

# Humboldt County Aviation Advisory Committee

## MINUTES

Saturday, April 26, 2008

11:00 A.M.

Rohnerville Airport Office

Fortuna, CA

1. CALL TO ORDER at 1100 by Chairman Goodwin
2. INTRODUCTION OF MEMBERS: Chuck Goodwin, Kyle Gabel, Bill Davidson, Jack Limmer, Al Castaldi, George Jutila, Rich Fenton, Alistair McCrone.  
**Staff:** Jacquelyn Hulsey, Jody Wells, Humboldt County Aviation Division.  
**Guests, per sign-in sheet:** Sam Kennedy, Jack Mason, Patricia Davis, Linda Atkins, Al Rice, Donald Nelson, Doug Mooney (CAL FIRE), Glenda Gabel, Doug Szymanski, Jill & Andrew Archibald, Bob Figas, Nancy Maas, Jim Maas, Eric Schuttpen, Bruce LaTorre, Mark Middleton, Jacob Middleton, Jess Walls, Steve Bowser, Steve Maple, Darryl LaTorre, Lee Whitehead, Rob Delsman.
3. WOLF FOUNDATION VIDEO; DR. GEORGE JUTILA. George showed a short video explaining the Wolf Foundation's programs for pilot education and security systems for General Aviation airports.
4. COMMENTS BY COMMITTEE MEMBERS. Rich Fenton asked Chairman Goodwin to defer consideration and approval of last meeting's minutes to the next (May) meeting -- approved.
5. AIRPORT MANAGER'S COMMENTS. Jacquelyn thanked everyone for attending the meeting. She related her belief that there may be some miscommunications and her hope that meetings like this will help to encourage better understanding among all parties. She further indicated that she would be here today primarily to listen to everyone's concerns.
6. ISSUES FOR ALL COUNTY AIRPORTS INCULUDING ROHNERVILLE:  
Minimum Airport Standards; Status of Master Plan Updates; Finances for Each Airport; Mechanics/Other Businesses/FBOs; Hangers for FOT; Hangars, in General; FOT daytime runway lighting; ACV Runway 01/19 Lighting.

Discussion was held regarding community concerns from the public in attendance. Due to time constraints for today's gathering, the Chairman explained that he would like this to be a meeting to bring out all of the issues. Specific detailed discussion of most of the items could then be deferred until subsequent Committee meetings when there is more time to properly consider each of them.

The item list follows:

- a) Fortuna hangar discussion – Desire to build a 100 x 100 hangar at FOT or multiple T-hangars. How can this be expediently done?
- b) Desire for a hangar anywhere, especially at EKA.
- c) Allowances for any variety of individual businesses on County airports?
- d) How many people are on the hangar list? Are they qualified to be on the list? Will County build hangars at EKA and FOT?
- e) Why is it so hard to get financial information from the County relating to gas flow, funds collected and disbursed, etc.?
- f) Why is the standard answer “We would have to hire a consultant...it would cost a lot of money”?
- g) Why is the next standard answer “Call the Feds if you don’t like how things are done”? Most people don’t want to do this and would prefer to stay local with these issues.
- h) Why is straight up information not available from the County Airport Division?
- i) Daytime runway lighting at FOT and restored Runway 01/19 lighting at ACV; why not?
- j) What is the problem with having “minimum standards” published for County airports? (So that other businesses are able to do business at County airports with clear, concise requirements).
- k) The BOS will listen to the HCAAC, according to Rob Delsman’s correspondence with Supervisor Jimmy Smith
- l) Business opportunities are languishing in Humboldt County although there is significant community support for additional airport developments.
- m) Need transparency and communication of all operations for Humboldt County airports.
- n) Need publication of operations monies spent and grant monies spent/applied for at each airport in order to let people better understand how monies are spent and what the future plans are for each airport. Are leases and other records public and available?
- o) Community members would like to volunteer to maintain portions of the airports, but the County has not allowed this. Jacquelyn explained that

herbicides are not allowed on roadsides. Volunteering through AVI8CANDO, EAA, or the 99's may be possible at Rohnerville.

- p) Sheriff's Department clean up (SWAP crew) results in rocks and debris on the runway and nobody monitors the work. Public is concerned that they clean-up after themselves, and also since they are not continuously monitored by the Sheriff's department personnel, people are uneasy about being on the airport property when this work is going on.
- q) Low cost hangars available? One person indicated that his aircraft is not expensive and would not warrant expensive hangar rent – possibly shade hangars with lower rents?
- r) What is the possibility of immediately fixing roofs to relieve some of the pressure from people's hangar availability/condition dissatisfaction?
- s) Street sweeper to remove gravel from runway the Shelter Cove airport? This airport is not under Humboldt County control, per Jacquelyn. She referred anyone with an issue regarding the condition of that airport to address it with the Shelter Cove Resort Improvement District.

Jacquelyn explained some of the constraints she experiences in trying to balance revenue and expenditures at all airport facilities and handed out a proposed site plan document for hangar development at Rohnerville and a list of projects for the next 5 years at all six airports.

Ninety days was suggested by an audience member as a possible timeline for completing the mechanic's agreement. This was not acceptable to some in the audience and a shorter timeframe was requested by Rob Delsman and Al Castaldi. The Board of Supervisors (BOS) was suggested by Mr. Delsman as an expedient way to get this done. Per Supervisor Jimmy Smith's e-mail to him, suggestions from this meeting should be forwarded to Tom Mattson of HUMCO Public Works, who will take any concerns to the BOS, rather than try to take them directly to the individual BOS members. This item is to be further discussed at the next Committee meeting to see if an expedient solution can be reached.

#### 7. Issues for Other County Airports

Bob Figas informed the Committee of his recent pleasure trip to McMinnville and Tillamook, OR and how he was impressed with the air museums and restaurant facilities he found at these airports. He indicated that there are numerous parties in the local area who have aircraft and other memorabilia that they would be happy to display or donate. Bob also related that he knows of many people who would step forward to help rehabilitate the ACV Nose Hangar in order to have a facility for the museum activities. Chairman Goodwin thanked Bob and noted that we would like to further discuss the idea at the May 27<sup>th</sup> meeting.

8. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

EAA Meeting and 99's Tri-tip barbecue lunch at Rohnerville was announced to be planned for May 17<sup>th</sup>. This is a fund raiser for the 99's Scholarship Fund. Some discussion was held regarding what the requirements are to hold a fund raiser or a fly-in event at any of the airports. Jacquelyn explained that there is a simple permit for the fund raiser and that it has been arranged for this event. Fly-ins would be subject to a more complex review due to airspace and insurance considerations.

9. Adjourned for lunch at 1230 – Discussion was to resume after lunch. Meeting subsequently was adjourned at 1300, without further official discussion. Topics brought up today are to be addressed again at the May 27<sup>th</sup> regular Committee meeting at ACV. All attendees of today's meeting are invited to attend future meetings of the HCAAC.

10. 2008 MEETING SCHEDULE: 5/27, 6/24, 7/22, 8/26, 9/23, 10/28, 11/25