

# AIRPORT STUDY TASK FORCE MINUTES

## FEBRUARY 28, 2008 @ 3:30 P.M.

2<sup>ND</sup> Floor Conference Room  
County Administration Building  
189 E. Court Street, Kankakee

### IN ATTENDANCE:

**Members** – Mr. Kenneth Hearn, Ms. Loretto Cowhig, Mr. Mike Van Mill, Mr. Jason Licon, Mr. George Hawker

**Staff** – Mr. Mike Lammey, Mr. Jim Greenstreet, Mr. Delbert Skimerhorn, Mr. Michael Martin

**Others** – Mr. Shane Saathoff, Mr. Dave Bergdahl, Mr. Lee Provost, Ms. Aimee McSparin, Mr. Kelly McLaren, Mr. Mel Blanchette

### CALL TO ORDER:

Mike Van Mill called the meeting to order at 3:32 P.M. Mr. Van Mill explained the funding source being the MPO planning Fund and how this study was initiated and developed. Mr. Van Mill explained the different entities that made up the commission and funding amounts from each group. The City of Kankakee contributed \$20,000, MPO Planning Fund \$20,000 and Kankakee County \$5,000. He stated that the Airport Authority Board would take action on their contribution in the near future. The intent of the study is to look into the land use, transportation and economic development issues surrounding the airport.

### INTRODUCTION OF TASK FORCE MEMBERS:

Everyone present at the meeting introduced themselves by name and affiliation.

Mr. Kenneth Hearn – Alderman, City of Kankakee

Ms. Loretto Cowhig – RPC & Kankakee Planning Commission

Mr. Mike Van Mill – Kankakee County Director of Planning and Economic Alliance

Mr. Jason Licon – Kankakee Valley Airport Authority, KVAA

Mr. George Hawker - Kankakee Valley Airport Authority, KVAA

Mr. Mike Lammey – Kankakee County Planning

Mr. Jim Greenstreet - Kankakee County Planning

Mr. Delbert Skimerhorn - Kankakee County Planning

Mr. Michael Martin - Kankakee County Planning

Mr. Shane Saathoff – WKAN

Mr. Dave Bergdahl – RPC

Mr. Lee Provost – Kankakee Daily Journal

Ms. Aimee McSparin – The Harold

Mr. Kelly McLaren – Kankakee County Board

Mr. Mel Blanchette – RPC Bourbonnais Township

### PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD:

None

**ELECTION OF OFFICERS:**

Mike Van Mill – Chairman

Motion made by Mr. Hawker and seconded by Mr. Hearn, unanimous vote.

Jason Licon – Vice Chairman

Motion made by Mr. Hawker and seconded by Mr. Hearn, unanimous vote.

**MEETING NOTICE PROCEDURES:**

Mr. Lammey explained the public notice procedures of Kankakee County. Mr. Lammey also stated that notification will be made to local libraries, Kankakee County department heads, Board Members and the news media. Agenda will be posted on the Kankakee County Planning Department website. (see memo from Mr. Lammey to Task Force dated 2-5-2008). Mr. Hawker and Jason Licon also wanted Robert Glade - chairman of KVAA, to also receive all notifications.

**STUDY TIMELINE :**

Mr. Lammey discussed the timeline available to complete the study. He explained that meetings would be monthly and that he expects to complete the project in approximately 7-8 months. Mr. Van Mill suggested using month number as opposed to specific dates.

**AIRPORT DEVELOPMENT PRESENTATION:**

Mr. Licon gave a presentation on the Kankakee Valley Airport Authority (KVAA) that formed in 1957. The airport was constructed in 1961 for a cost of \$805,500.00 with federal, state and local funds. Over the years runways were added and lengthened, additional taxi ways and hangers were constructed, FAA flight station added, grounds maintenance building constructed, city sewer and water service added. Several companies are based at the airport. Services include flight training, aircraft rental & maintenance, fuel services etc. Aircraft storage makes up 54% of airport revenue. Capital projects makes up 40% of airport expenses. KVAA would like to attract new aviation businesses and operations. Greater Kankakee Airport received the “airport of the year” award in 2001.

**Questions/Comments-**

Mr. Van Mill asked about airport use, whether it is increasing or decreasing. Mr. Licon said there has been a drop in hobbyist uses however, an increase in corporate use. Mr. Hearn asked how many acres the airport owned. Mr. Licon answered that the airport consists of approximately 900 acres. Mr. McLaren asked how much of airport property was crop land. Mr. Licon answered 1/2 is cropland. Mr. McLaren asked about the useful life of an asphalt overlay. Mr. Licon answered 15-20 years. Mr. Hearn asked about the difference between asphalt and concrete. Mr. Licon said that they are basically equivalent, concrete costs more but lasts longer, asphalt is cheaper but doesn't last as long. Mr. Hearn asked if the runways needed to be longer. Mr. Licon answered that the airplane weight is their biggest issue as opposed to runway length.

Mr. Bergdahl asked about height restrictions of cell towers etc. near an airport. Mr. Licon answered that currently there is a 150' height restriction that circles the airport. This restriction extends approximately two miles off ends of runway. Mr. Hearn stated that we don't want to see what happened at O'Hare airport that houses were built at the ends of runways after the airport was already there. Everyone agreed.

**DISCUSSION OF STUDY ISSUES:**

**Study area** - needs to be determined. It was generally discussed that approximately one mile surrounding the airport property would make up the study area.

**Land Use Regulations** – Mr. Skimerhorn would be the contact person for items pertaining to land use.

**Transportation Issues** – Mr. Lammey would be the contact person for items pertaining to transportation issues.

**Economic Development Issues** – Mr. Van Mill would be the contact person for items pertaining to economic development issues.

**Work Plan development** – The airport study task force will determine the work plan in conjunction with prospective consultants for the airport study.

**CONSULTANT SELECTION PROCEDURES:**

Mr. Lammey discussed the short timeline for completion of the study thus the need to retain a consultant a high priority for the airport study. Advertisement for consultants will need to be placed in a news paper with the largest local circulation to obtain consultant proposals. Consultants would have to be interviewed and selected by the task force. Interviews are tentatively scheduled for April 2008. After selection a contract would have to be entered into with the consultant. It was discussed that we would list our ad for consultants on APA website.

**TASK FORCE APPROVAL OF PUBLIC NOTICE FOR CONSULTANTS:**

Mr. Lammey asked if the task force should place an ad for a consultant. It was determined by the task force that it was too early to advertise for consultants and that the task force needed to define the project scope more thoroughly.

**QUESTIONS FROM THE NEWS MEDIA:**

Mr. Provost asked what the study area would include. Mr. Licon said that he envisioned one mile around the airport property. Mr. Provost asked what would be the best land use around the airport. Mr. Licon said he didn't know at this point but obviously had concerns that residential housing would not work well with the airport.

**MEETING SCHEDULE:**

Mr. Lammey discussed the meeting schedule by mentioning the meeting will be held on the last Thursday of every month. Next meeting scheduled for March 27, 2008 @ 3:30 P.M.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Hearn moved to adjourn and Mr. Hawker seconded, unanimous vote. Chairman Van Mill adjourned the meeting at 4:35 P.M.