

# MICHIGAN AERONAUTICS COMMISSION

Minutes of Meeting  
Lansing, Michigan  
January 23, 2019

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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 Wednesday, January 23, 2019.

## Members Present

Pete Kamarainen, Chairman  
Roger Salo, Vice Chairman  
J. David VanderVeen, Commissioner  
Rick Fiddler, Commissioner  
Russ Kavalhuna, Commissioner  
MG Paul Rogers, Commissioner, MDMVA  
MG Len Isabelle, Designee – MDMVA  
Laura Mester, Designee – MDOT  
Kevin Jacobs, Designee – MDNR  
F/Lt. Brian Bahlau, Designee – MSP  
Dave Brickey, Legal Counsel  
Mike Trout, Director  
Bryan Budds, Commission Advisor  
Judy Baker, Commission Analyst

## Staff Present

Brooke Allison  
Kelly Badra  
Dave Baker  
Leanne Hengesbach  
Hilary Hoose  
Tammie Lewandowsky  
Elyse Lower  
Pauline Misjak  
Mark Noel  
Sue Payne  
Brigitte Pricco  
Linn Smith  
Betsy Steudle  
Mary Kay Trierweiler  
Alissa VanHoof

## Members Absent

## Also Present

Travis Bahs, Grand Ledge High School  
Mike Borta, Prein&Newhof  
Nate Granger, Foth Infrastructure & Environment, LLC  
Phil Johnson, Prein&Newhof  
Bob Leisenring, Mead & Hunt, Inc.  
Keith Newell, General Aviation Committee  
Sarah Underwood, C&S Companies



## I. OPENING REMARKS

The January 23, 2019 Michigan Aeronautics Commission (MAC or Commission) meeting was called to order by Chairman Pete Kamarainen at 10:05 a.m.

Chairman Kamarainen welcomed all those present. He asked everyone to rise, and the Pledge of Allegiance was cited. Roll call was taken.

Chairman Kamarainen introduced and welcomed Travis Bahs from Grand Ledge High School who is job shadowing Linn Smith from the Office of Aeronautics. Mr. Bahs is a private pilot and plans to attend Western Michigan University.

Chairman Kamarainen announced that Capt. Joe Gasper was recently named director of the Department of State Police and promoted to Colonel. Chairman Kamarainen introduced and welcomed F/Lt. Brian Bahlau as Col. Gasper's designee to serve on the Commission. F/Lt. Bahlau is from the Special Operations Division and oversees the Field Support and Aviation Section of the department, which includes the Aviation Unit, Bomb Squad, Canine Unit and Traffic Reconstruction Unit.

MAC Director Mike Trout also introduced and welcomed Maj. Gen. Paul Rogers who was recently named director of the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs.

## II. COMMISSION BUSINESS

A. Chairman Kamarainen asked if there were any revisions to the minutes of the meeting held on November 7, 2018. There were none. He entertained a motion to approve the minutes. The motion was moved by Vice Chairman Roger Salo and seconded by Commissioner Rick Fiddler to approve the minutes as presented, including the amended page 5. **All voted in favor.**

B. Dave Baker presented the Air Service Program Grants and Airport Sponsor Contracts.

- **Air Service Program Grants (Aircraft Rescue and Firefighting Training)**

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



- **Airport Sponsor Contracts**

1. Lenawee County Airport, Adrian
2. Atlanta Municipal Airport, Atlanta
3. Huron County Memorial Airport, Bad Axe
4. Memorial Airpark, Grand Haven
5. Ionia County Airport, Ionia
6. Gogebic-Iron County Airport, Ironwood
7. Gogebic-Iron County Airport, Ironwood
8. Jackson County – Reynolds Field, Jackson
9. Romeo State Airport, Romeo
10. Paul C. Miller – Sparta Airport, Sparta

Chairman Kamarainen asked if there were any further comments or questions on the air service grants. Hearing none, he entertained a motion to approve item Nos. 1 – 16 of the Air Service Program Grants. The motion was moved by Commissioner Len Isabelle and seconded by Commissioner Russ Kavalhuna to approve the grants as presented. **All voted in favor.**

*(Due to the potential appearance of a conflict of interest, Commissioner Fiddler abstained from voting on Air Service Program Grant No. 4, Gerald R. Ford International Airport, Grand Rapids; and Commissioner Dave VanderVeen abstained from voting on Air Service Program Grant No. 13, Oakland County International Airport, Pontiac.)*

Chairman Kamarainen asked if there were any further comments or questions on the sponsor contracts. Hearing none, he entertained a motion to approve item Nos. 1-10 of the Airport Sponsor Contracts. The motion was moved by Commissioner Kavalhuna and seconded by Commissioner VanderVeen to approve the contracts as presented. **All voted in favor.**

A complete list of contract descriptions can be viewed on the Michigan Aeronautics Commission web page under “Meetings” and then “Contract Approvals” at [www.michigan.gov/aero](http://www.michigan.gov/aero).

Mr. Baker reported on one supplemental transfer: Charlevoix Municipal Airport, Charlevoix. **No Commission Action was required.**

- C. Linn Smith presented the airport approach plan for Denton Farms Airport in Clare.

The Aeronautics Code of the State of Michigan provides that the Commission may adopt an airport approach plan for each licensed airport, which describes the state plan for approach protection areas. Local zoning officials are to use the determination of the protection area as a guide to adopting standards for its local zoning ordinances. The Commission has adopted an airport approach plan for the majority of the licensed airports.

Mr. Smith presented and explained the approach plan. After further discussion, it was requested that the Commission approve the above plan.

Chairman Kamarainen asked if there were any further comments or questions. Hearing none, he entertained a motion to approve the airport approach plan for Denton Farms Airport. The motion was moved by Commissioner Fiddler and seconded by Commissioner Kavalhuna to approve the plan as presented. **All voted in favor.**

### III. REPORTS

#### A. MAC Director Report

##### Updates

MAC Director Trout introduced the new MDOT Director Paul Ajegba and presented the YouTube video of Director Ajegba being interviewed by communications director Jeff Cranson. He also recognized the following appointees with their designee:

- New Appointees
  - Department of Transportation Director Paul Ajegba
    - Laura Mester – Designee
  - Department of State Police Director Col. Joe Gasper
    - F/Lt. Brian Bahlau – Designee
  - Michigan Department of Natural Resources Director Daniel Eichinger
    - Kevin Jacobs – Designee
  - Michigan Department of Military and Veterans Affairs Director Maj. Gen. Paul Rogers
    - Maj. Gen. Len Isabelle – Designee
- Legislation and Policy ([www.legislature.mi.gov/](http://www.legislature.mi.gov/))
  - HB 6549/6550 Aviation Equipment Bills
    - Vetoed by the Governor a second time.
  - SB 601 (PA 618 of 2018) Supplemental Appropriations
    - PFAS . . MDOT received response from FAA addressing AFFF testing.
      - Funding . . \$400,000 appropriated through DEQ to address PFAS concerns.
      - FAA CertAlert . . approves the use of alternative methods of testing.
      - Air Service Program . . AFFF testing support will be implemented in the program.
  - UAS Package Signed by the Governor
    - HB 5494 (PA 444 of 2018)
      - Extension of self for criminal activity.
    - HB 5495 (PA 445 of 2018)
      - Interference with key facility.
    - HB 5496 (PA 446 of 2018)
      - Establishes duties of Michigan Aeronautics Commission.
      - Advice to state agencies and public, education, outreach.
    - SB 917 (PA 468 of 2018)
      - Adjust interference with public safety officials to add correctional officers.
    - SB 922 (PA 469 of 2018)
      - Sentencing guidelines for key facility interference.
    - SB 1233 (PA 442 of 2018)
      - Restricts state use of UAS if inspecting a facility licensed by the state agency conducting the inspection.
      - Exemptions: search warrant, public safety emergency, infrastructure inspection.



## Statistics

Director Trout reported on the following:

- Fuel Tax Revenue
  - Excise (3¢) (Oct. – Nov.)  
FY 2018 = \$971,845  
FY 2019 = \$906,885  
(6.72% decrease)
  - Sales (2%)  
FY 2018 Total Received = \$7,157,622  
SAF (35%) = \$2,505,166 / QAF (65%) = \$4,652,456  
  
FY 2019 Received to Date = \$5,482,826  
SAF (35%) = \$1,918,989 / QAF (65%) = \$3,563,837
- Contract Closeouts FYTD
  - 6 Primary Airport Grants
  - 25 State Block Sub Grants
  - 0 State Block Grant
  - 4 State/Local Grants
- Tall Structure Permits
  - 2017 = 4,497 (369 wind turbines) Calendar Year Total
  - 2018 = 5,298 (611 wind turbines) Calendar Year Total
- Potential Renewals for FY 2019
  - 6,416 Aircraft (active, inactive, pending)
  - 73 Flight Schools
  - 125 Aircraft Dealers
- State Aircraft Flight Hours – FY (Oct. – Dec.)
  - 2018 = 189
  - 2019 = 160.1

## Upcoming Events

- Women’s Aviation Career Symposium – Jan. 26, 2019, Lansing
- Michigan Airport Conference – Feb. 20-21, 2019, East Lansing
- NASAO Washington Conference – Feb. 27 - March 1, 2019, Washington, D.C.
- MAC Meeting – March 27, 2019, Lansing
- MBAA/MAAE Legislative Day – April 17, 2019, Lansing Capitol

## Recognitions

- Kelly Badra, Planning and Development Section – 15 Years of State Service
- Tom Smith, Transport and Safety Section – 10 Years of State Service
- Mike Soper, Transport and Safety Section – 10 Years of State Service
- Brooke Allison – MDOT Change Agent Award Winner
- Commissioner Rick Fiddler – “Living Legends of Aviation” Inductee (Included Commissioner Fiddler’s induction video.)



Director Trout's report can be viewed in full on the Michigan Aeronautics Commission web page under "Meetings" and then "Director's Reports" at [www.michigan.gov/aero](http://www.michigan.gov/aero).

- B. General Aviation Advisory Committee – Chairman Kamarainen reported that the committee met on December 13, 2018.

The committee was briefed on a potential wind farm called Tupper Lake Wind Farm.

The Michigan Association of Airport Executives (MAAE) is offering financial assistance to high school students interested in completing the ground school training required to becoming a private pilot. This program will provide up to \$250 for each selected applicant and is made possible through the MDOT/MAAE Fiscal Year 2019 Training Contract. More information about the program can be found at <https://michairports.org/>.

The Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association announced scholarships for students and teachers interested in flight training. More information about this program can be found at [www.aopa.org/](http://www.aopa.org/).

The Women's Aviation Career Symposium is scheduled for Saturday, January 26, 2019, in Lansing. The keynote speaker is Adlay Kejjan, a former Syrian refugee and now a certified flight instructor. The event is sold out.

An update was provided on Detroit's Coleman A. Young International Airport. The Davis Aerospace Technical High School is considering moving to the airport.

- C. Commercial Air Service Advisory Committee – No Report.
- D. Safety Advisory Committee – No Report.
- E. UAS Advisory Committee – No Report.
- F. Pilot Shortage Task Group – Commissioner VanderVeen reported that the task group was convened in May of 2018, charged with providing initial recommendations to the Commission on ways the state can address the pilot shortage issue. This was done with the acknowledgment that shortages of maintenance and avionics technicians will also be a challenge in the years ahead. The following recommendations identify a starting point, and the task group recognizes additional coordination, discussion, and action will be necessary as the issues surrounding not only a pilot shortage, but overall aviation professional shortage, including pilots, maintenance professionals, cabin staff, and others will grow in severity within Michigan over the coming years.
  1. Develop a greater understanding of the aviation professional shortage within all levels of state government – including the Michigan Economic Development Corporation and the Michigan Department of Education.



2. Encourage a collaborative environment for all aviation organizations and interests to speak with one voice on pilot shortage issues within Michigan.
3. Encourage the aviation community to pursue participation in the Michigan Marshall Plan for Talent program.
4. Encourage the aviation industry's participation in Michigan workforce development initiatives, such as MICareerQuest.
5. Support and expand active pilot development programs.
6. Pursue opportunities identified through the FAA's Aviation Maintenance Workforce Development Pilot Program.
7. Support modernization of FAR Part 147.

Chairman Kamarainen accepted the report as final and encouraged staff to work towards implementing the recommendations. He thanked Commissioner VanderVeen and the task force for their work.

Chairman Kamarainen announced that he would like to reassign Commissioner VanderVeen to chair the Commercial Air Service Advisory Committee. The committee will now be chaired by Commissioner VanderVeen who will replace Commissioner Kavalhuna. He thanked Commissioner Kavalhuna for his past work as chair of the committee.

#### **IV. COMMISSION COMMENTS**

Chairman Kamarainen asked if any of the commissioners would like to make a comment. There were no comments.

#### **V. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Chairman Kamarainen 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 27, 2019, 10:00 a.m., Aeronautics Building, 2700 Port Lansing Road, Lansing, Michigan.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:52 a.m.

(approved/signed, original on file)  
Peter J. Kamarainen, Chairman

(approved/signed, original on file)  
Michael G. Trout, Director

Dated: March 27, 2019

