attended)

Board Members:

Chair	Vice Chair	Secretary				
*Hill	*Stickney	*Dimarco	*Babcock	*Fuller	*Zaorski	*Osborne

County Staff

DPW&T	DPW&T	DED
*Swint	*Whipple	Stormont

Others

*Reed – SM Structures	*Tim Wilson — Ready 9	*Dickens – NTWL Safety	Weaver -- FBO	*Ryan Hannekon local pilot
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**Chairman's Remarks:**

-St. Mary's 2050: George will continue to track public input the county is receiving regarding development around the airport and the Innovation District.

**DPWT Report:**

- Regarding St. Mary's County 2050, Allison Swint noted the county website gives additional details.

-Gary Whipple gave a report on runway and taxiway extension projects. A new schedule has been developed as we are nearing temperatures which allow paving to commence.

Three key dates have been projected:

24 March: Relocate threshold to previous location to finish paving

31 March: Pavement control strip installation for analysis

09 May: Paving finish

-New runway markings and lighting will be installed in May. Following these installations the FAA will flight check the new runway end identifier lights (REIL), Precision Approach Path Indicators (PAPI), (runway 29 PAPI will also be replaced) and edge lighting. Cost share agreement with FAA in work with agreement projected in place before end of runway work.

- The new schedule is aggressive but allows for some weather delays. The contractor is trying to double up paving crews and is modifying subcontracts to allow Allan Myers (asphalt supplier) to also perform paving work in addition to providing asphalt. (Previously the prime was doing all the paving work). New subcontractor work sharing should increase project efficiency.

-Further update on requesting federal grant funds in the 2026 - 2027 cycle to start funding for runway rehabilitation. Initial funding will be for runway design.

-DPWT is also working on a federal grant application due in June 2025 to update the airport master plan and layout plan. Draft scope of work between DPWT and contracted airport consultant is under review. Final scope of work is projected to complete in April and will then be presented to the county commissioners in June for approval before final submission to the FAA. Planning is estimated as a two-year process and will include focus groups and public input sessions. This work is normally 90% federally funded and 10% county funding.

-Allison Swint is still pursuing a second contractor to obtain a bid for the replacement airport automated weather observation system (AWOS). The second contractor is not responding to requests, and she is giving the company until the end of the week before moving forward. Allison also noted the taxiway lights are still out of service due to electrical problems and there is no update on repair timelines.

**FBO Report** – Ken Reed spoke for the FBO and had nothing to report other than an update to his efforts to expand cell phone service on the airport. He has been in touch with T-Mobile to indicate desire of adequate cell service at the airport.

**Pax Air Ops Report:**

LCDR Hughes discussed a recent flight safety issue where an aircraft departing 2W6 circled up east of the field and had a near-miss with an aircraft in the runway 14 approach corridor to NAS Patuxent River. The aircraft was not in communication with Pax approach. Further discussion between board members and meeting attendees centered around how currently published airfield and AWOS guidance is stated. Current guidance is:

*“When Pax Rwy 14 in Use, 2W6 Acft Cross Approach Path At or Blw 1000 Ft or Above 3000 Ft. “*

The issue, as discussed, was that it was not feasible for pilots to discern whether NAS Pax is using runway 14. The NAS Pax ATIS frequency is UHF only (civilian aircraft only have VHF radios) and in any event even if other runways are in use, there may be practice approaches to runway 14. Matt DiMarco suggested the words “When Pax RWY 14 in Use” be removed from the airfield / AWOS guidance to suggest pilots should avoid these altitudes at all times to remove conflict.

Allison noted AWOS guidance can be updated by the county. Airport Facility Directory guidance is updated via the FAA.

It was decided this topic would be brought up at a planned spring 2W6 pilots / NAS Patuxent River safety meeting.

Doug Dickens Naval Test Wing Atlantic - nothing to report

**Department of Economic Development:** No representatives present

**Old Business:** January AAB meeting minutes were sent to all members in advance of meeting. No comments on the minutes by any member. Chuck Stickney made motion to approve as submitted. Chris Fuller seconded. All in favor.

**Action item review:**

- No review was made of standing action items.

-A review was made of the three new action items added at the January 2025 AAB meeting.

-1. Monitor budgeting and installation of new AWOS scheduled for next year: Per Allison’s update above.

2. Monitor progress of taxiway light repair. Per Allison’s update above.

3. In terms of the action to communicate with the county commissioners regarding the mulch fire near the airport property, the fire is out. However, in regards to communicating with the commissioners on matters affecting the airport, George had a discussion with Commissioner Mike Hewitt at a recent county volunteer appreciation event and offered the following remarks to the AAB:

- We should offer our unbiased input to the commissioners per the AAB charter
- Members of the board have a broad range of experience - pilots, instructors and a network with airport commercial entities and can provide unbiased input into airport matters.
- Any matters can be sent to Diane Gleissner for communication to the commissioners.

**New Business:**

Next meeting will be held at 6:00 PM, 24 Mar at the Duke Terminal, St. Mary's County airport.

**Public Comments: None**

Request to Adjourn motion made by Chuck Stickney, Seconded by Matt DiMarco.  
Meeting adjourned at 7:20 PM

Action Item #	Status	Open Date	Due Date (do not change)	Close Date	Originator	Assignee(s)	Action Item	Status/Resolution	Follow-up
<b>Action Items as of 12/04/2023 AAB Meeting</b>									
6	Open	x/xx/18	TBD		AAC	DPWT	Install runway end windsocks (or streamers)	8/26/19: to be included in ALP revision process (see Als 10, 26); 9/27/21: to be included in AECOM ALP revision process; 3/28/22: ALP expected to be top priority soon; 8/22/22: pavement mgmt study current top priority; 2/27/23: contract issues with AECOM, pavement mgmt study expected to take 4 months once resolved; 3/27: no change; 4/24: no chg; 6/26: no chg; 8/28: no chg; 9/25: AECOM still not on contract, may change to #2 choice consultant; 10/23: AECOM nearly on contract; 12/4/23: AECOM on contract, pavement study and property map update are first priority 02/24/24 No change. <b>MONITOR 9/30/24</b>	
7	Open	x/xx/18	TBD		AAC	DPWT	Relocate Anemometer where it can provide more accurate runway winds (treeline blocks wind from north impacting reported winds on AWOS and aviationweather.gov)	8/26/19: to be included in ALP revision process (see Als 10, 26); 9/27/21: to be included in AECOM ALP revision process; 3/28/22: ALP expected to be top priority soon; 8/22/22: pavement mgmt study current top priority; 2/27/23: contract issues with AECOM, pavement mgmt study expected to take 4 months once resolved; 3/27: no change; 4/24: no chg; 6/26: no chg; 8/28: no chg; 9/25: AECOM still not on contract, may change to #2 choice consultant; 10/23: AECOM nearly on contract; 12/4/23: AECOM on contract, pavement study and property map update are first priority.02/24/24 No change. <b>MONITOR 9/30/24</b>	

Action Item #	Status	Open Date	Due Date (do not change)	Close Date	Originator	Assignee(s)	Action Item	Status/Resolution	Follow-up
24	Open	10/28/2019	8/23/2021		Public (Bob Hansen)	DPWT (Swint)	Explore Compass Rose at 2W6. Obtain info from The 99s.	10/28/19: Bob Hansen to provide info from 99s at January meeting; 2/24/20: Hansen did not attend Jan or Feb AAB meetings; 6/22/20: POC change from Hansen to Klapka, he reports 99s no longer doing compass roses; 9/28: Ted to meet with Allison next week; 10/1: Ted & Allison identified location on west ramp, Allison checking with DPWT to see if they can survey and paint; 10/26: Allison awaiting response from DPWT; 12/7: DPWT has agreed to do, waiting for wx; 4/26: Allison to talk to Ron; 8/23: Allison to followup with Ron or Donnie; 9/27: Joanna Williams of 99s contacted Allison, interested in doing this in Spring; 10/25: no chg; 12/6/21: review again in Feb 22; 1/24/22: presentation by Joanna Williams of 99s MD chapter, they are happy to do it, 2W6 just needs to provide paint, etc. Allison to suggest weekend in Apr-Jun; 2/28: rebar under ramp doesn't allow for compass rose, new plan is 1 yr delay, rose will be painted at new runup area at dep end rwy 11; 8/22/22: further delay likely due to runway construction delays; 9/26/22: now	
39	Open	4/24/2023	6/26/2023		Alexander	DPWT (Swint)	Develop plan for completion of pilot's lounge (furnishings, displays, decorations, cost, timeline, etc.). Terminal renovations completed May 2022 but pilot lounge still empty.	6/26/23: Allison to release survey to airport community for inputs. 8/28: Allison to send survey this week. 9/25: Survey sent today, awaiting feedback; 10/23: 15 responses to survey, focus on flight planning, hangout, crew rest; can proceed as budget allows with TV and recliners; 12/4/23: no change. 02/24/24 No change. 8/26/24 Further action pending decision made by DED regarding terminal seating arrangements. 09/30/24 Furniture for pilot's lounge included in shipment coming to DED. Arrival of the furniture has been delayed but should arrive soon.	



St. Mary's County Airport Advisory Board  
Action Item List

Current: 12/4/23

Action Item #	Status	Open Date	Due Date (do not change)	Close Date	Originator	Assignee(s)	Action Item	Status/Resolution	Follow-up
40	Open	4/24/2023	6/26/2023		Sahut	DPWT (Swint)	Explore options to upgrade cell service at terminal bldg and hangars	6/26/23: Dave Stanton suggested call Verizon to get free internet extender. 8/28: Allison to call Verizon or ask tenant to request extender. 9/25: Allison to see Verizon box with Dave; 10/23: Allison viewed Verizon extender box, coordinating with county IT; 12/4/23: no change. 8/26/24 Ken Reed volunteered to assist in identifying "extender" to be placed at the terminal. 2/24/25 Ken Reed has been in touch with T-Mobile to try and get expanded coverage. Waiting for response.	
41	Open	12/4/2023	2/26/2024		Alexander	DPWT (Swint)	Ask CSMC to request from Pax CO that Doug Dickens, Aviation Safety Officer Naval Test Wing Atlantic, be added as an ad hoc member of the AAB to complement LCDR Hughes. This would further improve communications and safety between military and civilian air traffic.	02/24/24 Should be closed when formal approval received. 08/26/24 Action item not closed due to final documentation not received regarding approval for Doug Dickens to serve as an ExOfficio member of the Board.	