

MEDIA RELEASE

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AIRPORT AUTHORITY RECEIVES “ 2012 ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECT OF THE YEAR” AWARD FROM FLORIDA AIRPORTS COUNCIL

St. Augustine, Florida – St. Augustine – St. Johns County Airport Authority Chairman, Carl Youman is pleased to announce that the Florida Airports Council has awarded the St. Augustine – St. Johns County Airport Authority the “2012 General Aviation Airport Environmental Project of the Year” award. Mr. Youman goes on to explain that “the award serves to recognize the Authority’s environmental efforts associated with the Runway Safety Area Stabilization and Mitigation project at the Northeast Florida Regional Airport. The Airport Council in presenting the award lauded the Authority’s efforts in balancing the needs of the airport with adjacent environmentally sensitive coastal marsh area.” The Council made the award at its annual meeting held this year in Naples, Florida during the week of July 22nd.

As a part of the project mitigation effort, the airport returned 17 acres of spoil-island area to salt-water marsh habitat. The effort required 14 separate permit approval actions in order to accomplish. The project required more than 5 years of study, permitting and construction to complete.

"We are grateful to the many state and federal permitting agencies and the outstanding consulting team lead by Passero Associates for all their efforts. Further, we thank the Federal Aviation Administration and the Florida Department of Transportation for the funding assistance required to accomplish this huge undertaking” says James Werter, Secretary/Treasurer of the Airport Authority. Werter went on to praise the construction efforts of Turnbull Environmental Contractors of St. Augustine for their dedication to assuring that all aspects of the project met or exceeded the permitted job requirements.

Additional Background:

The airport is the only two-time winner since the award’s inception by the Council in 2007. In a footnote, the award was recently renamed to honor the 20-year environmental advocacy efforts of recently retired Northeast Florida Regional Airport staff member Bryan Cooper.

The members of the St. Augustine – St. Johns County Airport Authority are elected by the citizens of St. Johns County and serve without remuneration. The Airport Authority is chartered by the Florida Legislature for the purpose of operating and developing the Northeast Florida Regional Airport on behalf of the citizens of St. Johns County.

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