

**Macon County Airport Authority**  
**Minutes of the Regular Meeting Held on July 28<sup>th</sup>, 2015**

The Macon County Airport Authority holds its regularly scheduled meeting on July 28<sup>th</sup>, 2015. All members, with the exception of Member Schmitt and Member Rhodes, are present. Also present are Jim Tate, County Commissioner; Joe Collins, Legal Counsel; Jimmy Luther, Project Engineer; Neil Hoppe and Peggy Milton, airport FBO; Teresa McDowell, Clerk; Ryan Hanchett, The Franklin Press; and Bobby Collins, Macon Media.com. Chair Gregory welcomes everyone present and calls the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR THE MEETING HELD JUNE 30<sup>TH</sup>, 2015:** After a discussion, Member Jenkins makes a motion to approve the minutes as forwarded. Member Haithcock seconds the motion and it passes by unanimous consent.

**PUBLIC COMMENT SESSION:** None

**ENGINEERING REPORT:** Project Engineer, Jimmy Luther, reports that the AWOS system should be delivered around August 28<sup>th</sup>, 2015 and installed by September 8<sup>th</sup>, 2015.

Mr. Luther reports that the commitment letter from the North Carolina Department of Transportation stating that the DOT requires a Commitment and Release of Liability statement to be on file, needs to be signed and returned by August 31<sup>st</sup>. This commitment statement is presented to Mr. Collins for review.

Mr. Luther continues by stating that this maintenance program is provided by the DOT, and involves refreshing markers etc., and also states that the MCAA is in agreement for allowing subcontractors on the property, as needed. After a discussion, Member Jenkins makes a motion to authorize Chair Gregory to sign the commitment statement after Mr. Collins has had an opportunity to review and approve it. Member Haithcock seconds the motion and it passes by unanimous consent.

Mr. Luther continues by stating that under the North Carolina Systems Plan, airport categories have been re-prioritized, and that Macon is now prioritized as a “red” airport, which represent high priority. This priority is based on several categories including: square footage of the terminal building; taxiway-apron length and condition; and approach lighting system. The Macon County Airport needs attention in connection to the runway approaches, and the protection zone. However, the airport is on target with most of the priority requirements. Mr. Luther continues by stating that details on this matter will be compiled and forwarded in the comprehensive systems update.

Mr. Luther continues by stating that a system named STI exists that has been in the “holding” tank for a while, but consists of a review list for a “pot of” money that is available to counties, but the process is a competitive one. He states that a reviewed list of priority projects should be submitted by September 15<sup>th</sup>, 2015 for consideration. Consideration for this funding involves the support of the community, and he states that it is important that the MCAA, and others attend RPO meetings to voice support.

Mr. Luther also states that the Partner Connect program needs to be accessed in order to update requests etc. in an electronic format.

**OBSTRUCTION LIGHTING REPORT:** Member Haithcock reports that ETEC has repaired three of the obstruction lights. There has been some difficulty locating all of the lights. Member Haithcock continues by stating that he hopes at some point to be able to replace the existing type lights with solar lights. He continues by stating that the light located on the “Trimont Lake side” is on Forest Service property, with a right of way across private property. Member Haithcock states that this issue may be

problematic, in that allegedly a contract was recently signed by Macon County government staff with the Forest Service that may also involve the private road. Member Haithcock will find out more information regarding this matter.

**GROUNDS MAINTENANCE REPORT:** Member Haithcock reports that he has been in contact with an individual who is willing to do weed eating at the airport, and that he does have a business number. He hopes that this can be coordinated with the finance office. He continues by stating that the obstacle which has been complained about by pilots at the end of runway 10 has been removed. Chair Gregory continues this discussion by asking Legal Counsel, Joe Collins, to review the general provisions with Franklin Aviation contained within the lease, and relating to responsibility for maintenance issues.

**DISCUSSION/PLANNING OF OPEN HOUSE:** Chair Gregory reports that the open house has been scheduled for August 15<sup>th</sup>, 2015. He continues by stating that he thinks food issues have been “nailed down”, and that he has hired Curtis Blackwell and the Dixieland Boys to play at the open house from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Chair Gregory also states that he hopes to be in contact with a privately owned helicopter company which would provide rides to citizens. It is determined that Commissioner Tate and Member Jenkins will personally invite some dignitaries.

**OTHER BUSINESS:**

Chair Gregory states that a person who lives close to the airport contacted him regarding an increase in activity at the airport, and asked that, in the future, if there was going to be an event etc., whereas several aircraft were involved, could they please be notified. FBO Hoppe stated that there had not been any unusual activity, and Chair Gregory states that it would be nice to be able to inform the neighboring property owners if any activities are planned.

There being no further business to discuss, Member Jenkins makes a motion to adjourn the meeting. Member Haithcock seconds the motion and it passes by unanimous consent. The meeting is adjourned at 5:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

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Pete Haithcock, Secretary