

Airport prepares for Midwest LSA Expo

A new commissioner was also welcomed to the board

BY JOSH JONES

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MT. VERNON — The Mt. Vernon Airport Authority Board of Commissioners heard an update regarding ongoing preparations for the upcoming Midwest LSA Expo.

The expo is set for Sept. 7, 8 and 9. Airport Director Chris Collins discussed the event.

“Seems like it was just yesterday that we were talking about the AirVenture Cup Race,” Collins said. “This will be the ninth year for this. That is incredible.”

Collins noted that a couple vendors were either not showing new products or unable to come to this year’s show but added that other vendors have stepped in to fill the spots.

“Funding wise things look solid. The phone’s ringing, the emails are coming in. Just come out and

be a part of it,” Collins said.

Collins mentioned some new additions for this year’s expo.

“We’ve got a new addition to the Friday night barbecue and vendor exhibit and party that we have,” Collins said. “A gentleman named Patch Lee is a recording artist from Nashville. He has been coming by the airport, and he is going to be playing for the visitors on Friday night.”

He continued, “One really exciting addition is Saturday the Global War on Terrorism Traveling Wall of Remembrance will be here around 9 or 10 o’clock in the morning, and it will be here with us until the 12th. It looks like a big event materializing on Sunday afternoon [with] a Gold Star Mothers presentation. HOOAH Deer Hunt for Heroes is heading this up.”

Also during Tuesday’s meeting, the board welcomed new commissioner Marty Cox who was appointed to the position after previous commissioner Joe Bob Pierce stepped down.

“I appreciate that. If I could just

uphold what Joe Bob has done over the past several years,” Cox said. “I look at this as a way to give back because I came onboard at the airport in 1975, and for about 15 years it was my second home. I feel honored to be here and just hope with some of my experiences in aviation that I can contribute.”

IN OTHER BUSINESS:

- Commissioner Ryan Wellmaker was elected as secretary of the board.

- The board approved a bid of \$12,500 from Schierbaum Excavating for the Lake Dam Northeast Overflow Project.

- The board acknowledged and thanked everyone for their help with this year’s AirVenture Cup Race, including Ryan Schmidt at Ford Square, over 40 volunteers, the pilots and many more.

- The board approved the prevailing wage ordinance.

- The board approved an Airport View System from Airport-View, LLC for \$1,500.

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