

# DELAWARE VALLEY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

## Minutes of the June 18, 2009 Meeting of the Regional Aviation Committee

<b>Attendee</b>	<b>Affiliation</b>
David Benner	Urban Engineers
Robert Checchio	Mid-Atlantic Aviation Coalition - NJ
Elaine Farashian	AeroClub of PA
Bobbie Geier	Delaware Department of Transportation
Jeff Gilley	NBAA
Andrew Hartman	Flying W Airport
Richard Horstmann	Urban Engineering
Gary L. Hudson	Chester County Area Airport Authority
Lori Ledeborn	FAA AEA HARADO
Shirley Loveless	Congressman Sestak's Office
Michael McCartney	Philadelphia International Airport
Jon Martin	New Garden Township
Dave Metzler	DVRPC
Roger Moog	Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission
Reiner Pelzer	Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission
Amanda Pizza	URS
Ronald F. Price	QED
Mindy Redner	Flying W. Airport
Dan Rusk	Reinhart & Rusk
Fran Strouse	Robert Kimball and Associates
Robin Sukley	PennDOT, Bureau of Aviation
Tom Tomczyk	PennDOT Bureau Of Aviation
Randy Waltermeyer	Chester County Planning Commission
Stephen D. Williams	Delaware River & Bay Authority

- I) Introduction Chair, Mike McCartney of PHL introduced himself as did other attendees.
- II) Minutes of the March 19, 2009 Regional Aviation Committee Meeting (RAC)
  - 1) Spelling Cecil Co. Airport is not "Ceciel,"
  - 2) As part of the PHL part I5O plan, not the CEP, noise exposure maps will be distributed soon.

III) Status of Regional Airport System Implementation

Chester County Airport - Gary Hudson is advertising for the south apron project construction and access road rehab.

Philadelphia International - Mike McCartney said the airport is advancing its inline baggage screening facility for HSD. Terminal F expansion is being designed. Runway 9-27 pavement is being rehabed.

PNE - Several taxiway rehabs will be bid soon.

Doylestown - The stormwater project, phase II is complete. The properties under the runway approaches are being demolished.

Camden County - Fran Strouse reported that a PLASI and Jet A facility are being installed.

Quakertown - Runway widening and reconstruction is underway with federal stimulus funds. The project will be administered by the Harrisburg ADO.

New Castle County - Steve Williams reported that runway 9-27 rehab is underway and should be completed in August. The cross wind runway reopened last month. E-MAS installation for runway 1 end is being negotiated. Facilities are being expanded for the Delaware Air National Guard installation and Campbell Co.

Pottstown Limerick - Hangar and lighting improvements are underway. The airport has a flight simulator for training pilots.

Cross Keys - A jet-A-fuel facility has been funded as well as the runway 9-27 overlay.

Flying W - Mindy Redner said permits have been issued to top off trees impacting airspace around the airports.

Wings - Fran Strouse said soon the airport would issue an RFP for the snow equipment building. Itinerant apron construction will start soon since Whitpan Township has approved the airport land development plan. New hangars are replacing those demolished.

New Garden - John Martin, Airport Manager, reported that the annual airshow was held June 14. The full taxiway extension is designed and awaiting construction funding. A self serve fuel system was installed, and the maintenance building is being moved to a new location. The airport website is, [www.newgardenflyingfield.com](http://www.newgardenflyingfield.com) .

Brandywine - The airport has a new rotating beacon and taxiway rehab is underway.

Perkiomen Valley - Reiner Pelzer noted that PennDOT is funding off airport obstruction removal. The Township is working on a new airport overlay zoning ordinance.

Cecil Co. - Mr. Strouse said that new terminal building permit was received as well as one for T-hangars construction. The taxiway will be extended and the runway extended 1,000' to 4,000'.

Spitfire - Mr. Moog noted that Jack Feltsko, airport owner is looking to FAA for reliever status. The number of based aircraft at 35 is well below the 100 threshold currently set by FAA.

Vansant - The turf runway has been regraded.

Penns Landing Heliport - Tom Tomczyk said PennDOT is funding repairs to the landing zone.

#### IV) Continuing Planning Activities

A. DVRPC Board Approved letter sent to Regional Legislators RE: Aviation Reauthorization Mr. Moog described the letter and specific features recommended to be included in the legislation key points.

- 1) Sponsor assurances preventing taking of equity,
- 2) Allowing non-aviation uses for revenue on airport,
- 3) Metro System Planning funding by formula,
- 4) Funding for GA security as mandated by TSA.

Richard Horstmann recommended that the letter to send to federal legislators representing Delaware and Maryland as well as Pennsylvania and New Jersey. Mr. Moog agreed and will take care of it.

B. Regional Aviation System Plan (RASP) Update to 2035.

Mr. Moog detailed the content of draft recommendations in the plan including;

- Expand commercial capacity at PHL and other commercial airports,
- Extend reliever runways,
- Preserve airports including Willow Grove, for civilian use,
- Increase capital investment,
- Support reasonable GA security measures with fed/state funding,
- Airport access improvements to PHL,
- Encourage use of non-hub commercial airports to relieve PHL

Mr. Moog noted that PHL is planning its capacity expansion to satisfy all commercial demand in the region. Mr. Williams said that non hub airports like New Castle, Atlantic City, Trenton Mercer and Lehigh Valley must develop defensible air service arguments to attract airline service and passengers from their local markets who would otherwise use PHL. Current FAA growth forecasts to year 2025 project demand in the region higher than the expanded capacity at PHL, thereby suggesting the need for some demand diversion. Airlines operating at hubs are generally not willing to decentralize to surrounding non-hub airports, however low cost carriers have historically been willing to operate at non-hubs if market conditions and demand can be demonstrated. Mr. Williams added that if market demand is shared by regional commercial airports, local governments must be coordinated in their policies like the New England example.

C. DVRPC/NJDOT AWOS Installation Project - Reiner Pelzer reported about this New Jersey project at 15 airports including Alexandria, Central Jersey; Crosskeys Greenwood Lake, Hammonton, Lakewood, Lincoln Park, Old Bridge, Princeton, Trenton Robbinsville, Spitfire, Blairstown, Sky Manor, Flying W, Solberg. DVRPC will do the project administration, consultant selection, contracts with sponsors. The contractor will be selected to design, install, maintain the AWOS equipment. The RFP will come out in September 09.

Tom Thatcher added that equipment readings must include ceiling height. Ron Price said that if any airport in the program has precision approaches, the AWOS must indicate if weather is below minimums. Dave Metzler added that AWOS equipment should also measure density altitude, and be fully FAA certified. Fran Strouse cautioned that the time frame to receive a frequency designation for a new AWOS could be 18months and airport identifiers need to be changed to letters.

D. Class B Airspace changes around PHL - Dave Metzler of DVRPC described the two meetings held with FAA airspace staff, PHL ATC, and local airports, flight schools, helicopter operators, jump schools and other concerning the expansion of PHL class B. More airports will be included under class B and have lower ceilings under which to operate. A summary of input from operators and a Class B diagram is included in the mailing for the September 17, 2009 meeting. ATC is making this change to better separate GA and commercial traffic and to reduce the communications work load on controllers.

E. Status of DVRPC CASP 27 Program and Grant Proposal with FAA Harrisburg

DVRPC has submitted CASP 27 activity scope and budget proposals to FAA and will meet with FAA, NJDOT and PennDOT to identify needed activities. Funding levels and priority rankings make significant funding for regional aviation systems planning activities difficult at this time, according to FAA.

DVRPC has met with Government Accountability Office representatives as requested by the US House of Representatives Aviation Subcommittee to review the role of regional agencies like DVRPC in aviation facilities planning and development.

5. Capital Programming

A. Federal Funding Program

Lori Ledeborn of FAA Harrisburg described the federal stimulus bill, airport funding. Part A is complete and Part B is underway. Grants to airports are administered by the ADO like AIP grants. 50% of the funds were committed by June 30. Regarding the Federal airports reauthorization, a Bill passed the House in late May, A Senate bill may not to be considered until Fall. The House bill is similar to previous years proposals, \$4.0 billion AIP versus \$3.4 last authorization. Rep. Sestak tried to add riders to HB requiring B/C study of airspace redesign and make it public, but those riders failed.

B. PA Funding Program

Tom Tomczyk described \$2.5 million of state grants including ones to Pennridge and Perkiomen Valley. Capital budget funds to airports has increased from \$5 million to \$10 million. However, no more grants will be issued until the state budget debate ends and a budget is in place.

C. Delaware Funding Program

Bobbie Geier of DeIDOT said her state faces a budget short fall. Legislation has been introduced to institute a jet fuel tax of five cents per gallon and aircraft registration fee to raise revenues for aviation needs like obstruction removal and security costs at airports.

6) Old Business

A. Willow Grove

Fran Strouse and Roger Moog described recent legislative activities regarding this BRAC'ed military base.

The PA House Transportation Committee held hearings in Horsham two weeks ago on Rep. Taylor's and Senator Greenleaf's bills to further limit associated users to the emergency preparedness mission. TEVA Drug Company is interested in basing a facility there.

B. PA Sales Tax Exemption

New legislation has been introduced, HB 785, to eliminate sales tax on aircraft sales, services, parts, etc., in PA.

C. DVRPC Prepared ALPS

Reiner Pelzer said both the Pennridge and Perkiomen Valley ALP are complete and with FAA for review. He will present a summary of the Perkiomen Valley ALP at the September meeting.

7) New Business

A. Summary of the National Aviation Systems Planning Symposium and TransAction Conference

Mr. Pelzer summarized aviation issues presented at these two conferences held this spring in California and Atlantic City, respectively.

B. Next meeting of the DVRPC Regional Aviation Committee is Thursday, September 17, 2009, 10:00 a.m. at DVRPC offices.

C. No public comment.