

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



- I. **CALL TO ORDER** - Mr. LaValle called the meeting to order at 1800. A quorum was present with Mr. Barthelme, Mr. Klapka, Mr. LaValle, Mr. Olmeda, Ms. Sawyer, Mr. Willard in attendance. Mr. Lowry, Mr. Anderson and Mr. Adair were excused absences. Mr. Whipple and Mr. Carlton, St Mary's County Staff Advisors, were present.

Public present included: Mr. Weaver, Mr. Reid, Ms. Capozzi, Mr. Capozzi, Ms. Setser, and Mr. McWilliams.

- II. **June draft Minutes-** Approved.

III. **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

- Mr. Barthelme was introduced as the committee's newest appointed member. Mr. Adair was recognized as being appointed from an associate member to a regular member.
- Mr. LaValle led a discussion of the upcoming UAS demonstration being conducted at St. Mary's airport in August. Mr. Klapka asked that the committee be provided the website link for the public review of the COA for UAS operations. Mr. Whipple will provide that information and the processes for logistics, the county's rules for observation and non-airport vehicle liability, for future event permits.
- Mr. LaValle expressed concern over the stagnation of the proposed update to the airport rules and minimum standards. Submission of this update is past one year with no planned date of acceptance by the BOCC.
- The St. Mary's County airport permit process was discussed in depth and a consensus reached that the Advisory Committee should review the existing permit process. Mr. Klapka volunteered to research the process and recommend to the committee if changes are warranted to meet expected needs.

IV. **Public Comments**

- There was an inquiry with regard to public spectators during the UAS event in August. Mr. Whipple stated that the public is allowed to view the event from outside the airport fence and that there may be provisions for the public to observe the event at a designated area provided by the event's permit holder.
- Multiple comments were made from St Mary's Airport pilots and aircraft owners concerning future FBO operational plans for the airport. Many of the attendees indicated that they had to take their aircraft elsewhere for annual inspections and other maintenance because of the lack of repair facilities at 2W6.

V. **Department of Public Works & Transportation Report**

- **Airport Capital Improvement Plan** - BOCC signed the grant approval for \$2.6M and is proceeding with road relocation and taxiway extension contract award to Sargent Corporation.

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- A purchase order has been completed for the asphalt replacement at the MSP hangar apron and the disintegrated ramp area adjacent to Taxiway Alpha and the taxiway leading to the T hangars. Work is expected to be finished in August 2015.

VI. FBO and Leaseholder Report

- Mr. Reed reported that the new hangar construction will continue through the summer months as weather permits for a total of 5 hangars. Occupancy of the new hangars is expected in November 2015. Mr. Reed stated that the University of Maryland hangar is on track for occupancy by November of 2015.

VII. Old Business

- Mr. Willard inquired about the safety of the existing MTA bus stop. The current passenger pickup/drop off location remains on Airport Road on a blind curve and is a hazard to motorists and pedestrians. As previously recommended by the committee, Mr. Willard asked that the bus stop be relocated within the driveway to the terminal building. This is a two way thoroughfare and would aid in public safety.

VIII. New Business

- Mr. Capozzi and Ms. Setser reported that a St Mary's Airport "open house" event is been postponed until the spring of 2016 due to the impending construction of airport road.
- The EAA sponsored Young Eagles has filed a special events permit to conduct youth flights for all invited EMS family members.

IX. Next Meeting –The next regular meeting is scheduled for 28 September 2015 at 6:00 pm, Walter F Duke Terminal Building conference room.

X. ADJOURNMENT- The meeting was adjourned at 1921.

Submitted,

W. R. Lowry

for Wilson R Lowry

Secretary

Approved,

J. La Valle

Jacque La Valle

Chairman