

**VERMONT AVIATION ADVISORY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING
NATIONAL LIFE BUILDING
DAVIS 5th FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM 1
MONTPELIER, VERMONT
March 11, 2019**

ATTENDEES: Dan Delabruere, VTrans
Jason Owen, VTrans
Guy Tapper, VTrans
Costa Pappis, VTrans
Kyle Wells, VTrans
Paul Libby, VTrans
Chris Beitzel, VTrans
Rollin Tebbetts, VTrans
Trini Brassard, VTrans
Scott Fortney, VTrans
Dave Pelletier, VTrans
Evan Robinson, VTrans
Jen Davis, VTrans
Amy Tatko, VTrans
Doug White, VFA-MVL-BTV
Chris Carrigan, Vermont Chamber
Steve Dolgin, Caledonia Airport
Patrick Sharrow, Hoyle Tanner
Rick Lucas, McFarland Johnson
Brady Brewster, Jacobs Eng.
Heath Marsden, Jacobs Eng.
Bob Flint, SRDC
Kelly Colling, Burlington Airport
Robert McEwing, BTV NEAC
Steve Tibbetts, Shell Aviation
Pamela King, Shell Aviation
Armand Dufresne, Gale Associates
Matt Caron, Gale Associates
Jamie Stewart, CVEDC
Chris Reece, Columbia Air Services
Charles Rockwell, Green Mountain Flights

1. CALL TO ORDER and ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dan Delabruere called the meeting to order at 1 PM. Introductions were done.

2. PUBLIC INPUT

There were no comments at this time.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

October 22, 2018

MOTION by Steve Dolgin, SECOND by Bob Flint, to approve the 10/22/18 minutes as written. VOTING: unanimous; motion carried.

4. UPDATE ON NATIONAL LIFE/BARRE CITY PLACE

Dan Delabruere said the long-term plan is to move VTrans to Barre City Place on Main Street in Barre. The move will happen this spring/summer. To allow people to fly to the Aviation Council meetings there is a large conference room at Knapp Airport (Dill Building) that can be used.

5. FY20 GOVERNOR'S RECOMMENDED AVIATION BUDGET

Dan Delabruere said the recommended aviation budget of \$9.3 million if passed goes into effect July 1, 2019. Line items in the budget include obstruction studies, SRE buildings runway work, vegetation maintenance/management, aviation easements, fencing, parallel taxiways, paving the safety areas, administration and operations, maintenance, beacons, pavement, CAP.

There was discussion of accessways to hangars. Dan Delabruere said the access to the hangar is the owner's responsibility. Historically aviation maintenance crews plow the accessways, but there is no money in the budget to support this. Doug White said some accessways are in such bad shape that the hangars are not accessible certain times of the year, and there should not be people plowing around expensive planes with their pickup trucks. Trini Brassard pointed out the hangar owners selected the location knowing there had to be connection to public infrastructure, but the accessways were not built to spec so state equipment cannot go on them. Charles Rockwell mentioned damage his plane sustained due to the condition of the accessway to his hangar. Steve Dolgin suggested having a generic policy that says the state will plow the lane in front of hangars and maintain the five-foot rule. Trini Brassard said the lease specifies the responsibilities of the hangar owner. Each lease is different. Dan Delabruere said the issue is not plowing, but who pays for the pavement repair once the pavement begins to fail.

Kelly Colling asked what is gained with the paving of the safety area at the Morrisville/Stowe airport. Dan Delabruere said the areas are declared distances for takeoff.

Trini Brassard said George Coy wanted to be sure education is included in the budget. Dan Delabruere said education is under the Administrative line item.

6. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Dan Delabruere reported he and Mike Schirling (ACCD) met with the House and Senate transportation committees and discussed H.620 (development around airports), the

need for new pilots, more education, more hangar space, more businesses, electric charging stations for vehicles and airplanes. Brainstorming was done on how to promote the state airports and what the airports are being used for. There is a push in the legislature that all state airports breakeven.

7. SUN n' FUN INTERNATIONAL FLY-IN AVIATION SHOW

There was discussion of various aviation tradeshows and other events the state should attend to promote the state airports and aviation in Vermont. Dan Delabruere said the state is making progress with reaching out and marketing the airports. ACCD is including the state airports in their marketing campaign. More education statewide is needed as well as a national effort.

Costa Pappis noted at the public meetings on the state airport system plan there is discussion of what is being done to educate the next generation of pilots and the workforce to support aviation (i.e. aeronautic mechanics).

Chris Carrigan suggested doing a promotional video on what Vermont has to offer. The video from George Coy is a good example of how to promote the state airports.

8. STATE AVIATION DAY

Dan Delabruere said there is discussion of having a state aviation day to get people talking about aviation issues around the state. The event could be at Knapp Airport while the legislature is in session so legislators can attend. The public would also be invited. There was suggestion of having a sponsor for the event, offering food and beverages, having a flight simulator at the event, and showcasing projects from each airport.

Forward additional ideas for the event to VTrans. There will be further discussion at the next Aviation Council meeting.

9. PROJECT UPDATES

Paul Libby reviewed aviation projects across the state including:

- Update map for Taxiway A and master plan update at Rutland
- Runway 1-3 obstruction removal at Bennington
- Obstruction study at Knapp
- Relocation of the fence at the south end of Runway 1, easements, tree removal, and an EA at Highgate
- Tree removal, obstruction removal at Middlebury
- Safety area paving at Morrisville/Stowe
- Easements and obstruction clearing at Coventry
- Appraisal and review for easements at Springfield
- Avigation easements at Caledonia
- Final edits to Airport Layout Plan before submittal to FAA for approval

10. STATE AIRPORT SYSTEM PLAN UPDATE

Rick Lucas with McFarland Johnson reported the summary reports will be posted on the website. The forecasts of aviation demand looked at past and future performance. Projections show better use of based aircraft, but growth in based aircraft is trending down. Jet A fuel is growing nationally. AV gas use is growing in Vermont but trending downward nationally. A better way is needed to report airport activity to the FAA at non-towered airports because the FAA numbers are not reflecting what is actually happening. Airports compete for FAA funding for projects. Funding is limited. The state needs to validate numbers before submitting information to the FAA. A policy recommendation and action item will be added to the plan. Next steps are a policy theme covering infrastructure, economic development, sustainability, project prioritization, technical developments (electric charge stations at airports), connection to other transit modes, and education support. Public meetings on the plan will be held in summer 2019.

Costa Pappis said the overarching goal is to have different categories of airports with different needs and recommendations for each category.

11. VT ASCE REPORT CARD

Dan Delabruere reported the score for the state airports based on infrastructure condition was a C-. Criteria were condition, funding streams, and future funding streams. The state airports are 80% below needed funds despite getting \$1.35 million in entitlement funding each year (nine airports each receive \$150,000; Burlington Airport receives a different allotment). The FAA rolls the state capital improvement plan into the Congressional Report and determines what Vermont needs for airport improvements. Vermont needs \$34 million, but only receives \$1.35 million which is 80% below what is needed. Vermont does get discretionary money (grants) from the FAA that is not reflected in the report card. There is supplemental funding in the FAA bill.

12. OTHER BUSINESS

Next Meeting/Agenda Items

Next Meeting: Date to be announced.

Agenda Items:

- Ideas for a state aviation day
- Update on the airport system plan

13. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business and without objection the meeting was adjourned at 3:03 PM.