



## Port of Anacortes

### Anacortes Airport Advisory Committee

### Minutes of the Meeting of January 27, 2014

The AAAC met on January 27, 2014, at 5:30 P.M.

Attending committee members: Tom Fritzler, Warren Walz, Dan McCrosky, Richard Storwick, Anni Brogan and Chair Eric Ufkes.

Absent: Al Bush and Val Johnson,

Attending for the Port: Josh Beaner – Aviation & Marine Services Manager, Bob Hyde – Executive Director, Chris Johnson – Deputy Executive Director, Julie Johnson Lindsey – Executive Assistant.

Also in attendance: Commissioner Bill Short

Call to Order: Eric called the meeting to order at 5:38 p.m. It was determined that no introductions were needed.

Public Comment Period – There were no public comments.

Old Business:

#### Airplane counter -

Josh Beaner reported the airplane counter was up and running for approximately 3-4 months and then quit again. It was older technology. The technician who services the counter is coming to repair it this week until the new system the Port has ordered has arrived and is installed. The new system should be able to collect data from the old system. The Port had budgeted for a new system in 2015, but due to the old system's failure, will install a new system now. The new counter will read all ambient noises and measure only those that are an airplane specific frequency. The counter will not record jets from NAS Whidbey or neighbor's lawnmowers. The new equipment is FAA compliant.

Tom asked if a counter was a requirement. Josh explained the FAA desires to have this information and uses it to consider funding. Anni asked whether this information was provided in addition to paid enplanements. Josh responded affirmatively and noted it benefits the Port to have the best information possible. The Port has received no complaints from neighbors with the exception of last summer's fly-in with flour bags being dropped on the runway.

#### Asphalt sealing –

Josh noted the Port now has its own Fog Seal equipment and will be sealing the asphalt this year in sections. A day to do the runway will be scheduled in advance since the runway will need to be closed for the day. Once upgrades are made at the airport, the FAA will provide additional funding.

#### Airport Survey –

Josh reported the Port has put together a survey that he is sending to all members of the committee for on-line, anonymous responses. The Port would like their honest opinions on a variety of questions regarding the airport. The Port wishes to begin building a data base for airport users and neighbors. The survey is being sent to this committee and to Amy at the Washington Pilot's Association and to airport tenants. The Port will plan to do two surveys a year in the future and plans to bring the results back to the committee for comments and suggestions. Bob Hyde noted this would help the Port to prioritize projects at the airport.

#### Pilot's Lounge –

Josh reported that upgrades to the new pilot's lounge are nearly complete. The pilots group has been very helpful. Warren noted the handle on the bathroom door doesn't lock and he had some used handles if one was needed. The restroom facility is appreciated. Warren noted a sign indicating "Pilots' Lounge and Restroom" was needed.

Anni suggested a soda machine or a donation bin for stocking the fridge with soda and bottle water would be nice. There is coffee there currently and bottled water in a cooler.

Richard suggested having more brochures about Anacortes and local information from the Chamber of Commerce and volunteered to go and pick some up and place them in the lounge. Josh noted the lounge has a bulletin board as well. Anni and Warren expressed appreciation of the facility with Warren noting it was much nicer than just a port-a-potty.

#### AWOS –

Josh reported he and Port Project Manager Brady Rowe went to Chelan, WA last week and viewed their super AWOS. All pilots they spoke to were very pleased with the system. Chelan purchased their super AWOS with FAA funding prior to the FAA determining it would no longer

fund anything other than a larger AWOS. The super AWOS is no longer funded by the FAA. The Port plans to purchase its own super AWOS and have it in place by May of this year.

Warren noted the systems could be sensitive and wondered if it might interfere with other systems in the area. Anni noted the systems are adjustable. Josh confirmed this to be the case. Warren asked whether the system would also be land-line capable and Josh confirmed it would be, Chris Johnson noted the new super AWOS has been presented to the Commission. Anni noted that when the new system was installed there would be pilots willing to fly over and assist with information for calibrating the system.

#### Hangar Rentals –

Josh reported that all 39 of the Port's hangars are full except for one which the Port uses to store snow removal equipment. There is a waiting list for hangars. The Port's storage sheds and an office space are also full. Josh explained these are month to month leases.

Tom thought annual lease would be preferable with less turnover. Chris noted the hangars have over 80% occupancy for the year. Josh noted that typically there would be four turnovers a year. In response to Richard's inquiry, Josh explained that tenants are not allowed to sublet their hangars.

Dan inquired if there had been any Homeland Security issues. Josh replied there had not been any issues and noted the airport is fully fenced and has cameras in some areas and could have more in the future.

Warren reported the hangar doors can be difficult to push in the winter, especially hangar #30. Anni suggested a regular schedule for lubing the doors. Josh noted this is usually done quarterly and he would check with Port facilities regarding the maintenance. Anni noted the door bolts can become bent in the wind too. Josh will check the door bolts.

New Business:

#### Fuel System –

Josh reported the most recent repair of the fuel tank was working up to 3,000 gallons and then the pump would start pulling air. The contractor returned and pumped out all of the fuel and was able to reinstall new pumps, down to 1,000 gallons. The FBBO will have to order fuel before the amount drops below that and Clyde has indicated he will do so.

The tanks have a 10,000 capacity. The Port would like to see the tanks kept at 5,000 which is the minimum recommended by the contractor doing the repairs. Problems ensue when the tanks are kept too low. At this point after repairs, everything inside the tanks, with the exception of the tanks themselves is brand new.

### Lighting System –

Josh explained a pilot reported the runway lights had shut off during his landing. The Port has tested the lights and found no problems. The lights are on a timer switch that stays on for 15 minutes at 5 clicks and turns off at 8 clicks. With six or seven clicks the flashers come on as well. This lighting system has been in place for close to nine years with this being the only complaint.

In response to questions from Dan, Anni and Warren explained how the common traffic advisory frequency worked and how different airports use a different number of clicks. For example, at the Anacortes airport, three clicks provides automated weather and five clicks turns on the runway lights. When landing here you can also hear others landing at other airports in the area, such as Friday Harbor. Pilots use a standardized language.

### FAA Involvement –

Josh reported the Port is in a good spot and has reconnected well with the FAA. With continued upgrades, the Port hopes to receive FAA Funding for future projects.

Anni questioned the fencing. Josh noted the Port has to complete an FAA required wildlife assessment. There have been instances of coyotes burrowing under the fence. Josh noted the underground portion of the fence should fan out away from the fence and it appears some areas are the opposite.

### 2014 WA Pilot Association Events –

A pancake feed is scheduled for February 15<sup>th</sup> from 9-12. The Port will provide tables and chairs. The 2014 Fly-In is scheduled for August 9<sup>th</sup>. The event was moved to August in hopes of having better weather. Warren has confirmed a Boeing b-plane the 40-C is interested in attending. This is the same weekend as the Abbotsford, B.C. airshow. There will also be planes for static displays.

Bob Hyde inquired whether the BlackJacks squadron would be doing a flyover. He will check with Lee Dawes about their availability.

### Other discussion:

Car Gate - Anni noted the car gate has had issues. Josh believed this was the nature of the design of this long gate where the chain becomes stretched and other components become worn. Port maintenance has ordered new parts for the gate and will repair it for better operations as soon as possible

Heritage Flight Museum – has now moved from the Port of Bellingham to the Port of Skagit, adjacent to the airport. The museum has purchased the VIA jets hangars and will have a grand opening on April 26<sup>th</sup>. Starting in February they will be displaying one plane per month. They

have about a dozen and all but one are in flyable condition. The astronaut who took the photograph "Earth Rise" is a principle partner in the museum.

Hangars – Dan inquired how many privately owned hangars there are at the airport. Josh explained the Port leases the land, but does not own the private buildings or handle their leases. The Port owns and rents hangars separately from those that are privately owned. Warren indicated the positions of the hangars on the comprehensive plan map.

Drainage – Anni asked how drainage was at the airport. Josh noted drainage inspection was part of the Port's routine maintenance. Chris noted Anni was referring to a drainage study the Port did and presented to the FAA for possible funding of an updated drainage system, but the FAA has put it on hold. Bob Hyde noted the City is looking to improve drainage down below the airport to San Juan Passage. He believed the next phases of development would necessitate improvements to the City drainage system.

Future meetings – Chris suggested a future meeting of the committee be held at the pilot's lounge.

Next Meeting - Josh noted last year the committee elected to skip meeting during the summer and held a meeting in April, then another in early June and in late September. The committee decided on Monday, April 21<sup>st</sup> at 5:30 p.m. at the airport. Dan noted his appreciation of all keeping the meetings moving along.

Annie asked if there had been any more issues or questions about the Mustang jet. Josh noted there had been no calls after the Port sent out all of the information provided by the committee.

#### Adjourn:

With no further business or discussion, Eric moved to adjourn, seconded by Warren.

The meeting adjourned at 6:33 p.m.