

# Airport kicks off long-term plan

By LEAH WILLIAMS

leah.williams@register-news.com

MT. VERNON — Mt. Vernon Airport Authority officials met Friday with engineering planners and state representatives to discuss a long-term plan for the airport.

Mt. Vernon Outland-Airport Manager Chris Collins and commissioners Alan Hale, Paul Dickerson and Chairman Mike Ancona met with Hanson Professional Services Inc. and Illinois Department of Transportation Division

of Aeronautics officials to discuss the airport layout plan.

The plan details any progressive measure that airport officials may wish to develop for the facility. The 15-year proposal is now in its developing stages, with further meetings to be scheduled in the next few months.

Among the items discussed at the meeting included the implementation of tee, light-sport aircraft and corporate hangars as well as one for the flight school; utilizing the former meat-pack-

aging facility for future aeronautical use; and, possibly, building a hotel on the airport grounds which, according to Phase 1 plans, may be located near the airport pond.

Hale said having LSA hangars would be an important investment, as business is booming. He said 40 percent of LSAs are able to store the wings of the aircraft.

"In about 10 years, (it's estimated) three out of four pilots will be light-sport

see AIRPORT/Page 3A

## AIRPORT

continued from 1A

aircraft," he said.

Keeping descriptions simple, Hanson representative Timothy Haskell said, is vital in the drafting process.

"We would like to keep it generic on this plan and that will give you what you need," said Haskell, who is a senior aviation planner for the company.

Terry Shaddel, senior planning director of IDOT's Division of Aeronautics, said the commissioners have worked hard at developing the preliminary plans for the airport.

"Of all the kick-off airport layout plan meetings, this has been the most in-depth I've ever been through," Shaddel said.



Mt. Vernon Airport Authority Commissioner Alan Hale, right, directs the attention of Bill Viste and Tim Haskell on Friday during the airport layout plan kickoff meeting at Mt. Vernon-Outland Airport. Viste is an airport planning engineer for the Illinois Department of Transportation Division of Aeronautics; Haskell is a senior aviation planner at Hanson Professional Services Inc. LEAH WILLIAMS/REGISTER-NEWS

Hale said he felt confident the plans mulled over during the meeting will become a reality.

"What we discussed is going

to happen," he said. "It's headed this way."

A second meeting regarding the airport layout plan will be held in October. 8-25-07