



NATCHITOCHE'S REGIONAL AIRPORT
City of Natchitoches
450 Wallenberg Drive
Natchitoches, LA 71457

NATCHITOCHE'S AIRPORT COMMISSION
Monday, January 22, 2024
5:00 p.m.

A G E N D A

- I. Convene Meeting
- II. Minutes for November 20, 2023
- III. Old Business
 - A. Airport Project Updates
 - B. Airport Employee Update
 - C. Fuel Tax Aviation Update
- IV. New Business
 - A. Airport Manager's Fuel Sales Report, November and December 2023
 - B. Winter Weather Updates on the Airport
- V. Announcements
 - A. The next regular monthly meeting of the Airport Advisory Commission will take place on; Tuesday, February 20, 2024 at 5:00 p.m. at the Airport Terminal building. Due to the Presidents Day holiday falls on Monday, February 19, 2024.
- VI. Adjournment

NATCHITOCHEs REGIONAL AIRPORT ADVISORY COMMISSION
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES
Monday, November 20, 2023

MEMBERS PRESENT: Gilson, Gil
Maxey, James
McCain, Jack, Jr.
Salter, Stanley

ALSO PRESENT: Cooper, Larry
Walker, Regina R.

GUESTS: Durr, Daniel
Thompson, Ron

MEMBERS ABSENT: Bolton, Janice
Parker, Sam
Rice, Cliff

CONVENE MEETING:

Chair Stanley Salter called the regular monthly meeting of the Natchitoches Regional Airport Advisory Commission to order on Monday, November 20, 2023 at 5:00 p.m.

MINUTES:

Chair Salter called for a motion to accept the minutes as written for October 16, 2023. Motion made by Commissioner McCain, seconded by Commissioner Gilson, motion passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS:

Airport Project Updates:

Airport manager Larry Cooper reported the following on the Airport projects:

- At the Monday, November 13, 2023 City Council meeting, the City Council approved the Airport to introduce the invitation to bid on the Ag Ramp/Wash Rack project. The bids will be opened in December 2023 and construction should begin in February 2024.

- An architect along with KSA visited the Airport to review the Air Data Solution's hangar door situation. They will compose a design for a new hangar door. The new hangar doors should be installed in April or May 2024.
- The new fuel tank for the Fuel Farm will go out for bids in December 2023; the new fuel tanks should be installed in March or April 2024.
- After the above-mentioned projects are completed and if there's available funds along with the funds from infra structure the Airport will begin the process to pave Wallenberg Drive.
- The FAA project manager and assistants visited the Airport on Friday, December 8, 2023 from Fort Worth, TX. They toured the T-hangars, Air Data Solution's hangar, as well as other hangars on the Airport. The FAA was impressed with Air Data Solutions, Air Med, and the crop dustings current activities and their potential growth. The FAA was also pleased to see that the funds they provided to the Airport have been used as they were designed to be used.
- Ameriseal of Ohio, the contractor on the Runway 17-35, Taxiways, and Apron Rehabilitation project has exceeded their 25 days contract period due to cool and raining days. Weather permitting runway 17-35 it will be finished on Wednesday, November 22.
- The primer was installed on Runway 7-25 the morning of Monday, November 20, they will try to seal it on Tuesday, November 21 or Wednesday, November 22.
- Will try to open Runway 7-25 the afternoon of Wednesday, November 22 but with the cooler weather coming, it will probably open on Saturday, November 25.
- Runway 17-35 will not open up until after the ramp is complete. If runway 17-35 opens, a jet will want to land and there is no place for them to park.
- The Airport has not given permission for take offs on any part of the pavement on the Airport. If pilots take off it is totally their decision to do so, the Airport is not responsible.

- Runway 17-35 and the ramp is going to take seven days to install primer and seal coat, weather permitting it should open Thursday, November 30.
- Stripe painting the runways and installing new reflectors will take place after seal coat process is complete.
- The Fuel Master went down; it is going to show a Notam it is not functioning.

Airport Employees Update:

Mr. Cooper reported that the Airport is currently fully staff with good workers. However, the Airport is slow and now there is too many on staff. Nevertheless, the Airport does not have to close early and they have been able to complete tasks that they were not able to do before due not being fully staffed.

Fuel Tax for Aviation Fund:

Mr. Cooper was at the LAMA Conference on November 6th and 7th and met with Senators Heather Cloud and Patrick McMath supporters of the Aviation Trust Fund. The Aviation Trust fund has not been reviewed by Legislative session since 2012.

Legislators wanted to cut the Aviation Trust fund from \$28 million a year to \$12 million a year.

Senators Cloud and McMath convinced them to give back the \$28 million to Aviation Trust.

Taxes on the Avgas and Jet-A fuel purchases has to be separated from any other sold oil or hangar rent etc.

Mr. Cooper talked to the City's Finance Department and they said they do separate the taxes and send in that information.

The Airport has to have a fuel dealer's license, which no one knew about however, the Airport is currently working on getting the license.

If the Aviation Trust fund is cut to \$12 million you will not see projects on this Airport as you see them now, it may come to one project every two years.

The Aviation Trust fund should be \$40 to \$50 million every year base on the current rate of fuel. \$29 million Aviation Trust Fund is base at \$2.00 a gallons.

Mr. Cooper will keep the Commission updated on the Aviation Trust fund issue as it develops.

NEW BUSINESS:

Airport Manager's Fuel Sales Report October 2023:

	Same Period Last Year (2022)	Oct. 16, 2023 - Nov. 20, 2023
Fuel Sales:		
100 LL	3,705	2,540
Jet-A	5,978	10,232
<u>Totals:</u>	<u>9,683</u>	<u>12,772</u>
<u>No Fuel Flowage Fee to report at this time</u>		

Cane River Flying Club Mr. Ron Thompson:

Mr. Thompson reported the following:

The Cane River Flying Club is a social club for aviation enthusiasts. The club is registered with the State of Louisiana as a non-profit corporation and has a board of directors who provide over sight of the club. The club will provide affordable access to a plane for its members, along with a social outlet for aviation enthusiasts to gather and learn about aviation related issues, discuss safety concerns among general aviation, and share hangar stories of flying.

The Cane River Flying Club will be located at the Natchitoches Regional Airport because it's a top level regional airport and its located minutes from historic downtown Natchitoches and adjacent to Northwestern State University.

The flying club provides a way of aviators to access a local plane for a faction of the cost of owning and maintaining a personal aircraft.

Members purchase a membership with a one-time membership fee of \$2,000.00, plus a monthly membership fee of \$100.00 to remain active. Active members then pay an hourly usage fee (wet) of \$100.00/each hour to use the plane.

The core values of the Cane River Flying Club are to access affordable, reliable, high quality aircraft for their members, and safety in aircraft operations for their members as well as the greater general aviation community, and value a vibrant and active general aviation community in Natchitoches.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- A. The annual Airport Christmas Party is to take place on; Wednesday, December 6, 2023; 6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.
- B. There is no regular monthly meeting of the Airport Advisory Commission in December 2023.
- C. The next regular monthly meeting of the Airport Advisory Commission will take place on; Tuesday, January 16, 2024 at 5:00 p.m. at the Airport Terminal building. Due to the MLK holiday falls on Monday, January 15, 2024.

ADJOURNMENT:

Being there were no further announcements, questions, or comments Commissioner Gilson made a motion to adjourn the Monday, November 20, 2023 meeting, seconded by Commission Maxey, motion passed unanimously, meeting was adjourned.