

Tweed New Haven Airport Authority (TNHAA)

Environmental Stewardship Committee (ESC) Minutes of August 15, 2023 via Zoom

Attendance

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

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

Others in Attendance: Malena Zanjani and Felipe Suriel.

Minutes

Chairman Rafter opened the meeting at approximately 2pm. Mr. Rafter introduced Malena Zanjani, the new Administrative Assistant/Public Liaison for TNHAA to the committee. Ms. Hennessey made a motion to approve the previous meeting's minutes, seconded by Ms. Chatterton. The minutes from the meeting on June 20, 2023, were adopted.

Mr. Rafter gave a recap of the upcoming meeting schedule, noting an agenda is to be posted within 72 hours prior to each meeting.

Mr. Rafter reaffirmed the difference between the Environmental Assessment (EA) and this committee, the Environmental Stewardship Committee (ESC). He explained the EA is tied directly to capital projects – currently the runway extension and terminal construction. The ESC is more aligned with operational and being good stewards of the environment and community.

Mr. Rafter gave an update of the EA. The response to 900+ public comments have been supplied to the FAA, to which they've asked for additional formatting/corrections. The consultant, McFarland Johnson, is formulating a response. Mr. Rafter is hopeful for a decision from the FAA possibly by the end of August/September.

Mr. Rafter inquired if Mr. Zinn had circulated the ACRP study discussed in the last meeting. Mr. Rafter will distribute the link to anyone who needs it.

→ **Action Item – Mr. Rafter to distribute ACRP study to committee.**

[Link to ACRP Document](#)

The document contains several topics with associated practices relating to environmental stewardship practices of small airports. Mr. Rafter shared the intent to create a GAAP analysis of 24 topics and 231 practices.

Mr. Rafter shared more in depth about the ACRP document, showing the implementation practices for each item. The objective being to create a systematic approach to identify goals and implement practices. To make sure the goals are **SMART** (**S**pecific, **M**easurable, **A**chievable, **R**elevant, and **T**ime-bound), refine through the **GROW** process (**G**oal, **R**eality, **O**ptions, **W**ill), analyze for high/low benefit vs cost, and approach each practice accordingly. At the next meeting we will identify those practices from the ACRP document that are currently being done at the airport, what's under consideration and what's impractical for this airport.

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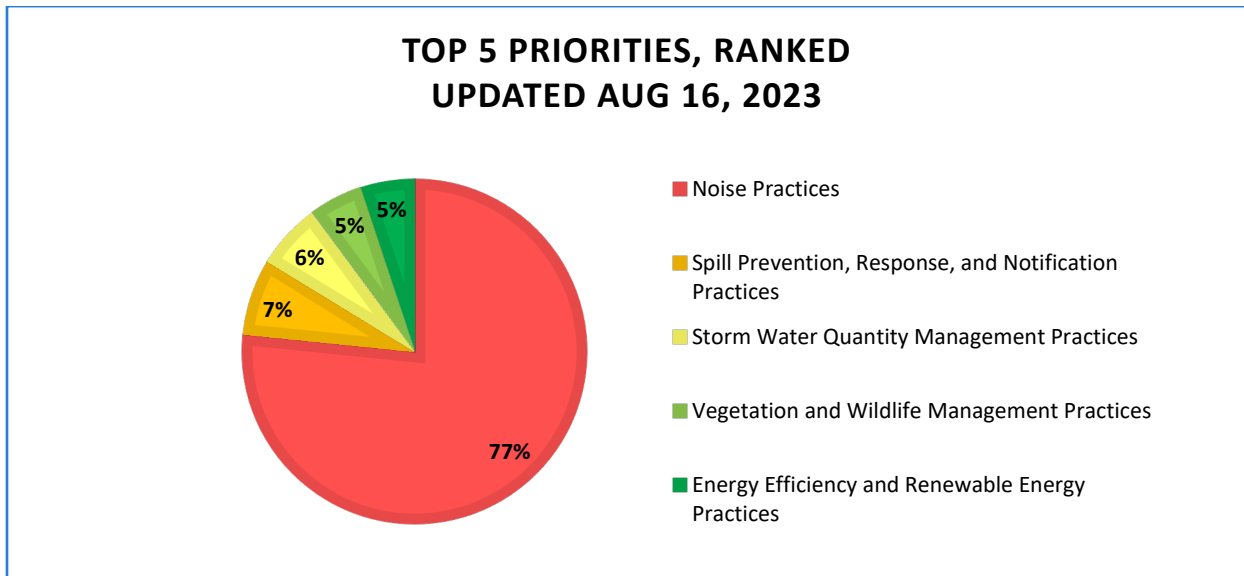
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- **Action Item – Mr. Rafter to identify which practices are in place currently, which are under consideration, and which are not applicable.**

Mr. Rafter will share the results of the survey sent by Ms. Zanjani of the top 5 topics later in the meeting. The plan being to look at these top 5 topics, then look at the practices under them and determine what's already being implemented and what can be considered for future implementation. Mr. Rafter reiterated to the committee that we may not be able to exhaust all the practices in the top 5 topics but to use them as a starting point. We can then reprioritize and move on to the next five topics. Mr. Rafter surveyed the committee for opinions and Ms. Hennessey said the plan was a good start in organizing the group's priorities.

Ms. Zanjani and Mr. Rafter shared the results from the survey. The top five topics were established and with the intent to drill in on the subsequent practices for each. **The top 5 topics in order were Noise Practices; Spill Prevention, Response, and Notification Practices; Vegetation and Wildlife Management Practices; Air Emission Evaluation and Reporting Practices; Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Practices.**

- ***Edit* – Since recording, more responses have been collected, changing the survey results slightly. The updated results as of August 16, 2023, are as follows:**



The ACRP document also suggests the airport develop an overall environmental policy. Mr. Rafter referenced in the agenda language from Austin and Denver airports. He then opened to the group for suggested language on a policy. Mr. Rafter will work to refine and provide alternative language for an environmental policy for consideration for the next meeting, to eventually be taken to the Board for approval.

- **Action Item – Mr. Rafter to provide Environmental Policy draft for next ESC Meeting.**

Mr. Eyzaguirre inquired about the survey results and requested to have the survey resent to him.

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→ **Action Item – Ms. Zanjani to resend Mr. Eyzaguirre the Top 5 Priority Survey.**

Mr. Rafter indicated that of the 231 practices, about 25-30% are already being implemented, with a high number of them being in the survey results. He restated that there is still work to do but the objective of this committee being to develop those goals and work towards the implementation of them. Mr. Rafter brought up Mr. Dagliere's concerns regarding this committee's meaning. Mr. Dagliere expressed his appreciation to Mr. Rafter for doing so.

Ms. Chatterton asked if some of the best practices are already mandated by the FAA. Mr. Rafter explained that the regulatory agencies give the bare minimum, and the practices are how to implement. He added when you create a document to meet regulations you put the minimum in, but your actual implementation and operating manuals go beyond that, striving to do better than meeting the minimum regulations. The ACRP document provides best practices rather than requirements to meet regulations. Ms. Chatterton added the practices we are hoping to put forward are the ones of the greatest concern to our two communities – East Haven and New Haven.

Mr. Licata questioned what the process would be to get these practices implemented. Mr. Rafter stated we would identify those that can be done in the short-term, mid-term, and long-term. Adding that the goal of the GAAP analysis being to identify the quick wins and start there. Once those have been exhausted, then moving on to the next five topics. Mr. Licata agreed that identifying the 5 areas and breaking down into subgroups is a satisfactory course of action.

Ms. Chatterton brought up a meeting between Mr. Rafter and Mr. Sal Dicola, New Haven Alder, to discuss meeting in small groups with residents to answer questions. Mr. Dagliere was unaware of this. Mr. Rafter confirmed that these meetings were being coordinated through Avports and Andrew King. He noted that the first meeting on August 2nd went well with an effort to put a solid framework in place going forward. Ms. Chatterton added that communication is very helpful, as lack of communication is a common complaint. She added another common suggestion related to communication is a notification system of some kind, asking what can the airport do to communicate to people what is going on. Mr. Rafter responded that a system is in place already but not as broad as Ms. Chatterton describes. There is currently an effort underway to update said system and Mr. Rafter will work with Mr. Jones to address this suggestion. Mr. Rafter noted how he views this group as a toolbox for communication. Mr. Dagliere recalled raising a similar concern at the last Board Meeting. He reiterated that communication with the public and especially informing the Board/ESC of goings on is of utmost importance. Mr. Rafter confirmed that there's two areas to address, (1) communication with the public and (2) communication with board/committee members. A discussion ensued between Ms. Hennessey, Mr. Dagliere, and Ms. Chatterton around small group meetings. Mr. Rafter resolved that if anyone in the community wants to meet, to please reach out to him and he will help coordinate with Mr. King.

Mr. Dagliere inquired about the UCONN study of Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). Mr. Rafter noted he will be giving a brief response to said study at tomorrow's Board Meeting. Mr. Rafter gave a short description of PFAS and how it can relate to airports through foam used by firefighters. He explained it's tested using an Ecologic Cart, and instead of dispersing the foam into the environment, it is sent through the cart to meet requirements. Mr. Rafter added that the FAA was tasked with creating a

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fluorine free foam, however it was not effective in putting out fires. He also noted the DOD is working to create a fluorine free foam that can put out fires. Mr. Rafter went over the potential impacts of PFAS such as drinking water, however noted that around this airport there is municipal water which is tested regularly. Mr. Rafter mentioned that the ongoing UCONN study in the waters around the airport are about a year out.

Mr. Dagliere also inquired about a noise study from 10,000 Hawks. Mr. Rafter will investigate this.

→ **Action Item – Mr. Rafter to look into Noise Study from 10,000 Hawks.**

Hearing no other topics for discussion, the meeting was concluded at approximately 2:30 PM.

Action Item Summary

- **Action Item – Mr. Rafter to distribute ACRP study to committee.**
- **Action Item – Mr. Rafter to identify which practices are in place currently, which are under consideration, and which are not applicable.**
- **Action Item – Mr. Rafter to provide Environmental Policy draft for next ESC Meeting.**
- **Action Item – Ms. Zanjani to resend Mr. Eyzaguirre the Top 5 Priority Survey.**
- **Action Item – Mr. Rafter to investigate Noise Study from 10,000 Hawks.**