

**St. Mary's County Regional Airport
Airport Advisory Committee Meeting
23 March 2015 Minutes**



- I. CALL TO ORDER - Mr. LaValle called the meeting to order at 1802. A quorum was present with Mr. Anderson, Mr. Lowry, Mr. Olmeda, Ms. Sawyer, and Mr. Willard. Mr. Adair and Mr. Klapka were excused absences. Mr. Whipple, St Mary's County Staff Advisor, was present.

Public present included: Mr. Bildman, Mr. Weaver, Mr. Moody, Mr. Reed, Ms. Ferry, Mr. McHalry, Mr. Scassero, Mr. Pucciarella, Ms. Mozingo and Mr. Hanson.

- II. February draft Minutes- Approved as amended during discussions.

III. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

- New Advisory Committee members introduced – Ms. Margret Sawyer and Mr. Ted Klapka (not present)
- St Mary's County volunteer training night announced to take place 8 April 2015 – Advisory Committee members invited to attend
- Southern Maryland Test Site Unmanned Air Vehicle Brief provided by Mr. Scassero and Mr. Pucciarella – Moving ahead with planning to complete a research hangar and conduct test evolutions in Southern Maryland with seven Certificate of Authorizations (COA) in work at this time. At least one COA includes UAS operation on or near St Mary's Airport as soon as the summer of 2015 posing a conflict with recent FAA guidance on that still affects operation within several miles of airports. It was suggested that the Advisory Committee should provide some type of active support in reviewing these COAs for impact to St Mary's Airport operations prior to their acceptance.
- Draft 2014 Annual Report process and update – Final draft targeted for April 2015

IV. Public Comments

Mr. Bildman advised the Committee of the presence of a tethered balloon operated by a local contractor and located in uncontrolled airspace North of St Mary's County airport Mr. Bildman requested that the balloon operator contact the FBO prior to use so the airport users could be notified of the potential obstacle.

V. Department of Public Works & Transportation Report

- Airport Capital Improvements – Continuing to work toward advertisement of utility relocation along Airport Road for spring 2015.
- Development Review – Nothing significant to report.
- Airport Operations and Maintenance – False sewage flow readings were traced down and repairs being done to correct.

VI. FBO and Leaseholder Report

- A Powered Paraglider operator experienced a hard landing in the grass area of St Mary's Airport on 21 March posing questions about operations of

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- these types of ultralight vehicles. FAA rules specify that paragliders must not interfere with aircraft and no specific license or registration is required.
 - The FBO will check for certificates of insurance for any future powered paraglider operations that may be observed.
 - A transient aircraft had a flat tire necessitating a brief field closure on 22 March in order to clear the runway of the stricken aircraft.
- New Hangar Project update (T-hanger construction)
 - Construction should start again pending improving weather conditions.

VII. New Business

- Repairs or replacement of the airport Automatic Weather Observations System (AWOS) so messages to pilots can be added to the weather information is needed to aide in advising airport operators of real time events such as field closures and active notices (such as tethered balloon operations)

VIII. Next Meeting - Next regular meeting scheduled for 27 April 2015 at 6:00 pm; Walter F Duke Terminal Building conference room.

IX. ADJOURNMENT- The meeting was adjourned at 1942.

Submitted,

Wilson R Lowry

Secretary

Approved,

Jacque La Valle

Chairman