

**DELAWARE VALLEY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION**

**Minutes of the March 19, 2009 Meeting**

**of the**

**Regional Aviation Committee**

**Attendee**

**Affiliation**

Robert Checchio	Mid-Atlantic Aviation Coalition - NJ
Sam Console	PHL Airport Planning
Mike D'Aries	Pottstown-Limerick Airport
Everitt B. Dupont	Aviation Council of Pennsylvania
Elaine Farashian	Aero Club of PA
Bobbie Geier	DeIDOT Division of Planning
Michael Hall	Urban Engineers, Inc.
Gary L. Hudson	Chester County Area Airport Authority
David Jones	Delta Airport Consultants
Joe Kellicutt	McFarland-Johnson, Inc.
Frank Kulka	Urban Engineers, Inc.
Bill Leavens	NJ Aviation Association
Lori Ledeborn	FAA HARADO
Jon Martin	New Garden Flying Field
Michael McCartney	Philadelphia International Airport
Greg McDonough	NJDOT
David Metzler	DVRPC
John Mininger	Bucks County Airport Authority
Roger Moog	DVRPC
David Nelson	Brandywine Airport
Bryan Oscarson	AECOM Transportation
Reiner Pelzer	DVRPC
Bart Ritorto	NJDOT
Dan Rusk	Reinhart & Rusk, Inc.
Tom Thatcher	L. Robert Kimball & Associates
Josh Thomas	DeIDOT Division of Planning
Chuck Trice	URS Corp.
John Ward	DVRPC
Randal Wiedemann	R.A. Wiedemann & Assoc., Inc.

1. **Introductions** - Mike McCartney of PHL, the Chair of the RAC introduced himself and asked others to do the same.
2. **Minutes of the December 18, 2008 RAC Meeting** - Approved as sent out.
3. **Special Presentation**

- a) **Federal Stimulus Program**

Lori Ledebom of the FAA Harrisburg ADO, reported on this funding program created by the America Recovery and Reinvestment Act. \$1.1 billions will be available to airports nationally, and pay 100% of project costs. Grants will go through the ADO to eligible AIP projects according to the national priority rating. 50% of funds must be obligated by June 17 and the remainder by September 30, 2009. Projects must be completed by February 2011. Notice to proceed must occur within 30 days of grant date. There is a \$15 million cap per project and a \$20 million cap per sponsor. Materials must conform to "buy American" standards.

- b) **DeIDOT Presentation, Using LIDAR to Identify Airport Obstructions**

Joshua Thomas and Bobbie Geier of DeIDOT and consultant Randy Wiedemann described the use of aerial imagery via LIDAR radar equipment, taking readings by flying over airports, as an efficient means of identifying obstructions in operating airspace around airports. In Delaware, DELDOT can condemn and take down obstructions off airport property by law. Cost of the process averages \$12,000 per airport in Delaware.

4. **Status of Airport System Implementation**

**Chester County** - Gary Hudson said the airport is working with the Bureau of Aviation to finish the Feasibility/Justification Study for the runway extension and south apron expansion. The airport has retained marketing staff which can be reached at [marketing@chestrecoairport.com](mailto:marketing@chestrecoairport.com).

**Philadelphia International Airport** - Mike McCartney reported that runway 17/35 extension was commissioned to 6,500 ft allowing 737's of USAir and Southwest to use the runway. The airport is converting to electrified air conditioning and ground service equipment. As part of the CEP, noise exposure plan maps will be distributed soon.

Philadelphia Northeast - The perimeter path and Aquinas compass Rose are being completed.

Doylestown - John Mininger of the Airport Authority said Phase II of the stormwater runoff project is near completion.

Quakertown - Hangar improvements have been funded by the PA capital budget. FIOS operating facility is moving in. Reiner Pelzer asked if the \$2 million runway rebuild could be funded by stimulus money.

Vansant - The turf runway is being flattened.

Camden County - Greg McDonough of NJDOT said the design of the apron rehab is complete and NJ will fund the \$260,000 construction.

Trenton Mercer - The state of NJ has offered the airport a grant for security fencing.

New Castle County - Chuck Trice of URS Corp. reported on four projects. Fill for the safety area of runway 9/27 and its rehab are underway. Obstruction removal on airport property are tree replacement in areas under easement ongoing. An EMAS installation of 250' is being designed for one runway end. Design of the taxiway H rehab is underway.

Pottstown Municipal - Dave Jones of Delta is working on airspace issues relating to a new shopping center in the area, which will impact a planned runway extension. Possibility raising one runway end will avoid conflict. Eight clear span hangars are being installed as well as runway lighting improvements this Spring.

South Jersey Regional - Greg McDonough said NJ is funding fencing repair for \$200,000 and apron repaving for \$700,000 and repairs to Stacy Haines Rd.

Pottstown Limerick - Mike Kellicut of McFarland Johnson said they are still waiting for the transfer of the airport from Excelon Corp., to John Desmond, the new owner. The current FAA perpetual obligation requirement on the airport, due to the Federally funded land acquisition, is holding up the transfer since a private owner can't borrow money with a federal lease on the property.

Cross Keys - Greg McDonough said NJ projects at the airport include taxiway/runway lighting and NAVAIDS, a new Jet-A tank, and \$150,000 security cameras.

Cecial Co. - Tom Thatcher said a stormwater management facilities must be completed before the planned runway extension.

Pennridge - Joe Kellicutt said the airport is seeking bids on runway asphalt rehab and lighting improvements.

Wings - Tom Thatcher of Kimball said the snow equipment building and itinerant apron projects-bids will go out this spring.

New Garden - Jon Martin, airport manager, said the bid package for the parallel taxiway construction is going out shortly. The design of the runway lighting project is funded. The airport has initiated a newsletter.

Brandywine - Dave Nelson said the fuel farm improvements are complete and the taxiway turn has been widened. A beacon, ramp expansion, and runway widening are being planned.

Trenton Robbinsville - NJDOT is paying to replace the fuel farm.

Perkiomen Valley - Tom Thatcher said obstruction removal is being finished. Mr. Pelzer finalized the ALP. Dave Metzler reports there is new Jump Center operating at the airport.

Spitfire - Greg McDonough noted that the new fuel tank and other improvements to recent years have cost NJ \$16 million.

Penns Landing Heliport - Pavement rehab and new markings are ongoing.

## **5. Continuing Planning Issues**

- a) RASP Update to 2035 - Mr. Moog noted that the Regional Airport System Plan will be updated and called on committee members for input regarding forecast trends, facility needs, approach improvements, funding program features and needs and local/state policy changes. FAA funds the long range plan update as part of the regional multi modal transportation plan of DVRPC
- b) TSA Security Mandates for GA and Charter/Corporate Operators - The Federal Register comment period closed February 27, 2009 with strong opposition from NBAA, AOPA and charter companies. The NPRM was pulled back and put on hold by TSA.

- c) Class B Airspace Modification PHL - FAA has enlisted DVRPC to assist in gathering input from the regional aviation community about proposed changes to the PHL Class B. The proposal would round out the boundary and extend it \$5 miles, thereby lowering the ceiling for many airports, within the Class B, and limiting flight operations in some cases to aircraft with transponders who are in positive communication with PHL ATC. Bill Leavens said this has the effect of forcing GA traffic lower over populated areas with possible raising terrain. FAA ATC says the Class B expansion is necessary to keep the increasing number of commercial flights into PHL separate from GA traffic on arrival, and to reduce controller communications work load. DVRPC will hold two meetings to get suggestions from helicopter operators, airports, heliports, flight schools, sky diving businesses and glider Clubs about how the Class B can be modified to not severely impact those operations.
- d) RAC feedback to Regional Congressional delegation concerning Reauthorization - Mr. Moog will draft a letter to regional senators and representatives in Washington detailing the RAC priorities for Reauthorization legislation. The letter will be reviewed by the DVRPC Board and signed by the DVRPC Executive Director.

## 7. Capital Programming

- a) FAA Funding Program - Lori Ledeborn said the ADO has hired Charles Campbell to help with the grant work load from NJ airports. The AIP grants are still being distributed under the continuing resolution but currently the ADO is waiting for signed appropriations Bill, before they can give out Phase B of the grants for FFY 09.
- b) NJ Funding Program - Greg McDonough said all state grant offers are out, and they are waiting for processing.

## 8. Old Business

DVRPC Prepared ALPS - Reiner Pelzer said that the Pennridge ALP is done and awaiting airspace review, Perkiomen Valley ALP will go to FAA Harrisburg in April. Both reports have been transmitted to FAA.

DVRPC Operations Counting - Dave Metzler said current counts are generally lower due to the economic downturn and lower Avgas sales.

Aviation Sales Tax Exemption in PA - Everitt DuPont, President of Aviation Council of PA, said the organization is pushing for the exemption to compete with surrounding states. Although the Senate and House bill died last year, new bills, H 785 and S75 were reintroduced this year. Call your senator or representative in Harrisburg and support this initiative.

Willow Grove - Roger Moog Reported that state and fed legislators and Senator' Specter and Casey are requesting of Bob Grates, DOD Secretary, to keep air national quart A-10 fighter jets (17) at the facility, consistent with homeland security and emergency preparedness, since the runway stays open under state acquisition. They will save 80 jobs and 140 military positions. Tera Pharmaceuticals wants to relocate there, since they like the runway. Horsham township wonders, why keep runway for 17 aircraft, as they oppose any other tenants.

## **9. New Business**

- Gary Hudson asked about the proposal by FAA, support by Joe Biden, to increase ARFF personnel requirements. Nobody could confirm this but Lori Ledeborn will check it out.
- Mike McCartney asked about the new FAA requirement if you take federal funds, that you must up load certain data to the FAA website. This includes ALP's, airspace reviews, O.C. charts. Lori Ledeborn said this requirement will reduce inconsistencies and allow sharing of data. People on the website will have different access depending on their role. This sharing function is behind the FAA requirement for sponsors to complete surveys describing airport facilities and approaches.
- Bill Leavens said the MAAC conference will be May 1 at EWR. The focus will be on pilots and pilot training, also NJ Aviation Awareness Week is May 18-22.
- Sam Console of PHL planning department noted that contract documents to consultants and data structure must meet FAA formats.
- The NJDOT Transaction Conference is May 13-15 in Atlantic City. Several sessions will deal with aviation issues.
- The next meeting of the DVRPC Regional Aviation Committee will be Thursday, June 18, 2009, at the DVRPC offices.