

# Racers to build boat stand at airport

*St. Louis Thunderbirds aim to make Mt. Vernon permanent RC boat racing home*

**BY EMILY ROTH**

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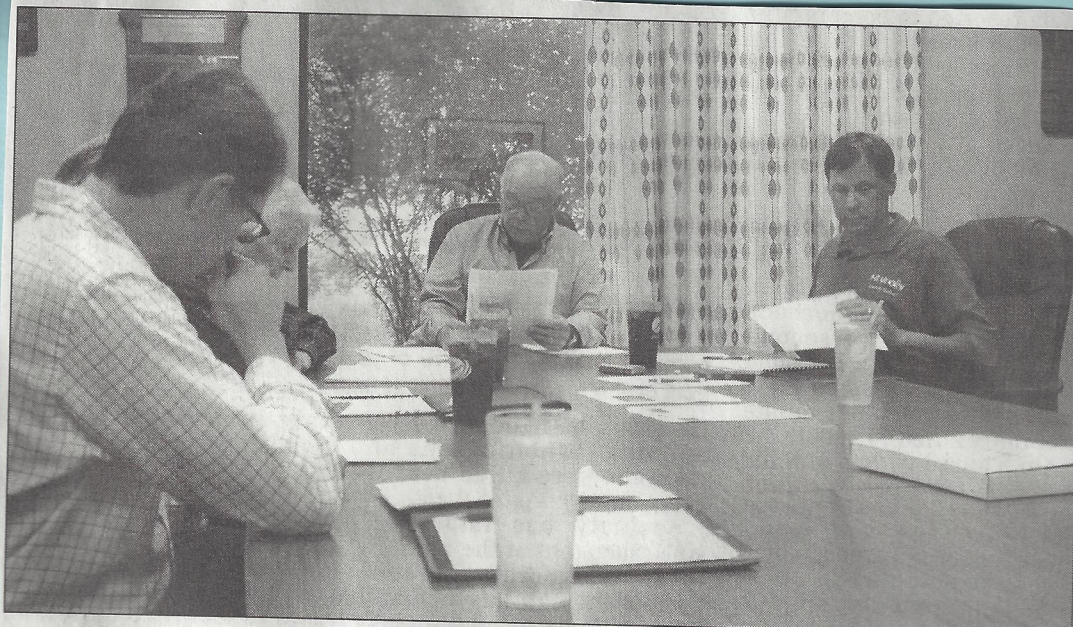
MT. VERNON — A boat stand for RC (radio control) racers may soon come to Mt. Vernon as a structure would allow for hobbyists to race their boats at the Mt. Vernon Outland Airport.

"This is something that I've had on the desk for a couple months," said Airport Director Chris Collins on Tuesday, bringing up the issue to the full Board of Commissioners. "Everyone is familiar with the RC boat racing that we have during Balloons Over Mt. Vernon in the fall. We also have a race in April ... St. Louis Thunderbirds and the River City [Flyers]. ... They would like to construct what is called a driver's stand down on the lake shore. It would be on the north shore of the lake, east of ARDL."

Balloons Over Mt. Vernon and the subsequent boat race typically take place in October. Collins explained that the stand would be erected at a bend in the lake.

"If you look at the lake where it's flat and runs straight, and it starts that dog leg back toward the shelter, they have asked if they could erect this driver's stand at their expense and they have provided a budget of what looks like \$1,040 for the material," he explained. "We would have a nice wooden structure out there on the lake shore and they've asked if they can do that."

If built, the stand would be in



Sentinel Photo/EMILY ROTH

**SUMMER TALK** — The Mt. Vernon Outland Airport Authority Board of Commissioners discussed on Tuesday the building of a possible radio-control boat stand at the airport lake. If approved, the stand would be built during the summer.

## Racers:

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place before October, with the building to take place during the summer. The RC racers would build the structure themselves without an outside contractor.

Ultimately the board decid-

ed to table the issue in order to speak with Wes Ellet of the St. Louis Thunderbirds. Collins indicated that the Thunderbirds would like to make Mt. Vernon their permanent home.

"I don't see a problem with it, I think we ought to talk to him at least and let him know what our expectations are," said Chairman Mike Ancona.

Concerns the board had regarding the stand were

cleanliness, upkeep, and liability.

"What about the insurance?" asked Collins. "What happens on the other days of the year when we have a citizen out there fishing off of it and falls?"

Commissioner Eddie Lee called the boat stand and its potential a "great idea," but also added that further talks were necessary.

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5.13.16