

Minutes of the December 15, 2011

RAC Meeting

DELAWARE VALLEY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

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Regional Aviation Committee Meeting

| Attendee          | Affiliation                                  |
|-------------------|----------------------------------------------|
| Amy Balawejder    | Urban Engineers                              |
| Rob Betz          | PennDOT BOA                                  |
| Chuck Brewer      | PennDOT BOA                                  |
| Bob Checchio      | MAAC                                         |
| Ted Dahlburg      | DVRPC                                        |
| Brian D'Amico     | DVRPC                                        |
| Tom Defant        | HNTB                                         |
| Elaine Farashian  | Aero Club of PA                              |
| Roberta Geier     | DeIDOT Planning                              |
| Jeff Gilley       | NBAA                                         |
| Randy Haldeman    | PennDOT BOA                                  |
| Rick Harner       | FAA                                          |
| Gary Hudson       | CCAAA                                        |
| David Jones       | Delta Airport Consultants                    |
| William Leavens   | MAAC                                         |
| Lori Ledebom      | FAA                                          |
| Jerry Leipfinger  | NJ DOT Aeronautics                           |
| Shirley Loveless  | Temple University/ Coleshill Associates, LLC |
| Michael McCartney | PHL                                          |
| John McGrath      | Hortman Aviation                             |
| Dave Metzler      | DVRPC                                        |
| John Mininger     | BCAA                                         |
| Roger Moog        | NJAA/ACP                                     |
| Bryan Oscarson    | AECOM                                        |
| David Ottow       | Urban Engineers                              |
| Ashwin Patel      | NJ DOT                                       |
| Reiner Pelzer     | DVRPC                                        |
| Robert Powell     | Cecil County Airport                         |
| Fran Strouse      | L.R. Kimball                                 |
| Thomas Thatcher   | L.R. Kimball                                 |
| Tom Tomczyk       | PennDOT BOA                                  |

**1. Introductions and comments from the chair**

Chairman Mike McCartney opened the meeting at 10:02 and asked for the obligatory roll call.

**2. September 29, 2011 meeting minutes**

The minutes of the September meeting were approved without comments

**3. Status of Regional Airport Systems Implementation**

Chester County

Gary Hudson reported that Chester County is getting ready to shut down for winter. Verizon relocated TV cable lines. Sikorsky Global Helicopters is in the planning process of installing a connector taxiway between the two helicopter facilities. They submitted plans to Valley and Sadsbury townships for review and waiting to hear the outcome of meetings with the township.

Philadelphia International

Mike McCartney reported that the 9R safety area project is 40% complete. Runway 9L-27R rehab bids have been received. The airport opened a new Wawa at 84<sup>th</sup> and Bartram Ave and the station is doing quite well.

Northeast Philadelphia

Mike McCartney reported that rehab for taxiways F, E, H, and J are nearly complete.

Doylestown

John Mininger reported the airport is currently negotiating acquisitions of easements for approach end Runway 5.

Camden County

Ashwin (Max) Patel reported that the airport has rehabbed an apron, completed taxiway, precision approach lights and security fence projects and installed new lighting.

Quakertown

John Mininger reported that the airport is working on easement and fee simple acquisitions for obstruction issues. Still planning a new fuel farm, hoping to put out a bid in the Spring.

Trenton-Mercer

Max Patel reported that project rehab for Taxiway A,C and J and security fencing is complete. The airport has also worked on marking improvements and received a 2.5% match for an EMAS project.

### New Castle

Bobbi Geier reported that in November the airport hosted a state aviation career day sponsored by the Delaware Aviation Advisory Committee. While pleased with this year's inaugural event, they plan to attract more participants next year.

### Pottstown Municipal

Completed runway lighting project. The airport is just getting started on Runway 26 extension project which will also include environmental work.

### South Jersey Regional

Max Patel reported that the airport's currently working on a master plan update being funded by the FAA.

### Heritage – No representation

### Cross Keys

Threshold relocation and lighting design has been submitted to Monroe Township; including runway and taxiway lighting, PAPIs and vault. In addition beacon and security cameras are being installed.

### Summit

Bobbie Geier reported that Greenwich Aero Group, which acquired the airport a few years ago, has not shared much information regarding any of their development plans at this privately controlled airport. Outside observation indicates massive hangar expansions and planned runway expansion.

### Flying W

Max Patel reported that the State of New Jersey has offered funding that the airport has not accepted.

### Pennridge – no representation

### Wings Field

Fran Strouse reported that new replacement hangars will be installed within the next week for the demolished hangars 3 and 4 at the airport. A new itinerant apron project will go forward in the Spring. The airport also has a new FBO, Advanced Aircraft, which has indicated plans for new and improved facilities at the airport.

### New Garden

Fran Strouse reported that the parallel taxiway extension project is complete and grant closeout procedures have been initiated.

### Brandywine

Fran Strouse reported that the parallel taxiway eastern portion and taxiway/runway safety improvements have all been completed and grant closeouts are ongoing.

### Trenton-Robbinsville

Max Patel reported on the current basin cleaning and drainage project. Signage and markings have been improved and security cameras installed.

### Perkiomen Valley

Airport ownership had been in discussion with the PA Bureau of Aviation regarding licensing and township commitment to modify/mend zoning ordinance adopted a year ago.

### Cecil County

Fran Strouse reported that the airport is currently in talks with the County Association of Mayors to form an airport authority. The State of Maryland is in the final stages of considering basing a new medevac helicopter at Cecil County Airport. Robert Powell added that local politics presented a challenge to advancing aviation interests in the region. The State of Maryland recently purchased 11 new medevac helicopters to replace their aging fleet under a new decentralized basing plan. Cecil County is one of two airports in the area that is under consideration for serving as a base for one of these new helicopters.

Red Lion – Max Patel reported that no projects are currently being pursued at the airport.

### Spitfire

Max Patel reported on the installation of a new card reader fuel farm and the installation of a security gate and fencing.

### Vasant

Obstruction removal is ongoing.

### Philadelphia Seaplane Base

Tom Tomczyk reported that the seaplane base has submitted revised 12 year plans for improvements focusing on the dock rehabilitation.

#### **4. Special Presentation**

Overview of the NJ Airport Aid Program from the Airport Viewpoint presented by Thomas Thatcher of L.R. Kimball

Mr. Thatcher spoke to the committee about the historical funding of airports in the state of New Jersey and the challenges that airports face under the current system to secure adequate funding for capital projects. Due to procedural and substantive changes over the past year, airports in New Jersey have been effectively divided into two camps: the “most advantaged” airports, or county/municipal operated airports that are eligible for FAA funding and the “least advantaged” airports that are privately owned and not eligible for FAA funding. Mr. Thatcher presented several potential opportunities for improvement including, but not limited to, the synchronization of the State airport aid program with the Federal airport aid program, the amendment of the State Transportation Trust Fund to appropriately support all NJDOT multi-modal projects, and the establishment of a published airport aid application and processing calendar. A more detailed synopsis of Mr. Thatcher’s presentation was handed out during this meeting and will be included in the mailing material for the next meeting. You can also contact Mr. Pelzer at DVRPC to receive a hard copy of this material.

#### **5. Continuing Planning Activities**

a. DVRPC Aircraft Operations Counting Program

Mr. David Metzler reported that data was recently collected for four New Jersey and two Pennsylvania airports, along with Cecil County Maryland. While the official count numbers have not been finalized yet, Mr. Metzler predicted total flight operations to be down slightly from previous years, but noted that significant and numerous adverse weather related events have played a major contributing factor to those numbers in 2011.

b. DVRPC/NJDOT AWOS Project Status

Mr. Reiner Pelzer reported that he is still working hard to move things along. He has been in discussion with the FAA office in Atlanta which has confirmed that the last 7460’s are moving along. Mr. Pelzer hopes to have them installed by March.

c. DVRPC CASP 30

Mr. Pelzer reported that DVRPC had just handed the FAA a 5-year grant outlook with a number of identified projects the MPO believes would be of value to the region. They include the next update to the Regional Aviation System Plan going out to the year 2040 and a regional cargo study the likes of which has never been done either at the regional or state level. DVRPC will continue to work with the FAA and the state DOT’s to select projects that will bring the most value to the region. Mr. Pelzer extended an open offer to anyone on the committee to contact him and recommend any project they felt DVRPC should consider for future study.

## **6. Capital Programming Status**

### a. FAA Update

Lori Ledeborn reported that the FAA has yet to receive continued authorization which is set to expire in January. In light of these circumstances, the FAA has no further update for the Committee.

### b. PennDOT Update

Tom Tomczyk reported the 12 year planning sessions with all airport sponsors invited have been concluded. The four-year funding plan should be up and open for view in either January or February 2012 with the results from the planning meetings in mind.

### c. New Jersey Update

Max Patel reported that New Jersey is in the process of reviewing applications for grants stemming from the \$7 million allocated in fiscal year 2011 and \$5 million allocated in fiscal year 2012.

### d. Delaware Update

Bobbie Geier reported Delaware is moving forward with the State System Planning Grant. Delaware Airpark received \$3.5 million grant and is to start construction. Sussex Airports planned 1000ft. runway extension was scaled back.

## **7. Old Business**

### a. Legislative Updates

Mr. Pelzer reported that Pennsylvania Bill HB 1100 has to come off table of calendar to go the appropriations committee in order to move forward.

Bobbie Geier reported that no movement is likely on the DE user fee bill at this time.

## **8. New Business**

- a. Mr. Pelzer reported that the PA Aviation Advisory Committee Meeting was held on December 7, 2011 where a discussion of Marcella shale unfolded concerning the potential diversion of impact fees to aviation. That discussion concluded that the amount of impact fees in question was insignificant to serve as any meaningful aviation funding source.
- b. Roger Moog reported that the NJ Aviation Association Board is currently in transition under a new chairman. Justin Edwards resigned from the post and Jack McNamara will be his successor.
- c. L.R. Kimball reported that Mercer County is undergoing an Airport Land Use Study to coordinate development on airport property with development around the airport.
- d. Roger Moog reported that January is the month of the annual Transportation Research Board conference in Washington, DC. Aviation committees have a number of sessions that will be featured at this year's conference. The TRB Intergovernmental Relations in Aviation Committee, which Mr. Pelzer chairs, is sponsoring a session on AIP guidelines that will feature discussion of sponsor assurances, the EAS program, and systems planning funding around the country.

Bob Checchio, representing MAAC, announced the date for this year's NJ Aviation Conference was confirmed by NJDOT and is set for May 4<sup>th</sup> in the historic tower facility at Newark Airport, NJ. May 21-25 New Jersey and MAAC celebrate GA awareness. MAAC organizes the airport challenge this year, challenging pilots to visit as many NJ airports as possible for a yet to be determined prize. More details to follow at the next RAC meeting in March.

Lori Ledebom, FAA HARADO mentioned the NPIAS update related ASSET study's publication is targeted for the end of January 2012. The study has been conducted by FAA headquarter staff. More details are to follow during the next RAC meeting as they become available.

Jeff Gilley added that NBAA took part in the meetings that accompanied the development of this study. Jeff stressed the fact that results of the study will affect all airports in the NPIAS. The new categorization of airports was a main discussion point that NBAA and other participants such as NASAO etc., took very serious and asked FAA to consider changes to some of the terminology used to categorize the different airport groups. Jeff suggested having results presented to the RAC by a staff member of the FAA study group at one of our future meetings once the report is final.

- e. No comments from the public
- f. Our next RAC meeting is scheduled for **MARCH 15, 2012 10AM**, at the DVRPC offices. Hope to see you then!