



**MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
FAIRFIELD COUNTY COUNCIL
JANUARY 22, 2024**

Present: Clarence Gilbert, Cornelius Robinson, Dan Ruff, Shirley Greene, Tim Roseborough, Doug Pauley, Peggy Swearingen, (Council Members); Tommy Morgan (County Attorney; Dr. Kimberly Roberts (Clerk to Council)

Absent: None.

In accordance with the South Carolina Code of Laws, 1976, Section 30-4-80 (e), as amended, the following persons and/or organizations have been notified of the time, date and location of this meeting: The Independent Voice of Blythewood and Fairfield, The Country Chronicle and one hundred forty two other individuals.

Due to COVID-19 (Coronavirus), the meeting is being live-streamed through the County's YouTube page in order to keep citizens informed.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Pauley called the Regular Meeting to order at 6:00pm. He announced that Mrs. Williams was not present due to illness and Mrs. Johnson was not present as well.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chairman Pauley called for the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Motion made by Councilman Gilbert to amend the agenda to add an action item after executive session – the appointment of an Acting County Administrator, seconded by Councilman Robinson. ***The motion carried 7-0.*** Motion made by Councilman Gilbert, seconded by Councilwoman Greene to approve the agenda as amended. ***The motion carried 7-0.***

4. INVOCATION

Mr. Dillon Pullen led the invocation.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion made by Councilman Ruff, seconded by Councilwoman Greene to approve the minutes from the Regular Meeting 12/11/23. ***The motion carried 7-0.***

6. PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS

- A.** Proclamation Honoring Dr. Tracie A. Swilley as the 2024 Secondary Principal of the Year – Dr. Roberts read the proclamation in its entirety. It was presented to Dr. Swilley and pictures were taken.
- B.** Airport Drainage Update – Denise Bryan (Airport Director) – **PLEASE SEE ATTACHED POWER POINT PRESENTATION**

7. 1st PUBLIC COMMENT SESSION: All public comments made during this session must pertain to items on the agenda for which no Public Hearing is scheduled. Each speaker is allocated three (3) minutes for comment. The total time allocated for the public comment portion of the meeting is thirty (30) minutes. Those wishing to make public comment must sign to do so prior to the Council Chair calling the meeting to order. The Clerk to Council will make a public comment sign-up sheet available at least fifteen (15) minutes prior to the scheduled start time of the meeting.

- Gene Stephens
- Don Goldbach
- Donna Wilkins
- Jeff Schaffer
- Randy Bright

8. PUBLIC HEARINGS

None.

9. ORDINANCES, RESOLUTIONS AND ORDERS

None.

10. BOARD AND COMMISSION MINUTES (For information only)

- A.** Aeronautics Commission – October 17, 2023

11. BOARD AND COMMISSION APPOINTMENTS

None

12. OLD BUSINESS

- A.** Public Service & Development Committee Update – Mr. Ruff said the committee met last Wednesday and he would give a brief update in the absence of Administration. He said they voted to send their recommendations to full Council for the short term rental and animal control ordinances. He did not have full details but said it would come before Council soon.

13. NEW BUSINESS

- A.** 2024-2025 Standing Committee Appointments – Mr. Pauley said every Council member should have received a list of the Standing Committees and if they had any problems to contact him.

14. COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

- A.** Council Work Session – 1/30/24 @ 9a – Mr. Pauley announced the work session.
- B.** Ridgeway Recreation Ribbon Cutting – 1/31/24 @ 11a – Mr. Pauley announced the ribbon cutting ceremony.

15. CLERK TO COUNCIL'S REPORT

None.

16. COUNTY COUNCIL TIME

Mr. Gilbert made a request of Council stating since December's meeting, many citizens expressed their concerns regarding the county paying over \$1.4 million in owed taxes to the IRS. Administration received letters from the IRS stating the county must pay overdue taxes and those letters were being investigated and the taxes were paid. As Mrs. Johnson stated at her last Council meeting, she had to pay the bills – there was no other option. If they had not been paid, the IRS could have and would have placed liens on County assessments including their operating accounts. He believed in transparency and the truth. In recent weeks, calls were made, posts flooded social media and media outlets reported their version of the truth. The reality of the truth was not what one wanted it to be but what it really was. While some might criticize them for not making the public aware of the tax bills beforehand, the Council and Administration were working together to ensure they had the facts before they made a presentation to the public. Mrs. Johnson worked tirelessly as the Interim Administrator for Fairfield County for the past year. He saw her arrive at her office early in the morning and work well into the night for the citizens of the County. When they hired Mrs. Johnson, they gave her a directive to straighten out their finances and she worked to do just that. It was unfair to her to be the victim of repeated bashing when she was only doing the job they asked her to do. She was not the cause of the IRS penalties. She made it a priority to resolve the real and present issues. In light of recent reports, he asked the Council to refer the matter to the finance committee so they could provide a detailed report for the citizens of Fairfield County – an accurate report based on facts not hearsay that sought to dramatize the issue. He understood the frustration many of them felt – it was their hard earned money. That money could have been spent on projects to help propel the county forward but the reality was unless they could successfully appeal the

finances, the money was gone and they could not get it back. What they could do was ensure it never happened again. They could support Administration in creating standard operating procedures to enhance and encourage communication between departments. They could look at ways to keep better records so that the letters from the IRS would not go unnoticed even when there was a transition in leadership. They could put a process in place to double check bills to ensure they were paid on time every time. He believed in their staff, department heads, Administration and most of all he believed pointing fingers only made the problem worse. He said instead of pointing fingers, point to solutions.

Mr. Robinson read the following: Small town politics should be a beacon of civic engagement and collaboration. We find ourselves dealing with an issue that threatens the integrity of our political system. It is meant to be in a place where ideas are exchanged and decisions are made and progress is achieved for the betterment of our community. However, a cancer has seeped into the roots of our local politics casting a dark shadow over the principles we are supposed to uphold. This cancer manifests itself in various forms. One of the most disheartening aspects of this cancer and the impact it has on our community is progress. Instead of focusing on initiatives that uplift our citizens, much of the time is spent on unraveling word games being spewed. Moreover, this cancer creates an environment of fear and mistrust amongst our citizens and residents of our town. When the political decisions are driven by personal interest rather than the common good, it undermines the very foundation of our democracy. Citizens become disappointed and they fear their voices go unheard. I encourage our citizens to do their research. (End of read statement). He said to the constituents of District 6, it was with mixed emotions that he was informing them and the public that he decided not to seek re-election for the upcoming term. Serving as their District 6 representative had been an incredibly rewarding experience and he was grateful for the trust and support he received from his constituents and colleagues. After careful consideration and reflection, he concluded that it was time for him to step back and allow a new voice and a new perspective to contribute to the growth and development of their community. He expressed his deepest gratitude to the residents of District 6 for the honor of representing them. As he transitioned out of his role, he was confident that Council would remain committed to supporting the community in any way possible. Once again he thanked them for the opportunity to serve and he looked forward to witnessing the continued progress of their community and county from a different vantage point. He then said he would close his book. He continued to say that what was going on was nonsense. He was on Council for almost 8 years. During his last year as Chairman, he worked closely with Mrs. Johnson as the Deputy Administrator. Mistakes were made but it was a

position where she learned. She did a damn good job. He did not know where or how the rumors started – it puzzled and irritated him but that cancer in the county needed to stop. The county would not grow until they put a stop to it. Mrs. Greene said she thought it was very sad to see how they shared information in the county and the outcome of sharing misinformation. There were a number of things that occurred regarding the finances in the county and what the problems were. She thought they should take a look at the information so they would know exactly what was going on because there had been a lot of misinformation shared. Resumes of people were shared and a lot of calls were made to people reading off the resume. Council had a duty to take a look at everything – background checks, reference checks, etc. What if it was one of their children applying for a job and their resume was shared all over the place? People called and said why did this person not get hired, how are you going to vote, etc. - that was not following procedures. What that did was discourage/reduce the pool of people who would apply for the job because they would know what happened before with resumes being shared. They needed to think about that. They called it being transparent but they should remember that someone's life was in the balance – someone could get fired. They could talk about the last three candidates but it went a lot farther than that. She said they should think about the responsibilities they had as citizens and as Council to try to make the best decisions they could.

Mr. Ruff said he was sorry to hear that Mr. Robinson would not run again. He served with him on prior Council and enjoyed it. He hated to hear it and thanked him. It was stated earlier that there were accusations against Mrs. Johnson but it was not him. He enjoyed working with her the first time he was on Council and that time. His recommendation for the audit was not to point fingers at her or anyone but just to clear the air. He said someone mentioned that they did not care about the employees and that was absolutely not true. They did care about the employees. He recommended way back to hire Mrs. Johnson as Interim Administrator and he thought she did a great job. He wanted her and the people to know that she was still his friend and he liked her very much. They hired for Interim knowing they would look for a permanent Administrator and that was where it was going – it was not personal at all. He appreciated what she did and it did not have anything to do with that. It was about the way he compared the qualifications, experience, etc. and the way he thought the county needed to go. He knew Council cared about the employees. They had to work together and it was sad that it seemed as though there were some personal agendas but he was not a part of it. They needed to work together, Council and citizens, to move the county forward in a positive direction.

Mr. Pauley said he thought all of Council said what needed to be said. Mrs. Johnson was not there that night but he wanted to thank her for her service

and dedication to Fairfield County. She came out of retirement to try to get the County on the right track. He said if she was watching, he appreciated her service and dedication. Hopefully, she would enjoy her retirement. He thanked Council and said they needed to work together to find a permanent Administrator – one who they felt would move the county forward. He agreed with Mrs. Greene regarding resumes. He was not saying that the candidates were not good ones but one could look good on paper but interviews and reference checks also had to be considered. Again, he said he was not saying that the candidates were not good candidates.

17. EXECUTIVE SESSION: (The following statement is provided in compliance with the South Carolina Freedom of Information Act: Subsequent to Executive Session, Council may take action on matters discussed in Executive Session.)

- A.** Receipt of legal advice and discussion of the employment of a County Administrator pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. § 30-4-70(a)(1).
- B.** Mr. Pauley said there was also an amendment to add an action item for the appointment of an Acting Administrator.

At 6:54pm, motion made by Councilwoman Greene, seconded by Councilman Gilbert to go into executive session. ***The motion carried 7-0.***

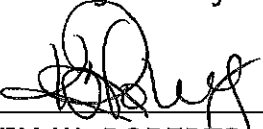
At 7:47pm, motion made by Councilman Roseborough, seconded by Councilman Ruff to come out of executive session. ***The motion carried 7-0.***

Mr. Pauley said no action was taken during executive session.


Mr. Gilbert made a motion to appoint Deputy Administrator, Synithia Williams, as the Acting County Administrator for Fairfield County for a period of time of no more than two weeks, seconded by Councilwoman Greene. ***The motion carried 7-0.***

18. ADJOURN

At 7:48pm, motion made by Councilman Gilbert, seconded by Councilman Roseborough to adjourn. ***The motion carried 7-0.***



KIM W. ROBERTS, Ed. D.
CLERK TO COUNCIL



DOUGLAS PAULEY
CHAIRMAN

FAIRFIELD COUNTY AIRPORT

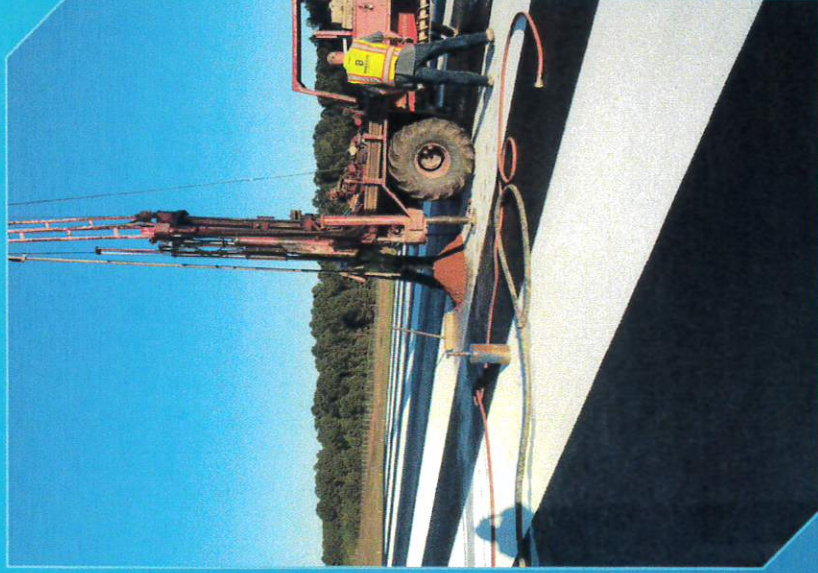
Summary

Drainage North
Construction:
Phase 1

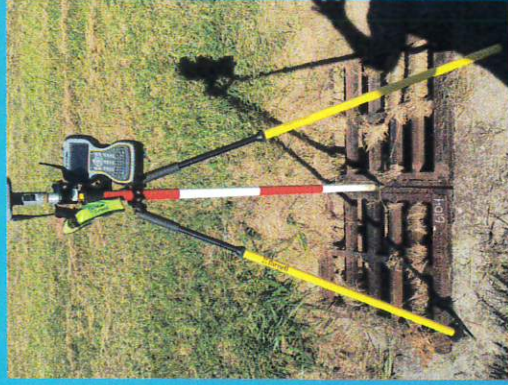
History...

DRAINAGE STUDY: 2018

Project Total:	79,500
FAA Share:	71,550 (90%)
State Share:	3,975 (5%)
County Share:	3,975 (5%)



Drains Failing



Inlets Failing



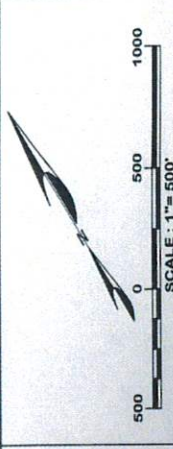
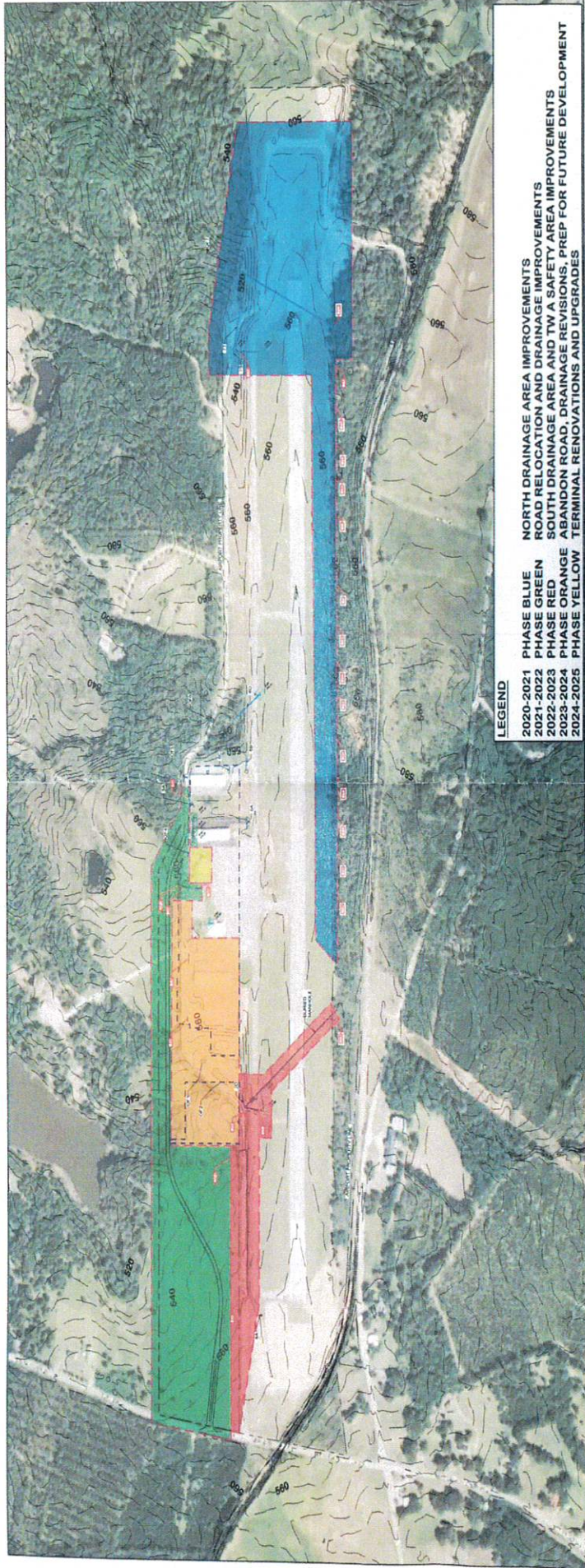
PROJECT SUMMARY: FORECAST FOR DESIGN 2020





DRAINAGE NORTH: 2020 DESIGN, PERMIT AND BID

Project Total:	263,268
FAA Share:	236,942 (90%)
State Share:	13,163 (5%)
County Share:	13,163 (5%)



FAIRFIELD COUNTY AIRPORT (FDW)

AIRPORT CIP PHASING PLAN



Michael Baker
INTERNATIONAL

DRAINAGE NORTH CONSTRUCTION: 2022

Project Total:	1,922,599
FAA Share:	1,922,599 (100%)
State Share:	0
County Share:	0

100% Federal
Supplemental Grant!!!

COMPANIES CHOSEN FOR THE PROJECT

ENGINEERING COMPANY:

Michael Baker International

Contractor:

Wiley Easton

Lighting:

Walker Whiteside

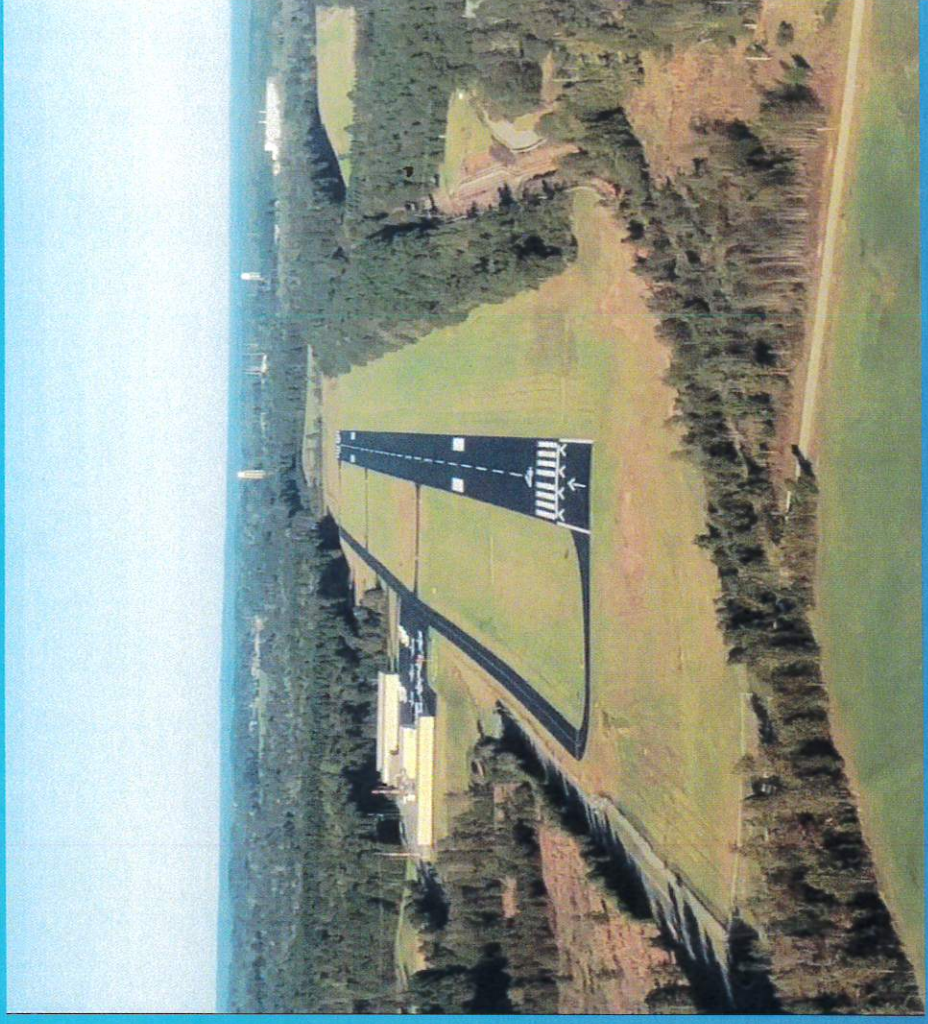
Paint:

PACE

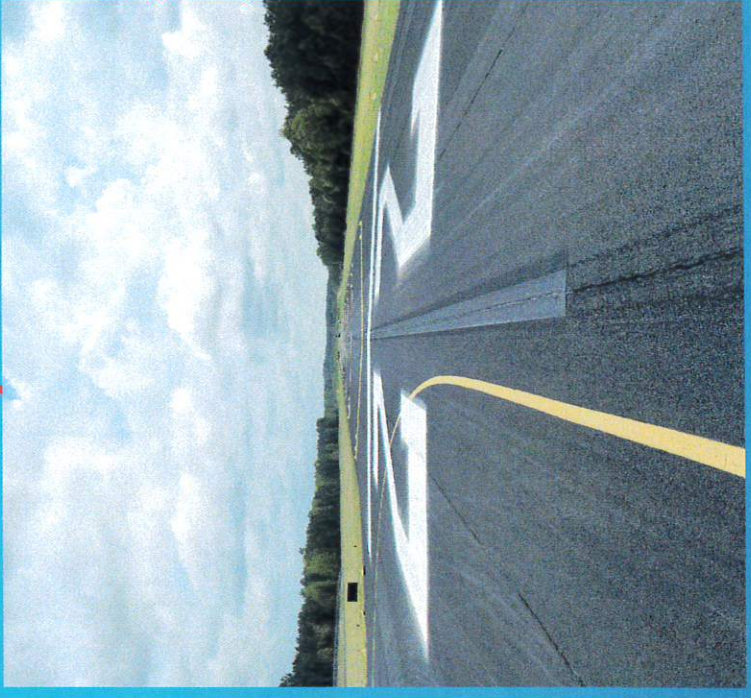
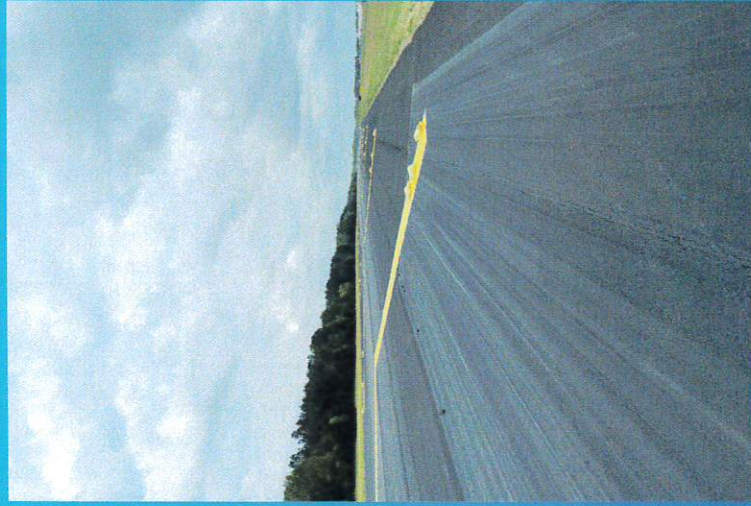
March 21, 2023 Began



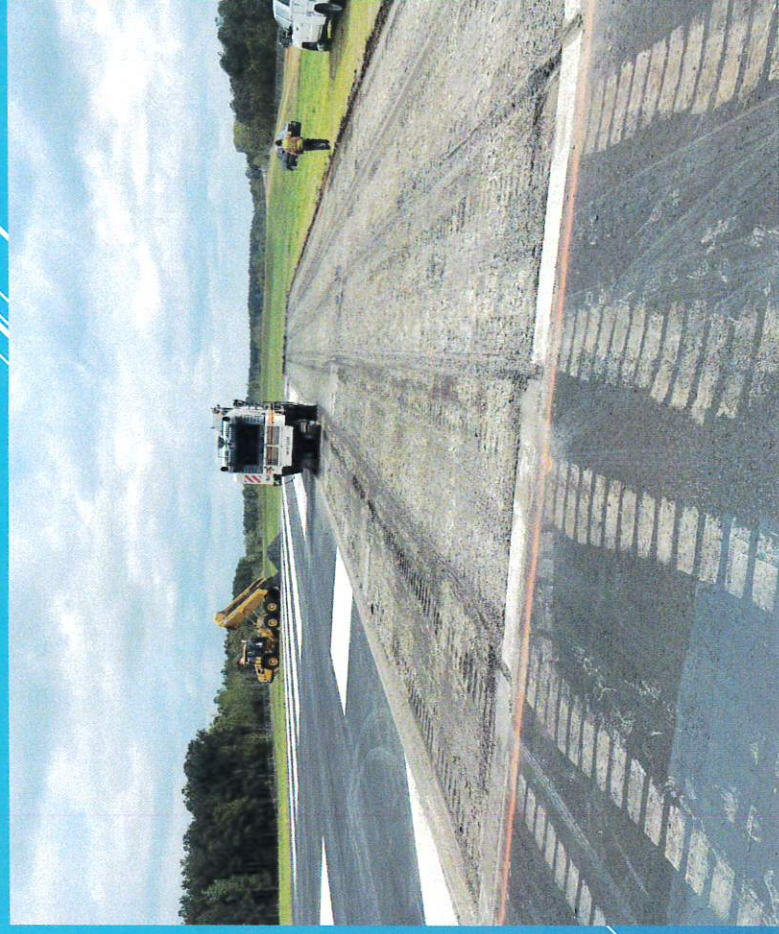
August 24, 2023 Completed



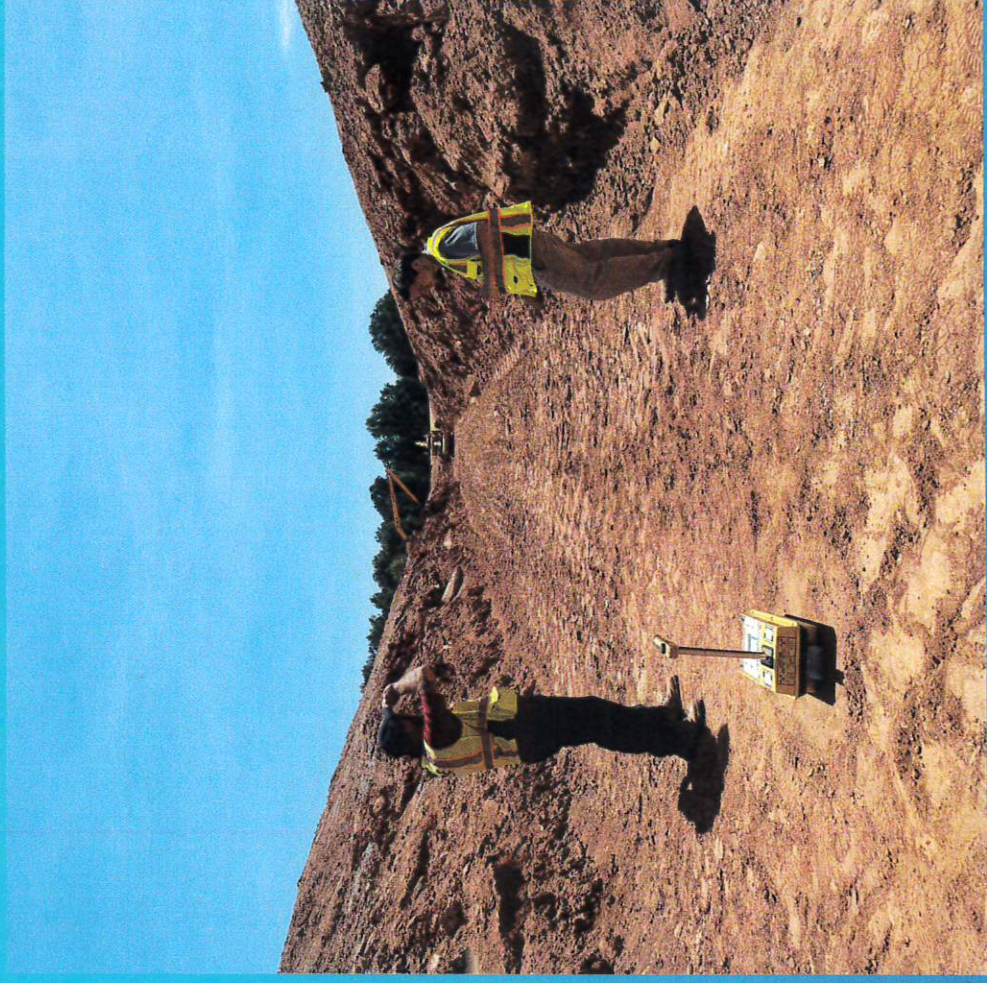
DISPLACED THRESHOLD: TEMPORARY
MARKINGS AND LIGHTING (ONLY
CLOSED THREE DAYS TOTAL!)



PAVEMENT REMOVAL: RUNWAY AND TAXIWAY



Pipe under the Runway: 30 to 40 Deep



Pictures During Construction



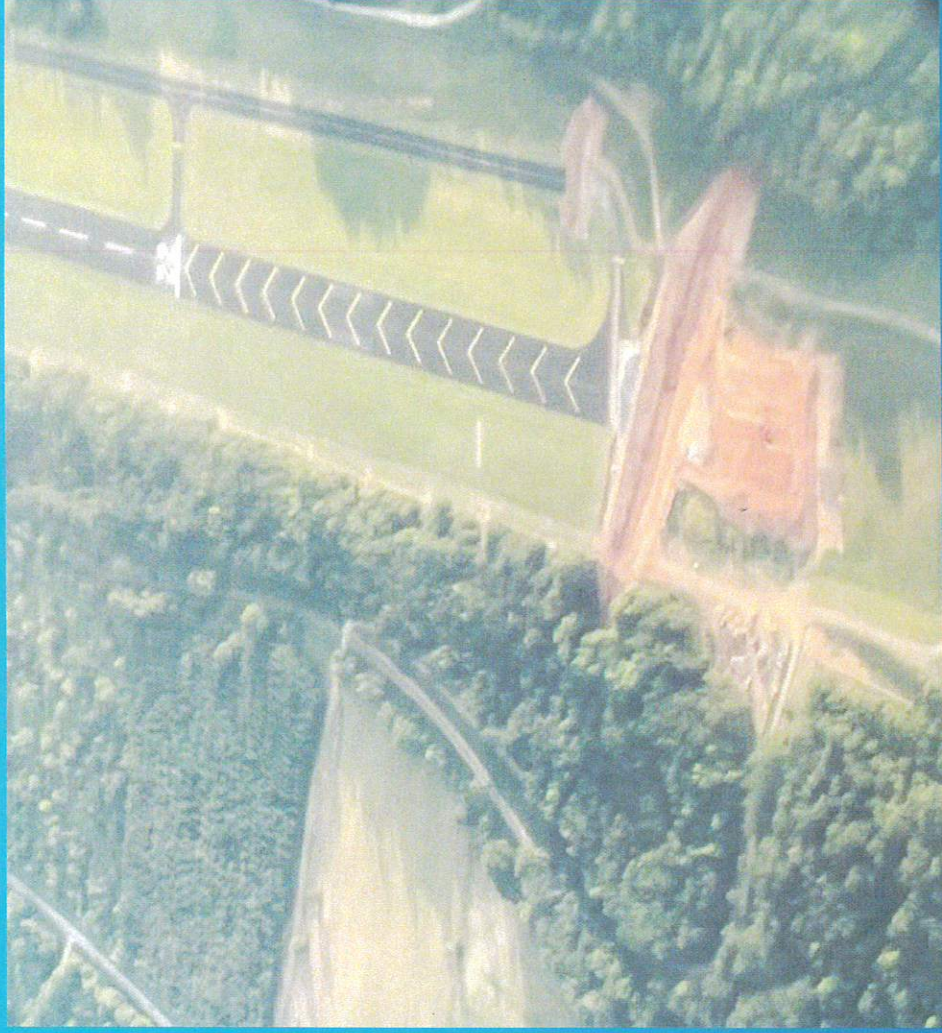
ROCKS!!!



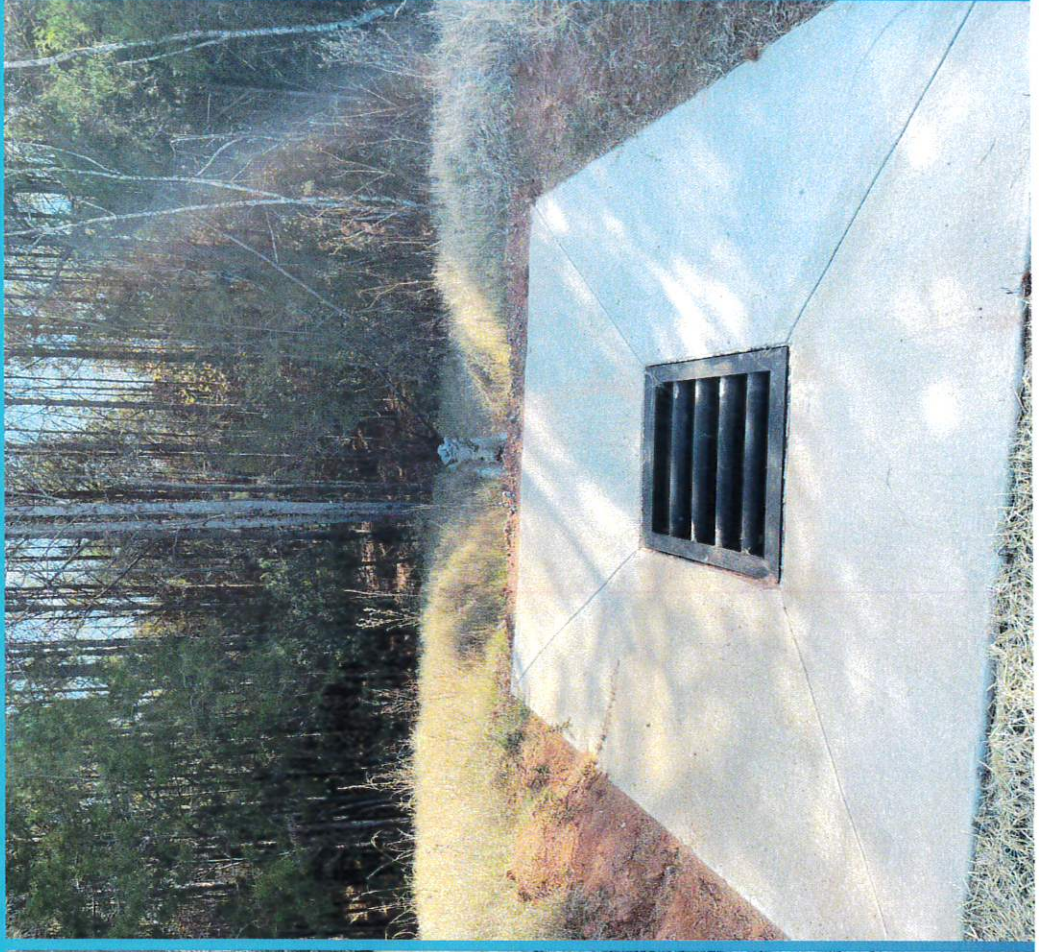
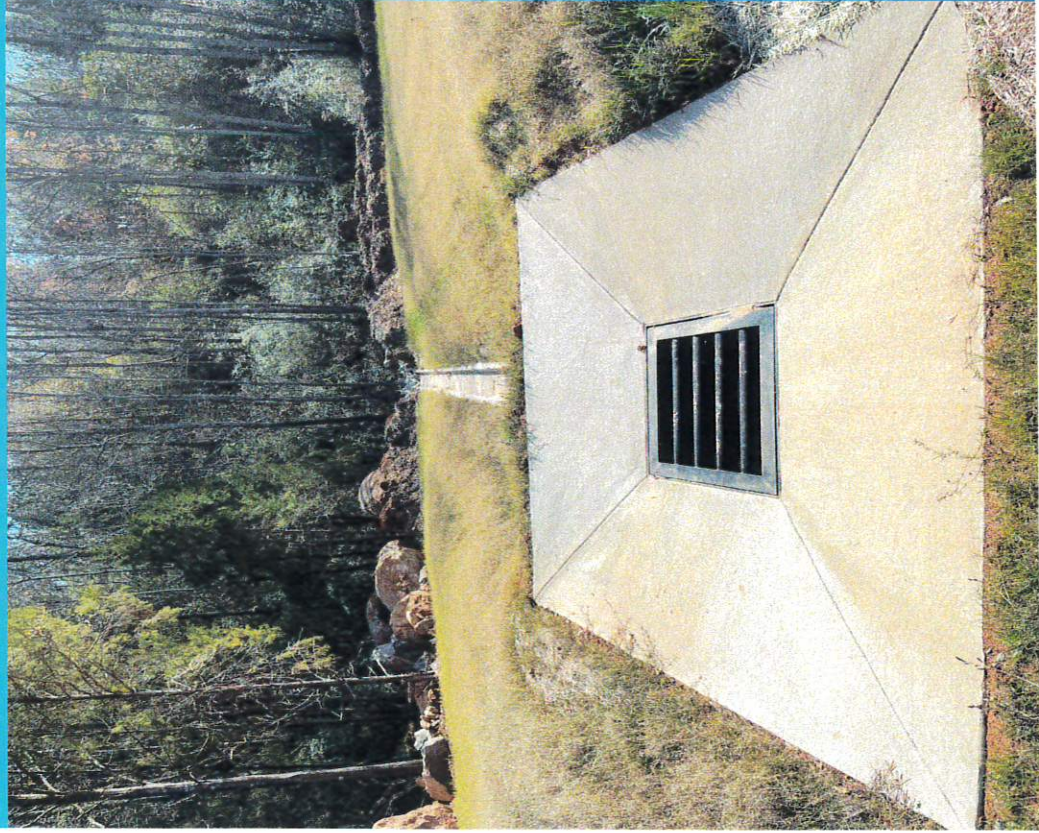
Pictures... Flume Drains along the tree lines.



Construction from the Air...



Completed project parts... 15 flume drains



Infield Drain...



Next...



South Drainage (Design, Permit and Bid)
scheduled for 2023

Project Total:	334,112
Federal Share:	300,701 (90%)
State Share:	16,706 (5%)
County Share:	16,706 (5%)

South Drainage – Construction 2024

Project Total:	2,227,206
Federal Share:	2,004,485 (90%)
State Share:	11,360 (5%)
County Share:	11,360 (5%)

QUESTIONS:

AIRPORT CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN FY 2025 - 2029 (including 2023 - 2024 for reference)															
Fairfield County Airport (FDW)															
Fiscal Year	Description	National Priority Ranking (NPR)					AIP Eligibility	Existing PCI	Project Total Cost	Eligible Federal Share				Eligible State Share	Sponsor Share
		(P)	(A)	(C)	(T)	NPR				Carryover	Entitlements	BIL/RIG Funds	Add'l Funds	Total	
2023	AVAILABLE FEDERAL FUNDS									\$ 300,000	\$ 150,000	\$ 304,080		\$ 754,080	
	Airfield (South) & Lands de Drainage Improv (Design, Permit, B.d.)	ST	14	15	62	39	Table D-1.1.	N/A	\$ 334,112	\$ 300,000	\$ 701	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 334,701	\$ 16,705
	ANNUAL TOTAL: CARRYOVER FUNDS:	32	14	15	62	39			\$ 334,112	\$ 300,000	\$ 701	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 334,701	\$ 16,705
2024	AVAILABLE FEDERAL FUNDS									\$ 149,299	\$ 149,299	\$ 155,800		\$ 630,099	
	Airfield (South) & Lands de Drainage Improv (Construct) (Supplementary Funding)	ST	O1	IM			Table D-1.1.	N/A	\$ 2,227,268	\$ 149,299	\$ 150,000	\$ 330,800	\$ 1,374,366	\$ 2,604,485	\$ 111,350
	Terminal Building Renovations (3,200 SF) / Expansion (1,500 SF) (ATP Funding Plan, if awarded)	CA	TE	EX			Table N-7 e.(2), Table N-9 b., Table N-9 d.	N/A	\$ 4,020,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,618,000	\$ -	\$ 3,618,000	\$ 201,000
2025	AVAILABLE FEDERAL FUNDS									\$ 140,209	\$ 150,000	\$ 3,648,900	\$ 1,374,366	\$ 5,622,485	\$ 312,350
	Aircraft Wash Park (Design, Bid, Construct)	OT	14	15	3	25	Table D-1.1.	N/A	\$ 299,000	\$ -	\$ 150,000	\$ 118,200	\$ 1,182,000	\$ 268,200	\$ 14,900
	ANNUAL TOTAL: CARRYOVER FUNDS:	25	14	15	3	25			\$ 299,000	\$ -	\$ 150,000	\$ 118,200	\$ 1,182,000	\$ 268,200	\$ 14,900
2026	AVAILABLE FEDERAL FUNDS									\$ -	\$ 150,000	\$ 171,800		\$ 321,800	
	Terminal Building Renovations (3,200 sf); Expansion (1,500 sf) (Design, B.d., Permit, B.d.) (ATP Funding not received in prior years)	CA	TE	EX			Table N-7 e.(2), Table N-9 b., Table N-9 d.	N/A	\$ 360,000	\$ -	\$ 150,000	\$ 171,800	\$ 2,200	\$ 324,000	\$ 18,000
	ANNUAL TOTAL: CARRYOVER FUNDS:	20	14	22	54	45			\$ 360,000	\$ -	\$ 150,000	\$ 171,800	\$ 2,200	\$ 324,000	\$ 18,000
2027	AVAILABLE FEDERAL FUNDS									\$ -	\$ 150,000			\$ 150,000	
	Terminal Building Renovations (3,200 sf); Expansion (1,500 sf) (Construct) (ATP funding not received in prior years)	CA	TE	EX			Table N-7 e.(2), Table N-9 b., Table N-9 d.	N/A	\$ 3,460,000	\$ -	\$ 150,000	\$ -	\$ 3,144,000	\$ 2,254,000	\$ 183,000
	ANNUAL TOTAL: CARRYOVER FUNDS:	20	14	22	54	45			\$ 3,460,000	\$ -	\$ 150,000	\$ -	\$ 3,144,000	\$ 2,254,000	\$ 183,000
2028	AVAILABLE FEDERAL FUNDS									\$ -	\$ 150,000			\$ 150,000	
	Taxon Expansion (Design, Permit, B.d.)	CA	AP	EX			Table I-4.a.	N/A	\$ 300,000	\$ -	\$ 150,000	\$ -	\$ 120,000	\$ 270,000	\$ 15,000
	ANNUAL TOTAL: CARRYOVER FUNDS:	70	14	65	64	67			\$ 300,000	\$ -	\$ 150,000	\$ -	\$ 120,000	\$ 270,000	\$ 15,000
2029	AVAILABLE FEDERAL FUNDS									\$ -	\$ 150,000			\$ 150,000	
	Airport Expansion (Construct)	CA	AP	EX			Table I-4.a.	N/A	\$ 1,000,000	\$ -	\$ 150,000	\$ -	\$ 1,100,000	\$ 1,300,000	\$ 75,000
	ANNUAL TOTAL: CARRYOVER FUNDS:	70	14	65	64	67			\$ 1,000,000	\$ -	\$ 150,000	\$ -	\$ 1,100,000	\$ 1,300,000	\$ 75,000

Last Updated: 11/27/2023