

**County Council of Beaufort County**  
**Hilton Head Island Airport – [www.hiltonheadairport.com](http://www.hiltonheadairport.com)**  
**Beaufort County Airport – [www.beaufortcoairport.com](http://www.beaufortcoairport.com)**  
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**AVIATION ADVISORY BOARD MEETING MINUTES**  
**OF OCTOBER 11, 2007**

A meeting of the Beaufort County Aviation Advisory Board was called to order at 1:30 PM on Thursday, October 11, 2007 at the Hilton Head Island Air Service Building. Chairman David Ames opened the meeting and noted that there was a quorum present.

A motion was made and seconded to accept the September 13, 2007 meeting minutes. The minutes were accepted as submitted.

Guests were introduced.

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

David Ames-Chairman  
Pete Buchanan-Vice Chairman  
John Curry  
Harvey Ewing  
Dan Lynch  
Jared Newman  
Rick Caporale – Beaufort County Liaison

**STAFF**

Eddie Bellamy-Interim Deputy Administrator  
Paul Andres-Airport Director  
Larry Yeager-Operations Chief  
Joel Phillips – LIA Supervisor  
Priscilla Stewart – Admin Assistant  
Mary Sieger – Fiscal Technician  
Bill Baird – Tower Manager

**ABSENT**

Anne Esposito - Excused  
Leonard Law - Excused  
Ross Sanders - Excused  
Dick Warden  
Ken Heitzke – Town Liaison

**GUESTS**

Henry Ponder-Resident  
Chris Eversmann – Wilber Smith Associates  
Joe Crowley - Resident  
Tim Donnelly-Island Packet  
Gary Gildner-Resident  
Palmer Mitchell - Resident  
John Morrisette - Resident  
Jim Fisher - Resident  
Perry White - Resident

## **HILTON HEAD ISLAND AIRPORT REPORT**

1. Tower Report: Paul Andres
  - For the month of September, there were 3,553 total flight operations.
  - 2,106 were conducted under IFR procedures.
2. Operations Report: Chief Yeager
  - There were 3 medivac standbys during the month of September.
  - No in-flight emergencies.
3. Noise Complaints & Traffic Counters: Chief Yeager
  - There were 4 noise complaints.
    - 1 noise related complaint from Port Royal Plantation.
    - 1 over flight Sun City.
    - 2 over Yacht Cove.
  - 33 general aviation after Tower closure during the month of September.
  - 120 commercial airlines after Tower closure also for the month of September.
4. Projects: Paul Andres  
Tree Obstructions.
  - Phase I work (removal of pine trees) started October 11, 2007. Phase II work involves trimming or removing remaining mix of hardwoods and Phase III is final QA phase.
  - Emergency Generator. The emergency generator design is just about completed.
  - FY-07 FAA Grants.
    - Tree Obstruction Professional Services – Establishing an account to enable reimbursement process to start.
    - Tree Obstruction Environmental Assessment – Contract signed and project should start shortly.
    - Aircraft Rescue & Fire Fighting (ARFF) Building Design – will be put out as an RFQ to solicit other firms.
    - Airport Layout Plan Update – Resolving funding with the FAA.
    - Acquire Land for Development 1.76 Acres – ongoing negotiation.

## **BEAUFORT COUNTY AIRPORT REPORT**

1. Fuel Sales: Joel Phillips
  - For the month of September, sold a total of 11,678 gallons of AvGas and Jet A fuel.
  - Fuel sales are up about 300 gallons.
2. Projects: Paul Andres
  - Tree Obstructions. Survey complete by October 12, 2007. Finalize plans and put out for bid.
  - Aircraft Hangar. Public Service Committee recommending approval of contract to build Mosquito Control hangar to County Council at their next

meeting.

- AWOS. Equipment has been installed. The FCC license has been approved. Still need phone and electric to be connected. Will get a new identifier. Should be operational by end of December. The pine trees will be removed.
  - FY-07 FAA Grants.
  - Airport Master Plan Update – Resolving funding with the FAA.
  - Tree Removal Professional Services - This is reimbursement for monies already expended. We can start drawing down as soon as an account is set up.
3. FAA Regional Administrator, Doug Murphy sent an email that read “the meeting minutes generated was not of sufficient content and quality to provide to participants. No minutes were distributed.”
- Michael O’Donnell, Executive Director, SC Division of Aeronautics, sent an email that said Southern Regional Administrator (Mr. Doug Murphy) said that “...the Broad Creek Visual approach to runway 03 should be published by July 2008.” “The airport owner is encouraged to go ahead and post noise abatement signs as soon as possible, but this may require some coordination with FAA air space procedures folks on the wording required.” Some corrections to the noise abatement procedures brochure need to be made.
4. Bill Baird – Tower Manager – This new charted visual approach is not a mandatory procedure. Procedures will have to be established on a daily basis. Weather is a factor. The procedures the FAA will use to create these approaches most likely involve the two bridges (Graves and Cross Island Expressway) and visual text. Approximately 2/3 of IFR traffic use IFR procedures to Runway 03. This procedure will have to be approved by FAA and NATCA (National Air Traffic Control Association).

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. Finance: Pete Buchanan for Dick Warden
  - Presented draft recommendations for improving efficiency of financial activities to keep pace with the County. See attachment.
2. Lady’s Island Airport Facilities: Pete Buchanan
  - Need to replace the courtesy car. Eddie Bellamy offered a replacement car as soon as he can. Lady’s Island Airport has the highest swap out priority for a vehicle.
3. Hilton Head Island Airport Facilities: John Curry
  - The committee and Paul are working on the list Anne Esposito presented at the last meeting.
4. External Affairs: John Curry
  - Nothing to report.

## **COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMITTEE REPORTS**

1. Hilton Head: No report.
2. Lady's Island: No meeting has been scheduled and there is nothing to report.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

- Aviation Advisory Board Vacancy: No vote was taken and the matter has been referred back to the Public Services Committee.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Chairman Ames introduced and welcomed Chris Eversman as a Wilbur Smith representative. Chris indicated that Paul has relayed to him the concerns the AAB has regarding fees associated with airport professional services. Fees of \$100,000 are not uncommon for the various studies and design work in an airport setting. Please consider two factors: the exacting requirements of the Town of Hilton Head Island and the immediate adjacency of the Lady's Island Airport to the OCRM critical line and environmentally sensitive coastal marshes. Chris offered to attend meeting at no cost if that would improve the lines of communications.

Chairman Ames thanked Chris for coming and the AAB looks forward to Wilbur Smith's best efforts in the future.

Chairman Ames asked Paul to introduce Mary Sieger. Mary as Fiscal Technician has an extensive academic and accounting background. She stated that we are in the data gathering mode at this time. The Hilton Head Island Airport appears to be operating in the black; however, we do have a negative cash flow situation. Also, we have not drawn down on some of the available Grant funds.

Chairman Ames read the following into the minutes: Two weeks ago Mayor Peeples reopened the LMO amendment in response to the AAB's action to research the advantages and disadvantages of airport authorities and commissions.

Where I believe it is proper for the AAB and its responsibility to do this kind of fact-finding, I also believe that our doing this kind of research at this time and at the expense of the full cooperation between the county, AAB and the Town is a misplaced priority. One a scale of one to ten, that relationship is a ten and the research is a one.

Therefore, I believe it is in the best interest of the airport to discontinue that effort and remove the reason for the Town's having changed its approach to solving airport matters jointly.

Chairman Ames stated that the request to switch meeting dates to the third Thursday and then moving this meeting back to its original date created some scheduling conflict. Based on that he requested than anyone who missed this meeting due to that change should have an excused absence.

Chairman Ames reminded everyone to return their Conflict of Interest Form to Priscilla no later than October 31, 2007.

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

1. Jim Fisher – I am disappointed that the FAA will not provide the minutes to the July meeting in Atlanta. Unfortunately, there is nothing that can be done about that. He feels that there is a false impression about the take off and landing flight paths that Bill Baird referred to in his presentation. Mr. Fisher believes take offs in the direction of Port Royal are the real problem. Chairman Ames said he will look into the matter.
2. Perry White – Mr. White stated that the two elected officials should not be AAB members. He recommends that some new members need not have an aviation background. He inquired about the Delta flight pattern on takeoff. It is not a noise issue, but the space they fly over on takeoff. They turn abruptly before reaching the shoreline. Chairman Ames said he will look into the matter. His last point was that the group known as “Save The Airport” has added to the mix of confusion and reflects negatively on the Aviation Advisory Board. Chairman Ames stated that this group is in no way a part of this Board.
2. John Morrissette – Commented that he was wondering what the low flying plane was and how many complaints were received last Saturday. Chief Yeager stated that it was a Navy Hawkeye and no complaints were received. Mr. Merrissette also stated that he felt the Mayor was wrong to go forward with LMO revisions based on the AAB doing a study about authorities or commissions.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 3:15 PM.

## **FUTURE MEETINGS**

Aviation Advisory Board: The next meeting will be held on Thursday, November 15, 2007 at 1:30 PM at Hilton Head Air Service Building.

Hilton Head Island Airport Community Relations Committee: The next meeting will be held on Thursday, November 15, 2007 at 4:00 PM at the Palmetto Electric Building at 111 Mathews Drive, Hilton Head Island, SC.

Beaufort County Airport Community Relations Committee: The next meeting will be announced at a later date.