

MICHIGAN AERONAUTICS COMMISSION

Minutes of Meeting
Lansing, Michigan
January 30, 2020

Pursuant to Section 31 of Act 327 of the Public Acts of 1945, the Commissioners of the Michigan Aeronautics Commission met at the Aeronautics Building, 2700 Port Lansing Road, Lansing, Michigan, on Thursday, January 30, 2020.

Members Present

Roger Salo, Chair
Rick Fiddler, Vice Chair
Dr. Brian Smith, Commissioner
Russ Kavalhuna, Commissioner
Kelly Burris, Commissioner
Brig. Gen. Bryan Teff, Designee – MDMVA
Kevin Jacobs, Designee – MDNR
F/Lt. Brian Bahlau, Designee – MSP
Jim Shell, Legal Counsel
Mike Trout, Director
Bryan Budds, Commission Advisor
Alicia Morrison, Senior Executive Assistant

Staff Present

Alissa VanHoof
Mark Noel
Sue Payne
Linn Smith
Mary Kay Trierweiler
Michele Duncan
Jennifer Forbes
Mike Soper
Zach Tecson
Jim Hartman
Elyse Lower

Members Absent

Laura Mester, Designee – MDOT

Also Present

Phillip Johnson, Prein & Newhof
Tory Richardson, Gerald R. Ford International Airport
John Strehl, KACB
Mark Breukirk, Mead & Hunt
Thomas Palaszeh, Aero Specialist Candidate
John Mayfield, Federal Aviation Administration

I. OPENING REMARKS

The January 30, 2020 Michigan Aeronautics Commission (MAC or Commission) meeting was called to order by Chair Roger Salo at 9:00 a.m.

Chair Salo welcomed all those present. He asked for a moment of silence to honor former Commissioner James (Jim) Collins, who passed away December 20 at the age of 91. He thanked



all in attendance, then asked everyone to rise, and the Pledge of Allegiance was cited. Roll call was taken.

II. COMMISSION BUSINESS

- A. Chair Salo asked if there were any revisions to the minutes of the meeting held on November 6, 2019. There were none. He entertained a motion to approve the minutes. The motion was moved by Commissioner Rick Fiddler and seconded by Commissioner Russ Kavalhuna to approve the minutes as presented. **All voted in favor.**
- B. Alissa VanHoof presented the Air Service Program Grants (Aircraft Rescue and Firefighting Training) and Airport Sponsor Contracts.

Air Service Program Grants (Aircraft Rescue and Firefighting Training)

1. Battle Creek Executive Airport at Kellogg Field, Battle Creek
2. Willow Run Airport, Detroit
3. Delta County Airport, Escanaba
4. Bishop International Airport, Flint
5. Gerald R. Ford International Airport, Grand Rapids
6. Houghton County Memorial Airport, Hancock
7. Ford Airport, Iron Mountain/Kingsford
8. Gogebic-Iron County Airport, Ironwood
9. Kalamazoo/Battle Creek International Airport, Kalamazoo
10. Capital Region International Airport, Lansing
11. Manistee County Blacker Airport, Manistee
12. Sawyer International Airport, Marquette
13. Muskegon County Airport, Muskegon
14. Pellston Regional Airport of Emmet County, Pellston
15. Oakland County International Airport, Pontiac
16. MBS International Airport, Saginaw
17. Chippewa County International Airport, Sault Ste. Marie
18. Cherry Capital Airport, Traverse City

Airport Sponsor Contracts

1. Battle Creek Executive Airport at Kellogg Field, Battle Creek
2. Battle Creek Executive Airport at Kellogg Field, Battle Creek
3. James Clements Municipal Airport, Bay City
4. Clare Municipal Airport, Clare
5. Clare Municipal Airport, Clare
6. Dowagiac Municipal Airport, Dowagiac
7. Gaylord Regional Airport, Gaylord
8. Mackinac Island Airport, Mackinac Island
9. Schoolcraft County Airport, Manistique
10. Brooks Field Airport, Marshall
11. Oscoda County Dennis Kauffman Memorial Airport, Mio
12. Oakland/Southwest Airport, New Hudson
13. Jerry Tyler Memorial Airport, Niles



14. Saginaw County H.W. Browne Airport, Saginaw
15. Mackinac County Airport, Saint Ignace
16. Mackinac County Airport, Saint Ignace
17. Sandusky City Airport, Sandusky

Chair Salo asked if there were any further comments or questions. Hearing none, he entertained a motion to approve item Nos. 1-18 and item Nos. 1-17. The motion was moved by Commissioner Rick Fiddler and seconded by Commissioner Russ Kavalhuna to approve the Air Service Program Grants and Airport Sponsor Contracts. **All voted in favor.**

A complete list of contract descriptions can be viewed on the MAC web page under “Meetings” and then “Contract Approvals” at www.michigan.gov/aero.

Ms. VanHoof reported on four (4) supplemental transfers: Capital Regional International Airport, Lansing; Sawyer International Airport, Marquette; Mason County Airport, Ludington; and Manistee County Blacker Airport, Manistee.
No Commission action was required.

- C. **Automated Weather Observance Systems (AWOS) Task Group** – Bryan Budds
Mr. Budds outlined the Office of Aeronautics staff recommendation to form an AWOS Task Group. This Task Group will have a targeted goal of recommending to the Commission, a strategy to address future manufacturer and technology upgrade challenges for the statewide AWOS system.

Mr. Budds and Mr. Michael Soper gave a brief history on the aging of the AWOS systems and stated the importance to the flying public in having updated systems. Commissioner Burris asked for more details on what exactly is aging out with the systems. Mr. Soper stated the software and processors were developed using technology from the 1980’s and 1990’s, creating the need for modernization. Commissioner Burris asked how long the task force would be active and whether federal funding could be used for the updates. Mr. Budds stated the task force would be active until the process of upgrading was complete, possibly a year, and that the use of federal funding may be possible based on the final recommendations.

Chair Salo recommended forming the suggested AWOS Task Group and appointed Mark Johnson, Livingston County Spencer J. Hardy Airport, and Bill Brickner, Mt. Pleasant Municipal Airport, as airport representation; and Commissioner Rick Fiddler, as MAC representation.

Chair Salo thanked Mr. Budds and Mr. Soper for their report and recommendations, and stated the Commission looks forward to hearing updates on the targeted goal at future meetings.

III. REPORT

A. MAC Director Report – Mike Trout

Director Trout opened his report by thanking the Office of Aeronautics staff and Alicia Morrison in particular, for working together to host both the MAC and the joint MAC-STC meetings.

He then continued with presenting the aviation statistics as noted below.

2. Statistics

a. Fuel Tax Revenue (October – December)

Excise (3¢)

FY 2019 = \$5,422,958

Treasure Estimate for FY 2020 = \$5,400,000

Sales (2%)

FY 2020 through December = \$1,285,679

FY 2019 through December = \$1,271,851

5 Year Average through November = \$1,487,391

FY 2020 = 1.09% increase over FY 2019; -13.56% decrease over 5 Year Average

b. Open Grants End of FY 2019

- 22 Open Grants (5 SPGP, 17 Primary)

c. Tall Structure Permits

- **FY 2020 = 736 (36 wind turbines)**
- FY 2019 = 5,414 (511 wind turbines)

d. State Aircraft Flight Hours

- **FY 2020 = 190.5 (October – December)**
- FY 2019 = 638.3 (FY Total)

3. Recent Events

Director Trout gave brief updates on the recent aviation events.

- 2019 MAC Annual Report – The report is published, and Director Trout thanked Judy Baker for her hard work.
- State Airport Request for Proposals (RFP) – Director Trout explained the current status of boilerplate language requiring development of an RFP.
- 5010 Inspection Contract – Director Trout gave an update on the status of the 5010 Inspection Contract.
- Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) – Director Trout gave an update on the Federal Aviation Administration’s (FAA) Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) on Remote ID and Tracking of UAS Systems. Commissioner Kavalhuna recommended the Commission provide letters of input to the UAS Task Force, uniting the two groups for recommendations.

4. Current Issues



- a. Director Trout briefly discussed current issues including the federal continuing resolution, airport loan program, airport registrations, and helipad inspections.
 - b. Director Trout gave an update on the Michigan PFAS Action Response Team (MPART). Michigan airports will be receiving a \$4,000,000 allocation for PFAS clean up; the team is currently holding discussions on how this money will be allocated.
 - c. Director Trout shared the US Department of Transportation's information on Human Trafficking Awareness and the Pledge Against Human Trafficking. He asked that all in attendance consider signing.
5. Office of Aeronautics Staff News
- a. Judy Baker, Commission Analyst – Retired effective December 30.
 - b. Jeremy Riley, Project Manager – Accepted a new position with Federal Highway Administration effective January 6.
 - c. An offer was made to fill the open Inspector position.
 - d. Aero staff volunteered at the Greater Lansing Food Bank in December.
6. Coming Soon
- a. Frostbite Chili Fly-in – Feb. 8, Canton-Plymouth-Mettetal Airport
 - b. Aero Presentation to the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation – Feb. 13, Lansing
 - c. Michigan Airport Conference – Feb. 19-20, East Lansing
 - d. Michigan Aviation Safety Forum/IA Renewal – Feb. 22, Ypsilanti
 - e. UAS Training Class – Feb. 24-26, Office of Aeronautics, Lansing
 - f. AASHTO/NASAO Washington Briefing – Feb. 25-28, Washington DC
 - g. Livingston Educational Service Agency, Aviation Academy Tour – Mar. 18, Office of Aeronautics, Lansing
 - h. UAS Task Force Meeting – April, Lansing
7. Good News
- Director Trout shared the positive economic impact aeronautics has had in Marquette, creating over 600 new jobs in the area. He discussed the expansion of the Western Michigan University School of Aviation, and the #1 ranking received by Detroit Metro Airport (DTW) by JD Power and Associates for 2019.

1. COMMISSION COMMENTS

Chair Salo asked if any of the commissioners would like to make a comment. Commissioner Kavalhuna made comments regarding the passing of Judge Jim Collins. Commissioner Kavalhuna stated his appreciated for Judy Baker and her work with the MAC, thanking her for her years of service.

2. PUBLIC COMMENTS



Chair Salo asked if anyone would like to make a public comment. There were no public comments.

CLOSING

The next Michigan Aeronautics Commission meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 25, 2020, at the Office of Aeronautics, 2700 Port Lansing Road, Lansing, Michigan.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:46 a.m.

Roger Salo, Chairman

Michael G. Trout, Director

