

Humboldt County Aviation Advisory Committee

Minutes

April, 28, 2009

6:00 P.M.

Aviation Division Office

3561 Boeing Ave., McKinleyville

1. The meeting was called to order at 1800 by Chairman Goodwin.
2. ROLL CALL AND PARKING TICKET VALIDATION - **Members:** Chuck Goodwin, Jack Limmer, Kyle Gabel, Dennis Lichty, George Jutila, Rich Fenton, Dax Williamson. **Guests:** Nancy Maas, 99's; Al Castaldi, Pilot; Bill Davis, Pilot; Elaine Weinreb, McKinleyville Press; Dave Carlisle, FAA; Dave Sandige, Sunset Aviation LLC **Staff:** Jacquelyn Hulsey, Airports Division Manager, Tom Mattson, Director of Public Works
3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF March 24, 2009 – Approved with the following change to Item 5A. : Add "...for the month of February." to replace "...this past month.", at the end of the first sentence.
4. OPEN SESSION (to include community guests) Nancy Maas reminded all that the 99's are having a barbeque at Rohnerville Field on Saturday, May 16th. Tickets in advance are \$10, and at the door, \$12.
5. PRESENTATION BY DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS
 - A. Discussion of County Policy on Small Hanger Construction – Mr. Mattson reported that the County currently has \$300K available for hangar construction. Murray Field would need to be provided with a very expensive fire suppression water service extension, and additional funding would need to be investigated in order to provide a fire hydrant within 500 feet of the new hangars. Rohnerville Field would need additional site work before construction could be considered there. Therefore, ACV is a possible alternate location for the first T-hangars to be built, and for expenditure of these funds. A recommendation to the Public Works Department from the Committee would be helpful if this is the direction that the Committee feels would be beneficial to the pilot community. Proceeding in this manner would likely result in hangars being constructed more rapidly than if all of the problems and the funding issues were attempted to be resolved at the other airports.

Mr. Mattson would also like some help in providing the BOS with survey information for any possible future changes in the current "County only" policy for development of T-hangars, in general. The following are the types of information that would be helpful, using airports of similar size, type of use, and located in communities of similar size: Surveys of T-hangar rents within CA and the age of the hangars being rented? Are there tiered rental rates between new vs. older hangars? How many people are currently on the waiting list for a hangar? How many allow private ownership or mixed ownership of hangars? Average total cost of private development versus public development of hangars? Are longer or shorter depreciation rates used for hangars in other communities? Mr. Mattson also noted that it was unlikely that we would be able to receive any funding help from the State due to the current economic conditions, and that hangar development

does not qualify for FAA funding assistance.

- B. Discussion of Minimum Standards for Commercial Operations at County Airports – Per Mr. Mattson, a County study for development of this policy this has not yet been budgeted and development of a new policy on Minimum Standards can not proceed until this is budgeted for the 2009-2010 fiscal year.

6. AIRPORT MANAGER'S REPORT

A. Reports

- 1) Passenger Statistics – The enplanements and deplanements for the month of March were distributed to the committee for discussion. General Delta Airlines statistics were discussed and noted to be lower than other markets that the carrier serves, and therefore important to somehow boost if the community wants to keep this carrier during the current conditions of economic slowdown.
- 2) Freight statistics were not distributed at this meeting.

B. Projects

- 1) ACV Terminal Expansion – The general contractor has brought in a new engineer to resolve the continuing issue with the baggage belt installation and the County is expecting that this will be helpful in completing the project. The roof on the terminal building is being replaced due to leaks and holes from the original installation.
- 2) ACV Runway Improvement Funding – No further report this meeting.
- 3) EKA Security Fencing and Gate Repairs – The FAA has made a finding of “No Significant Environmental Impact” for the Murray Field fencing project. This report also covers the possible future construction of T-hangars, runway and taxiway lighting upgrades, and beacon re-wiring.
- 4) Other Airports – Ms. Hulsey reported that the County has closed out \$3.3 million in construction grants with the FAA since 2005 for improvement to the various individual airports in the County system.

7. AIRPORT REPORTS FROM COMMITTEE

- A. Subcommittee for Hangar Construction – A report summarizing the subcommittee's recommendations was handed out by Jack Limmer and presented for consideration. A reported 24 tie down spaces under rental at all County airports was discussed as a possibly inaccurate number by Ms. Hulsey, and she will verify that number. General suggestions discussed at this meeting: Actively manage the hangar list and possibly make the \$50 deposit fully or partially refundable – Mr. Mattson will check on how the hangar list is currently managed and the possibility of changing any of this. He noted that costs to the County are incurred, and that making the deposit refundable would not let the County recover any of these costs. Mr. Limmer explained that the intent would be to make the document more current and realistic by giving people an incentive to remove their name when they no longer wished to be considered for a future hangar opening. The Board of Supervisors would need to rewrite and approve any change to these policies so that everyone is governed by the same set of rules. Mr. Mattson and Ms. Hulsey would like even the hangar list rules to go into a Board policy.

Mr. Mattson offered to provide the Committee with his file on other airports' hangar policies, and would offer it as information to start work on a possible new policy format. He would study the provided information and write the proposed policy for BOS

consideration if the Committee's research showed that there was a good reason to change the County's current policy.

- B. Garberville – Dennis Lichty announced that the Little River hospital AWOS (122.9) is audible near Garberville when in the air. Mr. Mattson noted that various communications frequencies for the Sheriff's Department and other County agencies experience some cross communication issues with facilities in the Mendocino County coastal areas. Dennis also asked for the pedestrian access gate to be recoded, as it does not work for return passage into the Airport. Ms. Hulsey noted this as a maintenance concern to be corrected.
- C. Rohnerville – George Jutila again noted the 99's barbeque on Saturday, May 16th at Rohnerville Field. He also announced that the annual AVI8CANDO meeting will be this Saturday, May 2nd, at Rohnerville Park. Dr. Jutila will be presenting a discussion on Global Climate Change at this meeting.
- D. Dinsmore – No report.
- E. Murray – Kyle Gabel reported that the Foggy Bay Café restaurant is still in business. Transient traffic and general aircraft activity is down from last year, but the maintenance shop is still busy.
- F. Kneeland – No report.
- G. Arcata - Al Castaldi asked regarding additional requirements that he thought were being requested of Rich Barber for construction of a new hangar at ACV. Mr. Mattson indicated that if any information that the County had in their files from the original development of the airport property would be helpful in order to obtain a County building permit, that it would be made available to Mr. Barber.

8. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- A. Committee Filing of Form 700 – Reminder from Chuck Goodwin to submit these forms, which were due at the end of March.
- B. Notice of Proposed Rule Making Regarding Large Aircraft Security Program – No additional information has come forward to extend this program yet – probably due to limited funds and the general economy. Al Castaldi spoke about “Security Directive 8F” which has caused issues with six small airports in Colorado which may result in the County having to check any arriving small aircraft at ACV and escorting pilots and passengers to their aircraft. Ms. Hulsey noted that TSA could be contacted with any questions and also noted that TSA needs to work within the FAA guidelines for public airports, as it is intended that these airport remain open to the public.

9. NEW BUSINESS AND CORRESPONDENCE

- A. Highway signage for airports – Rich Fenton reported on his contact with CalTrans a couple of months ago regarding a missing directional sign on the northbound Highway 101 from Eureka for exiting to Murray Field. The sign has been missing since the accelerate/decelerate lanes were modified many years ago. CalTrans noted that the sign is on their sign logs and reported that they would replace it. A meeting at their office today for a status report indicated that the sign is probably on order and Mr. Fenton was given a contact with whom to verify the order. Mr. Fenton also asked if the informational sign that used to be near the entrance to the airport could be restored and/or updated in order to provide an informational airport identifier. Ms. Hulsey asked for pictures of the sign, since it has been missing since she has been in the County. Kyle Gable said that he had some photos that he would provide to Ms. Hulsey. Mr. Matson

indicated that if a picture was provided, that any text could be provided and that possibly the sign could be relocated if the proposed new security fencing blocked the viewing of it.

- B. TSA airport security measures – Chuck Goodwin has sent a report to Committee members of Salt Lake City airport’s full body scanner and asked if any other members had any experience with this device. This item was briefly discussed and there was no report of any plans for a device of this type at ACV.

10. ADJOURNMENT at 1930 by Chairman Goodwin.

2009 MEETING SCHEDULE: 5/26, 6/23, 7/28, 8/25, 9/22, 10/27, 11/24