

STAFF REPORT

TO: Council Enterprises Subcommittee
FROM: Motueka Aerodrome Manager
REFERENCE: A303
DATE: 12 February 2006
SUBJECT: Motueka Aerodrome Report February 2006

FINANCIAL STATUS

The balance sheet to the end of December 05 is attached. Note that the \$5000 aerodrome contribution was received on time in full from the Nelson Drag Racing Association but this figure is not shown in the figures.

Again the blow-out on salaries and wages is reflected by the total transparency regarding accounting of staff time to the aerodrome. Also added to this are the costs of monitoring the drag racing events and work associated with the new Shell fuel facility.

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

SHELL FUEL FACILITY

The new fuel facility is nearing completion and the changeover from the old to the new tanks will be carried out soon. Shell are keeping their customers (aerodrome tenants) informed and are arranging contingencies for the change-over period when a temporary fuel supply will be needed for a short while.

There has only been one significant 'hiccup' with the development which came about due to a lack of consultation with residents along College Street. This was something not anticipated as we had left the consultation with the resource consent process and this had been fully evaluated and residents were not considered affected persons under the Resource Management Act. Nevertheless in hindsight this was a mistake not to consult with neighbours (regardless of Resource Management Act processes) and corrective action by the Mayor and Maxine during my absence resolved the problem amicably.

DRAG RACING

Since the last Enterprises Committee Meeting there have been two Drag Racing days, both of which were relatively uneventful, however some unauthorised access onto the aerodrome (through lifting the locked gate) prior to the 8.00am closure has resulted in

our being reported to the CAA. As yet I have not heard back from them but we have replaced the gate and have erected notices warning people not to enter until the OK has been given. In addition I try and get down to the airfield before 7.00am to ensure aerodrome security is maintained until the Drag racing representatives arrive.

The early bad weather this last meeting (11 February) raised the spectre of the Sunday lay day. Whilst this is provided for in both the licence and the Resource Consent it does impose additional restraints on some airport tenants who have uncertainties as to whether they can operate or not on the Sunday of a Drag Racing weekend. Thankfully on this occasion the bad weather held off and the event went without hitch.

Further information regarding the Drags is contained in the information memo that I have sent to aerodrome users (see copy attached).

AIRPORT TENANTS MEETING

There has been no airport tenants meeting but Maxine has been more than helpful in facilitating issues relevant to airport tenants, and in particular the fuel facility changeover and I wish to acknowledge her great efforts in going the extra mile to keep everyone informed. A copy of a recent info email is attached which sets out a number of topical issues that should be of interest to aerodrome tenants.

BIRDS

I have been advised by Abel Tasman Aviation of a problem with pigeons at the aerodrome. I have obtained some information and an estimate from a pest control company which would involve the laying of a narcotic bait which effectively puts the birds to sleep (indefinitely). The contractor has advised however that it may be possible for non-targeted birds to be affected and also where birds leave the airfield and later land on private property that this may be disturbing to residents and also could pose a low risk to pet animals such as cats (although the dosage rate would be such that the pets would sleep it off and would be OK provided they were kept warm).

Given the recent sensitivities over the fuel installation I am looking at alternate methods of dealing with this problem, however this is a potentially serious issue and flight safety is paramount so if we have to use the narcotic bait we will.

AIRPORT TOUR

The airport tour was without doubt an immense success and it would have been good to have Maxine sit in on this meeting to relay some of the things that she got benefit from.

I have prepared a Power-Point presentation for today's meeting and there will be some hard-copy notes to go with that. At this stage I thought that the report on the visit and laying out the background issues would be sufficient information for the Committee to deal with and at the April I will have hopefully prepared the strategic development plan for the aerodrome for the Committee's recommendation.

I am also adding a supplementary briefing paper attached to this report for Councils information which provide a summary of the tour and main issues noted.

PARACHUTIST DEATH

The sad occurrence of a parachutist apparently passing away during a solo jump has been reported widely in the media.

This was not a skydiving accident or problem of any sort with equipment or procedures but an unexpected health issue that created an incident that happened to occur while in freefall.

I don't want to dwell on this matter but would like to comment that without doubt, the professional and technical expertise of the Skydive Abel Tasman instructors in releasing the chute during the freefall showed the exemplary safety skills they have to deal with such a regrettable, but fortunately extremely rare occurrence.

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 :-)