

MICHIGAN AERONAUTICS COMMISSION

Minutes of Meeting
Gerald R. Ford International Airport
Grand Rapids, Michigan
May 22, 2019

Pursuant to Section 31 of Act 327 of the Public Acts of 1945, the Commissioners of the Michigan Aeronautics Commission met at the Gerald R. Ford International Airport (GFIA), Grand Rapids, Michigan, on Wednesday, May 22, 2019.

Members Present

Roger Salo, Vice Chairman
J. David VanderVeen, Commissioner
Rick Fiddler, Commissioner
Russ Kavalhuna, Commissioner
Tim Hoeffner, Alternate Designee – MDOT
Kevin Jacobs, Designee – MDNR
Len Isabelle, Designee – MDMVA
Dave Brickey, Legal Counsel
Mike Trout, Director
Bryan Budds, Commission Advisor
Judy Baker, Commission Analyst

Members Absent

Pete Kamarainen, Chairman
F/Lt. Brian Bahlau, Designee – MSP

Staff Present

Jared Arnett
Dave Baker
Elyse Lower
Linn Smith
Alissa VanHoof

Also Present

Stephen Clark, GFIA Authority
Roy Hawkins, GFIA Authority
Moe Khattak, GFIA Authority
Dan Koorndyk, GFIA Authority
Roger Morgan, GFIA Authority
A. Nye, GFIA Authority
Alex Peric, GFIA Authority
Brian Picardat, GFIA Authority
Casey Ries, GFIA Authority
Ted Vonk, GFIA Authority
Floyd Wilson, GFIA Authority
Margie Witbeck, GFIA Authority
Phil Johnson, Prein&Newhof
Pat Lawrence, Michigan State Police
Ginger Moore, Hillsdale Municipal Airport
Keith Newell, General Aviation
Zachary Puchacz, Mead & Hunt, Inc.
John Strehl, Antrim County Airport
Aaron Thelenwood, West Michigan Airport Authority
Sarah Underwood, C&S Engineers
Miles Weaver, W.K. Kellogg Airport



I. OPENING REMARKS

The May 22, 2019 Michigan Aeronautics Commission (MAC or Commission) meeting was called to order by Vice Chairman Roger Salo at 10:00 a.m. Vice Chairman Salo welcomed all those present. He asked everyone to rise, and the Pledge of Allegiance was cited. Roll call was taken.

II. WELCOME

Vice Chairman Salo introduced GFIA Manager Brian Picardat and thanked him for hosting the Commission meeting. Mr. Picardat welcomed everyone and expressed his appreciation to the Commission for conducting its meeting at the airport. He introduced the following members of the GFIA Authority Board: Chairman Dan Koorndyk, Vice Chairman Floyd Wilson, Jr., Ted Vonk, and Roger Morgan. Mr. Picardat provided an update on the development of GFIA. A video promoting the airport projects was also shown.

Vice Chairman Salo thanked Mr. Picardat for his comments. He and Director Mike Trout presented a special recognition in honor of the airport for preserving Michigan's aviation legacy and in celebration of GFIA's upcoming 100th anniversary on Nov. 26. Mr. Koorndyk and Mr. Picardat expressed their appreciation and thanked the Commission for the honor.

III. COMMISSION BUSINESS

A. Vice Chairman Salo asked if there were any revisions to the minutes of the meeting held on March 27, 2019. There were none. He entertained a motion to approve the minutes. The motion was moved by Commissioner Dave VanderVeen and seconded by Commissioner Russ Kavalhuna to approve the minutes as presented. **All voted in favor.**

B. Approval and Transfer of Appropriated Funds

Airport Sponsor Contracts

Dave Baker presented the following contracts:

1. Gratiot Community Airport, Alma
2. Branch County Memorial, Coldwater
3. Branch County Memorial, Coldwater
4. Gerald R. Ford International Airport, Grand Rapids
5. Greenville Municipal Airport, Greenville
6. Greenville Municipal Airport, Greenville
7. Greenville Municipal Airport, Greenville
8. Hastings City/Barry County Airport, Hastings
9. Hillsdale Municipal Airport, Hillsdale
10. West Michigan Regional Airport, Holland
11. West Michigan Regional Airport, Holland
12. West Michigan Regional Airport, Holland
13. Lakeview Airport – Griffith Field, Lakeview
14. Lakeview Airport – Griffith Field, Lakeview
15. Mackinac Island Airport, Mackinac Island
16. Marlette Township Airport, Marlette
17. Marlette Township Airport, Marlette
18. Ontonagon County Airport-Schuster Field, Ontonagon
19. Oscoda – Wurtsmith Airport, Oscoda
20. Kirsch Municipal Airport, Sturgis



Mr. Baker reported on three supplemental transfers: Pellston Regional Airport of Emmet County, Pellston; Muskegon County Airport, Muskegon; and Delta County Airport, Escanaba. **No Commission Action was required.**

Vice Chairman Salo asked if there were any further comments or questions on the sponsor contracts. Hearing none, he entertained a motion to approve item Nos. 1-20 of the Airport Sponsor Contracts. The motion was moved by Commissioner Len Isabelle and seconded by Commissioner VanderVeen to approve the contracts as presented. **All voted in favor.**

(Due to the potential appearance of a conflict of interest, Commissioner Rick Fiddler abstained from voting on contract No. 4, Gerald R. Ford International Airport, Grand Rapids.)

Air Service Program

Mr. Baker reported on one project description revision: MBS International Airport, Saginaw. **No Commission Action was required.**

A complete list of contract descriptions can be viewed on the Michigan Aeronautics Commission web page at www.michigan.gov/aero.

C. Automated Weather Observation System (AWOS) Maintenance Contract

1. **Mackinac Island Airport, Mackinac Island**

Bryan Budds presented the AWOS maintenance contract for Mackinac Island Airport. He provided information explaining that since 1992, the Office of Aeronautics (Aero) has had a program of providing access to current weather briefing information for pilots at airports around the state. The program began with the first AWOS installation at the Mackinac Island Airport.

With the installation of each AWOS, Aero establishes a contract with the sponsor to set the responsibilities of each party for the shared maintenance and operation of the AWOS, Data Collection System (DCS), and Weather Briefing Service (WBS), if contracted through the Michigan Department of Transportation.

After review of all AWOS stations currently under contract, Aero found that Mackinac Island is currently under contract for the WBS, but not for the AWOS or DCS. To maintain uniformity, Aero requested Commission approval for an AWOS maintenance contract for the Mackinac Island Airport. This would be a new five-year, all-encompassing contract to cover the AWOS, DCS, and WBS with the airport sponsor, the Mackinac Island State Park Commission. Once executed, the current WBS only contract will be terminated.

Vice Chairman Salo asked if there were any further comments or questions. Hearing none, he entertained a motion to approve the AWOS maintenance contract as presented. The motion was moved by Commissioner Kavallhuna and seconded by Commissioner Fiddler to approve the contract. **All voted in favor.**

IV. REPORTS

A. MAC Director Report

Director Trout welcomed everyone, and thanked Mr. Picardat for hosting the Commission meeting. He continued and reported on the following:

Federal Funding Categories

- Primary Airports
 - Entitlements
 - Discretionary
 - Supplemental
- General Aviation Airports receives and based on need
 - State Block Grant
 - Apportionment
 - Non-Primary Entitlements
 - Discretionary
 - Supplemental

Director Trout presented and explained a slide of Airport Improvement Program (AIP) funding and stated that the total program for 2019 (federal, state and local) is an estimated \$136.2 million. This is a significant increase from prior years due to Michigan airports and MDOT's successful efforts at attracting additional discretionary funds to the state.

Statistics

- Fuel Tax Revenue (Thru April)
 - Excise (3¢)
FY 2019 = \$2,608,622 (\$454,180 YTD Decrease)
FY 2018 = \$3,062,802
 - Sales (2%)
FY 2019 YTD Total = \$8,573,375

SAF 2019 YTD = \$3,000,681 (\$1,367,696 YTD Increase)
SAF 2018 YTD = \$1,632,985

FY 2018 Total = \$7,157,622
SAF 2018 Total = \$2,505,166
- Contract Closeouts (FYTD)
 - 14 Primary Airport Grants
 - 40 State Block Sub Grants
 - 4 State Block Grant
 - 6 State/Local Grants
- Tall Structure Permits
 - 2019 = 1,384 (201 wind turbines) Year to Date
 - 2018 = 5,298 (611 wind turbines) Calendar Year Total



- State Aircraft Flight Hours (FY Thru April)
 - 2019 = 328.2
 - 2018 = 453.9

Grant Closeout Process Improvement

Director Trout reported on the grant closeout process improvement facilitated by MDOT's Performance Excellence Division. An improvement process was developed by staff from the Office of Aeronautics (Aero), Finance Accounting Services Division, Federal Aviation Administration, and airport industry associates. The new process has been in effect and shows improvements in quicker closeouts from 18-24 months to 9-12 months.

Staff News

- Christina Thelen, Planning and Development Section – 10 Years of State Service
- Leanne Hengesbach, Programming Section – 40 Years of State Service
- Gene Rench, New Aviation Tech, Transport and Safety Section
- Jared Arnett, New Summer Co-op Student, Planning and Development Section
- Dave Baker, Programming Section – Retirement Effective May 31
- Tom Ferrigan, Programming Section – Retirement Effective June 30

Upcoming Events

- EAA AirVenture – July 22-28, Oshkosh, WI
- MAC Off-Site Meeting – July 24, Sault Ste. Marie, MI
- NASAO Annual Conference – Sept. 7-11, St. Paul, MN
- MAAE Fall Conference – Sept. 9-13, Port Huron, MI
- MiCareerQuest Southeast – Nov. 8, Novi, MI

A special service award was presented to Aero's Programming Section Manager Dave Baker recognizing 27 years of service to aviation in Michigan and his successful implementation of the AIP program. Mr. Baker plans to retire the end of the month.

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.

B. General Aviation (GA) Advisory Committee – Bryan Budds and Keith Newell provided reports.

Mr. Budds reported printed copies of the 2019 Michigan Aeronautical Chart are available for purchase at the [Michigan eStore](#).

Mr. Newell reported the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association released an E-passport program to promote flying nationwide. The GA Advisory committee will look at how Michigan can promote flying within the state and region. The committee continues to examine a variety of airports and ways to preserve and enhance operations.

C. Commercial Air Service Advisory Committee – No Report.

D. Safety Advisory Committee – No Report.

E. UAS Advisory Committee – No Report.



V. COMMISSION COMMENTS

Commissioner Kavalhuna acknowledged and congratulated Commissioner Fiddler on his retirement as Vice President of Amway Aviation effective July 1. He plans to stay with Amway for a couple of years as a consultant.

VI. PUBLIC COMMENTS

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

CLOSING

The next Michigan Aeronautics Commission meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, July 24, 2019, in Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:00 a.m.

(approved/signed, original on file)
Roger Salo, Acting Chairman

*Signed by Rick Fiddler, Presiding Chairman
for Acting Chairman Roger Salo*

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

Dated: 7/24/2019

