

Approved Minutes 040330 (YYMMDD)
Humboldt County Airport Advisory Committee
30 March 04 at 1800
Airport Managers Office

1. Meeting was called to order at 1805 by Chairman, George Jutila.
2. Attendance:
 - 2.1. Members – George Jutila, Chairman, Jack Limmer, Al Castaldi, Tony Howard, Alistair McCrone, Gyle Kabel, Rich Fenton
 - 2.2. County Staff – Jacquelyn Hulsey, HCPW; Emily Jacobs, HCPW
 - 2.3. Consultants – None
 - 2.4. Guests – Karen Kovacs, CDF&G; Dave Sky, KMUD Garberville; Jim Robertson, CDF, Garberville
3. Changes to the agenda/Correspondence – Move Item 8.1 to accommodate CDF&G guest
 - 3.1. Correspondence
 - 3.1.1. FAA letter regarding Eureka Municipal Airport, Federal obligations for airport purposes.
 - 3.1.2. Web address regarding RREDC gathered information on the McKinleyville Airport Master Plan: <http://www.rredc.com/airport.htm>
 - 3.1.3. Times Standard newspaper article regarding Fay Slough Wildlife Area.
8. New Business (changed agenda item)
 - 8.1 Karen Kovacs of the State of California Department of Fish and Game presented information to the Committee regarding the Fay Slough Wildlife area and the proposed enhancements of a portion of the State's property in the vicinity of Murray Field. The project was described as a change in character of existing wetlands to favor certain birds over the birds that currently use the area. The modifications will prolong the annual periods of moisture by retaining rainwater for longer periods of time. A map was distributed showing the location of the State wetlands located near the airport. The project site was noted to be approximately 5000' from the airport itself. Committee members questioned the concept of encouraging increased bird activities near an airport, and felt that the viability of the airport could be compromised in the future if excessive bird strikes occur. Alistair McCrone commended Ms. Kovacs and her agency for their work in protecting endangered species and promoting the recovery of wildlife. There were questions regarding whether or not the location of the wetlands in the vicinity of an operating airport was considered when the project was originally approved. The County was noted to be the lead in starting this process, since restoration or enhancements to the wetlands in this location would allow them to mitigate other projects in various other locations where wetlands needed to be filled or otherwise modified.

Motion by Al Castaldi, seconded by Alistair McCrone to write a letter to the

Board of Supervisors to query whether or not the airport and its operations were considered by the approving agencies during the late 80's and early 90's when the projects were originally promoted/approved. Letter is to tactfully request information related to a possible "error of omission" by the approving agencies if the airport was not considered. It would also be helpful to know if the approval considered any historical bird use data and the possible increased bird use resulting from the restoration/enhancement activities that were proposed.

4. Approval of the minutes of the 24 February 04 meeting. Minutes were not reviewed this meeting.
5. Consent Calendar: Reports and Information. The following information was distributed by Chairman Jutila:
 - 5.1. Wildlife Hazards to Aviation; 267 page comprehensive management resource: <http://www.faa.gov/arp/pdf/manfin.pdf>
 - 5.1.1. Example: page 26, Section 2.5.b., Types of Wildlife Involved; Section 2.5.c., Characteristics of Strikes; agenda page 6.
 - 5.2. Example: page 36, Federal Agencies; agenda page 7.
 - 5.2.1. Federal Aviation Administration; agenda page 7.
 - 5.2.2. U.S. Department of Agriculture/Wildlife Services, agenda page 9.
 - 5.2.3. U.S. Department of the Interior/Fish and Wildlife Services; agenda page 10.
 - 5.2.4. Airport Operator; agenda page 11.
 - 5.2.5. Air Traffic Control; agenda page 11.
 - 5.2.6. Pilots; agenda page 12.
 - 5.2.7. Relationship between FAA and WS; agenda page 16.
 - 5.3. Section 3.5. Bird Strike Committee – USA; agenda page 12.
 - 5.4. "Ecological Study" = "Wildlife Hazard Assessment" (preferred term); agenda page 17/18.
6. Reports
 - 6.1. Chairman Jutila – See previous items of discussion under Item 5, Consent Calendar.
 - 6.2. Airports Manager Jacquelyn Hulsey –
 - 6.2.1. Hangar inspections are beginning at Murray Field in order to ascertain that the occupants are properly storing aircraft registered to them in the hangars. The inspections will also focus on fire safety issues in the hangars. Emily reported that there is a recently reviewed waiting list of 100+ people asking for a hangar at Murray Field. A number of new hangars are to be built, if available land and funding issues can be resolved.
 - 6.2.2. Chairman Jutila noted that there was a strip of land adjacent to Rohnerville Airport that would be suitable and probably available for sale if the County needed to add hangers to this site. Jack Limmer volunteered to deliver a map of the parcel to Jacquelyn.
 - 6.2.3. ACIP report and proposed budgets for all County airports will be e-mailed to Committee members by Jacquelyn.
 - 6.2.4. The Arcata Airport Master Plan progress will likely be held up for up to a year in order to prepare a cost/benefit analysis required by the FAA for funding consideration. The County will also hire an environmental consultant firm to begin environmental documents during this period.
 - 6.3. Director of Public Works – not present.
 - 6.4. CAO – not present.
 - 6.5. Board of Supervisors – not present.

7. Old Business
 - 7.1. Master Plan for remaining airports in county: additional comments regarding Garberville Airport proposed improvements – no one in attendance this meeting, no new information.
 - 7.2. Montgomery Glider's status – pending presentation to the Board of Supervisors, deferred to future meeting, but presentation is still being prepared.
 - 7.3. New Committee members to BOS – Chairman Jutila has spoken to Kyle Gable and he will attend future Committee meetings. Chairman also presented a letter to be forwarded to the Board of Supervisors requesting action on the replacement of Arthur Hooven, who resigned from the Committee.
 - 7.4. Letter commending Teresa Askew - Secretary delivered two copies to Chairman this meeting. Chairman will forward to Allen Campbell for action.
8. New Business
 - 8.1. See earlier discussion changed agenda item.
 - 8.2. Jim Robertson of CDF, Garberville presented a draft burn plan detailing a proposal to use up to 15 acres of airport grasslands surrounding Garberville Airport for CDF training purposes. A final burn plan and negative declaration is required and CDF will handle this in cooperation with the County Airports Division. A unicom advisory to arriving pilots will be provided during the two day period of the burn exercise. Moved by Alistair McCrone, seconded by Jack Limmer and passed unanimously.
 - 8.3. Jack Limmer presented a brief announcement of the information that is available on the RREDC site (reference Item 3.1.2.), and that is being distributed by the business community. It was noted that the operational information provided by SkyWest has been helpful in answering specific questions regarding the necessity of the airport's expansion.
9. Public Input: None.
10. Date and place of next meeting – The next meeting is to be held at the Airport Manager's Office at ACV on April 27th at 1800.
11. Adjournment – The meeting was adjourned at 2000 by Chairman George Jutila.

Date of Signatures: April 27, 2004

Richard Fenton, Secretary
Humboldt County Airport Advisory Committee

George A. Jutila, M.D., Chairman
Humboldt County Airport Advisory Committee