

DC METROPLEX BWI COMMUNITY ROUNDTABLE WORKING GROUP PUBLIC MEETING

Forty-Sixth Meeting of the DC Metroplex BWI Community Roundtable Working Group

Tuesday, May 9, 2023 from 7:02 p.m. – 8:49 p.m.  
Meeting held in-person and virtually via GoToWebinar

**MEETING MINUTES**

Regular Participants

Roundtable Member	District/Organization	Attended	Roundtable Member	District/Organization	Attended
Debra MacDonald*	District 9	X	Marcus Parker, Sr.	Alternate for Dan Klosterman, District 32	
Austin Holley, Vice Chair*	District 33	X	Debra Jung*	Howard County Council, District 4	X
Ellen Moss*	District 2 Anne Arundel County Council		Brent Girard	Office of Senator Chris Van Hollen	
Mary Reese*	District 30	X	Adam Spangler	Office of Congressman Anthony G. Brown	
Jesse Chancellor*	District 9	X	Sam Snead*	Office of Anne Arundel County Executive Steuart Pittman	
Howard Johnson*	District 12		Laila Jones	Office of Anne Arundel County Executive Steuart Pittman	
Drew Roth*	District 12	X	Bruce Gartner*	Office of Howard County Executive Calvin Ball	X
Scott Phillips*	District 13	Online	Mandy Rimmell*	Office of Baltimore County Executive Johnny Olszewski	
Paul Verchinski	Alternate District 13		Paul Shank, Chief Engineer	MAA	
Evan Reese*	District 30		Darline Terrell-Tyson, Director, Office of Environmental Compliance and Sustainability	MAA	
Al Donaldson*	District 32	X	Greg Voos	Mid Atlantic Regional Representative, NBAA	
David Nibeck	Alternate for District 32		Kyle Evans	General Aviation Representative, CP Management LLC	
Daniel Woomer*	District 32	X	David Richardson	Southwest Airlines	
Dan Klosterman*	District 32		Steve Alterman	President, Air Cargo Association	

\*Voting Member

## ADDITIONAL PARTICIPANTS

Spencer Dixon (Online), Office of Senator Dawn Gile, District 33 Legislative Director  
Jessica Klaitman (Online), alternate for Mr. Brent Girard, Office of Senator Chris Van Hollen

### Maryland Aviation Administration (MAA)

Bruce Rineer  
Karen Harrell

### Federal Aviation Administration (FAA)

Veda Simmons

### Contractor Support

Royce Bassarab, HNTB  
Michael Shipman, Assedo Consulting  
Joy Hamilton (Online), Assedo Consulting

## MEETING MATERIALS

None

## **1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

### Introduction and Roll Call of Attendees

Mr. Bruce Rineer began the meeting at 7:02 p.m. and welcomed everyone in attendance. He stated that the meeting was being recorded. He also shared a reminder of exit locations and emergency procedures. He stated that in-person attendees wishing to comment in this meeting should have signed in upon arrival, and virtual attendees should type their questions into the questions box to be addressed by the Roundtable at either this meeting or at a later time. Mr. Rineer noted that online attendees should log off and back on if they had experienced technical difficulties.

Ms. Debra MacDonald proceeded with roll call of voting members and alternates, as well as non-voting Roundtable members. A quorum was reached.

### Approve Agenda

Ms. MacDonald transitioned to approving the meeting agenda. Ms. Mary Reese moved to approve; Mr. Daniel Woome seconded. All voted in favor; none opposed.

### Review and Approve April 4, 2023 Meeting Minutes

Mr. Woome sent a last-minute change to Ms. MacDonald earlier in the day for the April 4, 2023 meeting minutes. He suggested, regarding Legislative Initiative SB-162/HB-204, that all bill sponsors and co-sponsors' names should be included in the minutes, not just Senator Lam and Delegate Hill. Ms. Reese apologized for excluding the other sponsors' names from her comments during last month's meeting. She confirmed that the bill passed and suggested that a letter of appreciation could be sent to each sponsor of the bill. Ms. Reese noted that in a previous PowerPoint presentation on the bill, she listed each co-sponsor individually on the slides and assured Mr. Woome that she would identify all co-

sponsors for recognition. Mr. Woomer moved to accept the minutes; Mr. Drew Roth seconded. Mr. Jesse Chancellor abstained; the rest were in favor, and the motion passed.

## **2. DISCUSSION: FAA PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD ON REVIEW OF THE CIVIL AVIATION NOISE POLICY (DOCKET #FAA-2023-0855)**

Ms. MacDonald moved on to a discussion of the Federal Aviation Administration's (FAA) public comment period for the Civil Aviation Noise Policy (Noise Policy). On May 1, 2023, the FAA published a request for public comments on four key considerations for the Noise Policy. Ms. MacDonald stated that the FAA is requesting input regarding how the FAA analyzes, presents, explains, and publicly presents changes aircraft noise exposure to affected communities. The public comment period will be open for 90 days. Ms. MacDonald wanted to discuss the Roundtable's response as well as a strategy to communicate with affected communities on how they can participate in the public comment period.

Ms. Veda Simmons shared that the FAA conducted a Neighborhood Environmental Study (NES) a few years ago, and based on the responses, the FAA is now conducting a noise policy review of the FAA's primary metric of the 65-decibel day-night average sound level (DNL). Ms. Simmons reminded the Roundtable that the open comment period is 90 days, from May 1, 2023 to July 31, 2023. She stated that the FAA is looking for comments and suggestions from the public about anything related to the Noise Policy. The FAA is especially interested in feedback about the current use of 65 DNL as a metric and threshold since the FAA has previously received feedback that the FAA's metrics are outdated. Ms. Simmons continued by providing the Roundtable with a link (<https://www.faa.gov/noisepolicyreview>) containing four noise policy webinars available to the public that could answer questions and provide more information on the Noise Policy. The webinars are currently scheduled as follows (in eastern time):

- Tuesday, May 16, 2023, 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.
- Thursday, May 18, 2023, 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
- Tuesday, May 23, 2023, 9:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m.
- Thursday, May 25, 2023, 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Ms. Simmons stated that comments made during any of these webinars will not be included in the public comment record. All comments must be submitted to the Federal Register notice (by submitting comments online, by mail, hand delivery, or fax). Ms. MacDonald asked Ms. Simmons if she could send an email to Ms. MacDonald with details about the noise policy review for dissemination. Ms. Simmons stated that the FAA Regional Administrator already sent an email with information regarding the noise policy review, including the dates and times of the upcoming webinars. Ms. MacDonald confirmed that she received the email from Senator Chris Van Hollen's office.

Mr. Drew Roth asked how the Roundtable would develop their response to the request for comments on the Noise Policy. Ms. MacDonald responded that she is looking for volunteers to assist with the Roundtable's response. Ms. Reese suggested using the format from the Roundtable's response to the NES in 2017, which is available on the Roundtable's website. She added that the Roundtable has made several similar responses over the years. Mr. Roth then said that the Roundtable has an opportunity to draft a response before the 90-day deadline. Ms. Reese suggested that the response should be coordinated with Ms. Anne Hollander from Montgomery County for consistency. Ms. MacDonald asked

Mr. Roth to lead the Roundtable's response; Mr. Roth agreed, with Mr. Chancellor volunteering to assist him.

Mr. Austin Holley requested the dates and times for the upcoming noise policy webinars. Ms. Simmons posted the information in the online chat for the Roundtable's reference and Ms. MacDonald provided the link to Mr. Holley. Ms. MacDonald stated, per Mr. Chancellor's request, that she would also send the link via email to the full Roundtable contact list.

Ms. MacDonald asked Ms. Simmons about the Roundtable's letter of approval for the proposed PBN procedures at BWI, as discussed during the April 4 Roundtable meeting. Ms. Simmons stated that the FAA is still finalizing the verbiage they want to include in the letter. She explained that the FAA's procedure has changed and that the FAA Regional Administrator now requests a signed, written letter from every Roundtable Chair, with the Chair representing the members of the Roundtable, when addressing recommendations on proposed procedures; in this case, the Standard Instrument Departures (SIDs) at BWI. The FAA requests such letters from Roundtables as well as from the airports.

Ms. Simmons stated that the FAA has not completed the letter since several approvals are still pending. This letter includes all affected flight procedures at BWI because the FAA received letters from communities expressing confusion and uncertainty about which procedures are included. Ms. Simmons told Ms. MacDonald that she hopes to have the final letter, with the list of procedures included, emailed to the Roundtable by next Monday, May 15.

Ms. MacDonald reminded Ms. Simmons that the Roundtable already emailed the FAA a letter about moving forward on the proposed procedures. Ms. Simmons responded by saying that the FAA Regional Administrator wants this letter for all states in her jurisdiction. Additionally, this letter must be in writing; an email will not suffice. This information will be contained in the email Ms. Simmons will send to the Roundtable next week, including suggested verbiage and content for inclusion. Ms. Simmons also reiterated that this process is occurring for all Roundtables and all airport authorities.

Ms. Reese then asserted that the Roundtable has formally replied to every stage of the process to the FAA and that the MAA has been in communication with the FAA according to their direction throughout this process. She added that the Roundtable has already provided the FAA with a formal letter responding to the issues the FAA asked the Roundtable to address regarding the timeline for the implementation of the new procedures. Ms. Reese then declared that the Roundtable will not send the FAA any new correspondence because that would be a potential legal violation of the Roundtable's record. She asserted that they have provided the necessary documentation and further requests put the Roundtable in a legally challenging position. She asked Ms. Simmons if the Roundtable would need to involve the MAA's legal department to resolve this matter.

Ms. Simmons reiterated that this is a new process for the FAA and that it affects MAA and all airports, saying that she would send the email to the Roundtable and encouraged them to read through the email and understand the Regional Administrator's request before responding. Ms. Reese asked if the FAA was grandfathering in old procedures. Ms. Simmons replied that this information will be in her email and stated again that she named all procedures in the email that are part of the recommendations from the Roundtable. She concluded that she would send the email to the Roundtable and MAA the week of May

15, and again encouraged the Roundtable to read through it before responding. Ms. Reese asked if Ms. Jessica Klaitman from Senator van Hollen's office was still online; Ms. Klaitman did not reply. Ms. Reese apologized to Ms. Simmons, saying that this development was shocking; Ms. Simmons replied that she is simply passing on this information.

Ms. Debra Jung asked Ms. Simmons if the proposed procedures would cause any delays with the publication of the SIDs and Standard Terminal Arrivals (STARs). Ms. Simmons assured Ms. Jung that the procedures will not delay the publication of the SIDs or STARs and that this is an administrative process. Ms. Simmons reminded the Roundtable that the FAA's PBN Group will be attending the June Roundtable meeting to provide an update on their meeting with industry regarding the STARs and Instrument Approach Procedures. Mr. Roth requested clarification about whether the visit from the PBN Group will be informational only and if any decisions would occur as a result. Ms. MacDonald and Ms. Simmons responded that the PBN Group will only provide an update in June; no decisions or votes will occur.

### **3. ANE SYMPOSIUM UPDATE**

Mr. Chancellor shared that last week, he and Jim Allerdice from Vianair gave a presentation at the Aviation Noise and Emission Symposium at UC Davis in California. They were part of a panel called "Beyond DNL 65" and were invited because communities were interested in the monthly reports provided by Vianair to the Roundtable regarding the use of the number of events above 55 dB DNL (N-Above 55) as a key metric instead of DNL. Mr. Chancellor noted that Vianair's reports also still report DNL because the FAA uses this metric to make decisions. He stated that he will send a link for the panel to the Roundtable once it is available to watch in its entirety. He said that in this panel, several people proposed the idea that DNL simply "masks noise" and does not necessarily describe it. Mr. Chancellor noted that this issue will likely be one of the topics addressed when preparing the Roundtable's response to the FAA's noise policy.

Mr. Chancellor said that in the presentation, he informed the panel that the Roundtable was unable to find adequate information in its region and no database exists that covers the entire DNL overflow in communities. He explained that the database may cover residents who live within one or two miles from the airport, but not residents who live 10 to 15 miles or more away from the airport who are experiencing life-altering noise. He also stated that the public does not understand DNL, saying that DNL is an upper limit of what people can stand, not a threshold for decision making. Mr. Chancellor said that N-Above is a more easily understood metric compared to DNL. He also commented that the Roundtable has been engaged with the FAA in trying to implement procedure changes longer than it took the FAA to implement NextGen in the Baltimore region. Several Roundtable members expressed amazement at this. Mr. Chancellor suggested that the Roundtable members participate in an open discussion about the panel during the June Roundtable meeting once all members have had a chance to view the recording.

Ms. Reese asked what N-Above means; Mr. Chancellor responded that it is simply the number of aircraft above a certain threshold of noise. He also explained that when utilizing the N-Above metric, the Roundtable chose to use 55 decibels because that sound level is when aircraft noise begins to become irritating to residents, although resident complaints are being received with noise levels in the 40s. Mr.

Chancellor continued by saying that the NES indicated that communities are more annoyed by aircraft noise of any level than any other transportation source.

#### **4. MDOT MAA UPDATE**

No update was provided.

#### **5. ROUNDTABLE COMMITTEE REPORTS**

##### Technical Committee

Mr. Bruce Gartner said that, regarding the Vianair contract, the Technical Committee has requested approval for a sole source contract from the County auditor. As of this meeting, Mr. Gartner is awaiting an update from the County auditor; he has given them the justification for the new contract and if the County goes ahead, he will follow up with Vianair. He also noted that no data is being lost during this process, and that the committee received the data in a readable format. Ms. MacDonald asked Mr. Gartner and Mr. Chancellor when the data was last delivered. Mr. Chancellor and Mr. Gartner, after minor discussion, concluded that data was last delivered in February.

##### Legislative Committee

Ms. Reese informed the Roundtable that the Legislative Initiative SB-162/HB-204 bill, which modified the duties and composition of the Maryland Aviation Commission (MAC) and added an orientation for members to it, passed on May 8, 2023; Maryland Governor Wes Moore signed it. Notification of the signing was on short notice, so no Legislative Committee members attended.

Ms. Reese continued by giving thanks to all sponsors of the bill. In the Senate, the primary sponsor was Senator Clarence Lam. The bill was co-sponsored by Senators Beidle, Gile, Elfreth, and Guzzone. Ms. Reese expressed deep appreciation for the Senators' support of the bill, especially since it was met with significant opposition. In the House, the primary sponsor was Delegate Terri Hill and was co-sponsored by Delegates Chang, Bagnal, Feldmark, Guzzone, Grossman, Lehman, Ruth, Terrasa, and Ziegler. Ms. Reese urged the Roundtable to reach out to each of these Senators and Delegates to thank them for their support of this bill.

She also told the Roundtable that they can read the bill online and see how it was amended by visiting the Maryland General Assembly website and searching "SB-162." Ms. Reese continued by saying that health, livability of communities, environmental impacts, and other important impacts will now be considered when it comes to airport aviation infrastructure decisions in Maryland. She noted that Maryland is the first state to do this.

Mr. Woomer suggested drafting a thank you letter to each bill sponsor expressing unanimous thanks from the entire Roundtable. Ms. Reese asked Mr. Woomer to draft it; Mr. Woomer agreed.

Mr. Chancellor congratulated and thanked the Legislative Committee for their work in advocating for the bill, noting that a bill of this magnitude has not passed anywhere else in the country because communities are not considered stakeholders in the aviation world. He also hoped that this bill would begin to make a difference in other states.

Ms. Jung then shared that she, Ms. Reese, and Mr. Chancellor met for the first time four years ago to begin discussing legislation and how to address noise issues. She acknowledged them for their persistence in identifying and addressing issues and solutions. Mr. Chancellor marveled that the opposition to the bill employed paid lobbyists and that the Roundtable were only volunteers, yet the Roundtable prevailed.

Mr. Chancellor stated that the bill results in four new commissioners being appointed to the MAC, two each from Anne Arundel and Howard Counties, by the senatorial delegations. He asked the Roundtable how the delegations would choose the commissioners, saying that in prior legislation, the Roundtable served as a vetting source for the delegations. Ms. Reese replied that the language change was a concession in that instead of the Roundtable nominating candidates for the Governor to choose from, delegations would choose the candidates. She went on to say that this change was debated for some time between the delegations and the County Executive's Office. Ms. Reese continued by saying that the delegations understand and look to the Roundtable to provide formal input. The Roundtable members agreed with this statement.

Ms. Jung suggested writing a letter on behalf of the Roundtable expressing the members' desire to meet with each candidate and speak with them before they appear before the Senate Delegation. She went on to say that the MAC candidates should understand the Legislative Initiative SB-162/HB-204 bill and its importance. Ms. Jung added that the letter should include the Roundtable's recommendations for the commissioners after meeting with all candidates, though the Roundtable is not officially required to do so.

Mr. Al Donaldson stated that he had a discussion with Senator Beidle last week and she is ready to begin vetting candidates; therefore, writing a letter of recommendation would be best done sooner rather than later. Mr. Donaldson also said that Senator Beidle would prefer candidates with some aircraft experience.

Mr. Chancellor suggested creating a list of criteria for the ideal candidate to help the Roundtable make their recommendations. He noted that the commissioners must balance aircraft and airport concerns against community concerns. Mr. Chancellor also reminded the Roundtable that the legislation goes into effect in October 2023, so the Roundtable will soon need a schedule for interviews to meet this timeline. He also urged the Roundtable to provide a letter to the delegations saying that they plan to meet with and recommend candidates.

Ms. MacDonald asked if this letter should be combined with the thank you letter discussed earlier in the meeting. Ms. Reese noted that the members' attention may be divided due to the legislative break and suggested that instead the Roundtable only reach out once they have a cohesive recommendation. She recommended nominating some internal Roundtable members and to also send out community notifications inviting interested applicants to attend and speak to their candidacy at the June Roundtable meeting. She explained that by already having met potential candidates, the Roundtable will be able to draft a to-the-point, specific letter to the delegations listing their recommendations.

Mr. Woomer suggested allowing the delegations to obtain potential candidates themselves, though the Roundtable could certainly put a few names forward. He also reiterated Mr. Chancellor's idea of establishing a list of criteria for potential candidates.

Ms. Jung asked how long the commission appointments last. Mr. Woomer replied that, to his knowledge, they can last between one and three years.

Mr. Chancellor said that some senators are currently moving out, meaning that the Roundtable has adequate time to establish a criteria list and then present and review that list at the June meeting. From there, the Roundtable could use the final criteria to select their candidate recommendations.

Ms. Reese disagreed, saying she does not believe there is enough time to create a criteria list. She continued by saying that the Roundtable has been expecting the upcoming commission appointments for quite some time and that they should know what criteria are appropriate. There are Roundtable members who are interested in applying and that the Roundtable should nominate their own talent. After putting forth internal nominations, Ms. Reese then said that the Roundtable should invite applications from outside candidates.

Mr. Chancellor asked for clarification from Ms. Reese that people who have served or are now serving on the Roundtable already possess the requisite set of skill sets, attitudes, and all other factors that the Roundtable would use to vet any other candidate. Ms. Jung responded that for the first set of candidates, the Roundtable would focus on nominating internal talent. She continued by saying that, in her experience as an elected official, it is helpful to get good suggestions from the community for well-qualified candidates because many positions need to be filled. She has never been affronted by any suggestions for candidates.

Mr. Donaldson asked when the first commission meeting is scheduled. Mr. Gartner answered that the first meeting is scheduled for November 15, 2023.

Mr. Chancellor said that he believes the Roundtable's perspective could be useful for any candidate, not just internal candidates. He said that the Roundtable would welcome all candidates by having a sit-down conversation with them. He suggested that while identifying and recommending their own candidates, the Roundtable should also identify five or six of the most important criteria for a candidate, and anyone interested in serving in any of the commissions are welcome to attend the July Roundtable meeting to participate in an open dialogue between the candidates and the Roundtable. Ms. Reese concurred, suggesting that the Roundtable provide a list of internal Roundtable candidates by the June meeting.

Mr. Spencer Dixon asked Ms. Reese to confirm the timeline for when the delegations must make their appointment. Ms. Reese answered that she would have to circle back with him because she is unfamiliar with how some delegations hold out-of-session meetings. She stated that Governor Moore must pick and appoint candidates by the October 1, 2023 deadline. Mr. Dixon then said that he would speak with Senator Gile, who would speak with the rest of the delegations. He also expressed that a short list of candidates from the Roundtable would be appreciated.

Mr. Chancellor stated that the biggest issue is the time available to solicit candidates outside the Roundtable. He asked Ms. Reese if the Roundtable could have a list of internal candidates prepared in



time for the June meeting. Ms. Reese responded affirmatively, saying that she does not foresee any issues that could delay the preparation of this list. The Roundtable then discussed the process for internal nominations, agreeing that they would consider at least two and no more than four candidates for each county. Ms. Reese suggested that interested candidates should contact Ms. MacDonald for an invitation to speak to the Roundtable, after which the Roundtable would vote on a package nomination to hopefully result in a unanimous recommendation. Mr. Chancellor summarized the discussion, saying that they would plan to identify internal candidates only for the 2023 nominations by the June 6<sup>th</sup> meeting. Ms. Reese agreed, saying that she will have a draft of the Roundtable's recommendation letter by then. She also suggested that the Roundtable note that external candidates will be welcome to apply for future years, saying that vetting of outside candidates will likely not occur before 2024.

Mr. Chancellor agreed with the timeline and process as outlined, saying that this seems like a very manageable process for the first year. He expressed his surprise that these commissions were approved this quickly. He also suggested that the Roundtable be open to interviewing candidates recommended by the senators or the delegation. Ms. Reese proposed that this offer should be included in the second thank you letter to the delegation, which Mr. Woomer and Ms. MacDonald agreed to work on together.

Mr. Chancellor asked about putting forth internal candidacy for the nominations. Members agreed that any Roundtable member interested in the candidacy should respond *only* to Ms. MacDonald, and they will be given a two-minute time period to state why they want to be on the commission at the next meeting. Ms. Reese also stated that she believes there should be no issue with any internal candidates serving on both the commission and the Roundtable. Mr. Chancellor said that in other similar situations, the dual positions provide good perspective to both groups.

Mr. Woomer quickly reviewed the structure of the letter with Ms. Reese, saying that first he would draft a short thank you letter and state that the Roundtable would put forth a list of candidates for consideration for the four MAC appointments at their June meeting. The letter would also state that the Roundtable would be pleased to meet with any other candidates proposed by the delegations. Ms. Reese noted that the letter should clarify that candidates are invited to attend the June Roundtable meeting to speak.

Mr. Woomer then suggested that interested candidates, including internal Roundtable candidates, should forward their resume to the Roundtable ahead of the meeting, so the Roundtable can get to know the candidates ahead of time. Ms. Reese explained that there is a full vetting process with a criminal background check when applying but expressed her discomfort with asking to see a candidate's resume in this context. The Roundtable noted that they would also accept a brief bio from candidates and would not necessarily require a formal resume. Ms. Jung added that if a candidate has the appropriate and relevant background and experience, a resume would be preferred. The consensus was that some documentation of a candidate's background would be helpful, the specific format of which would be up to the candidate.

Ms. Reese then stated the Port commission contains good language related to one of the amendments from the Legislative Initiative SB-162/HB-204 bill. One of these proposed amendments was to require that members of the commission undergoing the vetting process would have associations with the aviation industry, which she found astounding. Ms. Reese then went on to say that she and Mr. Gartner

reviewed the Port Authority's commission, which contains language explicitly prohibiting anybody from serving in the commission if they can benefit in any way from the commission's decisions. She expressed disbelief about the opposing requirements of the two commissions.

Mr. Chancellor then moved to discuss the legislation's orientation. In the original legislative concept presented this year, the commission had a dual purpose. He stated that currently, its only purpose is almost exclusively to promote the airport; however, the original purpose of the legislation was not only to promote the airport but to also promote healthy, livable communities. This dual focus arose so that the commission would not be biased towards either concern. Mr. Chancellor then said that for commissioners to be prepared to address the two objectives, they will need a common understanding of both sides. He noted that the Roundtable takes for granted the many roles, responsibilities, and decisions of commissioners; however, the Roundtable has spent the past six years familiarizing themselves with factors that the current commissioners do not understand.

Mr. Chancellor explained that the goal of the orientation is to help the new commissioners understand their roles relating to emissions, noise, health issues, and other aviation-related factors impacting communities and why these factors are important. He also said that even though commissioners no longer have this dual role, health, environmental, and community impacts make up the major considerations new commissioners will have to make. It was because of this that Mr. Chancellor stated that this orientation is still important because the end goal of the orientation is to have one set of commissioners instead of two.

Mr. Chancellor then suggested that the Roundtable should recommend what the content of the orientation should be for the new commissioners, at least from the community's perspective. He noted that the MAA is responsible for staffing the commission; therefore, they would have an idea of what non-emissions and pollution-related materials to put together for an orientation package for new commissioners. He added that the Roundtable should recommend to the MAA what the emissions and pollution-related content of the orientation should be for the new commissioners and highlight the areas that the Roundtable focuses on. He also said that this could easily be assembled using several videos that the Roundtable has used regarding health issues, and that the orientation should not be longer than 15 to 30 minutes.

Ms. Jung said that she believes the MAA would welcome the Roundtable's assistance with creating an orientation package. She added that this collaboration could promote a partnership between the MAA and Roundtable.

Ms. Reese suggested adding this to the correspondence action items to the MAA. Mr. Chancellor suggested that the Roundtable discuss what should be included in the orientation during the June or July meeting. Ms. Reese commented that the agenda for that meeting is expected to be quite full already and offered to arrange a June working group to create an outline for the orientation at some point after the June Roundtable meeting. Mr. Chancellor stated that he already has an idea of what the orientation should look like and offered to send it to the Roundtable for review and comment, followed by a discussion as a group later in the summer. Ms. Reese offered to connect Mr. Chancellor with some of the researchers that supported the commission in 2022, saying that several of the researchers would like to speak to the commission. Mr. Chancellor recapped the discussion, saying that he and any other

interested Roundtable members would draft an email with a suggested orientation and present it as an agenda item at the next meeting.

### Communication Committee

Ms. Reese then shared information about an interview by reporter Wambui Kamau from NPR radio station WYPR 88.1, in which she spoke with Mr. Roth regarding sound insulation unanimously approved by the Board of Public Works for 18 homes.<sup>1</sup> Ms. Reese continued by saying that the Roundtable now has Ms. Kamau's contact information, and she may be interested in talking to the Roundtable in the future. Ms. Reese offered to send out a recording of the interview to the Roundtable; Mr. Roth said it was in the Baltimore Banner as well.

Mr. Roth shared that the reporter contacted him via the BWIQuiet Facebook group and did not know he was a member of the Roundtable. He continued by saying that she sent him the Board of Estimates approval, and as they were reviewing it, both Mr. Roth and Ms. Kamau came up with some questions to ask the MAA; Mr. Roth forwarded the questions to Ms. MacDonald to send to the MAA. Mr. Roth said that noise mitigation has always been a part of Maryland law. However, he recalled from an earlier Roundtable meeting that noise mitigation has not been provided for years, and so he wondered why noise mitigation was being provided now. He also noted that for a community to be eligible for noise mitigation, it must be located within the 65 DNL noise contour. Mr. Roth asked if the noise mitigation is now being put into effect because the noise contour expanded, or if the contour is expected to expand in the future.

Ms. MacDonald has submitted Ms. Kamau's questions to the MAA. Mr. Roth continued by saying the MAA responded that many communities are eligible for noise insulation but have not had it provided to them yet, and that the noise mitigation laws have nothing to do with the airport expansion. Ms. MacDonald said that she has the formal answers from the MAA and that she and Mr. Roth were going to disseminate the information. After some discussion, the Roundtable agreed to create a Q&A document to include with the interview article. Ms. Reese suggested that the information be provided during the June Roundtable. Mr. Roth said that he believes that the 18 homes approved for sound insulation are in southern Anne Arundel County.

Ms. Jessica Klaitman rejoined the call online following earlier technical issues. Ms. Reese recapped Ms. Simmons' update regarding the FAA requirement for the Roundtable to provide additional approval letters beyond what the Roundtable has already submitted. She commented that the Roundtable has communicated with Senator Van Hollen about similar issues and wanted to do so in this case. Ms. Klaitman noted that she will pass on this information to the senator.

## **6. ELECTION OF SUCCESSOR ROUNDTABLE CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR**

Ms. MacDonald then raised the issue of appointing a new Chair and Vice Chair. She said that she has talked to a few people who are not in attendance about the election for the new Roundtable Chair and Vice Chair, commenting that she would like them to be here for that discussion. Ms. MacDonald said she

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.wypr.org/wypr-news/2023-05-03/those-living-near-bwi-airport-will-receive-funds-to-soundproof-their-homes>

still believes she is the right person to continue as Roundtable Chair for the next month unless someone wishes to volunteer for the position. She also indicated that she wants to take a pause and she has a couple of other people in mind for the Vice Chair position. Mr. Holley stated that his schedule is typically oversubscribed on Tuesdays. Ms. MacDonald said ideally, the new Roundtable Vice Chair position could then potentially move to the Chair position, thereby allowing more new people the opportunity to serve as Vice Chair in the future. Ms. Reese motioned to postpone the nomination and election of the Chair and Vice Chair until the June meeting; Mr. Woomer seconded. All voted in favor; none opposed, and the motion passed.

Ms. MacDonald said that some new Roundtable members should be in attendance for the June meeting, which can be important to the election process. Ms. Reese stated that because the Roundtable has been meeting for so long, it is natural to experience turnover at some point. Mr. Holley said he was not planning on leaving the Roundtable, but he mentioned that he is taking a seat that he cannot properly fill. He indicated that he will be moving from one district to another but will remain with District 33 until replacements can be found. Mr. Holley said that he has several other commitments and cannot properly do the job of Vice Chair. Ms. MacDonald thanked Mr. Holley for staying and for his leadership.

Ms. Reese mentioned that there tend to be long periods with few important voting matters, which becomes a drag on the Roundtable. She indicated that sometimes holding Roundtable meetings with a limited agenda leads to burnout. While Ms. Reese indicated there is much to do currently, she suggested moving to a quarterly schedule following the June-July timeframe, saying that there has been precedent for this. Mr. Chancellor suggested that August would be a good time to take a break. Ms. MacDonald and Mr. Chancellor suggested having ad hoc online meetings if a pressing issue presents itself during an off month. Ms. Reese also suggested that the Roundtable could hold small breakout work groups as long as their participation amounts to less than a quorum. Ms. MacDonald added that the more seats are occupied, the larger the quorum number will be.

Ms. Reese said that several senators have not appointed people to their seats for some time, particularly District 9 or District 13. She said that at the beginning, the seats were always filled. Ms. Jung asked Ms. MacDonald if she was representing District 13 or District 9. Ms. MacDonald answered that she is still representing District 9, but if she finds someone else for District 9, then she could be appointed to District 13. Ms. Jung added that Howard County was heavily redistricted as well. Ms. Reese stated that Senator Lam is now part of District 30. Ms. Jung said that Anne Arundel and Howard Counties were brought together because Senator John Sarbanes now represents all of Howard County and a large portion of Anne Arundel, which has never happened before.

Mr. Roth said that District 12 is moving into Anne Arundel County and moving out of Baltimore County. He also mentioned that because of this, the district will be divided into District 12A and District 12B in order to avoid having three delegates covering from Columbia to Arbutus. Ms. MacDonald indicated that the Roundtable would continue filling in the roster.

## **7. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Ms. MacDonald announced that there was a two-minute timer that will be used for public comments, and that in-person comments would be addressed before online comments.

Ms. Laura Donovan questioned if the enrolled bill is what Governor Moore signed, which Ms. Reese confirmed. Ms. Donovan mentioned that if the Roundtable gets the Vianair study funded again, helicopters need to be monitored because noise monitors from the airport do not pick up ground noise and do not associate noise with a flight since no planes are in the air. She asked if any members of the Roundtable had more information on this issue. Mr. Chancellor offered to discuss the issue offline with her. Ms. Donovan thanked everyone for getting the study completed.

Mr. Pleasant stated that last month, he checked the status of the bill and saw it didn't pass. He attended a Commission meeting, where it was implied that it was the only health study available. He stated to the Commission he was there as a victim, not providing hearsay. Mr. Pleasant told the Commission how many aircraft fly over his home, saying he does not understand why the airport continues expanding. He said that in the 1980s, an independent study recommended closing and moving the airport to a different location. He stated that other states consider the public health impacts of the airports.

Mr. Pleasant then addressed noise modeling with the Commissioners. He mentioned that a few of the Commissioners spoke with him after he made his comments and shook his hand, saying that the airport is expanding. The Roundtable agreed with Mr. Pleasant.

Mr. Pleasant stated that the Commission is not hearing the whole story about the impact and how high the noise levels are, nor are they receiving true data for modeling. He said he has spoken with Mr. Chancellor about this, commenting that Mr. Chancellor understands and is trying to get permanent noise monitors placed. He also stated that most airports are in Democratic states, and it will be tough to get a Republican politician to cooperate with Democrats. Members of the Roundtable thanked Mr. Pleasant for his participation in various meetings and his feedback.

Mr. Mark Peterson indicated that he spent time using the web tracker, reviewing the planes over his house and accounting for the runway closure, as well as when all runways were open. He mentioned that statistically, the sampling is not big enough to be representative but that from what he saw, Southwest Airlines is routinely flying about 750 to 800 feet lower than Allegiant, American, or Delta Airlines. He continued by saying that Southwest Airlines should be using the same satellite that other airlines use. He also acknowledged that it takes more power to get higher in the air.

Mr. Peterson also said at the same time, when observed on the web tracker, the arc that Southwest Airlines takes coming out of the main runway has a much wider radius than other airlines. He stated that it takes more power to make a tighter radius with a plane. He surmised that Southwest Airlines is basically trying to save money on fuel, so they are flying slower and lower, which aligns with their historical behavior. He also mentioned that Southwest Airlines has huge debt from last year to make up, and implied skepticism about the airline being the one outlier compared to other airlines.

Ms. Jung stated that 70 percent of flights flying slower and lower in the area are Southwest Airlines. Ms. Reese added that slower and lower burns more fuel, saying that Southwest Airlines stockholders would want to know this. She also suggested that possibly their equipment was to blame for this, noting that Southwest Airlines is known for experiencing computer problems. Mr. Peterson commented that, for perspective, 800 feet equates to a 50-story building.

Mr. Chancellor added that the Roundtable has had trouble ascertaining whether the airport is using Noise Abatement Departure Procedure 1 (NADP1) or NADP2, which are noise mitigation departure profiles. One places the noise closer to the airport and the other places it farther away from the airport. Mr. Roth commented that Mr. Paul Shank said that the MAA does not track departure profiles. Mr. Rineer explained that no airline flies a pure NADP1 or NADP2 and that the airport cannot enforce compliance with either profile. Mr. Chancellor stated that HMMH conducted a survey in Minneapolis of the carriers and the tenants of Minneapolis – Saint Paul International Airport, with the goal of recommending the adoption one or the other based on noise considerations. He asserted that it is possible for recommendations to be made.

Mr. Roth deduced that Southwest Airlines has begun flying with a fuller load, which is why their airplanes fly lower and slower. Mr. Holley noted that airlines are usually quite intentional about these choices. Mr. Peterson added that right now, every flight is full, even Allegiant Airlines.

#### **8. PLANNING FOR NEXT MEETING**

Ms. Reese motioned for the next meeting to be held on June 6, 2023, at 7:00 p.m. Mr. Woomer seconded. All voted in favor; none opposed, and the motion passed.

#### **9. ADJOURN**

Mr. Woomer motioned to adjourn. Mr. Holley seconded. None opposed. The meeting adjourned at 8:49 p.m.