

**Port of Kennewick**  
**Regular Commission Meeting**  
July 14, 2009

**VIII. REPORTS, COMMENTS AND DISCUSSION ITEMS**

*C. Vista Field Update*

*1. LATS Report*

Airport Manager **Dan Cryer** summarized the 58 page LATS Report, saying that it screams that Washington State is not putting enough resources towards the aviation system. It was sent to the governor on July 1<sup>st</sup> on schedule. The recommendations focused on three main areas. One was capacity, although the report did not recommend building any new airports, but rather allowing the market to drive airport development. Partly based on public comment, the recommendation was to use what we already have.

Land Use affected by encroachment and incompatible uses was another focus in the report. The report calls for sharper teeth in the law and for day care facilities, schools, etc. to be prohibited from building in the airport safety overlay zones.

Stewardship of the Aviation System was the other focus. \$32 million was collected in aviation fuel taxes, user fees, etc. during 2007-2009, but only \$6 million of that was put back into the aviation system for enhancing and maintaining airports. The bulk of the money goes into the General Fund. The LATS report indicates there will be a request to the legislature that more of the money generated by aviation be put back in the aviation fund. In the latest round of state airport aid grants, only \$900,000 is being divided amongst 40 airports. Small airports cannot maintain their safety levels and facilities based on such a small state budget.

There was little direct mention of Vista Field, other than a general notation that Vista Field is possibly facing closure and that we need to take a regional approach to make sure there is capacity for general aviation. The other mention was in discussing capacity issues at Pasco, noting that the terminal will exceed capacity, given the population growth anticipated for this area.

There is a tremendous wish list in the report, but everything will require legislation or a change in the budget approach in funding in order to make the desired improvements, according to Mr. Cryer.

John Sibold of WSDOT and Carol Moser of the State Transportation Committee indicated in a conversation with Mr. Cryer that a formal response would be publicized in a month or so.

*2. Arculus Design Report*

Stan from Arculus Design & Technical Services, an architecture engineering firm, has been contracted to develop an itemized one-page spreadsheet of what would need to be done to close Vista Field and the cost to do so. There are 30 acres of asphalt that would need to be removed. The actual cost of this along with other additional expenses would be determined by this report. Executive Director **Tim Arntzen** anticipates a decision on the fate of the airport by late summer or early fall.

*H. Non-Scheduled Items*

*1. Letter from Dennis Nichols*

Although **Dennis Nichols** was unable to be present, he asked Executive Director **Tim Arntzen** to read the letter he submitted into the record. In summary, Mr. Nichols concurs with Chep Gauntt's

comments made at an earlier meeting that it is a conflict of interest for Commissioner Calvin Dudney to serve both on the Port of Kennewick Commission and the Public Facilities District Committee, as it appears there could be a conflict of interest as it concerns Vista Field and the City of Kennewick. Mr. Nichols urges Commissioner Dudney to either resign or exclude himself on any vote that involves the future of Vista Field.

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