

Wicomico County Airport Commission

October 12, 2020

Present: Calvin Peacock, Chairman; Matthew Creamer, Vice Chairman; Jerry DiCairano, Nola Arnold, John Cannon, Wayne Strausburg, April Jackson

Staff: Tony Rudy, Airport Manager; Chris Davidson, Assistant Airport Manager

Others: John Psota, Wicomico County Executive/Administrator; Patrick Nelms/Bay land Aviation, Nick Olmstead/Kilroy Aviation, John Robinson/SRS, Pat Schrawder/Senator Carozza, Senator Eckardt, Delegate Sample-Hughes, Dave Ryan/SWED, Delegate Hartman

Absent: Bud Church

Minutes

September 14, 2020, minutes were approved.

Airport's Manager Report

SBY Airport Manager, Tony Rudy presented the Airport Manager's Report, as follows:

1. **60-Day Listening Tour:** Chris Davidson; Assistant Airport Manager, will be meeting with community leaders over a 60-day period to gain an understanding of their view on the airport. Any insight will allow for SBY Airport to develop strategies going forward. He would like to meet with Airport Commissioners one-on-one and will be reaching out to everyone soon.
2. **Project and Contract Status Update**
 - a. **UAS Hangar Construction:** Interior fit-out work is progressing. Wall framing and most of the electrical work is completed. Completion is expected to be by the end of the year.
 - b. **Environmental Assessment (EA) and Land Services:** Delta Airport Consultant are continuing work on these projects. The final draft of the EA is expected to be completed by the end of the year. When that process is done, it goes out to public and agency comment. FAA has final approval and is expected by the end of April 2021. Presently working on obtaining appraisals for parcels of land to either purchase or obtain easements.
 - c. **Runway Benefit-Cost Analysis (BCA):** The draft BCA is being finalized to be submitted to the FAA. Benefit costs analysis is required for any

project valued over \$10M. The preliminary results show a Benefit Cost Ratio of 1.94. This translates into nearly a \$2 return on every \$1 invested into the runway extension project.

- d. **Taxiway A Rehabilitation:** Phase 2 construction for taxiway A began September 28th, 2020 and is progressing well. Milling and pavement between Taxiway D and Runway 5-23 is completed. Currently working on the section between Runway 5-23 and Taxiway A3. There's a slight delay due to weather, but this section is expected to be done in a week's time.
 - e. **Airport City Water:** Tentative groundbreaking ceremony is October 26th at 9 AM on Walston Switch Road. SBY Airport will be attending.
 - f. **Construction of Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting (ARFF) Facility:** On hold until FAA receives CARES Act grant amendment guidance. The project is ready to be advertised for bid. Estimated costs for the project is \$1.8- 1.9M.
 - g. **Taxiway G Obstruction Clearing:** This taxiway leads out to the UAS Hangar. Trees have grown around it, clearing of about ½ acre will be necessary. Wright Environmental will be preparing wetland mitigation permitting services in preparation of tree removal along the taxiway that is needed for wing tip clearances.
 - h. **Rental Car Lot Parking Repaving, Reconfiguration, and Expansion:** GMB will begin on design for new entrances, reconfigured parking, and a slight expansion of the rental car lot while staying under the 5,000 sq. ft. cutoff. The lot will also be milled and repaved as part of the overall project.
 - i. **Aircraft Rescue and Firefighting (ARFF) Truck:** The contract has been sent out for signatures. Truck delivery is expected to be one year from now-- October 2021. Funding for this is \$315 Thousand from the Maryland Aviation Administration (MAA) and the CARES Act funding of \$426 Thousand dollars to cover the cost of the truck.
3. **Passenger Activity:** Passenger numbers are down slightly for the month of September. Piedmont reported 3,123 total enplaned passengers for September which is roughly 46% of 2019 enplanements for the month. Load factors are at 62% down slightly from 65% from August 2020.
 4. **Airport Cafe:** Chris Davidson has been talking to several interested parties for a new concessionaire.

Questions:

None

Chairman's Report:

Calvin Peacock updates as follows:

- Wanted to remind everyone that Thursday October 15th the Maryland National Guard Armory is hosting a presentation by John Hall and the Airport Commission of a 1947 Map of a CAP search and rescue grid that will be donated to the CAP Wicomico Squadron. SBY Airport Commission has taken on a mentor approach with the squadron to make sure they are recognized. He's glad to see the activism of the youth and believes they are a vital part of the Eastern Shore. Meeting starts at 6:30, presentation at 7pm. There will be cadets to help assist to direct you to where you need to be.
- Jerry DiCairano: Speaks of cookout for the local SBY pilots. All SBY Airport tenants are invited on Saturday Oct. 15th. The tenants are told to bring their friends, spouses, and family. Doing a simple burger and hotdog meal. Wishing to have a good turnout for this event. It's going to be held in the open field between Bay land and the Southwest T Hangars.
Calvin Peacock: mentions that this opportunity allows SBY Airport to open up to the local public. Slowly attract people in. Allow for the tenants to mingle and see all the aircraft that are based here. There will be COVID measures taken to ensure safety of those who attend.

Questions/Open floor:

None

Public Comments

Pat Schrawder: Update for Senator Carozza on the Unmanned Drone Facility. She wanted to know how SBY Airport was doing on funding and if they still need funding?

Tony Rudy: Funding for the facility is covered under SBY Airport's current budget. So it looks like we are good, but if anything changes we will be sure to reach out.

Airport Commission Comments

Nola Arnold: Question for Jerry-- Is there going to be any publicity material for the event? Handouts?

Jerry DiCairano: Tony Rudy had a meeting with the tenants and mentioned it, but there isn't any particular handout for this event.

Matt Creamer: Mentions that it would be a good idea to contact Wicomico Tourism Office to put out a table for the tenants to look at.

April Jackson: The meeting Thursday wanted to clarify the date, time and what exactly the reference of the meeting was for?

Calvin Peacock: October 15th is when the meeting is being held. The Civil Air Patrol meeting itself starts at 6:30pm and at 7pm the presentation will be held. The presentation background-- John Hall's father was a B-25 Pilot in WWII. Post war, he was a member of the local CAP. John Hall's father took a 1947 aeronautical chart and divided the State of Maryland into search and rescue grids for CAP. The story and map was shared with Calvin. They wanted to frame the map and donate it to the CAP as part of the historical artifact for the local squadron.

Jerry DiCairano: Mentions a special fee of \$2 for rental cars. Did that ever go through or what happened to that idea?

Tony Rudy: In February 2020, Dawn Veatch was wrapping up an agreement. SBY Airport came to terms with the concession agreement going forward. He was having difficulty with the agreement, he also worked with the legal department to iron out some issues. The pandemic put the new concession agreement on hold. Currently, we are thinking of bringing it back onto the plate to get it finalized. The \$2 fee is called a CFC (Customer Facility Charge), similar to a passenger facility charge. Then passengers fly out, there is a fee that is stacked onto the airline ticket that can be used for capital improvements of the airport. This fee is similar-- when someone rents a car they pay the fee per day on the vehicle that goes towards a specific project that would benefit the rental car companies. One idea is using the money for a car wash facility and where to place that facility.

Jerry DiCairano: Extends an invitation to anyone who is willing to come out early on Saturday for the cookout event to help set up, it would be greatly appreciated. Looking forward to seeing everyone!

Calvin Peacock: Will look into getting help for that event.

Adjournment:

Calvin Peacock called for a motion to adjourn. John Cannon so moved and Nola Arnold seconded the motion and passed by the Commission members.

Next Meeting:

The next meeting will be held on Monday, November 9, 2020.