

**VERMONT AVIATION ADVISORY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING
DILL BUILDING
2178 AIRPORT ROAD
BARRE, VT 05641
February 20th, 2024**

***Hybrid meeting**

ATTENDEES:

Council Members:

Bob Flint SRDC
Christopher Carrigan
Cliff Coy

Linda Sullivan
Jamie Hildebrant

Other Attendees:

Transportation Sec. Joe
Flynn (VTrans)

Libby, Paul (VTrans)

Delabruere, Daniel
(VTrans)

Tebbetts, Rollin (VTrans)

Brassard, Trini (VTrans)

Bannerman, Percy (VTrans)

Tillberg, David (VTrans)

Dejan, Sasa (VTrans)

Owen, Jason (VTrans)

Nummy, John (VTrans)

Luchini, Robert

Pinsonault, Brian (D&K)

Christopher Reece

Davies, Simon

Nick Ovitt

Michael Strand

Hehir, John

Karen Duguay

Lamoureux, Schuyler

Marsden, Heath

Mary Kay Genthner

Miller, Cody (Albany)

Pappis, Costa (VTrans)

Schasfer, Bob

Tapper, Guy (VTrans)

1. CALL TO ORDER and ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dan Delabruere called the meeting to order at 1:01 PM. Introductions were done. Quorum not present. Linda Sullivan, the newest council member, introduced herself.

2. APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

(from November 14th, 2023)

Quorum not present, so this item postponed until next council meeting.

3. STATEWIDE HANGAR MASTER PERMITTING UPDATE

Robert Luchini, VTrans consultant working for MacFarland Johnson, spoke about the State airport master permitting process and updating status.

Robert went over the current state of the permitting process. He reiterated that these are permits for partial findings. Not for construction.

Showed a map of progress at the airports:

Green – Partial findings Act 250 review completed

NEK Int'l, Morrisville-Stowe, Caledonia, Knapp

Yellow – in progress, still in Act 250

Middlebury, Hartness

Red – not submitted yet to Act 250

Rutland and Bennington

At Franklin County – submitted Act 250. Grassland habitat for birds needs to be resolved. Coordinating with VT Fish and Wildlife.

At Rutland Southern – complete stormwater permitting. Still in review for water & wastewater review. Hope to have Act 250 application in this Spring.

Hartness – Submitted Oct 2023, currently in Act 250 review.

Bennington – We have operational stormwater, working with ANR on solution to septic with Geotech investigations and unusual high water table at this location. Hope to have Act 250 this summer.

Q: Bob Flint. Are amendments minor or major?

Rob L. – These are major.

Dan – Eyeopener for us. Definitely taking longer than we thought, but when done will be great definitely get hangar owners closer. It's taken us 3 years but would be much tougher for hangar owners without this.

Comment: Want to commend State for doing this. The need for additional hangar space is great.

Dan D – to clarify this is to clear as many findings as possible, but there is still going to be a final step by any developer, but a lot of the heavy lifting.

4. FY25 GOVERNORS RECOMMENDED BUDGET

Dan D. – This is for next State budget that would begin July of this year. Dan went through the current governor recommended budget line by line and touched on each one. Bennington, full reconstruction of the apron due to pavement issues. Have avigation easements on S end and obstructions to remove on the S end. Starting PE and design work for next phase of parallel taxiway on the N end. We know there will be some wetland issues over there. FAA requires that we do an Environmental Assessment. Knapp airport, avigation easements we need to get to deal with known obstructions. Rutland, RWY 1-19 (main) is going to have a full rehab. Hopefully next summer. It is going to be a significant project. The crosswind runway will stay open with the exception of a short closure when we go through intersection. While runway is closed, going to do some maintenance on the EMAS system (arrest, like a runway ramp on a highway). Some of the joints need to be re-caulked & repainted. In front of the terminal,

a section of the apron needs to be redone. We have TSA in Rutland due to scheduled service, and line in budget pays that.

NEK Int'l new terminal building to replace tired one there. Old cinderblock building there now and it's time for a new one.

Franklin County – Last year we had a successful runway reconstruction project there. Now moving to phase 2 to add additional 1000 ft to make runway length 4000 ft. Several different buckets used (line items) due to how funding comes from different sources.

New Master Plan update as Franklin as well.

New extension of Taxiway M to the North. Starting PE.

Middlebury – A permit requirement for vegetation monitoring is required annually, so line item for that. Fuel farm there is out of service. We've removed the tank. We have a new fuel farm being designed. Working to get new fuel farm there ASAP. Looking at potential new terminal, which is triggering an environmental assessment.

In Morrisville-Stowe, looking at adding additional parallel taxiway to the South. Have to do an obstruction study to meet FAA compliance.

South Burlington – We participate in a funding match.

Springfield – Project years in the making. Trying to rehab the main runway there.

Problem is the study was based on FAA criteria, and FAA said we're eligible for 5000' to rehab. Now it is 5500' and we don't want to give up any runway so trying to find funding for the difference to not lose length. Have aviation easements to allow us to remove obstructions.

Statewide line items. These are operation funds for plowing, mowing, parking lots, building maintenance and things like that. Aviation staff also in the budget.

We contribute to CAP to support the service they perform throughout the State.

The last two line items are construction for pavement maintenance. We do at different airports every year to patch up until there's a project. Engineering for one line item, and construction for the other one.

5. PROJECT UPDATES, INCLUDING MASTER PLAN UPDATES

Dan D. – Turn over to project updates.

Paul Libby spoke about projects in general and then turned the floor over to Project Managers working on specific airport improvements and maintenance.

John Nummy Morrisville-Stowe – New fuel farm almost operational. Modifications to the electrical system are complete. AvGAS system planned to be in operation on 2/26.

Will be monitored for 24 hours and do a clean fuel test before opening fuel for public sale. Jet A replacement tank projected for delivery late Spring.

Rutland -Southern. Rehab for RWY 1-19. Mill and overlaying entire length, including intersection with RWY 13-31. REL electrical upgrades. Width and profile corrections. Projected start is May 2024. Coordinating with Cape Air, FAA and airport users. Plan is to have RW 1-19 closed 24/7 for 48 days and closed 12 nights for grooving and marking. TWY B (West) Closed 3 days that will require back taxiing on RWY 13-31 will be necessary. All RWs and TWs closed for another 3 days. John shared summary of closures in a table. Exact construction schedule not yet available.

Sasa Dejan – Middlebury Airport Master Plan update complete. Working on Airport layout plan update. Existing fuel farm removed. Working on new fuel farm design. Working to procure new system with goal to be complete 2024/2025. The location of the new system is essentially the same as the old one.

EF Knapp – Airport Master Plan update waiting on FAA approval process. For forecast, no changes to the runway. Design aircraft expected to remain the same for the next 20 years.

Paul on behalf of Kyle Wells - Franklin RWY/TWY extensions and tree clearing. They logged this winter using draft horses in the wetland areas.

Dan – We spent a lot of time phasing the construction of the RWY/TWY construction to limit closure to the users. When we work in the safety areas, we have to do closures.

Dan pointed out the table that shows the closures and spoke about the phases. He said no exact schedule yet and this is subject to change, but now being told by contractor they are going to start April 15th. First closure is June 16th – June 30th. Then they start the 45 day closure the next day, closing the runway for 59 days straight. Our intent was to have a small window in-between, but contractor's current plan closes airport from June 16th - August 15th. Still subject to change but wanted to give everyone as much info as we know now.

NEK Int'l - Act 250 Land Use amendment in review. Operation stormwater permit in review. Hope to have new terminal soon there.

Dan D – this summer two of our busiest airports have closures this summer, Rutland and Franklin. We are going to have a busy Summer.

Question Michael Strand – 2 businesses at Franklin County. Any look into displaced threshold for simultaneous operations to occur.

Dan – Yes, didn't turn out to be a good option.

Question Cliff Coy – No mention of water and sewer. Any update on bringing to the airport.

Dan D – I don't have an update. I know it's moving forward, but didn't get team to get me that info. I will respond offline.

Question Nick – What's the crossover on Rutland. When are both Franklin and Rutland closed?

Dan D. – John Nummy – we don't yet have a settled schedule from contractor. They are allowed to choose an order. It leaves them some flexibility with how they phase the construction. We know will be 3 days. May 6th single runway closure for 45 days begins.

Question Nick – Just curious if could be concurrent.

Dan D. – It could be.

6. MORRISVILLE-STOWE FBO UPDATE

Dan D. – Still negotiating and in discussions, but agreements not finalized. Just want to bring to council that we are still working on it and still hoping this will still happen. Hopefully soon, we will have an FBO soon at MVL.

Question Cliff Coy – With no FBO at Morrisville do you have state employee that will be doing daily fuel testing?

Dan D. – Yes. Will be self-serve with QT system.

7. MAINTENANCE UPDATES

Rollin Tebbets spoke saying we will have new sweeper soon at Springfield. All done with State funds. We've had 12 events this Winter season. We had some very strong wind events, and heavy wet snow at Middlebury.

Eclipse will be on April 8th. We are coordinating with FAA on planning.

Dan D. – Check NOTAMs there may be point, if it's not safe, that we will close. People just expect an airport to be open and that they'll be able to land, but we'll have our staff monitoring. Especially a concern at our Northern airports. If it does get to a point that we don't think we can park or stage any more aircraft, we will close our airport. So, please check your NOTAMs.

Question Kevin – Can you do something on our website or Instagram like “if you intend on coming in that day let us know”? We expect we can handle about 200 aircraft.

Rollin Tebbets – Referring people to FBO if want to reserve spot.

Kevin – our main concern is one public restroom, if we get 1000 people will be a lot.

Dan – that's why we're having these planning minutes now.

Kevin – considered porta potties up here?

Dan – Haven't made that decision yet.

Kevin – would be good to at least get a sense for what we're in for.

Question – Michael Straham Franklin – any communications with ANR and their attempts to establish a bird habitat there? Any update?

Transportation Secretary Joe Flynn – We have a draft agreement with ANR and VT Fish & Wildlife. It basically is not establishing much more than what was there. They have agreed to take jump polygon in NE (hatched on map) out of their area of concern. So, think we're making great progress.

Question – Any mention of the second runway? If they could get rid of the runway or keep them?

Dan – Don't know if specifically was talked about, but a wind analysis came back that was not favorable to keeping the runway. Not sure if the FAA would consider that RWY eligible if a grant was applied for that runway. No grant has been applied for, so we haven't specifically asked that question. Wind analysis showed the main runway could cover the majority of the flights, which doesn't support having a crosswind runway.

8. PUBLIC INPUT

Dan D. Opened floor for brief comments, there were none.

9. ADJOURNMENT

Next meeting will be on Tuesday May 21st, 2024, from 1-3 PM. Agenda and notification will be sent prior to that meeting.

With no further business and without objection, the meeting was adjourned at 2:13 PM.