

**Macon County Airport Authority**  
**Minutes of the Regular Meeting Held on April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2013**

The Macon County Airport Authority holds its regularly scheduled meeting in its office at 1241 Airport Road, Franklin, North Carolina. All members with the exception of Member Corbin are present. Also present are: Eric Rysdon, Project Engineer; James P. Tate, County Commissioner; Joe Collins, Legal Counsel; Dion Viventi, DOA Project Manager; Neil Hoppe and Peggy Milton, airport FBO; and Teresa McDowell, Clerk. Chair Gregory welcomes all present, and calls the meeting to order at 4:10 p.m.

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FOR THE REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETING HELD MARCH 26<sup>TH</sup>, 2013:** After a discussion, Member Jenkins makes a motion to approve the minutes as forwarded for the March 26<sup>th</sup>, 2013 regularly scheduled meeting. Member Schmitt seconds the motion and it passes by unanimous consent.

**PUBLIC COMMENT SESSION:** None

**ENGINEERING REPORT-APRON REHABILITATION PROJECT AND UPDATE ON WIDENING OF RUNWAY AND LIGHTING MATTER:** Mr. Rysdon presents a report on the apron rehabilitation project, during which he states that the last connector is being put into place, the striping crew will be finished within a couple of days, and the seeded areas are starting to produce grass. He states that the silt fencing will be removed once the grass grows enough to prevent erosion. Mr. Rysdon states that the concrete project at the Macon County Airport has been recognized across the state and showcased by the Concrete Paving Association. There is interest in how the airport was able to utilize concrete rather than asphalt.

In connection to the Economic Impact Study, Mr. Rysdon states that he feels the statistics indicated are a “little low”, and that the overall impact is not captured. However, the runway extension has brought in a twenty (20%) percent fuel sales increase and has brought in additional traffic to the county.

In connection to the runway widening project, Mr. Rysdon states that they are still working on plans and are putting together plan sheets and design. They want this project to have minimal impact on the airport during the construction phase. He will meet with contractors to discuss options, including possibly working during the night hours. He states that this project will take place in two phases: 1. Widen both sides of the runway and 2. Replace runway lighting. The overlay of the entire runway will be done at one time.

**REPORT OF THE NC AIRPORT ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE:** Member Haithcock reports on the topics of discussion during the NC Airport Association Conference. He states that during the 17<sup>th</sup> century seaports were the choice for cargo transporting. As time passed, railways were established, then highways, and that in the 21<sup>st</sup> century the airways will be the way to move cargo from place to place. He states that 98 million people utilized the Atlanta Airport last year.

Member Haithcock also addresses Senate Bill 229 which is intended to fortify local ordinances, and addresses issues such as storm-water regulations, obstruction removal, etc.

Member Haithcock wraps up his report with the observation that there is a very bright future in aviation.

**HANGAR UPDATE:** Member Jenkins reports on the hangar development with Drake Software and reports that it has been discovered that hangars and areas planned for potential hangars are located in the flood plain. He states that a “no-rise” study is necessary in order to mitigate the flood plain threat. He also addresses the possible need for a CLOMAR, in connection to the need for the entire airport area to be mitigated for future expansion. He states that it appears that if the capacity of water flow under the bridge on airport road is increased, that might take care of the west end of the airport. In connection to the east end of the airport, elevation by fill in may be necessary. The existing hangars are being shown on the flood maps as being in the flood plain as well. FBO Hoppe states that it has never even come close to flooding at the airport. There is a discussion of how the studies needed will be funded, with the cost of a no-rise study estimated to be \$10,000.00 to \$12,000.00. Chair Gregory addresses Mr. Viventi, and inquires as to the availability of funding through the DOA for this type study. Mr. Viventi states that he will check on this matter, but does not think there will be a problem since it is a safety issue. After further discussion, Member Jenkins makes a motion to authorize Chairman Gregory to work with Commissioner Tate and County Manager Horton in exploring potential funding sources for the no-rise study, with the knowledge that this is a reimbursable expense per Mr. Viventi. Member Schmitt seconds the motion and it passes by unanimous consent.

**BUDGET CONSIDERATION AND RESUBMITTAL:** Member Haithcock reports that the budget is on track and that there is enough money available to finish out the requirements of this fiscal year. Chair Gregory directs an inquiry to Mr. Viventi regarding the availability of maintenance equipment grants for airports, with Mr. Viventi stating that purchasing equipment is not eligible for AIP funding, and that maintenance is a local responsibility across the state. Member Haithcock states that the FY2013-2014 budget request is for the same amount as last year.

**RULES AND REGULATIONS ADOPTION:** This agenda item is tabled until the next scheduled meeting.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION-CONTRACTUAL MATTERS:** This item was covered during the open meeting under the Hangar Update report.

**OTHER BUSINESS:**

Project Manager, Dion Viventi, reports that in connection to the runway widening design phase, a \$50,000.00 grant will expire on July 1, 2013. He encourages the MCAA to utilize the grant before then.

Member Haithcock reports that the storm water plan is out of date, and that four pieces of paperwork are necessary in order to bring the airport up to date. Member Haithcock states that he will continue to look into this matter.

Legal Counsel Joe Collins states that he has been made aware of a situation in connection to a mechanic working on airplanes for profit on the airport property. Mr. Collins states that the MCAA is not willing to allow unauthorized, commercial work on the grounds because of insurance concerns etc. Mr. Collins will send this mechanic a letter asking him to cease operations.

In connection to painting the hangar floor, Member Schmitt states that he has obtained an estimate of \$6800.00 dollars, to pressure wash and epoxy the hangar floor. Member Haithcock states that he does not think there will be this much money left in the budget by the end of the fiscal year, and that it will be necessary to obtain three (3) bids. Member Schmitt will attempt to obtain two more bids for this project. Member Schmitt and Member Haithcock both state that painting the outside of the hangar is a bigger priority.

Chairman Gregory expresses gratitude to Member Corbin for obtaining the new flags. Mr. Rysdon states that he will contact the surveyor in connection to the approach certification.

There being no further business, Member Schmitt makes a motion to adjourn the meeting. Member Haithcock seconds the motion and it passes by unanimous consent. The meeting is adjourned at 5:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

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Pete Haithcock  
Secretary

