



Witham Airport Action Majority Inc.

A coalition of concerned citizens

2336 SE Ocean Blvd. #172
Stuart FL, 34996

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Airport Noise Complaint Hotline 221-1476

WAAM 2011 Annual Meeting

**Blake Library - Armstrong Room
2351 S.E. Monterey Road
Stuart, Florida**

**Monday March 14, 2011
6:00 - 7:45 PM**

~~~ AGENDA ~~~

**Presentation with Q&A by Airport Manager - George Stokus.
Updates on EMAS - Curfews - Scheduled Service - Home Buyouts
Runway Safety Zones and New Runway Departures Routes**



News

**Concerned
citizens,
committed to
preserving a
high standard of
living in
Martin County**

A 100% Volunteer Organization February 2011

**Witham Airport Action Majority
2336 SE Ocean Blvd. #172
Stuart, FL 34996
Phone (772) 223-7501**

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President's Message

David Shore

Another year has passed and with it more change at Witham – some better and some not. In the “better” category we were pleased to see Airport Director Mike Moon retire and be replaced by Airport Manager George Stokus. In the short time George has been here he has demonstrated a willingness to meet with and be open with WAAM and the residents of Martin County – a refreshing change from his predecessor! We hope this continues and look forward to working with George to ensure that Witham becomes a good neighbor, and an asset to, the residents and taxpayers of Martin County.

George has accepted our offer to speak at our annual meeting on March 14. Please take this opportunity to come and listen to how George will address the “new” direction planned for Witham Field. You will have the opportunity to ask George questions at our meeting. He has assured me that he will make every effort to address concerns brought to him by residents.

On another positive note, County Administrator Taryn Kryzda has detailed Martin County's plans for Witham Field's future. Most important, non-runway businesses will be encouraged to locate on the airport and those businesses will lease from the county at fair market rates. This is a far cry from the direction the airport has taken in the past with leases given at ridiculously low rates to both FBO's on the field.

On a less positive note, we are still faced with the EMAS issue which has been delayed by contracting problems. This remains a \$13+ million dollar boondoggle with little or no benefit to residents or taxpayers. In an era where everyone is calling for reduced government waste we are hard pressed to understand why millions will be spent on a project that does absolutely nothing to address the safety of the airports neighbors while attempting to fix an airport issue that never should have happened in the first place—and which could be addressed for a fraction of the cost associated with EMAS. This remains an issue crying for common sense and fiscal restraint on the part of our county commissioners and the federal government.

Please read the excellent update on Witham Field by WAAM board member Grant Rawding on the next page.

**Please plan to attend the WAAM 2011 Annual Meeting
Blake Library ~ Armstrong Room
Monday March 14
6PM**

**Martin County Contact Info.
Airport**

Martin County Airport
1871 SE Airport Rd.
Stuart, FL 34996

Noise Hotline: 221-1476

Noise Fax: 221-2381

Noise email address:

<http://www.martin.fl.us>
(select airport - report noise)

County Commission

Chairman - Edward Ciampi

Doug Smith	221-2359
Edward Ciampi	221-1357
Sarah Heard	221-2358
Ed Fielding	288-5421
Patrick Hayes	221-2357

Email your Commissioners
commish@martin.fl.us

Fax your Commissioners
(772) 288-5432

Update on Witham Field

Grant Rawding

In 2010 we continued to experience decreased jet traffic primarily due to the continuing economic woes we have all been experiencing. However the economy is showing signs of improvement and with an improving economy will come an increase in jet traffic. When our commissioners extended runway 12/30 and gave control of Witham to the FAA they also gave up the many options that were available to protect the interests of the residents and taxpayers. That said we still need to work toward the few solutions that still exist such as voluntary curfews, landing fees and establishing arrival and departure routes that minimize noise and pollution. We will work with our new airport manager to affect this and look for your continuing support of WAAM's efforts in your behalf.

A new issue now raising its head is Customs. Why an airport that our commissioners assured us will never have scheduled commercial flights needs a customs facility, estimated to cost about \$600 thousand to build and \$200 thousand a year to staff, is beyond our comprehension. Despite this those people that see the presence of a customs facility as a way to increase traffic and individual profits are hard at work to make this happen and as usual, a majority of our commissioners appear not to understand what they are being asked to approve or its ramifications. We are disappointed that a just completed study to determine whether or not our community can support this proposed customs facility was flawed. When this was brought to the attention of the folks who were commissioned to do the study, our concerns were ignored. Business as usual at Witham Field?

WAAM will continue to oppose this ill conceived effort for a customs facility at Witham Field.

Another issue of concern are the new flight departure routes, called Standard Instrument Departures (SID's) which while solving some noise issues, have created a whole new set of potential safety and noise issues for others. We will discuss SID's in more detail at our meeting.

Last but not least is the whole issue of Witham Field and its lack of contribution to the financial health of Martin County. As has been pointed out before – any money made by Witham has to be retained and used at Witham. No matter how many jets come and go, FAA regulations require revenue derived from their presence stay in the airport enterprise fund for airport improvement. Martin County sees little or no money other than a small amount of money that “trickles down” to our local economy. This is just one of the little surprises our commissioners overlooked when they gave control of our airport to the FAA. If this were not bad enough, due to the past poor management at Witham, it has not been self supporting in the past and has required taxpayer dollars to balance its books. This needs to change. Those benefiting from Witham and its growth must be made to pay their fair share in the form of properly valued leases, landing fees and increased fuel flowage fees to name a few options. Of equal importance is the need to generate real revenue from Witham for Martin County. There are a number of ways this can be done and WAAM is committed to working to achieve this.



WAAM's website

www.waam.org

WAAM's email address



info@waam.org

Please support WAAM

We are a 100% volunteer organization.

We are your organization.

For 12 years we have been your only voice on Witham Field Growth, Noise and Safety Issues.

Airport Noise Advisory Committee Scheduled Meetings (ANAC)

Schedule of Meetings – 2011

All meetings are held at:
Martin County Airport Maintenance Building
1945 SE Monterey Road
Stuart, FL 34996

Thursday	April	28	2011	10:00 am - noon
Thursday	July	21	2011	10:00 am - noon
Thursday	October	27	2011	10:00 am - noon

WAAM is represented at ANAC meetings by former Mayor of Sewall's Point, Jon Chicky

Your 2011 Membership Dues are Due Now

Witham Airport Action Majority
2336 SE Ocean Blvd. #172
Stuart, FL 34996
Phone (772) 223-7501
email: info@waam.org
website: www.waam.org

Membership Dues Please support WAAM with your membership dollars.

2011 Dues
\$25.00

Please fill out the form below and enclose with your membership dues to the address listed above.

Name _____

Address _____

City, State _____ Zip Code _____

Telephone _____ Fax _____

Email _____@_____ . _____

WAAM is a 501 (c) 4 non-profit organization. Membership fees and contributions are not tax deductible
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