

WILMINGTON

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## CCPA looking for versatile director

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The Clinton County Port Authority (CCPA) released the application and job description on Wednesday in its search for an executive director, a position officials said they hope to have filled by Dec. 1.

The ideal candidate will know how to manage the day-to-day operations of an air park — the CCPA became the owners of the Wilmington Air Park on June 2 — while navigating potential funding opportunities, working to attract new businesses to the space and complying with myriad governmental regulations, officials said.

“We’re looking for a combination of

*Associate director will also be hired*

skills (in potential candidates),” said John Limbert, CCPA Chairperson, in July. “Someone that’s had experience in working with government programs, with state programs and local programs.”

The port authority board also announced an opening for an associate director, who will assist the executive director in daily management of the air park. Both positions are full-time and salaried and listed on the CCPA Web site.

Limbert said applications for the executive director position will be

■ See **PORT**, Page 5A



Contributed photo

An aerial view of the Wilmington Air Park shows four of the six tracts of land to be purchased by the Clinton County Port Authority.

### ■ PORT

Continued from Page 1A

accepted until Sept. 15. Applications for associate director will be accepted until Sept. 1.

Asked whether he would step down from his volunteer post once a director was named, Limbert responded: “Well, I hope the board will keep me on as chair, but I don’t want to be a quasi-executive director.”

At its monthly meeting Wednesday, the board approved the purchase of four tracts of agricultural land which border the air park. The 351 acres of land, owned by DHL and initially intended to be used for expansion, will be purchased from the former tenant for \$4,500 an acre — or

\$1.58 million. The board also agreed to negotiate with DHL to seek a lower cost-per-acre for two other parcels, which together total 235 acres.

“The board views these parcels as long term development tracts for a company who desires a facility near WAP to build that facility,” Limbert said in a statement released later in the day. “This gives us expansion ground on the south side of the air park. While we have no immediate prospect, we continue to receive inquiries from viable companies who are exploring potential expansion or relocation opportunities.”

In conjunction with Wednesday’s meeting, the port

authority and the Clinton County Regional Planning Commission (CCRPC) released a Request For Proposals (RFP) for a Redevelopment Master Plan and Market Study for the air park.

Chris Schock, executive director of the CCRPC, said the Master Plan will serve as a “vision for redevelopment” for the air park.

“There are many qualified firms who will put forward ideas to create that vision,” Schock said. “We continue to have good momentum on that front. There has been continued interest in the park.”

CCPA will accept proposals for the redevelopment plan until Sept. 10, Schock said, and the planning process is expected to begin in early October.

Limbert said he continues to get calls from “viable” businesses who are interested in the park, “but we’re still in the dating phase, if you will, the getting to know phase. I’m upbeat about two calls we’ve had in the last two weeks,” he said.

Anyone interested in submitting applications for the available positions or for more information regarding RFPs should visit [www.co.clinton.oh.us/clinton-county-port-authority](http://www.co.clinton.oh.us/clinton-county-port-authority), Limbert said.

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