

MINUTES

Beaufort County Airports Board

September 19, 2024 | 1:30 pm | Meeting called to order by Chairman Chris Butler
[Video and Transcript](#)

ATTENDANCE

Present: Chris Butler, Howard Ackerman, Leslie Adlam Flory, Anne Esposito, Brian Turrisi, Mark Bailey, David Nelems, Nick Mesenburg and Thomas Sheahan

Absent: Jim Starnes and Rich Sells

County Staff: Stephen Parry, Deputy Airports Director; Eric Townsend, Airport Manager; and Rocio Rexrode, Administrative Specialist.

Beaufort County Council Liaison:

Hilton Head Island Town Council Liaison: David Ames

Public: Judy Elder, Talbert, Bright and Ellington, Inc.

AGENDA ADOPTION

The September 19, 2024, BCAB meeting agenda was adopted with unanimous consent.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Anne Esposito made a motion to approve the August 15, 2024, meeting minutes. Leslie Flory seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Melinda Tunner | 20 Lenox Lane

She referred to the airport's layout plans for the next 5-10 years and inquired about the process for gathering feedback from stakeholders in the Town of Hilton Head and from residents living near the airport. She expressed that her main concern was the possible extension of the runway.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- **DEPARTMENT UPDATE:**

Taxiway Foxtrot: Rembold informed that the rubber removal was completed as part of the preparation for the FAA certification inspection.

Business After Hours: Rembold commented that the Business After Hours was successfully held at ARW and that it was an excellent opportunity to showcase the venue. He mentioned that the space is rentable.

Runway 5K Race: Rembold reminded everyone that the race is coming up in less than a month. He mentioned that walkers and strollers are welcome.

Meet Greta: Rembold introduced Greta, a 13-year-old dog in a program that provides comfort dogs who go to airports to help calm passengers.

USNA Alumni Visit: Rembold mentioned that the local chapter of the USNA Alumni Association visited the airport. He noted that everyone climbed the stairs to the top of the tower and got a ride on the ARFF truck.

- **TERMINAL UPDATE:**

Rembold announced that the first steel column went up on September 5th, and it's starting to look like a building. He said that some of the sidewalks and curbs are getting formed and that rock has been laid for the base of the road in front of the terminal. He stated that things are progressing and taking shape quickly.

- **AIRPORTS' BUSINESS UPDATE:**

ARW Hangar Update: Rembold said that the project bid was advertised, and a contract award will soon be approved by Council. He mentioned that the project funding option is currently in the approval process. He added that a SCAC grant is coming up and that the airport will apply to help fund the site prep work.

HXD Animal Policy: Rembold stated that the Airport recently finished the Wildlife Hazard Assessment, which every commercial airport has to do as part of the Part 139 safety certification. He mentioned that the airport got an excellent report back from the USDA, and the (USDA) recommended implementing a policy prohibiting feeding animals on or near the airport.

Wings for All: Rembold explained that this is a program that HXD will be working on. He mentioned that the program focuses on making the travel experience not intimidating, confusing, or scary for travelers who might be on the (Autism) spectrum. He said the organization teams up with airlines to take these passengers through the entire travel experience so it is not intimidating when they travel.

DBE, ACDBE, Title VI: Rembold stated that he included these to explain that significant staff time is dedicated to complying with State and Federal (300+) regulations. He mentioned that many of these programs are tied to getting grant money.

PFC 6—In Effect Soon: He stated that the Passenger Facility Charge was recently implemented, and hopefully, HXD will start collecting the money by the end of the year.

Additional Updates:

- Rembold commented that HXD adopted a polling station as part of a new Chamber of Commerce Program. He said HXD will provide refreshments for poll workers at the HH library on election day.
- Rembold reminded the Board that the Air Service Development Consultants will visit on Nov 21st.
- Rembold mentioned that a BIL grant application was submitted for Tower renovations.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no Unfinished Business.

NEW BUSINESS – ACTION ITEMS

1. GRANT ACCEPTANCE - RESOLUTION TO ACCEPT SCAC GRANT 24-026 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$140,405 FOR HXD AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL TOWER RADIO SUITE EQUIPMENT REPLACEMENT

Anne Esposito made a motion to approve a resolution to accept SCAC Grant 24-026 in the amount of \$140,405 for HXD Air Traffic Control Tower Radio Suite Equipment Replacement. Leslie Flory seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

2. GRANT ACCEPTANCE - RESOLUTION TO ACCEPT SCAC GRANT 24-027 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$157,006 FOR ARW RUNWAY 07/25 REHABILITATION (CONSTRUCTION)

David Nelems made a motion to approve a resolution to accept SCAC Grant 24-027 in the amount of \$157,006 for ARW Runway 07/25 Rehabilitation (Construction). Brian Turrisi seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

3. WORK AUTHORIZATION - RECOMMENDATION TO APPROVE TALBERT, BRIGHT, AND ELLINGTON WORK AUTHORIZATION 2119-2401 FOR ARW RUNWAY 07/25 REHABILITATION (CONSTRUCTION)

Anne Esposito made a motion to approve a recommendation to approve TBE WA 2119-2401 for ARW Runway 07/25 Rehabilitation (Construction). Howard Ackerman seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

4. WORK AUTHORIZATION - RECOMMENDATION TO APPROVE TALBERT, BRIGHT, AND ELLINGTON WORK AUTHORIZATION 2119-2402 FOR HXD AIRFIELD DRAINAGE (DESIGN AND BIDDING)

Leslie Flory made a motion to approve a recommendation to approve TBE WA 2119-2402 for HXD Airfield Drainage (Design and Bidding). Anne Esposito seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

5. RESOLUTION - RECOMMENDATION TO APPROVE A COOPERATIVE SERVICE AGREEMENT BETWEEN BEAUFORT COUNTY AND UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH INSPECTION SERVICE (APHIS) WILDLIFE SERVICES (WS)

Anne Esposito made a motion to approve a recommendation to approve a Cooperative Service Agreement between Beaufort County and United States Department of Agriculture APHIS WS. Leslie Flory seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

CHAIRMAN UPDATE

1. Finance Committee

Members: Howard Ackerman (Chair), Chris Butler, Tom Sheahan, and Brian Turrisi.

The Committee had nothing new to report this month. They will keep the board informed of any new developments.

2. Passenger Service Committee

Members: Leslie Adlam Flory (Chair), David Nelems, Jim Starnes, and Tom Sheahan

Leslie Flory informed me that the Ambassadors Program successfully concluded.

3. ARW Facilities Use and Improvement Committee

Members: Chris Butler (Chair), Mark Bailey, David Nelems, Jim Starnes, and Nick Mesenburg

The Committee had nothing new to report this month. They will keep the board informed of any new developments.

4. HXD Airport Improvement Committee

Members: Brian Turrisi (Chair), Howard Ackerman, Rich Sells, Chris Butler, and Anne Esposito

The Committee had nothing new to report this month. They will keep the board informed of any new developments.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no Public Comments.

ADJOURNMENT

The motion to adjourn was made at 2:32 p.m. It passed unanimously.

NEXT MEETING

October 17, 2024 | 1:30 pm

Beaufort County Council Chambers, 100 Ribaut Road, Beaufort, SC.