

# Airport Authority gives manager authorization to accept insurance bid

*Officials move forward with runway evaluation project*

**BY RICK HAYES**

MT. VERNON MANAGING EDITOR

MT. VERNON — Faced with having its property and equipment insurance lapse early next month, members of the Mt. Vernon Airport Authority gave Manager Chris Collins the authorization to accept the low bid of three expected.

In years past, airport officials were not able to bid out insurance without a "signature of record" from their current provider.

"We were reluctant to do anything about it because of the company of record, and because we were in fear of losing our insurance," explained Collins. Now, the current provider and two other companies interested in bidding on the insurance package have agreed to bid the project without the signature of record.

The airport's current policy expires in early October, before the next regular board meeting. As a result, the commission authorized Collins to send out bid specs to the three interested companies simultaneously, and then accept the low bid.

The Airport Authority accepted

Please see **Airport**, Page 3A

THE SENTINEL • WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2011

## Airport:

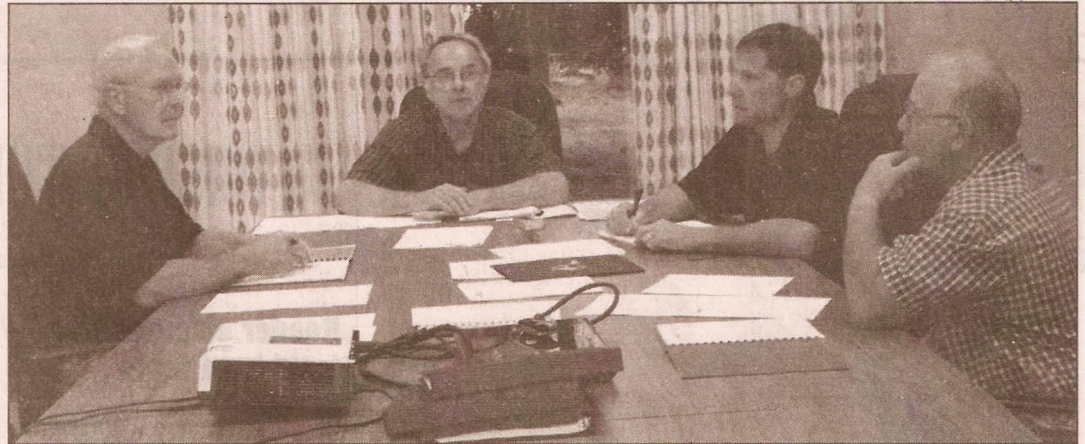
*Continued From Page 1A*

the low bid on the runway evaluation project.

"We have a potential user that wants to come into the airport that is heavier than what our published values are in the Airfield Facilities Directory. The published values in the AFD are theoretical in value. To satisfy this user coming in, we have to do a non-destructive test of our runway to see exactly what it will take [weight] and withstand on a repeated basis," Collins said.

"This is a very ambitious project. I guess the quote, 'With great risk comes great reward,' could be applied. We have a fantastic opportunity here that we don't want to divulge and allow competing airports to allow them to see our steps to make this happen," he added.

Applied Research Associates, based in Champaign, will conduct the study at a cost of \$13,630. Local offi-



Sentinel Photo

**BOARD TALK — Mt. Vernon Airport Authority members and Airport Manager Chris Collins talk about upcoming projects at the Mt. Vernon Airport during a Tuesday night meeting. Pictured, FROM LEFT, are Gary Chesney, Greg Martin, Collins and Mike Ancona.**

cialists will initially have to bear the brunt of those costs, although Collins is hopeful that reimbursement may come later.

### IN OTHER BUSINESS:

• Collins reported that about 500 tickets were sold for the Midwest LSA Expo held this past weekend. Although disappointed with the number of people who attended, Collins said he was encouraged by the num-

ber of participants and they were encouraged by the number of quality leads received. Collins noted at least one plane was purchased on site Saturday morning. He also thanked the number of volunteers who showed up all three days;

• The fencing project is "getting ready to move," Collins told the board. A pre-engineering meeting is scheduled for 11 a.m. Sept. 27;

• Collins estimated at least 200 people are expected for the KR National Gathering this weekend at the airport, with 120 already registered for the banquet.

"It's another chance for us to be ambassadors for the city of Mt. Vernon and a way for our eateries and motels to enjoy the revenues in the hospitality community," Collins said.

[rhayes@morningsentinel.com](mailto:rhayes@morningsentinel.com)