

STAFF REPORT

TO: Council Enterprises Subcommittee
FROM: Motueka Aerodrome Manager
REFERENCE: A303
DATE: 13 November 2005
SUBJECT: Motueka Aerodrome Report November 2005

FINANCIAL STATUS

The balance sheet to the end of September is attached. This follows a similar path to last months report with income streams appear to be reasonable with landing fees being slightly down which is expected at this time of year. I have also had some discussions with Council's Accountant, Murray Staite, to see if the accounts can show more clearly all income and expenditure streams so that the fiscal health of this enterprise is fully transparent.

I have also requested the latest set of figures for the end of November when these become available and will table them at the meeting if they arrive in time.

TAXIWAY CONTRACT

The refurbishment of the grass runway which has been let to Concrete and Metals has been completed to the point of grass being sown. With the dry weather I have had to provide for additional watering to ensure that the grass has a good take. The work done by Concrete and Metals appears to be to a good standard and I am advised that the tenants are happy with the work done. The taxiway will provide a short-term runway when the grass runway is taken out of action for a similar refurbishment work, which is anticipated to be carried out in approximately three years time. This change will require authorization from the Civil Aviation Authority.

OTHER WORKS

The taxiway work has created a few additional work items. We have had to pay some additional costs for mowing, as alternate temporary taxiways had to be established and also the balance of top-soil (which is needed for the runway refurbishment) has had to be removed from the A&P Showgrounds site onto the airport land pending future use.

The Lower Moutere Water Scheme Committee has been granted a licence to place their watermains through the aerodrome and this work is nearing completion as I write. The pipeline follows along the western boundary fenceline.

As part of their arrangements the Lower Moutere Water Scheme has provided two hydrants which will be available as a water source for fire-fighting. A third hydrant which is being paid for with the goodwill of Shell on a 50/50 basis, will provide an additional hydrant in College Street which will be available for the residential properties on that street as well as airport assets.

As well as the hydrants access points, four domestic supplies have also been installed at the hydrants will provide a very useful asset for any development along the western and northern parts of the airfield. Any water used from the scheme will be subject to the usual meterage charges, however, water used for fire-fighting will not be charged.

DRAG RACING

The Enterprises Subcommittee will be aware that the Drags recommence at Motueka Aerodrome on 19th November 2005, following a prolonged period of absence as a result of safety issues. The Nelson Drag Racing Association has completed safety requirements for the race, and it is hoped that no further incidents will occur during the three year period that the Council has granted the Drag Racing Association Licence to operate (which is concurrent with expiry of their Resource Consent).

One of the points of contention (which was raised by the Airport Tenants at the last Enterprises Subcommittee Meeting) was the frustration on race days where a decision as to whether drag racing would or would not commence on that day could be held off until 10.00am.

The Airport Tenants frustration is that the uncertainty can cause significant operational difficulties for them.

Following on from the last meeting, I have discussed this matter with Mr Gourdie of the Nelson Drag Racing Association, and he has agreed to allow for aircraft to leave the aerodrome on Drag Racing days prior to the 10.00am deadline for go/no go on racing. This will enable one or two flights to leave up to 9.30am on race days and will be subject to the following criteria:

- 1 Aircraft must first get verbal approval from the Airport Manager (using radio communication supplied by the Airport Tenants).
- 2 The Airport Manager will consult with Drag Racing parties to ensure safety issues are not compromised.
- 3 Aircraft will be permitted to leave the aerodrome only (ie not land except of course for emergencies) and whenever possible aircraft will use runway 20 (taking off to the south) so as to avoid Drag Racing staff who will be setting up on the northern end of the airport.

I have discussed the matter of 'concurrent activities' with the CEO and we both agree that this limited arrangement will not conflict with that provision.

At the time of writing this report I still have to check with Airport Tenants to see if this arrangement will work, however, at this time the fall-back is status quo.

In addition, I intend to obtain CAA approval for use of the taxiway as a runway well in advance of the runway works being done, as the taxiway may then be used as an alternate runway under special circumstances.

SHELL FUEL INSTALLATION

All the consents are in for this work now. It is interesting being on the other end of resource management consents, but the planners are working professionally and thoroughly. It is hoped that with approval of any affected persons that the process can be dealt with Non-Notified.

AIRPORT TENANTS MEETING

There was no airport tenants meeting this month; however I am steadily working through issues in the hope of developing good working relationships with all airport stakeholders.

COMMUNITY RELATIONS

In conjunction with the airport tenants a 'good neighbour' protocol has been developed. A copy of this together with other background information has been sent to the Motueka residents that have expressed concern about the noise from aircraft.

A copy of the letter will be available at the meeting and can be tabled for Committee information if required.

PROPOSED AIRPORT TOUR

Maxine has made all the arrangements for this tour and a copy of the schedule is attached for the Committee's information. It had been hoped that Cr Riley could also come along, but LTCCP commitments have unfortunately ruled this out.

The response to the tour has been very positive with all airports being visited showing great enthusiasm and hospitality towards our visits. The tour has also been warmly endorsed by the Airport Tenants who see the information gathered providing Council with significant knowledge base to further good management of the aerodrome.

Recommendation

THAT the report be received

B Askew
Motueka Aerodrome Manager

-----Original Message-----

From: Maxine Van Ingen
Sent: Thursday, 27 October 2005 12:56 p.m.
To: Bob Askew
Subject: Airport Tour

Here is the finalised arrangements that I have managed to confirm:

Sunday 4th December - afternoon off to Westport - staying in Westport.

Monday 5th December - Westport Airport - Bede Brown - Buller District Council - 8.30am

Monday 5th December - Greymouth Airport - Dave Evans - Grey District Council - 11.30am

Monday 5th December - Hokitika Airport - Drew Howitt - Westland District Council - 2.30pm-3.30pm

Monday night staying in Haast.

Tuesday 6th December - Wanaka Airport - Tim Johnston - Wanaka Airport Manager - 11.00am

Tuesday night staying in Oamaru.

Wednesday 7th December - Oamaru Airport - Marcus Brown - Waitaki District Council - 8.30am

Wednesday 7th December - Timaru Airport - Matt Ambler - Timaru District Council - 11.30am

Wednesday 7th December - Ashburton Airport - John Rooney - Ashburton Airport Authority - 2.00pm-2.30pm

Wednesday night staying in Christchurch.

Thursday 8th December - Rangiora Airport - Craig Sargison - Waimakariri District Council - 12noon

Thursday 8th December - Kaikoura Airport - Sheryl Poulsen - Kaikoura District Council - 3.00pm

Then Home James.

PS this took a lot of effort and organizing, so don't change the plan now.

Max :-)