

MID-WAY REGIONAL AIRPORT JOINT AIRPORT BOARD MINUTES

A special meeting of the Mid-Way Regional Airport Joint Airport Board was held on Wednesday, May 27, 2009, at 4:00 p.m. at the Mid-Way Regional Airport, 131 Airport Drive.

Members Present:

Al Castleman, Chairman
Dale Stevenson, Vice Chairman
George Kent
Aubrey Price
Glynn Hall
Paula Baucum

Members Absent: Mark Morgan, Secretary

Others Present:

Andy Biery, Airport Manager
Tammy Bowen, Airport Operations
Ken Chambers, Councilman, City of Midlothian
Bill Gunn, Director of Systems and Training Planning, TxDOT Aviation
Megan Grey, Reporter, Ellis County Press

Opening: Chairman Al Castleman called the meeting to order and Glynn Hall gave the invocation.

Glider Operations: Andy Biery had a two hour discussion with the Board concerning glider operations at the Airport. The issue was stationary objects in the runway safety area while other airplanes take off and land. Andy read the Board some information from the FAA's Guide to Sponsor Obligations for Airport Compliance, Assurances for Airport Sponsors and the Airport's Rules and Regulations which relate to the subject discussed. Bill Gunn from TxDOT presented the Board with some relevant information on the situation. After lengthy deliberation over the issue, the Board was in agreement that operating off of the grass is a safer option for right now opposed to operating off of the asphalt runway. The intent of the Board is to fix the Object Free Area by having culverts placed in the drainage ditch on the east side of the runway so that the gliders and the equipment can be moved past the Object Free Area. The Board agreed this should be done during the runway construction phase because it will save money by using the dirt from the runway expansion project as fill for the culvert project. As suggested by Bill Gunn, Carol Walker volunteered to contact Frank Fortmann with the San Antonio FSDO, to see if she can get a copy of the written agreement that they had come up with for glider operations at Castroville. Also, it was suggested that other Airports in a similar situation be contacted to see if they might provide a copy of the standing letter of agreement with the FAA. Even though the Board was aware that making the motion would be going against the Airport's written rules and regulations and the obligations to the FAA, four out of the five members present were in agreement that it was best to bend the rules for safety reasons until a permanent fix can be made.

Paula Baucum motioned to approve moving the glider operations back to the grassy area and readdress the issue at the next Board meeting. Also, any operation that will be occurring east of the runway, including glider operations, must provide written plans prior to beginning their operations. Those currently operating there, including the glider operations, will be given twenty-four hours to submit their plans: second by Aubrey Price and carried by a vote of 4-1 with Glynn Hall voting in opposition.

Adjournment: There being no further business,

Paula Baucum moved to adjourn; second by George Kent. All Ayes.