

Wicomico County Airport Commission

April 12, 2021

Present: Calvin Peacock, Chairman; Matthew Creamer, Vice Chairman; Weston Young, John Cannon, Wayne Strausburg, April Jackson, Nola Arnold

Staff: Tony Rudy, Airport Manager; Chris Davidson, Assistant Airport Manager

Others: Dawn Veatch former SBY Airport Manager, John Psota, Wicomico County Executive, Pat Schrawder, Senator Carozza's office, Bryce King--SRS

Absent: Bud Church

Minutes

Matt Creamer moved to accept the March minutes and Wayne Strausburg seconded. March 8, 2021, minutes were approved.

Airport's Manager Report

SBY Airport Manager, Tony Rudy presented the Airport Manager's Report, as follows:

1. Project and Contract Status Update:

- a. **Runway Extension Funding:** The Airport Capital Improvement Program (ACIP) request was sent to the FAA and the MAA on May 26th. Discretionary funds totaling \$5 million were shown for the FAA FY22 (County/MAA FY23). Discretionary funding is dependent on the approval of the Environmental Assessment (EA), which is currently in public review. Public review is expected to be complete on April 16th. Deadline (for EA approval) for the funding (eligibility) is the end of April 2021. Additionally, airports compete for funds nationwide based on project ranking. A letter of Intent (LOI) is another possible funding mechanism. The FAA can issue an LOI for airport projects when available funding will not meet the airport sponsor's timing for a particular project. An LOI states that reimbursements will be made according to a given schedule as funds become available and indicates Federal approval to an airport sponsor's project, scope, and timeline. The Governor's office, Senators Cardin's and Van Hollen's offices and Rep. Harris's office has been updated.
- b. **CARES Act Grant Funding Update:** The FAA has approved the first development grant addendum to fund the remainder of the Taxiway A

reconstruction project. SBY Airport continues to work on submissions for operational and maintenance expense reimbursements. Reporting requirements have changed since the first reimbursement and SBY Airports accountant is working to provide the additional information that is needed. Development grant addendums will be submitted to the FAA as projects become ready for consideration. SBY Airport has applied for a new Airport Coronavirus Response Grant Program that, if awarded, could provide an additional \$1 million for operational and maintenance expenses. The grant offer has not yet been received.

- c. **Environmental Assessment (EA) and Land Services:** The draft Environmental Assessment is out for public comment. Two virtual public workshops were held on March 25th. Final FAA approval is expected by the end of April 2021. The Land Services project is awaiting FAA review for concurrence which will take place after the EA is finalized.
- d. **Runway Benefit-Cost Analysis (BCA):** The FAA is currently reviewing the BCA.
- e. **Taxiway A Rehabilitation Phase 2B:** The CARES Act grant addendum was approved and we are working with the contractor to set a start date.
- f. **Airport City Water:** The project is progressing and still on schedule with a proposed September 2021 completion.
- g. **Construction of Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting (ARFF) Facility:** Delta Airport Consultants provided a task order to continue with final design work. Delta is more involved at the moment because of the CARES Act Funding. We are working with County Finance to determine how to fund the design work prior to the grant addendum which will be submitted after we have received bids.
- h. **Taxiway G Obstruction Clearing:** A wetland mitigation agreement is being worked on to satisfy all parties' needs.
- i. **Rental Car Lot Parking Repaving, Reconfiguration, and Expansion:** GMB is almost finished with design work.
- j. **MSP Apron and Parking Lot Paving:** Both areas were milled and paved in two days. MSP is pleased with the outcome.
- k. **Cell Tower RFP:** Two proposals were received for a cell tower construction project on SBY Airport. The project should greatly increase cell coverage in the area, hopefully filling in the dead spot currently near the airport. The height of the tower will not interfere with protected airspace. SBY Airport will benefit with additional revenue generated from the facility.
 - John Cannon mentions that a cell tower was built by parkside high school.
 - Wayne Strausburg made a comment referencing cell tower revenue streams. It is said that negotiations can be made with the company that SBY Airport is working with.

1. **Passenger Activity:** Passenger numbers for February show enplaned passengers at 2446, or approximately 47% of February 2020 passengers.
 - Wayne Strausburg: are there Piedmont flights going into PHL (Philadelphia International Airport)?
 - Tony Rudy: there are fluctuating numbers of flights going in and out of PHL.
 - Calvin Peacock: Any information on load factor?
 - Tony Rudy: Will have to get back to you on load factor next meeting.
 - Additional Comment: Do you think that Charlotte International Airport is adding flights? Most agreed that there were none, particularly from last year.

2. **Airport Cafe:** An RFP was advertised and one proposal was received. SBY Airport is looking for other alternatives at this time.

3. **Airport Disaster Exercise:** The triennial disaster exercise was held on March 13th. There was a good turnout from volunteers and responding agencies and the exercise went well. SBY Airport extends its thanks to all involved.

4. **Annual FAA Airport Inspection:** The annual FAA airport compliance inspection was conducted on March 12th. Overall, the inspection went well. SBY Airport staff have done an outstanding job.
 - Matt Creamer: where there were any gigs on the airport inspection?
 - Tony Rudy: Nothing that wasn't fixed the same day-- minor issues.

5. **Civil Air Patrol (CAP):** A potential site location for CAP's new facility was identified just south of the old AG Atlantic hangar on Airport Road. An FAA Part 163 determination will be needed before we can finalize any construction plans. This needs to wait until the current Part 163 determination for the Environmental Assessment is completed. CAP is starting fund raising activities for the facility.

6. **Congressman Harris' Visit:** Tony Rudy provided a SBY Airport tour to Congressman Andy Harris on March 24th highlighting all the recent infrastructure improvements and future development plans. Congressman Harris was able to meet and spend time with individuals from Kilroy Aviation, Sentinel Robotic Solutions, and Piedmont Airlines.

Questions:

NONE

Chairman's Report:

- Talked to the commissioners about the historical documentary of SBY Airport. With John Cannon's help, they would like to give the students formal recognition at the county council on May 4th, 2021. All may show up in person or watch online. Would also like to do an interview with them.

Calvin Peacock updates as follows:

Public Comments

Pat Schrawder: inquired about airspace issues when President Biden would come to his place in Rehoboth.

Calvin Peacock: Not at this time. SBY Airport has a cut out from the restricted area that would be put in place when President Biden visits Rehoboth, DE. This will allow normal operations at SBY during his visit.

Pat Schrawder: It is especially difficult during the summer months to work around and concerns about possible interference with the Ocean City Air Show .

Calvin Peacock: There has been requests and information received from the Delaware Side, all for the same reasons.

Airport Commission Comments:

Calvin Peacock: Would like to recognize Dawn Veatch, former Airport Manager, who is in attendance this meeting.

Dawn Veatch: Extends her thanks for allowing her to be in attendance at this meeting. Listening to Tony's report is amazing, along with seeing what all is going on at the airport. The challenges especially on the financial side through the state of Maryland and the county. Since her last meeting, she has been able to see the Niagara Falls freeze, sailing, got to meet her first grandson, and survived covid. She gives a sincere apology for leaving with no notice, but she believes that Tony Rudy has done a great job taking over the position. She extends thanks to Tony Rudy, Chris Davidson., Matt Creamer, Jacquie Benton-Ware, Wayne Strausburg., Dave Ryan, Calvin Peacock, John

Hall and many others for all the support.

Nola Arnold: Are there any tenants for the hangars

Tony Rudy: Most hangars are full, only a few unfilled.

Adjournment:

Calvin Peacock called for a motion to adjourn. Matt Creamer so moved and Wayne Strausburg seconded the motion and passed by the Commission members.

Next Meeting:

The next meeting will be held on Monday, May 10, 2020.