

Tweed New Haven Airport Authority (TNHAA)

Environmental Stewardship Committee (ESC) Organizing Workshop Minutes of June 20, 2023 via Zoom

Members in Attendance: Tom Rafter, Rose Chatterton, Kenneth Dagliere, Linda Hennessey, Michael Jones, Giovanni Zinn, Carlos Eyzaguirre and Chuck Licata, 203-627-2023.

Members absent: David Valentino, Jasmine Peele and Mike Piscitelli.

Chairman Rafter opened the meeting at approximately 2pm. Ms. Chatterton made a motion to approve the previous meeting's minutes, seconded by Ms. Hennessey. The minutes from the meeting on May 23, 2023 were adopted.

Mr. Rafter reviewed the upcoming schedule for regular meetings to be held virtually at 2:00 PM, the day prior to the board meeting, on the even months. The dates for the upcoming meetings are as follows: August (8/15/23), October (10/17/23), December (12/19/23), February (2/20/24), and April (4/16/24). A discussion was held about the format of the meetings, and Mr. Rafter indicated he would endeavor to have agendas for the Committee prior to the meeting, with the intent to use the meeting time as meaningfully as possible.

Mr. Rafter gave an update on the Environmental Assessment update. The consultant, Mc Farland Johnson, expects to have completed and submitted to the FAA this month. Mr. Rafter explained they have the agency comment responses and the frequently asked comments from the general public. Now they are creating individual responses, as well as categorization. Ms. Chatterton confirmed the FAA would review once received. Mr. Rafter is hoping to have a decision by August.

Mr. Rafter went on to give a brief recap of the Community Meeting which recently took place. It was noted that there were concerns regarding environmental and operational issues at the airport.

→ *ESC Objective – rightfully address environmental concerns of the community.*

Mr. Rafter referenced Exhibit A, titled "Establishing an Effective Environmental Program" written by the Airport Cooperative Research Program, with a specific focus on a "Plan, Do, Check, Act" approach. The exhibit also contains a summary of "Proactive Environmental Stewardship Practices" which was used to help plan a path forward with the committee. Mr. Rafter proposed conducting a GAAP analysis of our current standing.

Mr. Rafter opened to the group for feedback regarding an environmental policy for the airport. Ms. Chatterton noted the need to prioritize the list and filter accordingly, focusing on the main issues from the public. Mr. Rafter noted there will be an update to the FAQ section on the website.

Mr. Dagliere brought up the topic of noise while presenting an excerpt from a Yale School of Medicine article. A discussion ensued regarding this committee's focus being more operational/day-to-day on what can be done to minimize impacts. Mr. Zinn agrees that Section 10, Noise Practices, should be prioritized.

→ *Action Item – present to the committee suggested priorities for GAAP analysis.*

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Ms. Hennessey brought up the importance of checking the validity and accuracy of any studies presented and the need for comparisons. Mr. Rafter added that the Airport Cooperative Research Program studies the entire industry as well as small airports. The committee briefly discussed the known effects of noise. Mr. Zinn noted that the value this committee could bring is to make sure the best practices are implemented, prioritized, and keep the airport accountable.

Mr. Rafter also added another goal of this plan is documenting and communicating plans, progress, and accomplishments to the public.

Mr. Rafter reiterated the upcoming meetings format which is to be discussed, followed by looking at the topic for the next meeting.

- **Action Item – Mr. Rafter to send ideas/thoughts on Environmental Policy. Any feedback is encouraged prior to next meeting.**
- **Action Item – Mr. Zinn to add document to SharePoint and distribute.**

Mr. Eyzaguirre indicated talking points to prioritize as noise, storm water, vegetation, wildlife, etc. Ms. Chatterton added fumes as well. Mr. Rafter agreed a consensus from the Committee on key issues to prioritize is vital. He intends the GAAP analysis to weed out anything that's already been done or can easily be added but would greatly appreciate any help on the prioritization.

- **ESC Objective – what can we do to identify, improve, reduce the impacts. What is the practical approach to minimize the impacts?**

Mr. Rafter thanked the committee for their time and input and is looking forward to accomplishing meaningful change together.

Ms. Chatterton questioned if the people who put together the EA think the FAA will require an EIS. Mr. Rafter noted there's always a possibility.

Mr. Dagliere referenced the Supreme Court ruling, rolling back EPA Regulations regarding wetlands. Mr. Zinn brought up the various state and local regulations on wetlands. Mr. Zinn suspects local/state regulations to be tougher than federal. But cannot speak the exact impact on the airport due to this ruling. Mr. Rafter sent the ruling to the consultant who believes it won't have any impact on the EA and when going to permit it will fall on a local level which is more strict. Mr. Rafter added our consultant assumed by the time it was implemented it won't be an issue.

- **Action Item – Mr. Rafter to distribute article from Mr. Dagliere on the Supreme Court ruling re: wetlands, to the committee.**

Hearing no other topics for discussion, the meeting was concluded at approximately 2:40 PM.