

Humboldt County Aviation Advisory Committee Approved Minutes

March 3, 2020

6:00 PM

Prosperity Center, 520 E Street,
Eureka, CA 95501

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Alex Stillman at 6:05 PM.

Members in Attendance: Kyle Gable, Chris Nelson, Alex Stillman, Bill Wickman, John McBeth, Brian Renner, Joe Shepp, Justin Zabel

Members Absent: Lt. Jacob Dorsey

Staff: Cody Roggatz, Jennifer Corgiat, Humboldt County Department of Aviation

Guests: Lee Rector, Richard Fenton, Doug Holsclaw, Steve Pritchard, Steve Bowser, Al Castaldi, Brian Morrison, Dave Marshall

The Committee reserves the right to bring presentations by invited guests forward as a courtesy to those individuals.

2. Public Comment

No public comment was offered.

3. Approval of Minutes

The January 28, 2020 minutes were approved as submitted

4. Aviation Department Report

A. Cody Roggatz made a report to the committee.

1. Cody reported on the meeting of the California General Aviation Airport Directors meeting. The

meeting was attended by a number of aviation organizations. Of principle interest was the FAA plan to begin enforcement of federal legislation pertaining to the distribution of the fuel tax fund. Taxes generated by fuel taxes are required to be used on airport facilities. The FAA is moving towards enforcement and may begin refusing Airport Improvement Funds to all Airport Improvement Program (AIP) Eligible Airports in the State of California not in compliance. There is pending legislation pertaining to this issue and no enforcement is anticipated this year.

2.Repair of the fuel facility at FOT is underway and fuel should be available within the next two weeks.

3.The fuel facility at Garberville is repaired and fuel is available.

4.High Rock crews have been on site at FOT doing general maintenance.

5.The new beacon for FOT arrived yesterday, is being assembled and will be installed as soon as possible.

6.The FOT AWOS has been repaired and is operational. 7.Sweeping was conducted at EKA. 8.Sweeping at Garberville is scheduled tomorrow.

9.ARFF construction may be completed and an opening scheduled for June or July of this year.

10.The micro grid project is being reviewed by the FAA for airspace and glare compliance.

11.The AMCG study documentation preparation is in progress.

12.The staff is currently working to replace the transient ramp tie downs at ACV.

13.Tie down positions at the transient ramp at ACV will be repainted this summer.

14.Airline passenger traffic at ACV has increased 47% over this time last year when combined boardings and deplanements are considered. Current load factor numbers are not available but are felt to be excellent.

5. UAS Subcommittee Report

A.Dave Marshall gave a report.

15. FAA RFC for new UAS rules closed yesterday. No timeline has been set for final rule publication. The model aircraft association is very concerned about the two-way location data requirement. AOPA has made recommendations similar to those in Europe. The UAS subcommittee is awaiting aviation department access to web publishing. They hope to have a small area to share useful and Humboldt specific information.

6. Old Business

A. Replacement of VASI at EKA.

1) There is no information yet on the \$99,000 dollars listed as an expenditure for replacement of the VASI at Murray. No replacement has taken place. Comment was made that an

insurance payment of \$95,000 was received but cannot yet be found.

2) PAPI at EKA. The FAA owned, operated, and maintained PAPI at EKA is not functioning. Repairs should be completed within 30 days.

B. EKA tree removal. Currently an analysis of the structural integrity of the dykes surrounding the

runway 30 approach area if the trees are removed is underway.

C. Consideration of proposed resolutions.

1) Six proposed resolutions were considered. Considerable discussion of these resolutions resulted from members of the committee and public.

2) Resolutions 1 & 2 were consolidated into a single resolution #1.

3) Resolution 3 was deleted because work addressed in this resolution, the repair of fuel facilities at Garberville is nearing completion.

4) Kyle Gable moved that all resolutions be considered for vote. Joe Shepp seconded the motion. Chairperson Alex Stillman called for the vote. The resolutions were approved. Members Kyle Gable, Joe Shepp, Chris Nelson, Bill Wickman, Alex

Stillman, and John McBeth voted in favor. Members Justin Zable and Brian Renner abstained from voting. The measure proposing the resolutions passed.

5) A cover letter will be drafted and the approved resolutions will be forwarded to the Board of Supervisors very soon.

6) The approved resolutions are listed below and will be attached to these minutes.

a. Resolution 2020:01 Budgetary Basis for The Department of Aviation b. Resolution 2020:02 Obstruction Removal at Murray Field

c. Resolution 2020:03 Restroom Facilities at Garberville

d. Resolution 2020:04 ACV Transient Aircraft Service

6. New Business

A. The allocation from the county of \$250,000 for the ACV restaurant is being investigated and no information has yet been confirmed.

B. The Political reform Act requires members to annually file a Statement of Economic Interests (Form 700) and committee members are required to complete this form.

C. The Sheriff's department has funds budgeted to maintain shrubs and landscaping at the ACV passenger terminal. \$50000 was budgeted for improvements and installation but nothing has been accomplished. Talks are in progress with the Sheriff's department and the Humboldt Botanical Gardens to install and maintain landscaping.

D. The brochure racks and book library at the ACV terminal are being maintained and are very well received.

7. Meeting adjourned at 7:35 PM

8. Attachments

Resolution 2020:01

Budgetary Basis for the Department of Aviation

Whereas the airports operated by Humboldt County are a fundamental and critical asset to the economic base of the county and

Whereas the Humboldt County Department of Aviation was historically and is currently

budgeted on the concept of an “enterprise fund” and

Whereas past budgeting towards a goal of attaining self- sustenance for this “enterprise fund” by reducing costs resulted in a continuing deterioration of aviation facilities and

Whereas past revenue, cost accounting, staffing and record keeping policies have resulted in the deterioration of aviation facilities and a lawsuit with the potential to cost Humboldt County millions of dollars and

Whereas the Volaire Aviation Financial Review of the Division of Aviation, accepted by the Board of Supervisors, stated, “...the county deprives the airport system of revenue with favorable leases of airport property” and

Whereas the Federal Aviation Administration, in its letter of December 13, 2018, outlined numerous historical management deficiencies that deprived the Aviation Division of much needed revenue, to the benefit of other County Departments, and

Whereas the Humboldt County Department of Aviation was created as a separate entity in September of 2018, and

Whereas the Humboldt County Department of Aviation continues to be understaffed with significant deferred maintenance at all six County-owned airports, and

Whereas the Volaire Aviation Financial Review of the Division of Aviation, accepted by the Board of Supervisors stated, “The majority of County Supervisors interviewed for this report said

they have a commitment to keep the airport funded even if it takes money from the general fund.”

Whereas the County of Humboldt is conducting a study, as required by the Federal Aviation Administration to review and correct financial management issues and leasing policies.

Now, therefore, be it resolved, that the Humboldt County Aviation Advisory Committee calls upon the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors to expedite the completion of the FAA mandated study, and

Be it further resolved that the County of Humboldt adopt policies and practices that allow the new Department of Aviation sufficient control and flexibility to work toward financial self-sufficiency, and

Be it further resolved, that the Humboldt County Aviation Advisory Committee calls upon the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors to invest necessary funds into the Department of Aviation at a level determined to be adequate to repair deteriorated facilities, maintain all facilities, restore critical staffing and provide improved services for future use. These funds should be considered in the 2020 – 2021 budget and not delayed pending the conclusion of the study and long-term corrective actions mandated by the Federal Aviation Administration.

Resolution 2020:02

Obstruction Removal at Murray Field

Whereas four trees growing near the approach end of runway 30 at Eureka's Murray Field were found to be penetrating required airspace clear zones for that airport two years ago and

Whereas all instrument approach procedures for Murray Field are now, because of these obstructions, prohibited during night operations and

Whereas the ability to legally conduct nighttime instrument approaches is an important adjunct to aviation safety at Murray Field and

Whereas communication with landowners has found no resistance to the removal of these obstructions and

Whereas little cost would be incurred in removal of these obstructions and Whereas some other agency might be involved,

Therefore, be it resolved that the Aviation Advisory Committee advises the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors that the Department of Aviation should coordinate the immediate clearing of these obstructions.

Resolution 2020:03

Restroom facilities at Garberville

Background information: In 1989 a new aircraft fueling facility including underground fuel storage

was installed at Garberville airport. Because the restroom facility at the airport included a septic tank that was considered to be too near fuel storage the permanent modern restroom facility was removed with the promise from the county division of airports to airport tenants that it would be replaced. Only “porta potty” type facilities have been available since that time.

Whereas Garberville airport restroom facilities were removed by the county division of airports decades ago and

Whereas at the time of the removal the airport tenants were promised by the county aviation division that the restroom facilities would be replaced and

Whereas despite years of complaint by airport users and tenants the restroom facilities have not been replaced,

Therefore, be it resolved that the Aviation Advisory Committee advises the Board of Supervisors that the Department of Aviation should be funded to restore permanent modern restroom facilities at Garberville Airport and that these facilities be restored in the near future.

Resolution 2020:04

ACV Transient Aircraft Services

Whereas the ACV airport provides the only precision instrument approaches and the longest runways in Humboldt County and

Whereas the ACV airport is the primary Humboldt County destination for transient business aircraft and

Whereas these aircraft bring invaluable business and business customers to Humboldt County resulting in a significant positive economic impact and

Whereas there is no hanger facility available at ACV for transient aircraft and

Whereas the transient ramp facilities available to aircraft at ACV have been a source of valid aircraft customer complaint for years and

Whereas these valid complaints include but are not limited to lack of a fixed base operation, no facility for passengers and flight crew to await or greet arriving aircraft, no facility for flight planning and communications, no ramp accessible

restroom facility other than a porta potty, poorly marked self-service fuel facility, lack of informational signage, an inconvenient and obscure ramp passenger exit, and no convenient access to ground transportation.

Therefore be it resolved that the Aviation Advisory Committee advises the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors that the

Department of Aviation should take immediate action to alleviate these valid customer complaints.