



Minutes

AIRPORT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Thursday, August 22, 2019

At WAAAM – 3:00pm

1. Airport Project updates
 - a. EA and wetland permits

Anne stated that the wetland permit from DSL has been received and that the DEQ 404b permit is expected next week with the USACE permit expected after Labor Day. Anne and the consultants have been in contact with the permitting agencies on a weekly basis. The governor's office was also brought in to facilitate conference calls and ensure timelines stay on Track. Dayle mentioned that he had contacted all our congressmen and representative to let them know that the process was long and unreasonable.

- To Do Anne will send out the wetland mitigation plan
 - b. Connect 6-

The project is expected to go to bid immediately after permits are received. Utility work would begin in October with the grading and paving occurring in Spring of 2020. The Port has until 7/1/2020 to use the Connect 6 funds and complete the project and was able to get that date extended from 4/1/2020. That amount is \$1.4 million.
 - c. FAA projects-

The north apron project is 90% through design. Staff continues to work with the consultant and anticipates going to bid in February of 2020. The work will dovetail with the COVI work and completed before the fly in 2020.
 - d. Irrigation on south side update

The Port is completing installation of irrigation to water both the glider area and the area where tucker and Airport drive interest. The Port must show use of their water right in order to transfer that use to the wetland. When the wetland is installed, there will be lots of new plants that need to establish. In order to provide the consistent water needed to do that, DSL requires that the plants have irrigation until they are established.
 - e. Solar project proposal

The Port is working with the County's energy committee to evaluate the possibility of locating a solar array on the SE corner of airport property, adjacent to copper dam road and down the slope. Committee members

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brought up concerns that the glare would be extremely dangerous and that should an aircraft crash in the solar array, the outcome would be negative. However, WAAAM is interested in pursuing roof top solar which may be a better location for glare. Further study will need to be done to determine that. A glare study could be completed.

To do- *Anne will connect Judy with the energy committee.*

2. FBO update

Jeff Renard updated that the FBO fuel sales are down slightly from last year. The new hangars in Dallesport are nearly complete and will house an avionics repair shop. The FBO may be moving to Texas, it was unclear what that means for Hood River. Tie Downs are full.

Dave brought up that there are many broken down aircraft on the ramp and in T-hangars. Discussion occurred around what to do about it. Consensus was reached that the Port needs to pursue removing unflyable aircraft. There will be further discussion at the next meeting.

To do- *Staff put together proposal/letter to aircraft owners that outlines options for removal of their aircraft. Also, Staff will review T-hangar leases and discuss with the FBO about not allowing rentals of tie downs to craft that are there for more than a specific time. Staff will also review FAA guidance on the matter.*

3. WAAAM Update

WAAAM is fundraising for a phased \$5 million addition that will provide a car parking garage, meeting and event space, a deli and more hangar space. Judy stated that cars are the big draw to the museum. Attendance is up from about 40,000 to 50,000 people per year. This doesn't count the robotics events (300 ppl each) and other events that the museum provides for.

Margot asked if WAAAM could shield their lights. Judy said they replaced all the bulbs last year to more efficient and less bright bulbs, but a request was made for actual shields that point the light down.

WAAAM is working with the college regarding curriculum and potential location for aviation training programs.

a. Fly in

No more than 500 planes are expected and Judy states that is the limit for the event. They are increasing their RV space and discussion was had on how that would work and where located (east of Jeanette). Crestline has provided a water truck for use during the week and WAAAM has been watering Port property to keep it green for the event. The FBO will have 2 fuel trucks out. There are two meals on Friday and Saturday that raise money for the High school and the Fire department.

4. Glider Update

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The Club received a grant to complete a strategic plan which they are nearly complete with. The club is growing, and they want to do that correctly. They were able to raise funds for a new glider and are slowly modernizing their fleet. 3 kids have solo'd and 1 has their license. 2 more will be testing for their license shortly. They have enthusiastic new members and 2 new CFI-G's in the Club.

5. Additional items

- a. *Runway lights- The runway lights that are currently installed are too high for the gliders and some of the antique aircraft. These were the proper lights AS SPECIFIED by the FAA, the engineers were not mistaken in installing these. However, they need to be modified to decrease safety hazards.
To Do - The Port will investigate what kind of lights we can install and how to pay for that as most changes in light style will require new electrical.*
- b. *July 23rd and 27th- there were two separate incidents of bad language and discourteous behavior in the air and on the runway. The details are somewhat unclear, but there seems to have been a plan in the air whose pilot was angry at the glider club for blocking the runway when they were rolling out. The glider club has been looking into ways to streamline their ground operations and seems to be doing a good job of it. Powered planes just need to have a little patience. The other situation seems to have been tow pilot communication with the ground crew which was not appropriate. The change outs for the gliders seems to take 3-4 minutes and there was consensus that it was not too much time.*
- c. *The annual Capital Improvement Plan update with the FAA happens next week and the Port is confirming the major AIP projects to be done within the next 5 years. Due to the Environmental Assessment, all of our CIP projects are over budget and the Port has to borrow from future years NPE funds (Non primary entitlements= \$150,000/year). The Port would like to submit a project for South side utilities and some t- hangar ramp paving, but otherwise, major projects will be complete when the north ramp is done.*
- d. *Noise complaints- it was decided that the Fly Friendly program needs to be communicated to pilots again. That will be done at the booth at the Fly in, with more brochures at the FBO and in general communications with visiting and based pilots.*
- e. *It was asked that the Port talk with Indian Creek golf course to see if the grass runway can be prepped for the Spring season. Or 2021. It needs some work on the turf.*

NEXT MEETING, THURSDAY NOVEMBER 21st at 3:00 at WAAAM. (let Anne know if this date doesn't work.)