

Humboldt County Aviation Advisory Committee

Approved Minutes

August 25, 2020 6:00 PM

Zoom Meeting

1. Call To Order and Roll Call

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

A. Members In Attendance

Alex Stillman, Chris Nelson, Bill Wickman, Justin Zabel, Lt. Ryan O'Neill, Joe Shepp

B. Members Absent

John McBeth, Brian Renner, Kyle Gabel

C. Staff

Cody Roggatz

D. Guests

Richard Fenton, Doug Holsclaw, Dana Canfield, Steve Pritchard, Dave Marshall

2. Public Comment

Mr. Dayton Murray III expressed his concerns pertaining to gate access at Rohnerville Airport. He stated that there is currently no provision for emergency electrical power to the entry gate at Rohnerville Airport. In the event of a power outage the gate cannot be opened without tools and knowledge of the mechanical operation of the gate. The airport is often used for emergency medical transport and evacuation. It is important that access be available at all times. He suggested wiring the gate access into the airports existing emergency

power system. It was also suggested that a solar powered battery system could be installed.

3. Approval of Minutes

The draft minutes of the 7/28/2020 meeting were approved as submitted

4. Department of Aviation

A. FAA

Cody Roggatz reviewed details of the Cares Act allocations and included the slides used in the 7/28/2020 meeting. The total of federal Cares Act aviation monies will be three times the annual AIP (Airport Improvement Program) allocation. This is the nation wide plan. These funds may be used for operating and maintenance expenses and may be used for capital improvements with prior approval of the FAA in a process similar to the AIP approval process. The funding breakdown for Humboldt County airports was reviewed and is as recorded in the 7/28/2020 minutes of this committee. Funding will continue until 2024 and can be used for staff. Humboldt County cannot qualify for actual AIP funding until the requirements of the FAA land use compliance letter have been met.

There was a review of airline flight status at ACV. They presently include 2 SFO and 1 LAX flight per day. Boardings have increased slightly from an April low but are still dramatically lower than years past.

Doug Holsclaw and Richard Fenton commented on the distribution of funds and triage of needed items. There was general discussion of Cares Act and AIP funding use. The land use inspection final report is due in the November-December time period and implementation may begin in 2021 and beyond.

B. Cleaning Certification

The AAAE is developing cleaning protocols. The cost of the certification process is being determined. Currently three part time staff have been added for the cleaning of all facilities.

5. Old Business

A. Solar array project

Progress has been made. A land lease appraisal has been completed. A draft lease has been completed. When authorization is completed the project may begin construction next spring. There are ADA impacts. The required electric

vehicle charging outlets in the parking lot may require rerouting of drive access. This impacts the development of proposed landscaping.

B. Tree Removal at EKA

Cody Roggatz stated he had visited with the owner of the property adjacent to the trees. As previously reported there are discussions as to methods of tree removal.

C. County Budget

There was a discussion of replacement of the runway 12 VASI at Murray field. No progress has been made. Bill Wickman reiterated some of the history of the problem. That the VASI was damaged ten years ago. That insurance money was apparently received but apparently used by public works for other purposes. That this committee's minutes show at least 36 discussions of the VASI replacement since its damage. That the county published budget for 2018-19 showed an expenditure of \$99000 "to replace damaged navigation aid equipment" and that this 'replacement' in fact never took place. That there had recently been an aircraft hull loss and nearly fatal accident on the approach to runway 12 at Murray Field. VASI is designed to help prevent such occurrences.

Cody Roggatz stated that over a five year funding period there may be need of \$43 million of AIP funds for capitol projects. Of this about \$39.5M would come from federal funds and \$3.6 from county monies. He is working with the Board of Supervisors and the County Administrative officer for support for infrastructure projects.

Bill Wickman brought up the fact that during the the 3/3/2020 committee meeting the committee modified, at the request of Cody Roggatz, Resolution 2020:04 "ACV Transient Aircraft Services". Amongst other items this resolution called for the replacement of aircraft tie down chains. Cody Roggatz stated at that time that the chains were being "worked on". As a result this resolution was amended to delete this item. Bill Wickman pointed out that five months later no work has been done. Cody Roggatz stated he would "look into it tomorrow".

6. New Business

A. Fuel Price Concerns

Joe Shepp reiterated his past request for pertinent information on fuel cost and fuel sales at county fuel facilities. That fuel prices at county airports are the highest in the area and amongst the very highest in the country. He stated that this price information is immediately accessible to all pilots and that these

exceptionally high fuel prices inhibit general aviation traffic to county airports as well as fuel sales.

B. GA Signage

Cody Roggatz stated that there is no local sign vendor with the necessary materials and that he is working with the county sign shop. Two smaller signs may be available by September. A larger sign is still an unknown and there will be update in September.

C. Hydration station

There was discussion of a hydration station (water fountain) at ACV. The cost of such a station was estimated at \$1900. Cody Roggatz stated that the estimated cost of plumbing such facility was \$19000 dollars. ADA components of such an installation were discussed.

D. UAS Sub Committee Report

Alex Stillman reported that Dave Marshall has requested the UAS sub committee report be an agenda item going forward.

7. Brainstorming

Steve Pritchard mentioned that the sewers near the gate entrance to EKA had overflowed because the two lift pumps had failed. County aviation staff had been notified and a temporary repair had been accomplished.

8. Adjournment

Meeting Adjourned at approximately 7:40 PM.

