

DELAWARE VALLEY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION
Minutes of the March 20, 2008 Meeting
of the
Regional Aviation Committee

<u>Attendee</u>	<u>Affiliation</u>
Rob Barber	R.A. Wiedemann & Associates, Inc.
Don Carmeans	DMVA / COPA
Mike D'Aries	Pottstown/Limerick Airport
Rich Delello	BRRAM
Elaine Farashian	Aero Club of PA
Debbie Geier	DeIDOT Planning
Gary Hudson	Chester County Area Airport Authority
Frank Kulka	Urban Engineers, Inc.
Paul Krupp	BRRAM
Bill Leavens	Mid Atlantic Aviation Coalition
Shirley Loveless	CSC - Temple; Coleshill Associates, LLC
Jim MacKenzie	DMJM Aviation
Michael McCartney	Philadelphia International Airport
Bob Miller	NJDOT
John Mininger	Bucks County Airport Authority
David Metzler	DVRPC
Roger Moog	DVRPC
Reiner Pelzer	DVRPC
Max Patel	NJDOT
Wesley Ratko	Montgomery County Planning Commission
Dan Rusk	Reinhart & Rusk, Inc.
Don Scata	URS Corporation
Tom Thatcher	L. Robert Kimball & Associates
Randy Waltermeyer	CCCP
R.A. Wiedemann	R. A. Wiedemann & Associates, Inc.
John Ward	DVRPC

1. **Introductions** - Mike McCartney of PHL, the Chair of the RAC introduced himself and asked others to do the same. Elaine Farashian of the Aero Club of PA asked for potential nominees for the Aero Club flight school scholarship.

2. **Minutes of the December 13, 2007 RAC Meeting** - Mike McCartney had two corrections. 1) On page 2, Old overseas terminal is not yet demolished. 2) Regarding sound proofing of 140 more houses in Tinicum Township, the work has not been done as yet.

- 3.a. **Status of Regional Airports Development**

Chester County - Gary Hudson said the runway Feasibility and Justification Study is underway and the consultant is meeting with their Technical Advisory Committee.

PHL - Mike McCartney reported that in 2007 the airport had 32.2 million passengers of which four million were international, 600,000 tons of cargo and 499,653 operations. Terminal D improvements are 35% complete and runway 17-35 extension is 40% complete. The part 150 study for the airport is being updated and USAIR is now operating non-stop to Vancouver B.C.

Doylestown - John Mininger of the Bucks County Airport Authority said that Phase II of the Storm Water Management project will start shortly.

Quakertown - John reported that runway and obstruction removal improvements have been completed on 29-11. Verizon is considering locating a FIOS base at the Votec building.

Vansant - This turf runway airport is part of the Bucks County Park System and is undergoing a runway leveling project.

Camden County - Max Patel mentioned the runway, taxiway, and fuel farm improvements underway with state funds, Randy Wiedemann added that the County is studying, with another state grant, the possible acquisition of the airport from its private owner.

Trenton Mercer - Max noted the \$3.4 million taxiway rehab. The airport has lost its limited commercial service, however corporate activity there is growing.

South Jersey Regional - RFP is out soliciting an FBO to operate the airport for 20 years. Questions about the operating viability of the non-profit Air Victory Museum have been raised.

Pottstown Limerick - Mike D'Aries, Airport Manager, noted that local businessman John Desmond is currently negotiating with PECO and FAA regarding purchase of the airport, which is celebrating its 80 year anniversary. Mike asked about the noise impacts by Trenton Mercer on Yardley in Bucks Co., and if a part 150 study has been done at the 6 dnl standard. This study should be initiated by the airport.

Crosskeys - A perimeter fence and runway lighting have been installed.

Summit - Reiner Pelzer commented that the new alignment for Rt 301 doesn't impact the airport.

Flying W - The airport will not accept state grants so the runway extension is on hold according to Mr. Patel.

Pennridge - Dan Rusk reported the completion of hangar construction despite the escalating cost of steel. Aircraft owners can rent these hangars with an option to buy.

New Garden - Tom Thatcher reported that the taxiway extension and rebuild design is underway.

Perkiomen Valley - Mr. Thatcher representing Kimball Associates said obstruction removal is underway. The question was raised whether obstruction removal grants obligate the airport. The consensus was they do not.

Cecil Co. - Tom noted that owner Bob Powell is expanding the airport including a runway/taxiway extension, and new hangars and a new terminal.

Spitfire - Max Patel noted that state funds supported the taxiway rehab and apron expansion. Dave Metzler added that new lighting is in place and old T-hangars are being demolished.

Trenton Robbinsville - Max Patel noted that obstruction removal is ongoing.

3.b. Legislative Update

Roger Moog presented a summary of legislation pertaining to airports now pending in the PA legislature. These are;

- H.B 2159 - Exempting privately owned airports from zoning requirements
- H.B 2055 - Passenger Bill of Rights
- H.B 2292 - GA Security requirements (two lock rule)
- H.B 2301 - Sales tax exemption for Aviation business
- S B ? - Senate version of sales tax exemption bill
- H B 1487 - limitation of use of Willow Grove

The two lock rule proposal stimulated comments. Since the law would only apply to public use airports and not private, it can't be affective. Gary Hudson suggested limiting the rules application to aircraft over a certain weight. Bill Leavens said that use of a prop lock is nothing more than a bike lock and in Jersey there has been no opposition from airports or aircraft owners. Several PA House representative have expressed opposition to the two lock idea. Tom Thatcher said that the issue will probably be debated at the upcoming NASAO conference in D.C. and we should wait to see the outcome of the debate. In other government related issues, Bill Leavens noted the eminent domain taking of a portion of Soleburg Airport recently, and the draft legislation

in New Jersey, written to prevent public taking of privately owned airports in the future. He also noted the closing and sale of Twin Pines airport for a municipal ball field.

4. Continuing Planning Activities

- A. Delaware State Aviation System Plan (SASP) Update. Bobbi Geier, of DelDOT, and consultant Randall Weidemenn presented a summary of the plan, including 11 public use airports. Objectives include airport preservation, expansion where warranted, better land use compatibility. Mor Weidemenn noted that high level of helicopter use in Del and said that plan has identified three new heliport sites along the coast and a public use heliport to serve Wilmington they had trouble getting FAA to delete abandoned heliport sizes from the NPLAS. Randall presented a three minute marketing video promoting aviation in Delaware, which was a product of the SASP.
- B. Willow Grove NAS - Don Carmeans, Project Manager for the PA Department of Military and Veterans Affairs briefed the RAC and the status of the Willow Grove BRAC action and reuse plans. He said local Horsham and Montco officials wanted total redevelopment, but Gov. Rendell with Senators Specter and Casey pushed to keep the base open for Air National Guard use and restricted emergency (FEMA), defense (military and civilian preparedness), and related corp business support. The plan requires the Navy to turn the base over to the Air Force which will ultimately turn it over to the state of Pennsylvania. LR Kimball and Associates produced a reuse study for the state suggesting the entire base be operated by the state in order to ensure its financial self sufficiency. Gov. Rendell will respond to the plan on April 11. It can be viewed at DMVA@state.pa.us. Rick Taylor, Representative from District 151 including Willow Grove, has introduced legislation to prevent commercial passenger or freight traffic at the airport. Redevelopment will start around 2011 after military operations are relocated.
- C. Zoning Seminar - DVRPC will hold an Airport Zoning Seminar May 12, 2008 directed to County planners and municipalities in the 5 PA counties of the DVRPC region who have not adopted airport height restriction zoning. Forty to fifty municipalities who have not adopted this zoning are invited and required to act by PA state law of 1984 and a 2007 Supreme Court of PA decision.
- D. Airspace Redesign at PHL Frank Kulka noted that Delaware County is questioning whether FAA correctly followed the NEPA process in evaluating impacts of the new departure routes over Delco. Shirley Loveless who is an advisor to US Rep Joe Sestak added that the modeling of impacts is flawed, and benefits are not significant. Arlen Specter will hold a hearing in Phila regarding use of the new departure routes and FAA commitments about ATC procedures.

E. State Systems Plan Updates These documents are now available for both NJ, PA, and Delaware.

5. Capital Programming

A) AIP/FAA Reauthorization Mike McCartney and Roger Moog have finalized a letter to go to all regional US Congressmen summarizing the RAC position on reauthorization features. It will include no user fees, higher PFC's, tiered funding for GA based on airport operations, support for local zoning.

B) DVRPC PA Regional ACIP Reiner Pelzer presented the final version of the five county ACIP negotiated with all sponsors and with FAA/PennDOT. The document prioritizes projects at eligible airports within the fiscal constraints set up by DVRPC and PennDOT for the region. Mr. Pelzer mentioned that since FAA Harrisburg ADO now administers grants to NJ airports as well as PA airports, next year DVRPC could produce a twelve county ACIP project ranking document. He also noted that since there is no reauthorization and the continuing resolution only extends into June all grant applications must be sent to FAA by June 9.

C) NJ Funding Program - Max Patel noted that the FY 08 state grant program is anticipated to be \$8.5 million with \$5 million for construction projects and \$1.5 million for security systems.

6. Old Business

DVRPC Website - Reiner Pelzer and Dave Metzler noted that the DVRPC Aviation Directory update can now be found on the DVRPC website, which is www.dvrpc.org

Easton Airport Tower - Gary Hudson asked about the status of the facility.

Chester County Capital Improvements - Randy Waltermeyer asked how the proposed airport runway extension could be sold to neighbors, in community terms, not just economic development. Shirley Loveless suggested using the example of the FedEx facility development in Louisville, Kentucky.

7. New Business

a) TransAction Conference - April 3, 2008 Atlantic City. Reiner Pelzer said he and others from the region are involved in organizing several aviation sessions for the conference.

b) NJ Aviation Conference - Bill Leavens announced the Annual Conference on May 2, 2008 at Newark International Airport.

c) Next DVRPC RAC Meeting - Scheduled for Thursday June 19, 2008, DVRPC Offices, 10:00 a.m.