

# Mt. Vernon Outland Airport eyes new hangar

*Hangar would be constructed in addition to current building for the use of commercial aircraft*

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MT. VERNON — On Tuesday night, the Mt. Vernon Airport Authority Board of Commissioners opened discussion regarding the building of a new hangar at Mt. Vernon Outland Airport.

The project, originally slated to begin around 2019 is in consideration to be moved to an earlier date due to the increased traffic of commercial aircraft at the airport.

"We have three corporate flight departments trying to share one hangar," said Airport Director



Sentinel Photo/EMILY ROTH

**DEVELOPMENT PLAN** — Members of the Mt. Vernon Airport Authority Board of Commissioners gather for their monthly meeting on Tuesday at Mt. Vernon Outland Airport. During the meeting, airport director Chris Collins informed the board of the possibility of building of a new hangar.

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## Hangar:

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Chris Collins. "One of the corporate flight departments expressed an interest in building their own building. ... So, this is an introductory discussion over a second hangar in Innovation Park if you guys are so willing."

Pending inspections of the building site, Collins hopes to begin building in July.

"The main thing that this board has to decide is do we shelve the T-hangar access taxiway," said Collins, "which is going to be next year for new T-hangar that we are going to build on our next capital development plan. Do we put that off into the future and bring a new ramp that would

have to go into the new building in Innovation Park? That's the decision that you will have to make in the weeks or months ahead. There's no difference in money, it's just a difference in project priorities, shifting one project that was programmed for 2019 into 2016. It's exciting to me to take the next step down there."

Because the project would be moved forward, Board Chairman Mike Ancona expressed that the airport's focus would shift more toward commercial craft.

"Essentially what we're doing is kind of shifting our priorities," he stated, "might as well say what it is because if we move some monies from the private sector which would be small private planes, to a corporate sector to increase corporate activity, that's the trade-off. You need to think about it from that standpoint."

He continued to state that the airport would continue to service private aircraft.

"I don't want to get labeled that we don't care anything about small airplanes, because that's not the case," Ancona continued.

"But what reality is, is corporate activity pays the bills. ... We've still got that on the docket to do, but since this came up, do you want to take the chance of losing a couple of King Airc and activity in the airport that fly in and out of here three or four times a week or more? That's not to say that we don't have things in the works on the other end too like flight training for private aircraft ... we're not letting anything hang. I for one feel like we have to pursue corporate activity in Mt. Vernon."

No vote was taken regarding the impending hangar project.

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