

# Mt. Vernon airport projects moving ahead

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MT. VERNON — Several projects of the Momentum 2014 capital improvement plan at the Mt. Vernon Outland Airport are moving forward as planned.

The runway safety allowance/airport layout plan was recently approved and signed by the Federal Aviation Administration, said airport manager Chris Collins.

"This has been on the radar for at least five years," Collins said.

"...We've had a lot of hurdles to step through, so we're very excited."

The project, which will remove a section of the main runway on the east side and add a section on the west side of the airport, will take its next steps in the completion of an environmental assess-



Collins

ment, approach surveys and "full-blown design engineering," Collins said.

Another project that is moving forward will be a storage facility for two mobile fuel trucks.

"The project is ready to go," Collins said. "We're just waiting for regular weather."

In January, the board moved to begin planning and construction on a containment area for the airport's two mobile fuel trucks.

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The project, part of the airport's 2014 Momentum Capital Improvement Plan, will include construction of a 30 foot by 20 foot concrete containment area able to hold 3,500 gallons of fuel, with a 13 foot tall carport-type roof.

Building the storage facility will help the airport not only be in compliance with the Environmental Protection Agency requirements, but will also protect the airport's assets, said the board chairman Mike Ancona in January.

At the airport board's regular meeting in March, it was also revealed that a project to replace damaged fence and build new fence may begin in 2010.

"We had a pre-design meeting on that," Collins said. "There's discretionary

money from 2010, and we put it on a letting. If it comes through, it will get started this year, but if not, it will begin in 2011."

The airport board opened proposals for a construction manager for the new hangar to be built at the March board meeting.

Lipps Construction of Mt. Vernon was chosen, with a low bid of 2.5 percent of the total estimated cost of the project, Collins said.

The board plans to meet with the construction manager and bid out for an architect/engineer this week, Collins said.

In other business, during the March meeting, the board approved a proposal to allow YMCA adult football to continue on the airport grounds for another year, though the traditional field for the program, in its sixth year, may need to be moved about 40 feet south due to the new hangar construction, Collins said.