

PRESENT: Committee members Chair Jeremy Young, Ed Drew, Dick Clarke, Dayle Harris, Gennaro Avolio, John Benton, Port Commissioner Fred Duckwall, FBO Denny Kindig, Port Executive Director Michael McElwee and Port Marketing Manager Mike Doke.

INTRODUCTIONS

Chair Jeremy Young reported some exciting news had occurred since the May Airport Advisory Committee meeting. This included a recent meeting with Federal Aviation Administration staff and the pending Grand Opening of the Western Antique Aeroplane and Automobile Museum (WAAAM), scheduled for Sept. 7-9. These topics are covered below.

JUNE 27 FAA MEETING

Young asked Mike Doke to recap the Port's June meeting with FAA staff in Renton, Wash. The meeting included Seattle Airports District Office Manager J. Wade Bryant, Oregon/Idaho Section Manager Bill Watson and FAA Civil Engineer/Hood River liaison Dave Roberts, along with Michael McElwee, Young, Doke and pilot Ben Davidson.

The meeting was the result of concerns that the recently adopted Airport Master Plan may not reflect current activity at Ken Jernstedt Airfield that have occurred with the WAAAM project and a greater emphasis on historic aircraft. Doke reported after much discussion with FAA it was determined that the current Airport Master Plan is appropriate.

Young noted a potential change on federal appropriations for general aviation airports. FAA reported at the June meeting that Congress is considering basing the annual appropriation to reflect based aircraft at each airport; airports with more based craft would receive a greater allocation than those with fewer airplanes. The current system gives all general aviation airports \$150,000 annually for capital improvement projects. Young added that WAAAM would increase the number of based aircraft at Ken Jernstedt Airfield, so Hood River should benefit if the federal appropriation plan is approved this fall.

Dick Clarke asked about the status of the unofficial grass runway north of the asphalt runway. Doke explained that FAA would not recognize this grass strip, which does not meet the FAA runway standard in regards to required setbacks. Michael McElwee noted that FAA was receptive to a grass runway between the existing asphalt runway and the northern taxiway. Some grading work and flush runway lights are needed to enhance safety, but pilots would have the option of either landing on pavement or grass as they approached Hood River.

McElwee said the Port would explore FAA funding for the improved grass strip, and Doke said he would contact the airport's engineer, Century West's Joe Roshak, to discuss the project.

Regarding a capital improvement project planned for this year – airport fencing – John Benton said fencing is not needed, but broken gates need to be repaired.

AIRPORT MASTER PLAN

Airport Advisory Committee members have encouraged the Port to submit the Airport Master Plan to Hood River County for adoption into the county's Transportation Systems Plan (TSP). This step is needed before the county would consider vacating a portion of Orchard Road near Runway 25. Doke reported that, with the committee's support, the Port would approach the County Commission at a September work session. If the county commission approves a review, the Airport Master Plan would be sent to the county planning department and eventually the Hood River County Planning Commission for consideration. The review will take six months or longer, and the Port will likely need to hire a planning consultant to shepherd the process.

Airport Advisory Committee members noted safety concerns regarding ground traffic on Orchard Road. Young noted vehicles speed through the area, and the county sheriff's office reported 146 accidents here in about a year's timeframe.

The Committee agreed that the Airport Master Plan should be submitted to the county. McElwee suggested that the Port obtain a letter of support from FAA regarding Orchard Road vacation.

WAAAM GRAND OPENING

Young reported that 238 antique aircraft are scheduled to participate in the September 7-9 Grand Opening of WAAAM. Planners are organized and excited, but still need volunteers, Young added.

The Port has repaired an airport shower for pilots' use, McElwee said. John Benton expressed concern about a Pacific Power pole on Orchard Road, which is in the landing pattern of the unofficial grass runway. A NOTAM should be issued. Doke said he would contact Pacific Power about either painting the top of the pole or installing an easy-to-see flag so that it does not hinder landings. Doke was asked to contact the county sheriff's office about either temporarily closing Orchard Road near Runway 25 or placing "No Parking" signs along the road.

Planes are expected to begin arriving the Thursday before the event, with more coming and going throughout the weekend. Most will be leaving the airfield Sunday after the event.

Young noted the FBO is assisting with air traffic control, and a safety meeting has been set for Sept. 1 to address outstanding issues and work with volunteers.

OTHER ISSUES

McElwee reported a local firm has contacted the Port about possibly leasing the Yellow Hangar (Hangar 1) at the airport. Currently, this hangar is home to a gliding club. Negotiations are in the early stages, but if the move does occur it would create 10 jobs. The company does not require an airport operation, but its aviation emphasis would mean it would be allowed in the Airport Development zone. There was a concern expressed that a company that does require an airport operation might not have that opportunity if the hangar is used by another business. Doke reported that no airport-related business had

moved onto the airport in recent years. McElwee added that he wanted input from the committee before moving forward.

There was discussion regarding the floatplane dock at Hood River Marina, owned by the Port. Young mentioned that, because of other water recreation, the floatplane season is at its peak in the fall months.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be set after the county commission makes a decision to review the Airport Master Plan.