

DELAWARE VALLEY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

Minutes of the March 20, 2003 Meeting of the Regional Aviation Committee

Attendee	Affiliation
David Benner	Urban Engineers, Inc.
Rob Betz	PennDOT Bureau of Aviation
Teresa Castronuovo	Urban Engineers, Inc.
Rick Childs	L. Robert Kimball
Everitt B. DuPont	New Garden Airport
Justin Edwards	Trenton Mercer Airport
Chris Fales	McFarland-Johnson
Richard Horstmann	Edwards & Kelcey
Charlie Hostetter	McFarland-Johnson, Inc.
Robert Ihlein	Pottstown Municipal Airport
Jan Kopple	DPKI&A Architects
Paul Krupp	BRRAM
Norm Lamar	PennDOT, Bureau of Aviation
Kelly LeMunyon	Sterling Helicopter
James MacKenzie	DMJM Aviation
Roger Moog	Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission
Allan F. Moore, Jr.	HNTB Corporation
Bob Mueller	Wings Field (LOM)
Steve Najarial	Aero Club of Pennsylvania
David Nelson	Brandywine Airport
Reiner Pelzer	Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission
Fred Pourkay	Philadelphia International Airport
Robert D. Powell	Cecil County Airport
Dan Rusk	Reinhart & Rusk
Glenn Shreiner	McGuire Approach Control
Barbara Snyder	South Jersey Regional Airport
Fran Strouse	L. Robert Kimball
Tom Tomczyk	PennDOT Bureau Of Aviation
Thabet Zakaria	Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission

- 1) Introduction and Welcome - Justin Edwards, Manager of Mercer County Airport and RAC Chair introduced himself and asked the group to observe a moment of silence to respect the US troops serving in the Iraq conflict. Then, attendees introduced themselves and their affiliations.

- 2) Minutes of the December 19, 2002 Regional Aviation Committee (RAC) Meeting
- Minutes were approved as written and mailed to RAC members.

- 3) Status of Regional Aviation Systems Plan (RASP) Projects Implication -

Philadelphia International - Fred Pourkay reported that the new overseas terminal "A" West will open April 30. The new deicing facility is operating fully due to the snowy winter and chemical ratios and recovery are resulting in little negative environmental impact. Justin added that in the future infrared deicing will be used which has no environmental impact. Fred added that at PNE resurfacing is complete on runway 15/31.

Trenton Mercer - Justin commented that TSA is keeping the airport busy, and the environmental assessment is still not resolved.

Chester County - Reiner Pelzer reported on the master plan update to be completed in April. Runway location and length alternatives are being reviewed. Keystone Heliport is relocating on an adjacent property which will not operate "through the fence" but will have integrated facility planning with the airport.

Pottstown Municipal - Robert Ihlein of the Borough reported activities including new hangar construction, taxiway repair, obstruction removal and master plan update. PennDOT's capital budget fund participated in the new hangars.

South Jersey Regional - Barbara Snyder, airport owner, is anticipating acquisition with State of New Jersey support. Business is good and Chopper 6 News helicopter is now based there. Several participants asked if she will continue to operate the facility if it is publicly acquired. She responded that her continued

operation would not be allowed by state guidelines for acquisition.

Pottstown-Limerick - Roger related Mike D'Aries comments. A block grant has been received for obstruction removal; a new EMS helicopter is based at the airport; recent FAA Notams about flying around nuclear generators impacts the airport; Exelon, the owner wants to sell, however, a public takeover by the county would require a new source for tax and insurance payments currently provided by Exelon, not out of airport revenues; the airport must remain an aviation facility since AIP funds were taken for real estate purchase.

Summitt - Dave Benner of Urban Engineers said his company is on this airports consulting team. A question about continued AIP eligibility of the privately owned airport if based aircraft goes below 100 was raised. The airport has been previously obligated. Expansion plans to some degree are impacted by nearby wetlands.

Pennridge - Gene Curry is the new airport manager, and they have accepted state grants for obstruction work and a new apron design.

Wings - Bob Driscoll, Wings Associate President, dies in March. His energy and advocacy for general aviation will be greatly missed by the Region Aviation Committee. The AWOS is now approved for use, by FAA, to link up to national weather, at frequency 118.925. Obstruction trees have been removed and new landscaping installed. The Community Advisory Committee and study continues dialogue with neighbors about noise, air pollution, traffic patterns and helicopter operations. Neighbors want restrictions on operations, and the airport wants new hangar alignments and new ramp space for quieter engine rev-ups. Fran Strouse says New snow removal equipment has been purchased. The 12,500 lb design aircraft identified in the master plan is the king air turbo prop. Now some 12,500 jet Citations Jets are operating and neighbors feel this should not be allowed.

New Garden - Everitt Dupont says the Master Plan update is moving with citizen meetings. The owners have been also met with New Garden township officials about ownership options. Licensing issues with airport obstruction, etc. are being negotiated with PennDOT so as not to threaten New Garden and other airports continued operations with unfunded mandates. The New Garden Airshow is Sunday, June 1. Mr. Dupont was recently appointed to the Pennsylvania Aviation Council Board and chairs its small airports committee.

Brandywine - David Nelson reports the new ALP is complete. Penn Star EMS helicopter is based at the airport and neighbors are complaining. Management is trying to work with operators and neighbors to find a compromise position.

Cecil County - Bob Powell said his new maintenance hangar is complete and 10 new T-hangars are on the way. Jet fuel will be available this summer and a PAPI is being installed. Talk of increasing the size of the ADIZ around Washington from 30 miles to 55 or 70 may impact traffic. AOPA has been contacted. McFarland Johnson will provide consulting services to Cecil Co. D.C. area fields may be purchased to be closed due to security issues, which may reach up to Maryland. Contact requirements for transponders and contact with ATC is being changed. Too much clearance is being required.

Quakertown - Fran Strouse said the AWOS has been commissioned, obstructions have been removed, and a Runway Safety Area grading project has started.

N.J. Airports - John Kaiser of NJDOT Division of Aeronautics phoned in the following: Camden County wants to sell out, but NJDOT will not acquire this property or development rights; Spitfire is holding community meetings regarding ALP issues like realignment of the runway; Cross Keys & Flying W are completing self

funded improvements; at Allaire the state, feds, and Monmouth County want to acquire this significant privately owned airport, but environmental problems need to be corrected first. The Division of Aeronautics, NJDOT, has relocated its offices to 25 Scotch Road, West Trenton, but phone and mail are the same.

Sterling Penns Landing Heliport - Kelly LeMunyon described activity at the Center City heliport as busy. Consultants, DVRPC and FAA are working with the City of Philadelphia and Penns Landing Corp to define public sponsorship of the heliport for a feasibility/EA study and expansion of its ramp using AIP/state grants. Rick Childs asked about current Sterling capacity. Justin Edwards said now helicopters must hover over the river while waiting for ramp space. Business is increasing and prospective public sponsors will want to see positive cash flow before becoming involved.

2. Continuing Planning Activities

- FY 2003 AIP Reauthorization - R. Moog discussed the attached memo regarding issues of AIP reauthorization relevant to the regions airports. Specifically 1) more funds are needed, 2) small airports must be protected, 3) non-primary entitlements must be more flexible, and 4) security costs must come from TSA or HSD, not AIP. Mr. Moog solicited feed back on this policy paper from the group. The RAC policy paper will be presented to the DVRPC Board in March for adoption and transmittal to regional elected officials in Washington.
- Regional GA Airports Security Study - Mr. Moog commented on the study, to be done by a consultant with DVRPC CASP XX planning grant funds, will inventory G.A. security in the region as well as Capital City and Harrisburg International. Deficiencies will be identified, projects (with cost) and strategies to improve G.A. security will be suggested. Airport and FBO business practices will also

be analyzed. Roger anticipates a RFQ will be released by mid-May and a contract let by July 1. A six month study is anticipated. Bob Powell noted that Maryland DOT and the airport owners have developed some common sense strategies to input to TSA. PA and NJ have also taken initial steps to improve G.A. security.

- PA and New Jersey SASP Status - Tom Tomczyk presented Roger Moog with a bound first edition copy of recently completed PA SASP. PA DOT will initiate a statewide zoning implementation study as a follow up. NJ SASP is near completion, but some recommendations at specific contentious airports are still under review by the SASP oversight committee. The PA SASP is available on the state website www.state.pa.us.

- DVRPC CASP XXI Work Program - Mr. Moog discussed the subject memo attached to the mailing for today's meeting. FAA has requested DVRPC undertaken special studies designed to assist airports. Suggestions include analysis of; jet demand; zoning failures and successes; pavement conditions update; TAF forecasts, and approach standards issues. Tom Tomczyk noted that with airports changed approaches from visual to GPS or other types, surveys are required to determine obstructions and areas of impact. Technology change may impact airports adversely due to need for more space and encroaching development. DVRPC will meet with FAA and PennDOT in April to decide which topics are to be pursued and then DVRPC will submit its CASP XXI application to FAA in May.

5. Capital Programming

PA Airport Funding - With the new Rendell administration in place, the Bureau is anticipating an increase in state airport grant authority to \$17 million in FY 03. Also they expect \$12 million in federal block grants funds as well as discretionary.

Increases in state grants will be targeted to projects which stimulate economic development.

New State Program - Tom Thatcher the new Director of the NJDOT Office of Aeronautics, will make a presentation at the June 19, 2003 RAC meeting regarding NJ airports status and programs.

6. Old Business

- Status of PennDOT Regulation Changes Regarding Licensing and Grant Programs - Draft changes continued to be revised by the PA Aviation Council and other interested parties. Some participants suggest clear policy positions, by PennDOT, regarding how current regulations are interpreted is all that is necessary, not full regulation change which would have to be acted on legislatively.

- DVRPC Counting Program Status

Regional Counts - the 2001-2002 counting year is now complete and data is available. 2002-2003 counting ongoing.

New Jersey Statewide Counts - DVRPC recently completed counts at northern airports (phase I) and are starting counts at South (Phase II). airports.

Generally, Mr. Pelzer noted that bad weather and the effects of 9/11/01 account for a 10% reduction in G.A. activity. Mr. Edwards noted that some airports use camera equipped counting machines with good accuracy, but the start up cost for such equipment is very high.

- FAA/PennState Annual Hershey Aviation Conference - Mr. Moog summarized the hot topics of presentations at the conference, which included; reauthorization; airline finances in trouble; security activities and costs; ground access improvements funded multimodally; changes to the FAA airport design circular regarding RSA's and TERPS; AIP funding program trends in recent years include more discretionary and less entitlement and more earmarking.

7. New Business

PennDOT News - Rob Betz mentioned that FAA will release the FY 03 block grant to PennDOT in April. The PennDOT study of RSA's have been completed at seven airports with 50 still to go.

DVRPC Block Grant Pilot Study - Fran Strouse noted that some issues and strategies identified by DVRPC in its examination of New Garden and Pottstown Limerick airports have already been implemented by PennDOT new Aviation Deputy Secretary, Sharon Daboin.

Pottstown Landfill - Bob Ihlein noted that the Borough is proposing a vertical expansion of its land fill, which may create a hazard to aviation. PennDOT Bureau of Aviation is on record as opposing, although FAA has not responded. The PA DEP will hold another hearing. Norm LaMar of PennDOT said that there are several criteria under which FAA should oppose.

Public Comments - No other public comment was provided by attendees.

Next Meeting - The next meeting of the DVRPC Regional Aviation Committee will be held at DVRPC offices on Thursday, June 19, 2003 at 10:00 a.m.