

DELAWARE VALLEY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

Minutes of the March 15, 2012

Regional Aviation Committee Meeting

Attendee	Affiliation
James Branch	TransSystems
Chuck Brewer	PennDOT BOA
Ted Dahlburg	DVRPC
Brian D'Amico	DVRPC
Tom Defant	HNTB
Chris DiPrima	University of Pennsylvania
Justin Edwards	Trenton Mercer Airport
Elaine Farashian	Aero Club of PA
Jeff Gilley	NBAA
Deborah Halligan	University of Pennsylvania
David Hojsak	Citizen of Burlington County, NJ
Richard Horstmann	KS Engineers
Gary Hudson	CCAAA
David Jones	Delta Airport Consultants
Jan Kopple	TransSystems
William Leavens	MAAC
Lori Ledebom	FAA
Jerry Leipfinger	NJ DOT Aeronautics
Claire Mansfield	NJDOT Aeronautics
Michael McCartney	PHL
John McGrath	Hortman Aviation
Dave Metzler	DVRPC
Roger Moog	NJAA/ACP
Bryan Oscarson	AECOM
Reiner Pelzer	DVRPC
Joni Powell	Kleinfelder
Robert Powell	Cecil County Airport
Mary Scheuermann	Parsons Brinckerhoff
Fran Strouse	L.R. Kimball
Robin Sukley	PennDOT BOA
Andre Szumylo	Michael Baker Jr. Corp.
Thomas Thatcher	L.R. Kimball
Tom Tomczyk	PennDOT BOA
Anne Tyska	CHPlanning
John Ward	DVRPC

1. Introductions

Committee Chairman Mr. McCartney opened the meeting at 10:06 and asked all in attendance to introduce themselves by name and affiliation.

2. Minutes of the of December 15, 2011 RAC Meeting

The minutes of the 12-15-2011 RAC meeting were passed without comments.

3. Status of Regional Airport Systems Implementation (2 Min Reports)

Chester County

The south apron project is scheduled to re-start beginning of May. One additional corporate hanger will be added to the airport in the near future.

Philadelphia International

Runway 9L paving received Notice to Proceed (NTP) for March 18, 2012. The airport plans to start paving on May 1, 2012.

Taxiway K extension design is 90 percent complete. Phase I includes moving soil stock pile. Taxiway K5 design is 40 percent complete.

Northeast Philadelphia

Crack sealing and repair for runway 6/24 received NTP for May 1, 2012.

Doylestown

Runway 5-23 obstruction removal: The Authority is in the process of finalizing the acquisition of numerous easements for properties located under the Runway 5 approach.

Anticipated grants:

- a. Remove Obstructions R/W 5-23 Approaches and Transitional Surfaces, Phase I: Preliminary Design
- b. Construct Bypass Taxiways on R/W 5 and 23 Ends.

Camden County

A runway widening project is currently pending. A notification letter was sent to the sponsor with the request to act on the current grant continuation soon; otherwise the grant may be terminated.

Quakertown

Acquire easements for runway 11 approach: The Authority is finalizing the acquisition of aviation easements for seven (7) parcels located under the Runway 11 Approach. A Grant Request Letter was submitted to PennDOT for this project in mid-December.

Relocate and Replace Fuel Farm: The Authority is developing plans for removing the existing Under Surface Tank (UST) and providing a new location for a 10,000 gallon Above Surface Tank (AST) for AVGAS. It is anticipated that this project will start this spring.

The Authority is looking to acquire two parcels of land located under the Runway 29 approach. They have completed the EDDA and appraisals for this land and are looking to finalize the acquisition.

On February 23rd, the Governor released Capital Budget funding to acquire land to remove runway obstructions.

Trenton-Mercer

Justin Edwards gave his final report as the airport manager of the Trenton-Mercer Airport at the RAC meeting. He will join the consulting firm Hoyle-Tanner and relocate to Florida. Justin has been a long time Chairman of this committee and expressed his gratitude to all members for their valuable input to a worthy committee that has taught him a lot over the years. Mr. McCartney, the committee chair, thanked Mr. Edwards for his invaluable contributions to this committee, the Trenton Mercer Airport, New Jersey and the Delaware Valley Region and wished him the best of luck in his future endeavors on behalf of the RAC members.

Justin reported completion of the airfield marking improvements using thermo plastics, in his words a phenomenal product. The runway 6/24 EMAS installation is scheduled to commence this June or July. The FAA has agreed to provide grants to relocate the airport's localizer. Mr. Edwards further reported that Streamline airlines is currently doing well and is looking to possibly expand routes in the future.

New Castle County

No representative attended – no comments

Pottstown Municipal

A runway feasibility study for an extended RSA is underway.

South Jersey Regional

Bids for a REIL installation project are going out soon. Design is completed for the installation of a Jet A fuel farm. RFP is being prepared for consultant selection. The NJ Division of Aeronautics is working with AECOM on the initial stages of an airport master plan update.

Heritage Field

No comments

Cross Keys

All projects are currently on hold because the NJDOT grants have expired. Grant extension requests have been submitted, but, to date, have received no indication concerning the extension of the grants.

Summit

No representative attended – no comments

Flying W

Jerry Leipfinger, NJDOT-Aeronautics reported that the airport has no active projects at this time.

Penridge

No comments

Wings Field

New Replacement Hangars: A bid package has been prepared for the demolition of Hangars 3 and 4 and the construction of new hangars. The new hangars are expected to be in service by mid-summer.

Itinerant Apron: A stop work order was issued at the end of last year's construction season. Beneficial Occupancy was granted for the Apron over the shut-down period. Work remaining is the removal and replacement of the existing Taxiway B connector. Completion of the project is planned for late spring.

New FBO: The Airport has a new FBO - Advanced Aircraft. They will be a Cirrus authorized center - training, maintenance and sales.

New Garden

Extend Parallel T/W 'A', Phase 3, Paving and Marking: Project is complete and a final inspection was held with the BOA on November 30, 2011. Punch list will be completed with spring start-up.

A ground lease has been executed with Hangar Corporation to develop hangars at the east end of the Airport.

Finalizing the acquisition of an easement for Runway 6.

Anticipated grant for:

Design of Reconstructing and Widening RW 6/24

Brandywine

Rehabilitate Taxiway A, improve RSA/TSA, Phase II Construction closed-out. Acquired Ground Service Equipment (Tug).

Anticipating grants for:

- a. Improving Main Terminal Apron South
- b. Design to rehabilitate and relocate airfield lighting

Trenton-Robbinsville

The agreement for crack sealing repair, sealcoat and marking expired. NJ Division of Aeronautics is awaiting a time modification request from the sponsor.

A project to purchase and install security cameras is currently under design and a Request for Proposals is being prepared.

A time modification request was granted for the detention basin cleanout and drainage. The sponsor needs to continue with this project.

The Stormwater Management Plan Study and the Environmental Assessment Study both are completed and awaiting final invoices for closeout.

Perkiomen Valley

The Airport has been in discussion with the Bureau regarding licensing requirements and amending the Township's ordinance.

The Township has not made the changes to the Airport Hazard Zoning Ordinance offered by DVRPC and Kimball. The Bureau is pursuing this matter with the Township.

Cecil County

The Airport recently conducted a presentation to the Counties Association of

Mayors (8 towns) regarding the formation and recognition of an Autonomous Airport Authority. The Airport is being considered as a site for basing a medevac unit.

The Airport is pursuing land acquisition for runway approach protection.

Red Lion

Jerry Leipfinger reported that the airport has no active projects at this time. DVRPC staff has recognized a diminished number of based aircraft at the airport during their latest visits.

Spitfire Aerodrome

Mr. Leipfinger (NJDOT) reported the airport is still trying to resolve its Bankruptcy issue. All projects are currently on hold.

Vansant

No current projects at this time.

Penn's Landing Heliport

No representative attended – no comments

Total RF Heliport

No representative attended – no comments

Valley Forge Bicentennial Heliport

No representative attended – no comments

Horsham Airways Heliport

No representative attended – no comments

Philadelphia Seaplane Base

After failing to accept a grant offer to rehab some vital infrastructure at the seaplane base in the past years, the airport sponsor has decided this year to participate in the PA 12 year plan process again and entered projects for year four and beyond from now.

4. Special Presentation

Cecil County Airport Development – From start to “almost” finish!

Challenges of private airport ownership
Presentation by Robert Powell

Please see the link below to Mr. Powell’s power point presentation:

[Link here](#)

5. Continuing Planning Activities

a. DVRPC /PA Aircraft Operations Counting Programs

Mr. Metzler updated the attendees on the status of the currently active 2011/12 aircraft counting programs. Seven airports are being surveyed within the DVRPC Region namely, Brandywine, Cecil County, Red lion, Cross Keys and Camden County. Counts are expected to conclude this spring and a report will be prepared over the summer months. Four airports are being surveyed outside the DVRPC region in PA. Three counts have been completed so far at Penn Valley, Bloomsburg, Bradford and Grand Canyon airports. If all works according to schedule this program will conclude its counts by October 2012.

The 2010/11 counting reports for four airports outside the DVRPC region in Pennsylvania, Jake Arner, Wyoming County, Queen City and Schuylkill County as well as counts at five DVRPC regional airports, Pennridge, Quakertown, Spitfire Aerodrome, Trenton Robbinsville, and Vansant are concluded and the reports are being prepared.

b. DVRPC/NJDOT AWOS Project Status

Mr. Pelzer reported that Spitfire Aerodrome and Solberg-Hunterdon installations are still on hold due to bankruptcy proceedings and FAA 7460-1 hazard determination filings respectively are still ongoing. NJDOT and DVRPC are currently in negotiations to modify the AWOS agreement and include installation of ceilometers (cloud ceiling height readers) at 10 of the 15 original AWOS sites.

c. DVRPC CASP 30 - Grant Application Status

Staff will submit proposals for two projects to FAA in 2012. One project proposal includes the Update of the 2035 Regional Aviation System Plan to year 2040 and the second projects proposal includes the DVRPC Aircraft Operations Counting Program at 6-8 yet undetermined airports.

FAA representative generally confirmed the eligibility of the projects for funding and requested detailed scope of work and budget before a formal grant application can be processed. Staff plans to provide documents to FAA by the end of April 2012.

6. Capital Programming Status

a. FAA Funding Program

Lori Ledebohm from the FAA Harrisburg ADO noted that the recent passage of the FAA's reauthorization bill is the first time the agency has had full reauthorization since 2007. The bill reauthorizes the FAA for the next four years. Ms. Ledebohm reported that nothing was new in terms of the process of securing federal grants. The most significant change was that the federal government is reducing its contribution to aviation projects from 95 percent to 90 percent. States and local communities will be responsible for coming up with the remaining 10 percent share.

b. PA Funding Program; Status and Activities Post 12 Year Plan Meetings. Tom Tomczyk:

The Commonwealth expects to have \$7.0 million in Aviation Development funds available this upcoming fiscal year. The 12 year planning meetings with airport sponsors concluded successfully. The 12 year plan projects have been forwarded to the Department and the State Transportation Commission (STC) for approval.

c. New Jersey Funding Program; Status and Activities. Jerry Leipfinger and Claire Mansfield:

The State Aeronautical budget will hold \$ 5.0 million this coming fiscal year. None of the projects that applied for grants has been approved by the Governor yet.

d. Delaware Funding Program Status and Activities. No representative attended – no report

7. Old Business

a. Legislative Updates:

HB 1100 will now be introduced into the PA State Senate where so far 11 state senators have signed on in support of the legislation. The committee encouraged attendees to mobilize support of the bill that would provide for a fixed wing tax exemption in the state to keep Pennsylvania competitive by contacting their state senators.

b. Class B Airspace

Redesign for PHL, Update

c. NPIAS ASSET Study Status

The Study has not been released yet. A more detailed update will be presented once published. Jeff Gilley reported that issues with airport categorizations have not been fully resolved yet.

8. New Business

- a. PA Aviation Advisory Committee (PAAAC) Meeting: March 21, 2012, Planned

The Agenda of this meeting was briefly discusses and Mr. Pelzer referred to the June 21, 2012 RAC meeting to present highlights of the March 21, 2012 PAAAC meeting.

- b. NJ Aviation Association Update

(NJAA Winter Newsletter included in March mailing attachments)

- c. Mercer County Airport Strategic Land Use Study – Planned Development Initiatives

Mercer County is in the process of using 100 percent of its own funds to start a strategic land use study around the Mercer County Airport including stakeholders from all modes of Transportation and the comprehensive community planning field. So far all sides are very hopeful this study will unveil the expected development potential of the sites. Exciting synergies among local interests and tremendous opportunities and potential for future development have been reported by members of the study team. A first interim report on the progress of this study is expected in May. The study considers relocation and modernization of the Mercer County Airport terminal.

- d. ACRP Report 58 - Airport Industry Familiarization and Training for Part-Time Airport Policy Makers

Mr. Pelzer recommended this report as essential reading for airport stakeholders and policy makers that are not too familiar with the day to day operation of airports. This report highlights topics such as roles of airport policy makers and airport managers, understanding and conveying the value of an airport, basic elements of an airport, use of airport revenue, etc., etc., etc.

- e. GA User Fees

While the language regarding the implementation of GA user fees was stricken from the recently passed FAA reauthorization bill, the Obama Administration is currently proposing a \$100 per flight user fee for flights under instrument flight rule in their latest federal budget. There are concerns as to the undue and

disproportional burden this user fee will place on smaller aircraft operators as the cost will not be as easily absorbed on a per passenger basis as would be the case on larger jets. However, both General Aviation and the Airlines oppose the proposed user fees. There is a strong bipartisan opposition in the US Congress to the Obama Administration's proposal. Most aviation alphabet groups believe the existing fuel tax mechanisms to fund the aviation system have worked in the past and will be the better solution to secure adequate funding in the future. The RAC agreed and recommended to capitalize on the current funding system rather than undermining it with a new system looming of unknown bureaucratic cost.

f. Public Comment Period

Fran Strouse (L. R. Kimball) - Regarding user fees

Maryland has said the state will pick up increased local share for the first two years. The state contribution to aviation projects will be 7.5 percent and the local share will remain at the current 2.5 percent. Maryland is one among a few other states that are recognizing this new challenge for local communities to come up with an additional 2.5 percent to fund local projects. Of course, their ability to take on this burden is subject to the availability of state funds.

Robin Sukley (PA BOA) - Regarding PA funding

Said he was hopeful Governor Corbett will approve the use of intermodal funding for aviation purposes which will help the continued funding of aviation assets here in Pennsylvania.

Roger Moog (DVRPC Manager of Aviation, retired) - Regarding future base closures

Department of Defense may initiate a new round of BRAC (military base closures and consolidations). Rumors are that McGuire Air Force Base, approximately 15 miles south of Trenton, New Jersey, maybe be a future candidate. If that happens, the airspace in the whole Northeast Corridor will drastically change. Ironically, a significant amount of former Willow Grove operations were supposed to be accommodated by McGuire.

Fran Strouse - Regarding federal funding

The president's budget anticipates a significant raise in PFC's and decreased AIP funding to a level that if approved would eliminate non-primary entitlements.

Chuck Brewer (PA BOA) - Regarding airline pilot qualifications

NPRM (Notice of Proposed Rule Making) HR 5900 deals with pilot qualifications for future airline pilots. The comment period regarding this ruling is currently

underway. The only break for pilots seeking qualification under the increased flying time requirements is the supplementation of academic credit for pilot hours. In order to be an airline pilot you will now need an ATA license which is the equivalent of 1500 hours. Before this new rule, one could be hired by an airline with only 400 hours. The academic exemption is only applicable if one obtains a degree from an approved aviation college which likely comprises a list of 12-15 universities nationwide. 80-85 percent of pilots flying today did not graduate from any of these universities. This could have a negative impact on flying schools that do not make the list and create an additional barrier to recruiting enough pilots in the future.

Robin Sukley - Regarding mixed asphalt application for airports

The Pennsylvania Bureau of Aviation is interested in learning more about the use of mixed asphalt in airport projects as more airports are asking about it due to the added benefits associated with the product. The Bureau would like to learn if the FAA will be tackling the issue and what, if any, regulations may arise regarding the use of mixed asphalt in the future.