

**St. Mary's County Regional Airport
Airport Advisory Committee Meeting
24 September 2018 Minutes**



I. Call to Order – Chairman Eric Pratson called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm. Committee members present were Terry Adair, Jim Alexander, Bryan Barthelme, Ted Klapka, Robert Lightstone, Brian Schroeder, Andre Swygert and Alternate Craig Nixon. John Deatrick, Allison Swint (Airport Manager), Gary Whipple and Bob Carlton were in attendance from St Mary's County Department of Public Works and Transportation. Thirteen members of the airport community, public and the Patuxent Naval Air Station attended.

II. Guest presentation was given by Master Chief Petty Officer Chris Switzer and Air Controlman First Class Rafael Cabrera for the Air Operations Department of Naval Air Station Patuxent River. They provided a quick overview of the germane areas of their Course Rules (attached) and noted that NAS and 2W6 have a long and satisfactory history of nearby operations. However, they did note that Pax is now down to essentially single runway operations on Runway 14/32 for the next two years which will greatly increase the military fixed wing traffic flying nearby along south shore of the Patuxent River to Runway 14 between 1600 and 2500ft MSL. Also, Pax Helos approach Pax Runway 14 at or below 500ft. They requested that 2W6 promulgate this information and requested that traffic arriving and departing 2W6 over the Patuxent do so between 750 and 1200 ft MSL to avoid the Pax Runway 14 traffic. MCPO Switzer stressed that Pax ATC will attempt to facilitate operations with 2W6 whenever possible and urged local pilots to communicate with Patuxent TRACON (121.0MHz preferred) when able. The Airport Advisory Committee agreed that the NAS Pax traffic along the River was a cause for concern and the 2W6 airport manager should consider placing a caution on the AWOS recording and in the Airport Directory. MCPO Switzer clarified the Agreement between the County and NAS that permits the Left Downwind on Runway 29 to extend slightly into Restricted Area 4007 (within 1.5NM of 2W6) without communicating with Pax ATC provided that 2W6 traffic is VMC and at or below 1000ft MSL. (Agreement is on the County Airport Website). The NAS Pax Air Operations Instruction (aka Course Rules) requires NAS traffic to remain above 1500ft MSL in the vicinity of 2W6.

III. FBO & Leaseholder Reports

Nothing significant to report

IV Department of Public Works & Transportation

Airport Capital Improvements

1. County is receiving FAA Grant funding to cover the over budget Bid received for the Taxiway relocation. Preconstruction Conference with the Contractor will be in late October or early November. Taxiway relocation bids are in and at FAA for approval.
2. The taxiway relocation will commence in early 2019 and DPWT has developed a plan to manage parking that will be dislocated by apron and ramp closures. DPWT provided a public briefing on the plan on 12 September.

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3. FAA supplement has funds that are potentially available for current runway rehab. County has submitted a request for funding to resurface the entire length of the Runway when it is extended.
4. Airport Road Relocation: Anticipate 6 to 8 weeks of "Single laning" in front of SMHEC during the project.

Development Review Update – nothing new to report

Airport Operations and Maintenance

1. Parallel taxiway has been restriped.
2. PAPI recertification flights by FAA now planned for October time frame

V. Chairman's Report

St Mary's County Department of Economic Development will provide a briefing at the October meeting.

VI. Public Comment

It was noted that the last minutes did not contain Action Items and the committee and public find those useful. The secretary will endeavor to update and include Action Items.

VII. Review / Approval of Minutes and Action Items

The August minutes were approved as submitted. Action Items are attached.

VIII Old Business

The Airport Rules Draft Ordinance is in routing for adoption as a County Ordinance. It is anticipated that it will open for formal public comment in December, with a Public Hearing with the Commissioners on or about 8 January, with public comment closing in mid January and an adoption vote by the Commissioners in late January.

XI. New Business

Daniel Paulson briefed that University of Maryland College Park will be performing low altitude atmospheric testing with Red Eye-safe lasers and Balloons tethered at approx. 150ft AGL. The balloon will be anchored near the midfield windsock, or near the large ASEC Hangar, and neither the balloon nor the lasers should present any hazard to aircraft or personnel.

Mr. Bob Carlton will be retiring from DPW&T. The Airport Advisory Committee thanks Mr. Carlton for his service to the County and the Airport community and wishes him success and happiness in retirement. Fair Winds!

X. Next Meeting – The October meeting will be held 22 October at 6 pm at the Airport Terminal Building.

XII. ADJOURNMENT – The meeting was adjourned at 7:20 pm

Submitted,

Handwritten signature of Ted Klapka.

Ted Klapka

Secretary

Approved,

Handwritten signature of Eric Pratson.

Eric Pratson

Chairman