

PRESENT: Committee members Chair Jeremy Young, Ed Drew, Bill Veatch, Dayle Harris, Gennaro Avolio, John Benton, Port Commissioner Fred Duckwall, and Port Marketing Manager Mike Doke. Guest: Mike Benedict, Hood River County Planning Director.

INTRODUCTIONS

Chair Jeremy Young called the meeting to order at 10 a.m. He noted the meeting's purpose was to prioritize airport capital improvement and maintenance projects.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT/MAINTENANCE

SINKHOLE: Young said a sinkhole that appears near the runway in winter is a top concern. He was concerned a plane may hit the sinkhole, and said the sinkhole may play a role in a runway dip in the area. Mike Doke noted he and Port Maintenance Supervisor Joe Pounders were meeting with Farmers Irrigation District later in the day to discuss the problem.

AWOS ANEMOMETER: There has been ongoing concern about the accuracy of the AWOS wind gauge. Young suggested removing trees west of the AWOS site would be the most cost-effective solution. If that doesn't help the anemometer tower may be raised. John Benton suggested relocating the AWOS to the east across Orchard Road. Doke noted the site is in the runway protection zone, where obstructions are not allowed, suggesting AWOS relocation may be explored should the runway shift to the east across Orchard Road.

GRASS RUNWAY: The Port is working to develop a grass runway adjacent to Runway 25. Young noted the site is relatively clean but bumpy. Once developed, the grass runway would give pilots the option of landing on asphalt or grass, and the option would be listed in pilots' guides.

RUNWAY LIGHTS: Doke reported all the runway lights work but two, and Port maintenance is working on those.

TIEDOWNS: Young said a colleague using an AutoCAD program to design a new tiedown layout on the northern tiedown apron. He anticipated that design the following day. The Port was strongly encouraged to improve the tiedown area this year.

SECURITY SIGNS: Young offered suggested language for new security signs at the airport. Committee members noted the signs wouldn't have an impact unless security is enforced, and there was discussion about involving the Hood River County Sheriff's Office in this.

PRIORITIES: The committee said the airport's priorities included tiedowns, sinkhole, runway lights, removing trees to benefit the AWOS, operable security gates and mowing. Doke noted he would develop budget estimates for these in March for the committee's consideration.

AIRPORT MASTER PLAN

Mike Benedict said he attended the meeting to get a sense of what the Airport Advisory Committee was anticipating with the upcoming county review of the Airport

Master Plan. He noted he has worked with the Port to develop an Oregon Department of Land Conservation and Development grant to help fund the consultant that will be heading this effort, adding he was awaiting word on the grant before beginning the review process; Benedict noted any costs incurred prior to the possible grant award could not be reimbursed by grant proceeds. He followed with a brief summary of the county review process.

Young noted a persistent concern that he hears is that the runway would be lengthened; the master plan calls for a 550-foot eastward runway shift but not a longer runway that may attract larger plans.

Doke offered to develop four or five key points that summarize the master plan's goals.

Committee members were encouraged to participate in the master plan review process, especially any town hall-style hearings.

GEESE ON AIRPORT

There was a lot of discussion on how to manage geese at the airport with no solutions developed.

MAINTENANCE

A variety of maintenance issues were discussed, including renovating the northern tiedown area, asphalt work and adding taxiway signs. Maintenance will be discussed in detail at the upcoming subcommittee meeting, which will be held in February. Capital improvement projects including a grass runway, security and fencing will be reviewed at that meeting as well.

Young noted the need for an aircraft mechanic on site at the airport.

NEXT MEETING

Young asked the committee if it could meet in March. Doke requested a late March meeting so that budget numbers can be developed. The meeting was tentatively set for Thursday, March 27, at Western Antique Aeroplane and Automobile Museum conference room.

Young adjourned the meeting at 11:15 a.m.