

**CURRITUCK COUNTY
AIRPORT ADVISORY AUTHORITY
MINUTES OF MEETING OF
December 17, 2008**

The regular monthly meeting of the CCAA was held on December 17, 2008, at the Terminal Building Conference Room. Members present: Chairman Tracy Eure, John Gross, Denise Hall, Dave Messina, Ken Norris, and Jim Winebarger. Also present: Commissioner Gene Gregory and Wayne Leary, Airport Manager. Absent: Jerry Old. Guests: Commissioner and Mrs. Rorer, Darcy Messina, Robert Alphin, Tom Brady, Ed Ish, Jack Kitchin, and Leland Gibbs.

1. **Call to Order** – Chairman Eure called the meeting to order.
2. **Welcome** – Chairman Eure welcomed everyone.
3. **Additions or Deletions to the Agenda** – Mr. Winebarger requested the addition of an item for Board Member Comments following the Fuel Report. He moved to approve the agenda with addition. Mr. Gross seconded the motion. Agenda was approved.
4. **Approval of Minutes** – Mr. Norris moved to approve the November 12, 2008, minutes as submitted. Mr. Winebarger seconded the motion. Minutes were approved.
5. **Old Business**
 - **Hangar Construction Update** – Mr. Leary was pleased with how smoothly and professionally the construction was proceeding. The site was being kept clean, and it was anticipated that power would be connected around January 9, with the building ready for rental by February 1. Mr. Winebarger asked about an unpaved area near the first hangar. Mr. Leary was to investigate.
 - **Committee Updates** – Mr. Winebarger reported on the committee for the Airport Area Plan. He read the Vision Statement and stated that it was expected that the plan would be finalized at the January meeting. Following that, there would be public hearings scheduled, and he requested that the airport board members attend. He also noted that he was very impressed with Ben Woody and the members of the Planning Staff.
 - **NCFlyports.com** – Mr. Leary was enthusiastic about the progress of the air service grant program. Two companies were already using the airport via the program. The Currituck webpage was in process. He had received positive response.
6. **New Business**
 - **Aeronautics Council Report** – Mr. Leary reported that budget cutbacks were discussed. While \$5.5 million had been budgeted for place name funding, it was suggested that this amount may be cut by Division of Aviation to satisfy the 6% mandatory cutback so other projects could go forward. Also, FAA had requested that airport projects be submitted to utilize possible stimulus package funding.

Currituck's parallel taxiway, strengthening and resurfacing the runway, and installation of an IOS are on that list. The State recognizes the importance of Currituck Airport, particularly in the event of an emergency, and is very supportive of its projects.

- **Stormwater Management** – Mr. Leary related that the NCAA had been working with DOA and DENR regarding stormwater requirements for airports. It was hoped that airports would be able to develop a stormwater management plan under a general permit rather than individual ones. Talbert & Bright would be working on a stormwater management plan for Currituck Airport.
- **Complaints** – Mr. Messina recommended developing a policy for receiving complaints so the complainant could submit the problem in writing in his own words to eliminate phone calls and possible misunderstanding through relaying of messages. Mr. Leary noted that, fortunately, there had been relatively few complaints in recent years. He and Commissioner Rorer reported on a recent meeting with the community as well as representatives of the Navy, Blackwater and Division of Aviation. They felt it was very productive and it was hoped that solutions would be forthcoming. Mr. Winebarger supported the recommendation to have a policy for receiving and handling complaints. Mr. Messina moved that a formal policy be developed to air any complaints that evolved around the airport and surrounding property. Motion was seconded and passed. Mr. Leary was to prepare a draft policy and bring to next month's meeting.

7. **Consent Agenda**

- **Fuel Report** – AVGAS was doing well. Mr. Leary was seeing increased activity with fuel truck.

7A. **Board Member Comments** – Mr. Winebarger welcomed Commissioner Rorer and Mrs. Rorer as well as Commissioner Gregory. He expressed his concern with the lack of flow of information between the Airport Board and the Board of Commissioners. One example was the rumors spreading regarding increases in hangar lease fees. He felt that all the members welcomed the opportunity to work in the best interests of the County and wanted to feel that the Commissioners were hearing from them concerning the airport related activities being discussed and that they were receiving direction from the Commissioners.

Mr. Messina commented on the history of the airport. He noted that General Aviation comprised a major part of the activities and support of the airport, and that the airport provided a source of recreation for many people of all ages.

Mr. Leary was putting together materials for new commissioners regarding the history, projects, and future plans for the airport. He noted that a summary of grants received from the Division of Aviation showed that more grants had been received by Currituck than any other small aviation airport in the state. \$23M in projects has already been approved by DOA for the next five years – when and if funds become available. The number of operations is ahead of the schedule projected in the master plan. These numbers were not anticipated until approximately 2019. He commended and thanked the Board of Commissioners for their support with matching funds.

One member noted that the strength of Currituck airport is the best deterrent we have against an OLF locating in the area. Commissioner Gregory also remarked on the strength and activity at the airport as compared to others in the area. He was not in favor of raising fees. Mr. Winebarger spoke about the economy with regard to increases. He felt that now is not the time to burden lease holders when many are having to cut back on flights or even sell their aircraft.

Commissioner Rorer expressed his support of the airport and wished to see it develop to its full potential. He felt it should be run like a business and cater to the aviation consumer. He is committed to opening the channel of communication between the boards.

Mr. Leary was asked about leasing the empty hangars. He related that as soon as the rates were approved, revised leases could be sent out.

There was discussion about the need for more personnel, particularly to fuel corporate aircraft, since only the manager and one part-time person are currently employed. Commissioner Gregory agreed the personnel situation needed to be addressed.

Mr. Messina invited those present to attend the pilots' potluck Christmas party on December 20 at 1:00 pm.

Mr. Leary announced the Aeronautics Council would be meeting in Currituck on February 17 at 10:30 am and invited everyone to attend to support Senator Daniels who has been a good friend to Currituck.

Mr. Leary also announced an event to introduce the business community to the NCFlyPorts.com program to be held at Billy & Bonnie Curlings' home at a date and time to be announced, probably January or February.

Mr. Messina announced that his daughter had been appointed to the US Air Force Academy, and the nomination from Congressman Walter Jones had been received that day.

8. Adjourn

There being no further business, Mr. Messina moved to adjourn. Ms. Hall seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned.