



**Business Focus Group**

**March 31, 2015**  
**10:30 AM – 12:00 PM**

**Meeting Minutes**

**Attendees:**

Gordon Cole, Corstone, LLC  
Mitch Cornelison, Your Snohomish Group  
Debbie Emge, City of Snohomish  
Eric Johnson, Washington State Department of  
Transportation (WSDOT)

Mark Nuss, Historic Downtown Snohomish  
Craig Ohm, Buzz Inn  
Rick Somerville, Airport Welding

**Aviation Staff:**

Hilary Fletcher  
Donna Taylor

Renee Dowlin  
Colleen Cummins

Hilary Fletcher opened meeting and thanked everyone for attending and asked all attendees to introduce themselves.

Following the introductions, Hilary gave a brief overview of the Master Plan and its purpose, noting it was a 20 year plan to guide the airport's development to meet both the airport and community's needs and vision. The Master Plan was kicked-off in fall 2014 and we are wrapping up what is known as the investigative phase -airport inventory, aviation forecast, and facility requirements.

The process includes a Planning Advisory Committee (PAC) that is a mix of neighbors, businesses owners, airport users, agencies, etc. The purpose of the PAC is to help guide the plan to meet the needs of the airport and community. The first PAC meeting was held in December 2014 and a second meeting is scheduled for tomorrow evening. Following the PAC meeting the first community open house will be held at 6:30. Hilary encouraged all to attend and help spread the word to friends and family as public input and participation is critical to the process.

The PAC meeting and open house will review the inventory data, aviation forecast, and initial facility requirements. The next stage is the solutions phase which will review alternatives. As Harvey Field is a difficult site due to floodplains and proximity to City of Snohomish, preliminary engineering will be accomplished as part of the alternative analysis process as we want to ensure the projects proposed are feasible.

Hilary also noted that information on the Master Plan is located on the website, [www.harveyfield.com](http://www.harveyfield.com) and all documents related to the Master Plan will be posted as process moves along. Encourage you to check website about once a month for new information.

She also noted that other focus groups are meeting today as well to discuss other topics – pilot, noise, and water/floodplain.



The purpose of this focus group is to help us understand how the airport enhances your business and items you may want to see changed or done differently in the future. We will go through these three questions:

1. What do you like about facility, how does it enhance your business, and what do you want seen carried forward?
2. What do you want to see changed to support you and/or improve business?
3. Anything we need to know that is intrinsic to this Master Plan? Items to consider in Comprehensive Plan?

**What do you like about Harvey Field and how does it enhance your business and what do you want to see carried forward?**

- Brings in lots of people from outside – pilots, parachuters, etc.; helps many businesses not just mine (Buzz Inn)
- Sky Diving – Snohomish has become known for it (icon for community)
  - Draw for restaurant
- People come to Snohomish just for airport
- Ensure businesses are able to operate at airport/maintain – light industrial
- Continued emphasis for Comprehensive Plan
- Potential for business activity
- Ability to maintain entertainment options currently here (balloons, skydiving, private pilot, etc.)
- Continue livable wage jobs opportunities at airport
- Grounds/Building Maintenance – keep high level

**What do you want to see changed to support you and/or improve business?**

- Revision of aircraft area/type operating at Harvey Field
- Sidewalks around airport and leading into town for better safety and access
- Availability of additional commercial/industrial land on and around airport
  - may be issue because of floodplain
- Improved/increased communication between airport and town/county regarding happenings at airport
- Offer airport tours
- Recognition of existing airport businesses so we know they are there (signage/access)
- Cap on aircraft size using Harvey Field
  - protect downtown/historic district

**Anything we need to know that is intrinsic to this Master Plan? Items to consider in Comprehensive Plan?**

- Modest growth projected for city of Snohomish over next 20 years
- Need for light industrial in area (flood constraints issue on airport)
- Continue to create general public events at airport
- Fly-in
- Hangar development for aircraft
- Potential for additional jobs at airport

- Is additional capacity needed? Planned for?
- Facilitate visitors
- Facilitate family wage jobs
- Skydiving has biggest impact on town businesses
- Airport tourism
- Support town events with parking

Discussion ensued:

- Possible to cap operations at airport?
  - No, as a public use airport it is not possible; however, the forecasted growth is very moderate/slow growth; trend across aviation industry and not just Harvey Field
  - Successful master plans are those that compliment community values
- Article in the Herald a week or so ago and people use newspapers as there sole source of info so may want to address any inaccuracies.
  - The open house will have boards addressing needs and displaced thresholds, etc.
- Larger planes coming to Harvey Field doesn't capture what is needed for the area and they would conflict with community values.

**Wrap-up:**

Hilary thanked everyone for taking the time to attend and advised if any additional thoughts or comments they can be submitted on-line or to Kandace.