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“DUTCH BERTHOLF”

Spring Conference Recap

Brandon Robinson, PE, Associate, Kimley-Horn

The annual AzAA “Dutch Bertholf” Spring Conference continued to build on its strong legacy after a successful gathering took place from April 30 – May 2, 2023. The conference was graciously hosted by the Flagstaff Airport and was held at the beautiful Little America Hotel in Flagstaff. This was the highest attended conference in the past six years and boasted high energy to mirror the engaging content. Networking and rekindled friendships were two staples of this year’s event, as attendees took full advantage of all three the receptions. A bittersweet sendoff was given to the retiring Barney Helmick, Airport Director at Flagstaff Airport, who has been a stronghold within the AzAA community for decades.

The First-time Attendees & Wingman Program took another step forward as we continue to welcome and encourage new member outreach. Both the ADOT and the FAA gave their general status updates which offered great insight to the coming months of aviation within the state. The FAA also included a discussion on air traffic and criminal investigations at airports.

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2023 Calendar of Events

August 17

Summer Mixer
Deer Valley Airport

October 4

Fall Conference
Desert Willow
Conference Center,
Phoenix



Continued from Page 1

AzAA would like to thank the Board of Directors, the Spring Conference Planning Committee, and all the other volunteers and sponsors who made this year's conference a huge success! Please visit the AzAA website for additional photos. We look forward to seeing you all again next year in Yuma!

1. ATTENDANCE

Attendee Type	Total	Percentage
Airport Professional	51	30%
Corporate Professional	109	63%
Government Administrator	2	1%
Pilot and Arizona Pilots Association Member (Airport Passport Program)	1	1%
ADOT/FAA	9	5%
Total Attendees	172	
Exhibitors	15	

2. SESSIONS

Total Sessions: 11

Conference Welcome Speaker:
Becky Daggett, Mayor – City of Flagstaff

First Time Session Topics:

- Limiting Airport Exposure to Liability
- Considerations for the Integration of Vertiports and eVTOLS into the Airport Environment
- Super Bowl Recap
- Flight Training at Arizona Airports
- Employee Development and Engagement (post Covid)
- ACRP/National Safe Skies Alliance





3. AZAA BOARD OF DIRECTORS ELECTION RESULTS

President	Jeff Webbe	Buckeye Municipal Airport
First Vice President	Sarah Demory	City of Phoenix Aviation Department
Second Vice President	Dave Reffner	Casa Grande
Past President	Matthew Smith	Glendale Municipal Airport
Executive Director	Jacob Allen	Show Low Regional Airport
Executive Director	Chris Andres	Chandler Municipal Airport
Executive Director	Cameron Atkins	Safford Regional Airport
Executive Director	Ed Rose	Sedona-Oak Creek Airport
Associate Director	Joel Ericson	RS&H
Associate Director	Jenny Watts	Dibble
Corporate Director	Michael Hunter	JE Dunn Construction

4. SPECIAL AWARDS WINNERS AND EVENTS

"Loev Bruce" Billiards Tournament	1st Place Winner	Chris Read
	Pool Guppy Award	Phil Derner
Jim McCue Memorial Golf Tournament	1st Place Team	Scott Brownlee, Shea Joachim, Richard Graham, Shawn Filip
	2nd Place Team	Mike Covalt, Jim Lambert, Ken Keatts, Jared Yoshiki
	Ladies Long Drive	Claire Marshall
	Mens Long Drive	Steve Peterson
	Closest to the Pin	Shea Joachim
	Longest Putt	Jeff Tripp
	50/50 Raffle	Richard Anderson

Airport Tour	Flagstaff Airport, led by Tim Skinner
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Do You Know...

The Impact of the Sackett v. EPA SCOTUS decision on the definition of waters of the US?

Article contribution: Bonnie Rogers, Erica Gaddis, and Russell Waldron, SWCA Environmental Consultants



On May 25, 2023, the Supreme Court of the United States (SCOTUS) issued the long-anticipated *Sackett v. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)* decision that narrows the interpretation of federal waters of the United States (WOTUS). Specifically, the court determined that wetlands on the Sackett property, located in northern Idaho, were not subject to federal Clean Water Act (CWA) regulations because they are distinguishable from any other jurisdictional water. In essence, the opinion determined that the CWA extends to only those wetlands with a “continuous surface connection to bodies that ‘are Waters of the United States’ in their own right,” so that they are “indistinguishable” from those waters. In addition, the decision abandons the existing significant nexus test for adjacent wetlands moving forward.

The definition of WOTUS has been debated since the adoption of the CWA in 1972. Regulatory agencies (e.g., EPA and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers) and courts, including the Supreme Court, have made numerous efforts to interpret the jurisdictional reach of WOTUS under the CWA. Overall, the *Sackett v. EPA* decision results in a narrowing of WOTUS under the regulatory agencies’ authority to regulate wetlands.

WILL MY PROJECTS BE AFFECTED?

We expect to see further clarification in the coming months from the courts and the regulatory agencies on how this new decision will be implemented across CWA programs that affect the regulated community. If your project has the potential to impact aquatic resources (e.g., wetlands, streams, lakes, etc.) it is important to consider not only the federal jurisdictional status of the aquatic resources in question but also state and local regulations. Many municipalities and counties across Arizona have their own specific regulations. In addition, Arizona Department of Environmental Quality's Surface Water Protection Program includes protections for non-WOTUS surface waters.

It is recommended that airport managers contact their local environmental consultant or the Arizona Regulatory Branch of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers if they seek guidance on the jurisdictional status of a particular surface water or associated permitting requirements. SWCA maintains 3 offices in Arizona (35 nationally) and provides coordination services and local assistance in complying with the CWA.

Additional Information:

Read SWCA's Regulatory Alert here:

<https://www.swca.com/news/2023/05/regulatory-alert-supreme-court-decision-in-sackett-v-epa-narrows-definition-of>

Read the detailed Sacket v. EPA decision here: <https://www.supremecourt.gov/opinions/slipopinion/22>

Read more about WOTUS on the EPA's website here: <https://www.epa.gov/wotus/about-waters-united-states>

Contact information for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Los Angeles District, Arizona Branch:

<https://www.spl.usace.army.mil/Locations/Arizona-Nevada-Area/>

Contact information for the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality's Surface Water Protection Program:

<https://azdeq.gov/SWPP>





Photo source: Mary Dahl, Santa Cruz County, accessed June 1st, 2023.



Photo source: Santa Cruz County, Nogales International Airport Website: <https://www.santacruzcountyaz.gov/160/Nogales-International-Airport>

Airport Spotlight: Nogales International Airport (OLS)

Alyson Hulet, Environmental Planner, Coffman & Associates

Located more than 70 miles south of Tucson, along the International Border with Mexico, lies the City of Nogales. Nogales forms Arizona's largest transborder agglomeration with its twin city Nogales, Sonora, located across the Mexican border. As a result of Nogales' proximity to the border, the city is home to four international ports of entry, including Nogales International Airport (OLS).

OLS is classified as a general aviation airport in the National Plan of Integrated Airport Systems (NPIAS), encompassing around 340 acres, at an elevation of 3,996 feet above mean sea level. It is located approximately seven miles northeast of downtown Nogales along State Route 82. OLS was initially established in 1928 and deeded to Santa Cruz County. To this day, the airport remains under the county's ownership and is managed by the County Department of Community Development. This management creates a unique staff situation at the airport, as county workers may work for the airport but are not stationed there on a day-to-day basis.

Initially opening with a grass airstrip, the airport now boasts a 7,200-foot asphalt runway with a parallel taxiway. OLS also contains a terminal building and hangar facilities leased to the airport's fixed-based operator (FBO), Tiffin Aviation. In addition to aiding the airport with its day-to-day operations, Tiffin Aviation manages a flight school that consists of students from across the globe. Class sizes may range anywhere from 8 to 10 students per class.

The airport also continues to promote and improve its public aviation services through a variety of upcoming projects. Currently, OLS is focused on a safety project to divert runoff from erosion-prone areas impacting the runway object free area (ROFA). In the near future, OLS hopes to relocate one of its taxiway connectors to eliminate direct access from the apron to the runway. OLS also intends to expand its terminal apron, as additional aircraft parking is needed due to increased enrollment at the flight school and U.S. Customs and Border Protection operations.

Be sure to swing by OLS the next time you are in the area and say hello to its friendly staff.

For more information on OLS, visit: <https://www.santacruzcountyaz.gov/160/Nogales-International-Airport>

Updates from ADOT

Matthew Munden, Aeronautics Group Manager



- The FY 24 SL program is \$17.0M
- The FY 24 APMS program is \$5.2M
- The FY 24 FSL program is \$8.0M, including funding match for AIP & BIL
- The Triennial is set at \$1M in FY24
- The Land Use Study is underway and estimated to be completed by December 2024
- Remaining FY22 APMS projects and FY23 APMS projects will be constructed this summer

Updates from FAA

Mike Williams, AAE, CAE; Phoenix ADO, FAA



ADO Staffing

Assistant Managers - I am pleased to announce the selection of our two (2) new Assistant Managers.

Kyler Erhard is currently serving as the Lead Program Manager for the ADO and has worked with many of you. Kyler brings over 15 years of aviation experience, having joined the FAA in 2012 as a Community Planner in the Phoenix ADO. Over the course of his career with the FAA, Kyler has participated in Airport Cooperative Research Program (ACRP) projects, graduated from the Federal Executive Board Leadership Program and has completed various details at the ADO and Regional office.

Prior to working at FAA, Kyler worked as a Transportation Planner for the North Central Texas Council of Governments doing regional aviation system planning for the Dallas/Fort Worth area. He also was heavily involved in local aviation education outreach events.

Kyler holds a Bachelor of Business Administration in Airport Management from the University of North Dakota and a Master's Degree in Public Administration from the University of Texas at Arlington.

Kyler will begin his Assistant Manager duties effective June 4, 2023.

Kristen Morris is currently serving as a Civil Engineer/Program Manager in the Memphis Airports District Office. Kristen is a licensed professional Civil Engineer, beginning her FAA career in June of 2021. At the Memphis ADO, duties included managing the AIP and BIL programs for sponsors in Tennessee and Kentucky, the Tennessee State Block Grant Program, and the Tennessee PFC program. In March of this year, Kristen began a temporary detail with AAS-200 (New Entrants) as the Commercial Space Portfolio Lead, helping establish guidance for integrating commercial space projects into NPIAS and/or Part 139 airports. Kristen is also currently serving on two technical research panels; AATP Aggregate Gradation Bands for P-401 Pavement and Developing Performance and Safety Specifications for Rejuvenating Seals.

Prior to joining the FAA, Kristen spent almost 15 years in the consulting industry, most of which was focused on airport design and construction, working throughout the southeast at airports in Florida, Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi, North Carolina, and South Carolina.

Kristen's technical experience spans design elements such as pavement design, drainage design, geometric design of runways and taxiways and hangar site design, as well as various aspects of project management and procurement, construction administration and construction observation.

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Kristen graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering from the University of Central Florida in 2007, and is currently pursuing her Master of Space Operations from Embry Riddle Aeronautical University, with graduation expected in December of this year. In her spare time, Kristen is a kickboxing instructor and enjoys travelling to various National Parks. Kristen currently lives in Memphis, Tennessee and will be relocating to Phoenix, Arizona this summer.

Kristen will begin her Assistant Manager duties effective July 2, 2023.

Airports Program Specialist - We are pleased to announce **Zaina Aljazzar** as our second Airports Program Specialist. Zaina will be providing support to our financial programs, working alongside Jocelyn Hazlewood. Effective June 19, 2023, Zaina will be assuming the Passenger Facility Charges (PFC) representative for the Phoenix ADO.

Management/Program Analyst - Linda Golinski joined the Phoenix ADO effective May 7, 2023.

Civil Engineer - We will be recruiting for one (1) candidate to fill one (1) position.

Tim Morrison, Lead Civil Engineer has completed his temporary 90 day detail to our Headquarters Office of Planning & Programming.

Jared Raymond, Community Planner has accepted a new position with the United States Department of Agriculture, effective June 19, 2023. Jared is an 'original' member of the Phoenix ADO when the office was established in the fall of 2012. His input to the Phoenix ADO has been profound and we wish Jared much success, health and happiness in this new phase of his career.

There will be some changes in our airport sponsor assignments, which will be sent via a separate email.

Electronic Signatures

As we continue using electronic signatures for grant processing, please remember to keep your contact information, specifically email addresses current. Not having current contact information delays the grant processing.

- Jocelyn Hazlewood and/or Zaina Aljazzar are available to assist.

Section 163

Updated guidance was published on August 3, 2022 and is available via FAA.gov: https://www.faa.gov/airports/planning_capacity/airport_layout_plan_reviews/projects_potentially_affected_section_163

Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL)

The [Bipartisan Infrastructure Law \(BIL\)](#), formerly known as the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) has been enacted. This new legislation will improve airport safety and capacity, address climate change, create good jobs, and advance equitable access to airports. BIL establishes two new programs directly relevant to the Office of Airports, 1) the Airport Infrastructure Grants Program and, 2) the Airports Terminal Program.

- [Learn more about BIL](#)
- [Frequently Asked Questions](#) are available.
- The [Airport Infrastructure Grants](#) Program allocates \$15 billion over 5 years primarily for formula grants to both primary and nonprimary airports, with each year's money available for obligation over five years.
- [Airports Terminal Program](#) - Through BIL, \$5 billion has been granted to provide competitive grants for airport terminal development projects. These grants will fund safe, sustainable and accessible airport terminals, on-airport rail access projects and airport-owned airport traffic control towers. Projects may also include multimodal development.

NEPA Submittal Process

All official NEPA submittals should be sent via email to 9-PHX-ADO-Environmental@faa.gov

Subject lines MUST include your airport's three character LOCID, Project Name, and documentation type (i.e., CATEX, Purpose and Need, Preliminary Draft EA). If the submitted document is a CATEX supporting an upcoming grant application, FYXX GRANT APPLICATION must also be included in the subject line.

The body of the email must include the federal action that the document is intended to support (i.e., federal funding (with proposed fiscal year), ALP change, land release).

Submittals from Sponsor authorized consultants will be accepted with the following provisions:

- The Sponsor Director/Manager and/or Primary Point of Contact shall be a CC on the submittal. Submittals without the Sponsor as a CC will be returned without ADO action.
- Sponsors are expected to have read the documentation and understand and concur with the contents. Sponsors are held responsible for the quality of all documents.

President's Corner

Jeff Webbe, Arizona Airports Association President, May 2023
Airport Administrator, Buckeye Municipal Airport



AzAA Contacts

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Eddie Rickenbacker once said,

**“Aviation is proof that given the will,
we have the capacity to achieve the impossible”.**

It is simply amazing to consider the incredible advancements in the aviation industry that have occurred within the span of just a single lifetime! And not to mention, Arizona has played a significant and vital role in the history of aviation. While aviation in Arizona got its start before World War I, our state's aviation journey got a major boost with the establishment of airfields and training facilities that supported the efforts of the military during World War II. Arizona's favorable weather conditions and open spaces provided an ideal environment for pilot training and testing of new aircraft.

In the subsequent decades, Arizona continued to make significant strides in aviation, becoming a prominent location for aircraft manufacturing, maintenance, and testing. Major aerospace companies set up operations here, bringing with them jobs, economic growth, and technological advancements.

As you know, it was 1979 when our wonderful organization, the Arizona Airport Association, was formed. For over 40 years, AzAA has been bringing together representatives of public use airports and other stakeholders for the benefit of the aviation industry in Arizona.

As we look toward the future, AzAA remains committed to driving innovation and advancing the aviation industry. By fostering partnerships between businesses, airports, and Governmental bodies, AzAA creates an ecosystem that encourages collaboration, connection, and future growth. As we embark on the next phase of aviation advancements and infrastructure in our state, AzAA's leadership and commitment to excellence will undoubtedly propel the industry to even greater heights.

Personally, during my time on the AzAA Board, I have experienced the camaraderie, support and collaboration of our organization, and the benefit to aviation in our state as a whole. As with any journey, flight paths can change and courses deviate. My professional life has come to such a crossroads. I recently accepted a position within the Aeronautics Division of ADOT. I am thrilled about the opportunity to work closely with airports across the state of Arizona. However, in my new role, I need to step down as President. It is with great confidence though, that I pass the baton to our First VP, Sarah Demory. Her vast experience and premiere knowledge of the aviation industry, her integrity, and her leadership will continue to steer AzAA on its successful path. I will continue to participate in AzAA and hope to see you at the next event!