

# MICHIGAN AERONAUTICS COMMISSION

Minutes of Meeting  
Harbor Springs, Michigan  
September 12, 2018

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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 in Harbor Springs, Michigan, in conjunction with the Michigan Association of Airport Executives (MAAE) Fall Conference on September 12, 2018.

## Members Present

Dave VanderVeen, Chairman  
Pete Kamarainen, Vice Chairman  
Russ Kavalhuna, Commissioner  
Roger Salo, Commissioner  
Laura Mester, Designee – MDOT  
Kevin Jacobs, Designee – MDNR  
Jim Shell, Legal Counsel  
Mike Trout, Director  
Bryan Budds, Commission Advisor  
Judy Baker, Commission Analyst

## Members Absent

Rick Fiddler, Commissioner  
Capt. Joe Gasper, Designee – MSP  
Maj. Gen. Len Isabelle, Designee – MDMVA

## Staff Present

Kelly Badra  
Dave Baker  
Neal Barncard  
Randy Coller  
Jennifer Forbes  
Hilary Hoose  
Alissa Hubbell  
Ashley Nobert  
Brigitte Pricco  
Jeremy Riley  
Anu Taneja  
Christina Thelen  
Mary Kay Trierweiler

## Also Present

Matt Barresi, Gaylord Regional Airport  
Tami Beseau, Chippewa County International Airport  
Terry Boer, West Michigan Regional Airport  
Gordy Bogner, QoE Consulting  
Mike Borta, Prein&Newhof  
Ken Borton, Gaylord Regional Airport  
Tom Brown, Soo Air  
Duane DuRay, Sawyer International Airport  
Ben Hoover, Mead & Hunt, Inc.  
Eric Jaroch, Roscommon Co.-Blodgett Memorial Airport  
Mark Johnson, Livingston Co.-Spencer J. Hardy Airport  
Phil Johnson, Prein&Newhof  
Kelly Jost, C&S Engineers  
Gary Kellan, Oscoda Wurtsmith Airport  
Chris Kindsvatter, Indian River Airport  
Michelle King, Federal Aviation Administration  
Kevin Klein, Cherry Capital Airport  
Barry Lind, Manistee County – Blacker Airport  
Tracey Laitinen, Sault Ste. Marie Economic Dev. Corp.  
John Mayfield, Federal Aviation Administration



Keith Newell, Grosse Pointe  
Nick Patterson, RS&H, Inc.  
Brian Picardat, Gerald R. Ford Int'l. Airport Authority  
Kenneth Potts, State Aviation Journal  
Zachary Puchacz, Mead & Hunt, Inc.  
David Reid, Kalamazoo/Battle Creek Int'l. Airport  
T.J. Reid, Delta County Airport  
Casey Ries, Gerald R. Ford Int'l. Airport Authority  
Dan Sal, Cherry Capital Airport  
Theresa Samosiuk, Wayne County Airport Authority  
Chris Sieklucki, Cherry Capital Airport  
Wayne Sieloff, Capital Region International Airport  
Steve Smigelski, Alpena County Regional Airport  
Vitas Sprindys, Sparling Corporation  
Erich Thiel, RS&H, Inc.  
Jon Van Duinen, Prein&Newhof  
Miles Weaver, W. K. Kellogg Airport  
Richard Wright, Boyne City Airport

## I. OPENING REMARKS

The September 12, 2018 Michigan Aeronautics Commission (Commission) meeting was called to order by Chairman Dave VanderVeen at 11:00 a.m. He welcomed all those present and introduced Dave Reid, Manager of the Kalamazoo/Battle Creek International Airport and President of MAAE. He also introduced Ken Borton, Commissioner of Otsego County and Board President of the Michigan Association of Counties.

Chairman VanderVeen asked everyone to rise, and the Pledge of Allegiance was cited. Roll call was taken.

A special recognition was presented to Boyne Highlands Resort for graciously hosting the Michigan Aeronautics Commission. Event coordinator Tracie Odenbach accepted the plaque.

## II. COMMISSION BUSINESS

### A. Minutes of the July 25, 2018 Meeting

Chairman VanderVeen asked if there were any revisions to the minutes of the meeting held on July 25, 2018. There were none. He entertained a motion to approve the minutes. The motion was moved by Commissioner Roger Salo and seconded by Commissioner Kevin Jacobs to approve the minutes as presented. **All voted in favor.**



## B. Request for Approval and Transfer of Appropriated Funds

Dave Baker presented the airport sponsor contracts.

1. Lenawee County Airport, Adrian
2. Alpena County Regional Airport, Alpena
3. Wexford County Airport, Cadillac
4. Clare Municipal Airport, Clare
5. Clare Municipal Airport, Clare
6. Willow Run Airport, Detroit
7. Abrams Municipal Airport, Grand Ledge
8. Oceana County Airport, Hart/Shelby
9. Oceana County Airport, Hart/Shelby
10. Oceana County Airport, Hart/Shelby
11. Ford Airport, Iron Mountain Kingsford
12. Gogebic-Iron County Airport, Ironwood
13. Gogebic-Iron County Airport, Ironwood
14. Gogebic-Iron County Airport, Ironwood
15. Capital Regional International, Lansing
16. Mason County Airport, Ludington
17. Mason County Airport, Ludington
18. Mason County Airport, Ludington
19. Mount Pleasant Municipal Airport, Mount Pleasant
20. Muskegon County Airport, Muskegon
21. Muskegon County Airport, Muskegon
22. St. Clair County International Airport, Port Huron
23. Jackson County – Reynolds Field, Jackson

### **Supplemental Transfer Requiring Action**

Chairman VanderVeen asked if there were any further comments or questions. Hearing none, he entertained a motion to approve item Nos. 1 – 23 of the airport sponsor contracts. The motion was moved by Commissioner Russ Kavalhuna and seconded by Commissioner Salo to approve the contracts as presented. **All voted in favor.**

*(Due to a potential conflict of interest, Vice Chairman Pete Kamarainen abstained from voting on airport sponsor contract No. 7, Abrams Municipal Airport, Grand Ledge.)*

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

## III. REPORTS

**A. General Aviation Advisory Committee – No Report**

**B. Commercial Air Service Advisory Committee – No Report**

**C. Safety Advisory Committee – No Report**



#### **D. UAS Advisory Committee – No Report**

#### **E. Pilot Shortage Task Group**

Chairman VanderVeen reported that the task group last met on August 23, 2018, where participants determined that the primary focus should be on overall pilot/aviation and mechanic talent statewide as follows:

- Promote awareness of the Marshall Plan for Talent sponsored by the Michigan Department of Talent and Economic Development to ensure the aviation community is aware of this opportunity ([www.michigan.gov/MarshallPlan](http://www.michigan.gov/MarshallPlan))
  - Add pilots/aviation maintenance technicians/mechanics to the ‘top careers’ list
- Support and expand programs already in place
  - Crosswinds Aviation in Ingham, Livingston, and Genesee Counties
  - Western Michigan University College of Aviation
  - Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association High School STEM Curriculum
  - Delta’s Propel Pilot Career Path Program
- Participate in MiCareerQuest (hands-on aviation activities)
- Explore current Michigan Economic Development Corporation grant programs

A report to the Commission is expected at the end of the year.

#### **F. MAC Director’s Report**

Director Mike Trout welcomed everyone and recognized Rebecca MacPherson, John Mayfield and all the Federal Aviation Administration staff. He recognized Capt. Joe Gasper who was unable to attend due to an emergency management exercise and Commissioner Rick Fiddler who was unable to attend due to the recent passing of Rich DeVos.

Maj. Gen. Len Isabelle was acknowledged as hosting Commissioner Laura Mester and Director Trout at the Exercise Northern Strike 2018 held in Grayling and Alpena. Chair VanderVeen commended Maj. Gen. Isabelle for attending an “aviation day” gathering held at the Oakland County International Airport where he spoke about the need for pilots and aviation mechanics, as well as military careers.

#### State Legislation ([www.legislature.mi.gov/](http://www.legislature.mi.gov/))

- HB 4350/4351 – Two bills would exempt aircraft parts for repairs and maintenance from sales and use tax. Both bills were passed by the House on May 25, 2017 and remain in the Senate.
- SB 626/627 – Two bills involving seaplane operation that would change state law to allow MDOT to regulate the use of inland waters by aircraft and exclude application of the National Resources and Environmental Protection Act to aircraft regulated by the Michigan Aeronautics Commission. Both bills remain in the Senate.



- SB 917 through 922 – A package of six bills was introduced on March 21, 2018, that would regulate unmanned aircraft systems (UAS) or drones. The legislation is based on recommendations from the UAS Task Force and would primarily amend the Unmanned Aircraft Systems Act, which was passed in 2016. A similar package of five UAS bills (HB 5494 through 5498) passed the House on March 23, 2018. Bills remain in the Senate.

### Statistics

Director Trout reported on the following:

- Fuel Tax Revenue
  - Excise (3¢) FY to Date (Oct. – July)
    - 2018 = \$5,076,753
    - 2017 = \$4,792,758
    - (5.93% increase)
  - Sales (2%) FY to Date Received
    - Nov. 2017 = \$1,745,428
    - (SAF 35% - \$610,899/QAF 65% - \$1,134,529)
    - Jan. 2018 = \$904,390
    - (SAF 35% - \$316,536/QAF 65% - \$587,854)
    - April 2018 = \$2,015,857
    - (SAF 35% - \$705,550/QAF 65% - 1,310,307)
    - July 2018 = \$2,491,947
    - (SAF 35% - \$872,181/QAF 65% - 1,619,766)

*Note:* SAF = State Aeronautics Fund – \$2,505,166 Total  
QAF = Qualified Airport Fund – \$4,652,456 Total
- Contract Closeouts FYTD
  - 26 Primary Airport Grants
  - 54 State Block Sub Grants
  - 1 State Block Grant
  - 21 State/Local Grants
- Tall Structure Permits
  - 2018 = 3,262 (363 wind turbines) Calendar Year to Date Total
  - 2017 = 4,497 (369 wind turbines) Calendar Year Total
- Registered Aircraft Renewals
  - 2018 = 5,288 (Calendar Year to Date Total)
  - 2017 = 5,554 (Calendar Year Total)
- State Aircraft Flight Hours – FYTD (Oct. – mid August)
  - 2018 = 735
  - 2017 = 774



- Air Service Program
  - ARFF Training (16 Airports)
    - \$48,007 Total Funded
    - (\$32,000 State/\$16,007 Local)
  - Airport Awareness (13 Airports)
    - \$177,564 Total Funded
    - (\$133,800 State/\$43,764 Local)
  - Capital Improvement & Equipment (11 Airports)
    - \$108,209 Total Funded
    - (\$78,500 State/\$29,709 Local)
  - Carrier Retention & Recruitment (1 Airport)
    - \$11,250 Total Funded
    - (\$5,625 State/\$5,625 Local)

#### Year in Review

Director Trout highlighted some of the accomplishments under the leadership of Chairman VanderVeen:

- Grant Closeout Process Improvement
- UAS Advisory Committee
- Pilot Shortage Task Group
- Tall Structure Program Fee Modification
- Yankee Air Museum Off-Site Meeting
- West Michigan Regional Airport Off-Site Meeting

#### Staff News

- Ashly Nobert, Planning and Development Section – New Engineer Intern
- Mark Noel, Planning and Development Section – Simply Super Service Award

#### Coming Soon

- NASAO Annual Conference – Sept. 23-25, Oklahoma City, OK
- MAC Meeting – Nov. 7, Lansing, MI
- FAA Michigan Congressional Briefing – Nov. 28, Lansing, MI
- Michigan Airport Conference – Feb. 20-21, East Lansing, MI

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).

## **IV. MAC AWARDS OF EXCELLENCE**

Chairman VanderVeen provided the background of the awards. This year, there was one organization award and one individual award announced. The organization award went to Shawn Jezak/Michigan Association of Airport Executives and the individual award went to Kirk T. Steudle, Michigan Department of Transportation.



### **Shawn Jezak/Michigan Association of Airport Executives**

Shawn Jezak is the Executive Director of the Michigan Association of Airport Executives. Chairman VanderVeen presented the award to Ms. Jezak. The following inscription was read:

*This award is being presented in recognition of your outstanding contributions throughout the past 11 years as Executive Director of the Michigan Association of Airport Executives (MAAE). Your ongoing commitment has earned significant benefits to MAAE's membership, and your dedicated efforts in the preparation and development of premier airport conferences and seminars held across the state have had a measurable and lasting effect on the airport industry throughout Michigan. Thank you for your service.*

Chairman VanderVeen stated that on behalf of the Commission, he is pleased and honored to present the award to the Michigan Association of Airport Executives. Ms. Jezak expressed her gratitude on behalf of MAAE and thanked the Commission for the honor.

On behalf of the association, MAAE President Dave Reid congratulated and thanked Ms. Jezak for all her hard work over the past years.

### **Kirk T. Steudle**

Kirk Steudle is the Director of the Michigan Department of Transportation and was unable to attend today's meeting. He will be presented with the award soon, in the very near future.

## **V. ELECTIONS**

Chairman VanderVeen announced that his term as chairman has come to an end. He thanked Vice Chairman Kamarainen, Committee Chairmen Kavalhuna, Salo, Fiddler, fellow commissioners, Director Trout, Bryan Budds, Judy Baker, Brigitte Pricco and the staff of MDOT Office of Aeronautics for all their hard work and support throughout the year. He then asked Commissioner Kavalhuna to proceed with the elections.

Commissioner Kavalhuna praised and thanked Chairman VanderVeen for his work throughout the past year. He then spoke of the nominating procedure. He stated that in accordance with the Michigan Aeronautics Commission Bylaws, the nominating committee submitted the following commissioners for the offices of chair and vice chair of the Michigan Aeronautics Commission for a one-year term beginning immediately upon election.

For the Office of Chair: Pete Kamarainen

For the Office of Vice Chair: Roger Salo

Chairman Kavalhuna asked if there were any comments or questions. Hearing none, he asked the Commission to entertain a motion to approve the nominations as presented. The motion was moved by Commissioner VanderVeen and seconded by Commissioner Laura Mester to appoint Pete Kamarainen as chairman and Roger Salo as vice chairman. **All voted in favor with Vice Chairman Kamarainen and Commissioner Salo abstaining.**



## VI. PASSING OF THE GAVEL

Chairman VanderVeen handed over the gavel announcing and congratulating Pete Kamarainen, the new Michigan Aeronautics Commission chairman.

Director Trout commended Chairman VanderVeen for his dedication to the Michigan Aeronautics Commission. He was presented with an honorary plaque and gavel congratulating him on a successful year. Chairman VanderVeen thanked Director Trout, the Commission, and everyone for a great year.

## VII. COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

The new Chairman Kamarainen thanked Commissioner VanderVeen and commended him for his service and leadership during the past year. He stated that he is honored to be elected as the Commission chairman and to continue in the past chair's footsteps. He looks forward to working with everyone in the very near future.

In accordance with the Bylaws, Article VII, Special Committees, Chairman Kamarainen announced the reestablishment of the following committees and appointments of the respective chairs:

- General Aviation Advisory Committee
  - Purpose: To promote the use of general aviation and enhance awareness to ensure this vital segment of aviation remains viable.
  - Appointment of Committee Chairman: Pete Kamarainen
- Commercial Air Service Advisory Committee
  - Purpose: To support growth and retention of commercial air service and those airports that support passenger travel in Michigan.
  - Appointment of Committee Chairman: Russ Kavalhuna
- Safety Advisory Committee
  - Purpose: To promote safety as the key value of aviation by identifying significant industry risks and serving as a center of expertise on a wide range of safety matters.
  - Appointment of Committee Chairman: Roger Salo
- Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) Advisory Committee
  - Purpose: To promote and support the ongoing development and expansion of UAS in Michigan, while enhancing awareness to ensure public safety.
  - Appointment of Committee Chairman: Rick Fiddler
- Pilot Shortage Group
  - Purpose: To study the pilot shortage issue, develop recommendations for action, and provide a report to the MAC that recommends what the state can do to impact and address the problem.
  - Appointment of Group Chair: Dave VanderVeen





## VIII. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

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

## IX. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Chairman Kamarainen asked if anyone would like to make a public comment.

Kevin Klein, Manager, Cherry Capital Airport of Traverse City, expressed his appreciation and thanked the Commission for the approval of grants under the Air Service Program throughout the past year.

## CLOSING

The next Michigan Aeronautics Commission meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, November 7, 2018, 10:00 a.m., Aeronautics Building, 2700 Port Lansing Road, Lansing, Michigan.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:50 a.m.

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

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

Dated: November 7, 2018

