

Humboldt County Airport Advisory Committee

MINUTES

March 23, 2010

6:00pm

3135 Boeing Ave, Suite C

McKinleyville, CA 95519

(707) 839-0100

- 1) The meeting was called to order @ 1802 by Chairman Williamson.
- 2) ROLL CALL - **Members Present:** Dax Williamson, Kyle Gabel, Chuck Goodwin, Alistair McCrone, Jack Limmer, Bill Davidson, George Jutila, Rich Fenton. **Absent:** Dennis Lichty. **Staff:** Emily Jacobs, Airports Division. **Guests:** See scanned attendance list.
- 3) APPROVAL OF MINUTES - The Secretary announced that the February 23rd Minutes have not yet been prepared and that they will be sent via e-mail soon. Chairman Williamson proposed that the prior two month's Minutes will be reviewed and approved at the next meeting, on April 27, 2010.
- 4) OPEN SESSION (to include community guests & Comments)

The owner of *Air Shasta Rotor and Wing LLC* presented information regarding his insurance carrier's inability to provide the \$3 million in liability insurance requested by the County for a helicopter training business on County airport property. The Chairman asked him to forward this information to him for submission to Tom Mattson, Humboldt County Director of Public Works. Bill Davidson indicated that he had recently met with Mr. Mattson, and that he was told that the County's Risk Manager believes that he is correct in requesting \$3 million in liability coverage for this operation.

Chuck Goodwin thanked Jack Limmer for his recent e-mail reminder that the FAA is now mandating plastic pilot certificates, and he also reminded Committee members that the annual FPP Conflict of Interest Statement has been received from the County and that it is due by the end of the month from all Committee members.

William Rush announced that June 14, 15 & 16 the Collins Foundation's B-17, B-24, and ME-262 aircraft will be at ACV and that they intend to promote the event through the local schools since it will be when school is still in session.

- 5) CHAIRMAN'S REPORT – Subcommittee reports were discussed by Chairman Williamson as noted under Item 7 below.
- 6) AIRPORT MANAGER'S REPORT – Current versus past statistics for ACV passengers and quarterly area airport cargo loads were distributed by Emily Jacobs. The ACV passenger counts are down somewhat from historical levels for January and February of 2010. Cargo, generally, was also down somewhat for Year 2009 at ACV, but closer to average for cargo enplaned at Murray Field.
- 7) AIRPORT REPORTS FROM COMMITTEE
 - a) Airport Hanger Committee - Subcommittee reports were discussed by Chairman Williamson along with the recommendation that the hangar lease management and waiting lists be transferred back to the Humboldt County Land Use Division of the Public Works Department, as it was prior to 2005. A motion was made, seconded and approved after discussion to forward this recommendation to the County for action. Members will review the distributed draft document by April 2nd, and forward any comments to the Chairman for the final document revision. Emily Jacobs noted that this was how it was previously done, and that it would probably be an

acceptable change, since the Aviation Division works closely together with the Land Use Division, and ½ of that particular staff position of Real Property Agent is paid for by the Airports Division budget.

- b) Airport Hanger Waiting List – see (a) above.
- c) Humboldt (ACV Ramp Check) Procedures Committee – The name of this subcommittee will now be the “Overdue Aircraft Search Procedures” Committee, as “Ramp Check” is somewhat ambiguous, relating to document verification by the FAA or other law enforcement agencies.

8) UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- a) Minimum Standards/ Leasing Policy – Comments on this DRAFT document by the Committee are still requested by the Chairman in order to get all desired revisions in place before the document is finalized and presented to the Board of Supervisors. Previous comments have not yet been incorporated into the draft document by the consultant. Discussion was held regarding whether this DRAFT is a public document at this time, and if comments from other than Committee members are being solicited. Emily Jacobs offered to verify this with Jacquelyn Hulsey, as it was noticed during the meeting that the document is not currently posted on the County’s Aviation website. Emily was also asked to change the posting of the Aviation Committee’s meeting place, as it is still listed on the website as being held in the Airport Manager’s office at ACV.
- b) Deer Fence at Murray – This is still not constructed. County staff continues to monitor the deer situation on a daily basis.
- c) Arcata Airport Pilot Controlled lighting – Ezequiel Sandoval presented written comments from Jim Bernard, former Flight Service Station Specialist, regarding the ACV pilot controlled lighting and how the cross runway lights came to be turned off in the past by alleged direction from a former Humboldt County Airport Manager to an FAA technician. A motion was made by Bill Davidson and seconded by Alistair McCrone to send the County a request to restore the crossing runway lighting at ACV, to be operated on the same frequency as the main runway lights. The documentation discussed previously will be included with the Committee’s request. Motion passed unanimously – Chairman to work on exact wording of request and hand deliver to Tom Mattson, Director of Public Works.

Ezequiel Sandoval, who independently conducted this current research on the cross runway lighting issue, questioned the process by which the Committee’s recommendations to the Board of Supervisors are implemented, since this serious air safety issue has been discussed and any positive action postponed numerous times over the past years. Discussion of others in the audience and the Committee included references to possible County liability should someone be injured due to the lack of their providing available cross runway lighting. Al Castaldi offered that the County needs to provide only proper and complete airport facilities and not keep trying to take control of the aircraft operation safety responsibility that properly resides with the individual pilots. Various options that may be available to the Committee should the County fail to act were also discussed.

- d) Rohnerville Airport Plaque – George Jutila presented a proposal to name the Rohnerville Field FBO building “Gates Mead F.B.O.” in the honor of Leroy Gates and Jim Mead. It is his intention that the fabrication and mounting of the sign be completed by May 1st, which is Jim Mead’s 90th Birthday. Ezequiel Sandoval advised all that the County’s Aviation Division has offered to mount the sign, thereby reducing the potential total cost. A motion was made by Rich Fenton and seconded by Bill Davidson to approve George Jutila’s proposed redwood sign and to ask the County Aviation Division to mount the sign on the Rohnerville Airport FBO building. Lou Davis, President of the North Coast Vintage Aviation Society, presented his proposal to also have a plaque and pictures mounted inside the building to explain the naming of the building. The previous motion and vote was modified to accommodate this request.

- e) George Jutila also presented his ongoing issues with trying to negotiate with the County to get AVI8CANDO an office space which will house a server and free wireless internet service, which is currently being complicated by onerous insurance requirements and costs.
- 9) NEW BUSINESS AND CORRESPONDENCE
- a) Airport Managers Aviation projects – Dax Williamson presented his progress in working with the Airport Manager in communicating the status of each current and planned airport improvement project. He also passed around a sample spreadsheet for Committee comments.
 - b) Delta Airlines – Chuck Goodwin presented a draft letter from the County Board of Supervisors to the senior vice president of Delta asking for a reinstatement of service to ACV. Chuck asked that the Committee support the County’s request. The evident passenger load factor was down 2% from the agreed upon minimum goals, which led to Delta’s decision to terminate. Chairman Williamson asked that Mr. Goodwin draft a letter for the Committee’s position of support.
 - c) Air Shasta Rotor & Wing LLC – See discussion under *Open Session* above.
- 10) ADJOURNMENT @ 1923
- 11) 2010 MEETING SCHEDULE: 4/27, 5/25, 6/22, 7/27, 8/24, 9/28, 10/26, 11/23

Respectfully submitted by Richard Fenton, Secretary

Date: March 24, 2010

HCAAE ATTENDANCE 3/23/2010

RICH FENTON - MEMBER

JACK LIMMER - MEMBER

BILL DAVIDSON MEMBER

DAVE CARLISLE FAA

Elaine Weirub - MCK Press

Ezequiel Sandoval - PILOT

Phil Smith-Hanes - County

PATRICIA DAVIS - PILOT

Emily Jacobs - County

WILLIAM RUSH MD PILOT

AL CASTALDI - PILOT

Nancy Maas - pilot

GLENN-JON GUNTHER - CFII

LEO DAVIS - PILOT, Pres NEVAS

Alistair McCrone

Kyle Galgal

Chuck Goodwin

Dave Williamson

George Gutula

George M Woods - Fixed wing + Helicopter pilot

