



**Cape Blanco Airport Workshop
August 31, 2016**

To: Board of Commissioners
From: Carolyn Johnson, Planning Director
Subject: Follow-up to the BOC May 18, 2016 Cape Blanco airport workshop

At the May 18, 2016 Cape Blanco airport workshop the Board heard from Mr. Mitch Swecker, Director of the Oregon Department of Aviation, Mr. Dave Bassett, Mr. Terry Mock, and Mr. Larry Becker, the South Coast District Manager of Oregon Parks and Recreation Department. Each communicated a variety of commitments and ideas that are noted on the following pages.

Director Swecker is here today to provide follow-up information from comments and suggestions garnered at the May 18, 2016 Board workshop. As this workshop has been advertised, the public has been notified and provided with an opportunity to comment.

From the Oregon Department of Aviation (ODA) – Director Mitch Swecker

- Coordination with the airport tenants who are paying customers including protection of their hangars and aircraft from damage and vandalism.
- Liability and security
- Concerns about damage to airport
- Engaging involvement with the Oregon Pilots Association to maximize awareness of the Airport
- An option to provide access the State Park.

ODA will be looking at adding the following to their agency Capital Improvement Plan:

- Fencing
- Lighting, obstruction removal
- Power for emergency/resiliency planning
- If we can address the security issue, perhaps an emergency generator and communication links (fiber?)
- More permanent water/well and restroom/septic system

ODA will look at Dave Bassett's ideas for electrical power and caretaker camp hosts to help with security. Mr. Swecker also noted he would "start working with the FAA to see if Cape Blanco could become part of the National Plan of Integrated Airports (NPIAS) and eligible for federal funding. A caution here is that it may remove flexibility for concerts and other development options and only pays for airside improvements

(runway, lights etc, not economic development projects). There are 39 grant assurances that have to be complied with. See:

http://www.faa.gov/airports/aip/grant_assurances/media/airport-sponsor-assurances-aip.pdf

From the Oregon Department of State Parks and Recreation (OPRD) – South Coast Regional Manager Larry Becker: “I want to let you know that Oregon State Parks will be glad to participate and discuss options that may affect future plans for Floras Lake State Natural Area. As you continue to move forward with concepts and opportunities at the Cape Blanco Airport site please let me know when our participation in meetings and planning would be welcome”

From Mr. Dave Bassett, Pilot and Cape Blanco Hangar owner and Mike Hewitt, the following suggestions:

1. Park Host and dog: The fastest, least cost way to increase security would be to have a "Park Host & dog" near the trailhead & hangars. This would greatly deter vandals and help with trash issues on the trails as well. Power is readily available and needs to be brought into the concrete bunker area again in order to make progress on lights, beacon, security lighting, etc. Perfect spot for a 'Hidden Host'. Sanitation by self-contained RV or use existing 'blue room' just inside the steel gate. Orenco and others now have package sewer systems that can solve virtually every soil limitation. Water available now via well near bunker; assuming the pressure tank has not been stolen again. A campground could also be considered.

2. Prioritizing fund: Now that ODA has some new funding, it would seem logical to start a conversation to help prioritize where the funds would do the most good first.

4. Curry County wish list: If Curry Co developed a wish list first and then shared with ODA and OPRD, it might set the stage for coordinated progress together?

5. Air Park: A Taxi up to your house Air Park, like Independence, would be very successful and an economic engine for N Curry Co.

6. Engaging Mr. Larry Graves, airport Manager: I have been around airports all my life and still own Wonder Int'l airport, registered with ODA since 1964. Having said that, I know airport management has become a complex job entailing many skills and relationships. Larry Graves is 53 air miles away and has proven to be a most capable champion of both Josephine County airports that will be critical when Cascadia happens. In the meantime, he is most gracious and sharing of ideas. I serve on his IVAAB advisory board and see him at least monthly. Great resource person for future work and progress.

7. Partnering with ODA: ODA has a very capable team of professionals already in place and are finally getting some much needed revenue to enable their good work. Partnering with ODA's team is valuable and should be top priority for the benefit of all for the next several years.

From Mr. Terry Mock, the following suggestion: Be sure to add to the list of ideas an airpark subdivision. <http://www.flyinhomes.com/browseproperties.html>