

**Aviation Advisory Committee (AAC)**  
**January 20, 2016**  
**Milton, Florida**

The Aviation Advisory Committee met on the above date with the following members present: Mike Harris (District 2), Brian Watkins (District 3), Michael Wooley (District 4), Chip Mapoles (District 5), Jack Kiger (Eglin Representative) and Randy Roy (Whiting Representative). County staff present: Assistant County Engineer (Michael Schmidt) and Administrative Services Manager (Tammy Simmons).

Watkins called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. *The minutes of the October 21, 2015, meeting was approved unanimously.*

**Peter Prince Runway Rehabilitation**

Schmidt provided information concerning the runway rehabilitation project (mill, resurface, stripe):

- Cost - \$1.5 million
- When:
  - Out for bid – March 2016
  - Submit application with bid results – May 2016
  - Receive grant offer from FAA – June/July 2016
  - Start of construction – August 2016 (4 to 5 weeks)
    - All works to be done at night time only (we proposed from 8:00 pm – 5:00 am). Work to be phased to minimize disruptions to current operations.
- Grant offer is subject to FAA receiving its budget appropriation

Schmidt information is being provided to advise that there is going to be major disruption at the airport during the construction period. The county will have discussions with the contractor, FAA and our consultant for any contingencies for temporary/partial usage. Coordination will have to take place with both Fixed Base Operators (FBO), all the hangar tenants, the general flying public, and the general public because the runway could be completely shut down for up to 5 weeks.

Committee members suggested utilizing the grass as a runway and/or temporary runway utilization of the east or west taxiways.

Schmidt stated Hatch Mott MacDonald will put together a complete bid package which will then go through the County's open bid process. The bid guidelines will be made available on the County website, they will be advertised in the local paper and information will be mailed out to applicable registered contractors.

Roy requested that Whiting and Eglin be included in the process so they are aware of changes due to the construction.

**Information Item – FAA Official Response**

Watkins stated that FAA has accepted Santa Rosa County's corrective action plan to address the Order contained in the Director's Determination (DD) Aircraft Management Services, Inc., v. Santa Rosa County, Florida FAA Docket No. 16-12-02, dated March 27, 2015.

### **FBO Issues**

No FBO representatives present.

### **Administrative Issues/Updates**

Simmons stated 113 of the 115 hangars at Peter Prince Field are currently leased.

### **Other Business**

Wooley stated he has two items he would like addressed:

1. Peter Prince Field north and south entrance gates: leave both gates open or closed during daylight hours. Currently south is open during daylight hours and north is closed at all times.
2. Pave dirt path/road leading from the south entrance gate to the hangars on the southwest side of airport. Schmidt stated the design phase is 90% complete for paving of this roadway; once the design phase is completed and permitted it will be put that out to bid.

Harris reported a couple of the taxiway lights are out adjacent to the east side hangars.

Roy expressed concern with Unmanned Aircraft Systems, UAS, and model aircraft around the airfield and questioned if anyone at the County level was following this? Roy stated Whiting is keeping close tabs on this as far as their installation and assets. Roy informed of recent Federal Aviation Administration, FAA, news of leaning on the Counties and States **to not** put regulations on the model aircraft flying or UAS's as FAA continues to mature their program and their regulations. FAA's concern is with overarching and/or overlapping regulations. Roy feels the County should be educated on this matter should it become a concern at the airport.

Committee members acknowledged FAA regulations and rules related to distance you can fly from an airport and the need to contact the airport/control tower to fly closer; altitude restrictions, and UAS registration based on size and weight.

Wooley stated the FAA has instituted a website with information on UAS's and the procedure to register the aircraft <https://www.faa.gov/uas/>. Wooley stated the Aircraft Modeling Association has a suit against the FAA for requiring registration.

### **Adjournment/Next Meeting**

Next Aviation Advisory Committee will be April 20, 2016.

Meeting adjourned at 5:20 p.m.

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Chairman