

Macon County Airport Authority
Minutes of the Regular Meeting on August 26th, 2008

The Macon County Airport Authority met on August 26th, 2008 in its office at 1241 Airport Road, Franklin, North Carolina. Member Schmitt was absent. All other members were present. Also present were Eric Rhysdon, W.K. Dickson; Teresa McDowell, Macon County; Parks Preston, FAA; Steve Claggett, NC Office of State Archaeology; and Mark Bryson, representing airport FBO, Neal Hoppe.

MINUTES: Upon a motion by Member Corbin, seconded by Member Jenkins, the minutes of the meeting held July 29th, 2008 were unanimously approved.

AGENDA ITEM #3: UPDATE ON EA; STRIPING OF RUNWAY; TARMAC IMPROVEMENTS: Eric Rhysdon stated that the EA document is complete, with the addition of some minor add-ins that will involve future work impact on the existing stream. He reported that the large culverts currently located in the stream of the recently purchased Penland-Tippett tract will be replaced by the DOT, at no charge to the Airport Authority. He also stated that the existing road will provide access into the hangar area. He stated that the tentative schedule for runway construction is: 1). the EA to be completed 2). the EA and FONZI to be made available for public advertisement in the Federal Register; 3.) the Archaeological survey to be completed 4.) all mitigation to be completed 5.) permits for the 401 and 404 to be issued; and 6.) actual construction to begin. The projected construction commencement date is summer of 2009.

Mr. Rhysdon also gave a brief update of the GPS approach system. He stated that there will be night restrictions associated with the approach, based on the obstacle penetration zone. He stated that trees that are a hundred feet or more in height will restrict the approach, and several trees fitting this description are located in the approach area. Chair Gregory stated that he has discussed the removal of the referenced trees with the property owner, who stated that he has no problems with the tree removal, but wants to wait until later in the year to remove the subject trees. His request is based on livestock considerations. Mr. Rhysdon stated that the approach availability is tentatively scheduled for January of 2009. Mr. Rhysdon also stated that he will attempt to locate any existing surveys for the airport, with the goal of identifying any other potential obstructions.

Mr. Rhysdon also reported that, in connection with the expected tarmac improvements, he will contact the Division of Aviation regarding pavement conditions and attempt to have Macon County classified as a priority. The pavement condition is serious, with grass growing through some pavement cracks which constitutes a safety issue at the Macon County Airport.

Mr. Rhysdon addressed the need for striping of the airport runway. The DOT is responsible for the runway marking, and allegedly had Macon County scheduled for markings in the spring of 2008. However, the runway marking has not been done as of

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yet. Mr. Bryson reported that the markings on the runway are pathetic, and that he has actually repainted some of the markings at his own expense. Mr. Rhysdon will contact the Division of Aviation regarding this issue, and again, will stress that this constitutes a safety issue.

Mr. Parks Preston of the FAA addressed some potential concerns regarding the

archaeological survey for the runway extension construction area. He suggests that the Airport Authority include all potential hangar sites within the archaeological survey, thereby eliminating the need for more surveying in the future. He stated that the state would have to approve the hangar placement, and an archeological report will be necessary before hangar construction can begin.

Mr. Preston also stated that he will follow up on possible availability of federal grant money to assist the Airport Authority with the above referenced issues. He thinks there may be funding available in the one half million dollar range for use by the Airport Authority. He will keep Chair Gregory informed of the funding availability.

AGENDA ITEM #4: HANGAR NEEDS DISCUSSION: Chair Gregory led a discussion about possible construction of hangars at the airport. He stated that the Airport Authority wants to build hangars to help balance the cost of maintaining the airport, and to fulfill a documented need for hangar spaces. FBO Neal Hoppe has offered a ground lease for property adjoining his hangar for \$1.00 per year, with the hope that this property can be utilized as a corporate hanger site. Mr. Rhysdon stated that he will attempt to obtain the airport layout plan and will check to see if an additional updated ALP will need to be submitted for approval. He also agrees with Mr. Preston's suggestion that potential hangar sites be included with the archaeological survey being done for the runway extension construction site. Both Mr. Preston and Mr. Rhysdon support the hiring of R.S. Webb to do the archaeological survey, for both the runway site and the potential hangar sites.

AGENDA ITEM #5: DISCUSSION REGARDING INSTALLATION OF PARKING LOT CURBS: Chair Gregory stated that approximately 20 parking curbs need to be installed in the front parking lot for protection of the recently completed landscaping. Member Haithcock is to research the possible advantages of rubber curbs versus concrete curbs, and report back to the Airport Authority at the next scheduled meeting.

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OTHER BUSINESS: Mr. Preston presented the MOA between the Macon County Airport Authority and the Eastern Band of the Cherokee Tribe to Chair Gregory for signature. The MOA has been signed by the FAA and the North Carolina State Historic Preservation Officer. Chair Gregory signed the MOA and expressed sincere appreciation to Mr. Preston and Mr. Claggett for their assistance with this accomplishment.

At this time, there being no further business, Member Jenkins made a motion to adjourn, with Member Corbin seconding the motion. The motion passed by unanimous consent and the meeting was adjourned at 5:40 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Pete Haithcock, Secretary