

County Council of Beaufort County  
Hilton Head Island Airport – [www.hiltonheadairport.com](http://www.hiltonheadairport.com)  
Beaufort County Airport – [www.beaufortcoairport.com](http://www.beaufortcoairport.com)  
Post Office Box 23739 – 120 Beach City Road  
Hilton Head Island, South Carolina 29925-3739  
Phone: (843) 689-5400 - Fax: (843) 689-5411

**AVIATION ADVISORY BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
OF APRIL 17, 2008**

The print media was notified in accordance with the State Freedom of Information Act.

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Beaufort County Aviation Advisory Board was held at 1:30 PM on Thursday, April 17, 2008 at the Beaufort County Airport. Chairman David Ames opened the meeting and noted that there was a quorum present.

**A motion was made and seconded to accept the March 20, 2008 meeting minutes. The motion passed unanimously.**

Guests were introduced.

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

David Ames-Chairman  
Pete Buchanan – Vice Chairman  
John Curry  
Anne Esposito  
Leonard Law  
Ross Sanders  
Dick Warden

**STAFF**

Paul Andres – Airport Director  
Joel Phillips – Beaufort Co. Airport Supervisor  
Saleem Khattak – Deputy Administrator  
Larry Yeager – Operations Chief  
Linda Wright – Administrative Assistant

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

Councilman Ken Heitzke – Town of Hilton  
Head Liaison  
Councilman Rick Caporale – Beaufort  
County Liaison  
Dan Lynch  
Jared Newman  
Harvey Ewing

**GUESTS**

Joe Croley - Resident  
Richard “Grover” Cleaveland - Resident  
Jack Shuler – Resident  
Gary Gildner – Resident  
Chris Eversman – Wilbur Smith Assc.  
Dick Liberman – Resident  
Charlie Reid – Resident  
Nick Esposito – Resident  
Tom Thornbury – Resident  
John Morrissette– Resident  
Councilman Steve Baer (via telephone conf.)  
Jim Fisher – Resident (via telephone conf.)

**HILTON HEAD ISLAND AIRPORT REPORT**

1. Tower Report: Paul Andres
  - For the month of March 2008 there were 4,076 total flight operations of which 2,294 were conducted under IFR procedures.

2. Operations Report: Chief Yeager
  - There were no in-flight emergencies in March, but there were 7 medical evacuations from the airport fire station.
3. Noise Complaints & Traffic Counters:
  - There were a total of 8 confirmed noise complaints, half of which were due to Coast Guard flights over Port Royal Plantation.
  - Other complaints came from Woodlands Plantation which is off the approach of Runway 03 and a few other complaints from Port Royal Plantation that were non-Coast Guard related.
  - Mr. Ames asked how many medivacs they normally get in a month and Chief Yeager stated it goes up and down, but there is an influx during tourist season. He stated 6 is the average.
4. Projects: Paul Andres
  - The tree obstruction removal on the south end of the airport is essentially complete, but there are approximately a dozen trees that need to be evaluated to make sure they are not problematic.
  - Revised mitigation plant back plans will be provided to the Town's Design Review Board which is scheduled to meet next Tuesday at 1:15 p.m.
  - The environmental assessment for the tree obstructions on the north end of the airport is underway.
  - The emergency generator project update is basically the same as reported at the last meeting. The contractor is still waiting for materials and will schedule installation as soon as they are received which he hopes will be in the next couple of months.

## **BEAUFORT COUNTY AIRPORT REPORT**

1. Fuel Sales: Joel Phillips
  - For the month of March a total of 8,100 total gallons of fuel was pumped. This was down 1,150 gallons for the same time period last year and is about 3,900 gallons short of our expectations for this year.
2. Projects: Paul Andres
  - Tree obstruction removal project is moving forward. There was a pre-bid meeting earlier today with contractors. The bids will be due May 14<sup>th</sup>. If a good bid is received they should be able to make a recommendation to move forward with a contract to Public Services Committee and County Council in June and get the project underway shortly thereafter. Tree obstacles on and off airport property will be addressed.
  - Aircraft Hangars. Mosquito Control hangar project is continuing. There was a change order to include an additional chemical storage facility with that building, some additional office space and a restroom emergency shower facility. There was also a change order to replace inadequate soils they found once they cleared the site. Those change order recommendations were approved by the Public Services Committee and will be forwarded to the next County Council meeting for their consideration.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

1. Finance and Lady's Island Facilities: Pete Buchanan
  - There had been a request to build a hangar here approximately 2 years ago, but nothing has developed. Mr. Buchanan wanted to make a motion to resubmit this. Mr. Ames asked that this be tabled until next month when the Facilities Committee could add this discussion to the agenda. Mr. Buchanan concurred.
2. Hilton Head Island Airport Facilities: Anne Esposito. No report.
3. External Affairs: John Curry
  - Airport Appreciation Day Sunday, May 4, 2008 is moving forward.

#### **COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMITTEE REPORTS**

- Hilton Head: No meeting. No report.
- Lady's Island: No meeting. No report.

#### **HILTON HEAD ISLAND CRC ISSUE UPDATE**

- Paul Andres read a letter from Paul Werts, State Division of Aeronautics, stating that the Broad Creek Visual Approach for the Hilton Head Island Airport is on track for a July 31, 2008 publication date.

#### **OLD BUSINESS**

1. Beaufort County Airport Master Plan: Paul Andres
  - The contract has been awarded and a kickoff meeting will be scheduled in the near future.
  - Hilton Head Island Master Plan: The FAA indicated that they cannot fund the additional costs of a full Master Plan. If a viable plan is developed, they would consider reimbursing the costs.
  - ARFF Design: The design contract was approved by the Public Services Committee at their Tuesday meeting and will be forwarded to full Council for their consideration and approval at their next County Council meeting.
2. Airport Operations/Financial Improvements: David Ames
  - With fuel sales down significantly and hangar rentals possibly in jeopardy it is important for the Board to consider how revenues are going to be dealt with as the hangars are key in the sustainability of the Lady's Island Airport. This is an issue the Finance Committee should address.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

1. Runway Weight Limitations: David Ames
  - Mr. Ames read a statement that he presented at the County Council meeting on Monday concerning an article in the Island Packet about the landing weight at the airport. Copies were distributed to the AAB members and they were asked to add to these comments anything that would bear on the County Council's deliberations regarding this matter.

**A motion was made and seconded to approve the statement in draft form subject to**

**the modifications that other members of the committee may provide and let it go forward without waiting for another meeting. The motion passed unanimously.**

2. Pete Buchanan initiated a discussion on the responsibilities of the Aviation Advisory Board.
3. Dick Warden wanted to know what could have been done to prevent what happened over the discovery of the behind the scenes action regarding the LMO. After an open discussion David Ames stated he would get a group together to consider this matter and bring it before the board next month.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

1. Charles Reid - Mr. Reid expressed his feelings about the lack of support from the board for the citizens that were against passing the LMO.
2. Tom Thornbury – Mr. Thornbury stated the board needs to take further action in advising the County Council as to what is best for the airport on Hilton Head. Dick Warden wanted to know what the economic impact would be if the airport closed, in particular would it effect the Heritage Golf Classic. Mr. Thornbury stated there would be an effect in about 3 or 4 years.
3. Dick Liberman – Mr. Liberman wanted to know if an article was correct in stating that the Delta ATR has an exemption from the County to land with about 40,000 lbs. Paul Andres stated they do have an indefinite waiver. He further stated he would be interested in knowing how many missed approaches there are trying to get in on Runway 21 because of the trees. He concluded by stating the board should think about transferring the airport from the County to the Town.
4. Jack Shuler – Mr. Shuler feels the trees are still a major problem. Paul Andres assured Mr. Shuler that the tree issue has and will always be a priority for him as a safety issue. He stated that he is pursuing this as quickly as possible. He further stated that the FAA recognizes this fact and has commented numerous times that they are pleased that the County and the airport are finally taking action to address the tree obstructions.
5. John Morrissette – Mr. Morrissette stated the airport needs to be run more like a business and the board needs to advise the Council as to the proper way to run the airport.
6. Jim Fisher (Hilton Head via telephone conference) – Mr. Fisher wanted to know if the County submitted a form that changed the weight limit. He stated he thought it had been suggested they move to a 50,000 lb. limit which covers the ATR's and the turboprop planes. He continued by stating that the majority contention from people he has talked to is safety. He concluded by stating that commercial services are essential and will stay here, but they need to make it as safe as possible for the community.
7. Gary Gildner – Mr. Gildner feels the airport needs to get to higher capacities or it will not survive.
8. Nick Esposito – Mr. Esposito stated he felt the board was on the right track by being an aviation expert board that provides facts to the County.

**A motion was made and seconded to go into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing appointments of members of the Aviation Advisory Board. The motion passed unanimously.**

The Board reconvened in public session and reported that no action needed to be taken regarding matters discussed in Executive Session.

**ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 3:35 PM.

**FUTURE MEETINGS**

Aviation Advisory Board: The next meeting will be held on Thursday, May 15, 2008 at 1:30 PM at the Hilton Head Air Service Building.

Hilton Head Island Airport Community Relations Committee: The next meeting will be held on Thursday, May 1, 2008 at 4:30 PM at the Hilton Head Air Services Building.

Beaufort County Airport Community Relations Committee: The next meeting will be announced at a later date.