

MICHIGAN AERONAUTICS COMMISSION

Minutes of Meeting

Holland, Michigan

July 25, 2018

Pursuant to Section 31 of Act 327 of the Public Acts of 1945, commissioners of the Michigan Aeronautics Commission met at the West Michigan Regional Airport, Holland, Michigan, on Wednesday, July 25, 2018.

Members Present

J. David VanderVeen, Chairman
Pete Kamarainen, Vice Chairman
Russ Kavalhuna, Commissioner
Roger Salo, Commissioner
Rick Fiddler, Commissioner
Kevin Jacobs, Designee – MDNR
Maj. Gen. Len Isabelle, Designee – MDMVA
Dave Wresinski, Alternate Designee – MDOT
Kathleen Gleeson, Legal Counsel
Mike Trout, Director
Bryan Budds, Commission Advisor
Judy Baker, Commission Analyst

Staff Present

Dave Baker
Jennifer Forbes
Alissa Hubbell
Brigitte Pricco
Linn Smith

Members Absent

Capt. Joe Gasper, Designee – MSP

Also Present

Terry Boer, West Michigan Regional Airport
Mark Breukink, Mead & Hunt
Howard Fink, Park Township
Jerry Hunsburger, Park Township
Mike Pelzer, Pegasus Parachuting Services
Brian Picardat, Gerald R. Ford Int'l. Airport Authority
Kenneth Potts, State Aviation Journal
Greg Robinson, West Michigan Airport Authority
John Strehl, Antrim County Airport
Jeff Thoman, Mead & Hunt
Jeff Tripp, Muskegon County Airport
Jon Van Duinen, Prein&Newhof



I. OPENING REMARKS

The July 25, 2018 Michigan Aeronautics Commission (Commission) meeting was called to order by Chairman J. David VanderVeen at 10:00 a.m. He welcomed all those present and acknowledged Greg Robinson, West Michigan Airport Authority; Terry Boer, West Michigan Regional Airport; Kenn Potts, retired from Kalamazoo/Battle Creek International Airport; Brian Picardat, Gerald R. Ford International Airport Authority; Jeff Tripp, Muskegon County Airport; and John Strehl, Antrim County Airport.

The Pledge of Allegiance was cited. Roll call was taken.

II. WELCOME

Chairman VanderVeen again introduced Mr. Robinson and Mr. Boer and thanked them for hosting the Commission meeting. Both gentlemen welcomed everyone to the West Michigan Regional Airport and expressed appreciation to the Commission for conducting its meeting at their airport. They spoke on the history and operation of the airport. A video promoting the airport was also shown.

Chairman VanderVeen thanked them for their comments. He and Director Mike Trout presented a special recognition in honor of the airport for preserving Michigan's aviation legacy. Mr. Robinson and Mr. Boer expressed their appreciation and thanked the Commission for the honor.

III. COMMISSION BUSINESS

A. Minutes of the May 23, 2018 Meeting

Chairman VanderVeen asked if there were any revisions to the minutes of the meeting held on May 23, 2018. There were none. He entertained a motion to approve the minutes. The motion was moved by Vice Chairman Pete Kamarainen and seconded by Commissioner Rick Fiddler to approve the minutes as presented. **All voted in favor.**

B. Appointment of Nominating Committee

Chairman VanderVeen read the process for the election of chairman and vice chairman for the next year.

In accordance with the Michigan Aeronautics Commission Bylaws, Article IV, Sections 4.1 and 4.4, Chairman VanderVeen appointed Commissioners Russ Kavalhuna and Roger Salo to serve as the nominating committee to recommend to the Commission, at the next meeting scheduled for Sept. 12, 2018, the persons to be considered for election to serve as the Commission chair and vice chair for Fiscal Year (FY) 2018/2019. **No motion was required for this action.**

C. Request for Approval and Transfer of Appropriated Funds

Dave Baker presented the Airport Sponsor Contracts.

1. Gratiot Community Airport, Alma
2. Ann Arbor Municipal Airport, Ann Arbor
3. Atlanta Municipal Airport, Atlanta
4. Antrim County Airport, Bellaire
5. Roben-Hood Airport, Big Rapids



6. Tuscola Area Airport, Caro
7. Charlevoix Municipal Airport, Charlevoix
8. Charlevoix Municipal Airport, Charlevoix
9. Dowagiac Municipal Airport, Dowagiac
10. Delta County Airport, Escanaba
11. Delta County Airport, Escanaba
12. Delta County Airport, Escanaba
13. Bishop International Airport, Flint
14. Bishop International Airport, Flint
15. Bishop International Airport, Flint
16. Bishop International Airport, Flint
17. Abrams Municipal Airport, Grand Ledge
18. Gerald R. Ford International Airport, Grand Rapids
19. Gerald R. Ford International Airport, Grand Rapids
20. Houghton County Memorial, Hancock
21. Houghton County Memorial, Hancock
22. Houghton County Memorial, Hancock
23. Hastings City/Barry County Airport, Hastings
24. Roscommon County, Blodgett Memorial, Houghton Lake
25. Roscommon County, Blodgett Memorial, Houghton Lake
26. Livingston County-Spencer J. Hardy, Howell
27. Kalamazoo/Battle Creek International, Kalamazoo
28. Mackinac Island Airport, Mackinac Island
29. Sawyer International, Marquette
30. Sawyer International, Marquette
31. Brooks Field, Marshall
32. Brooks Field, Marshall
33. Monroe Custer Airport, Monroe
34. Pellston Regional Airport of Emmet County, Pellston
35. Pellston Regional Airport of Emmert County, Pellston
36. St. Clair County International Airport, Port Huron
37. Romeo State Airport, Romeo
38. MBS International Airport, Saginaw
39. MBS International Airport, Saginaw
40. Chippewa County International Airport, Sault Ste. Marie
41. Chippewa County International Airport, Sault Ste. Marie
42. Chippewa County International Airport, Sault Ste. Marie
43. Chippewa County International Airport, Sault Ste. Marie
44. South Haven Area Regional, South Haven
45. South Haven Area Regional, South Haven
46. Statewide-Local PCI Surveys
47. Cherry Capital Airport, Traverse City
48. Oakland/Troy Airport, Troy
49. Oakland/Troy Airport, Troy



The commissioners discussed the transfer for Ann Arbor Municipal Airport and the length of time it has taken to complete the project.

Chairman VanderVeen asked if there were any further comments or questions. Hearing none, he entertained a motion to approve item Nos. 1 – 49 of the airport sponsor contracts. The motion was moved by Commissioner Salo and seconded by Commissioner Kavalhuna to approve the contracts as presented. **All voted in favor.**

(Due to a potential conflict of interest, Vice Chairman Kamarainen abstained from voting on airport sponsor contract No. 17, Abrams Municipal Airport, Grand Ledge; Commissioner Fiddler abstained from voting on Nos. 18 and 19, Gerald R. Ford International Airport, Grand Rapids; and Chairman VanderVeen abstained from voting on Nos. 48 and 49, Oakland/Troy Airport, Troy.)

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.

Mr. Baker reported on two supplemental transfers: Chippewa County International Airport, Sault Ste. Marie and Bois Blanc Island Airport, Bois Blanc Island. **No Commission action was required.**

D. Appointment of Jennifer Forbes to Airport Zoning Boards

The Airport Zoning Act (Act 23 of 1950) provides that a staff member be appointed by the Commission to serve on the airport zoning boards. In 2003, the Commission appointed Linn Smith to serve on these boards. With Mr. Smith’s recent appointment to supervisor of the Project Support Unit within the Office of Aeronautics, it is necessary to appoint someone to replace him on the various boards. Jennifer Forbes, Planning and Zoning Specialist, has agreed to take on the responsibility of directing the Office of Aeronautics’ Zoning Program.

It was recommended that the Commission appoint Ms. Forbes to all joint airport zoning boards adopted under Section 17 of the Airport Zoning Act, except for the Joint Wayne and Washtenaw Counties Airport Zoning Board, as Mr. Smith will retain membership on that board.

Chairman VanderVeen asked if there were any further comments or questions. Hearing none, he entertained a motion to appoint Ms. Forbes to represent the Commission on the airport zoning boards as reported. The motion was moved by Commissioner Len Isabelle and seconded by Commissioner Salo. **All voted in favor.**

IV. REPORTS

A. MAC Director’s Report

Director Trout welcomed everyone and thanked Mr. Robinson and Mr. Boer for hosting the Commission meeting.



Statistics

Director Trout reported on the following:

- Fuel Tax Revenue
 - Excise (3¢) FY to Date (Oct. – May)
2018 = \$4,045,540
2017 = \$3,940,025
(2.68% 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
 - 24 Primary Airport Grants
 - 53 State Block Sub Grants
 - 1 State Block Grant
 - 18 State/Local Grants

- Tall Structure Permits
 - 2018 = 2,629 (279 wind turbines) Calendar Year Total
 - 2017 = 4,497 (369 wind turbines) Calendar Year Total

- State Aircraft Flight Hours – FYTD (Oct. – June)
 - 2018 = 622.6
 - 2017 = 656.9

Budget and Boilerplate

Director Trout discussed the Office of Aeronautics FY 2019 budget, stating that the projected revenue and expenses are remaining steady from the current year. He also spoke about the Airport Improvement Program in which the federal government released an additional \$1 billion nationally for supplemental discretionary grants to be spread over three years. Michigan intends to compete for a significant amount of these funds, noting that this could put pressure on our ability to provide the state match.

He reported on the FY 2019 Appropriations Act, P.A. 207 of 2018, boilerplate provisions:

- Retains Section 383 – Aircraft Travel Report to be submitted to the House and Senate by Feb. 1, 2019.



- Retains Section 802 – Legislative encouragement language for MDOT to find other entities or local public agencies to assume ownership and operating responsibility for airports currently owned by the department.
- Deletes Section 803 – Removed a section that required MDOT to request proposals for third party management of state air fleet.
- New Section 804 – Requires MDOT to notify when it owns four aircraft or less to attain funds for the air fleet operations and maintenance area.

Other Legislative Outcomes

- Addition of flight operations as a new line item to track expenditures.
- Reduction of current Aeronautics FTE positions from 48 to 46.
- Elimination of reporting requirement covering operation of the Office of Aeronautics.

Updates

- State Legislation
 - 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; would exclude application of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to aircraft regulated by the Michigan Aeronautics Commission. Both bills remain in the Senate.

Staff News

Director Trout recognized and congratulated the following staff:

- Alissa Hubbell, new Grants & Contracts Unit Supervisor
- John Orban, Supervisor, Aircraft Maintenance Unit, 40 years of state service

Coming Soon

- EAA AirVenture – July 23-29, Oshkosh, WI
- Oakland Co. International Airport – Aug. 12, Pontiac, MI
- MAAE Fall Conference – Sept. 10-14, 2018, Harbor Springs, MI
- MAC Meeting – Sept. 12, Harbor Springs, MI
- NASAO Annual Conference – Sept. 23-25, 2018, Oklahoma City, OK
- FAA Michigan Congressional Briefing – Nov. 28, Lansing, MI

Director Trout's report can be viewed in full on the Michigan Aeronautics Commission webpage under "Meetings" and then "Director's Reports" at www.michigan.gov/aero.

B. General Aviation (GA) Advisory Committee

Vice Chairman Pete Kamarainen recognized Jerry Hunsburger and Howard Fink from Park Township Airport in Park Township and spoke about the different activities taking place at the airport, including camping.



Vice Chairman Kamarainen proceeded to brief the Commission on the GA Advisory Committee as follows:

The Two Hearted River Airstrip celebrated its grand opening on July 7, 2018. The airstrip is located on the north shore of Michigan's Upper Peninsula, near Newberry.

The e-Passport Program continues to be discussed with the help of the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association. The goal is to develop an application to promote flying within the state and region. To increase GA activity in Michigan, the committee is considering the development of an "Island Hopping" program rewarding pilots that fly to islands within the state. This program would have a natural fit under the e-Passport Program. More to come.

The committee continues to look at Detroit's Coleman A. Young International Airport to see how it can help the users of the airport preserve and enhance operations.

To enable more people to become GA pilots, the committee is considering the development of a directory showing where all flight schools, certified flight instructors, and rental aircraft exist across Michigan. It may involve partnership with the Michigan Association of Airport Executives (MAAE).

To raise awareness of GA to students across Michigan, the committee is considering the development of a program to encourage pilots to take science teachers for a flight and find ways to integrate with the Young Eagles Program, inspiring students to participate in a flight.

C. Commercial Air Service Advisory Committee – The committee did not meet. However, a conference call was held with Part 139 airports, and the following topics were discussed: State Response to PFAS/Aircraft Firefighting Foam Storage and Use; Grant Processing/Closeout Process Improvement/Additional Federal Discretionary Funds; Air Service Program Status; and Federal and State Legislative Activities.

D. Safety Advisory Committee

Commissioner Salo reported that he has had the opportunity to visit several hospital heliports. He stated that, in his opinion, there are heliports that are riskier to access than need to be.

He referred to the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Heliport Design Advisory Circular, which is a detailed informational document outlining heliport design and safety guidelines for public heliports. The issue with the document is that it is regulatory only for the handful of heliports developed using public funds.

The committee will work with industry representatives in recommending an appropriate approach standard, along with necessary recommendations to take to the Legislature for consideration. Commissioner Salo stated that this is essential to provide inspectors authority to require adherence to recognized standards.



Commissioner Salo commended the Office of Aeronautics' inspectors for the detailed reports that he referred to while visiting the various heliports.

E. UAS Advisory Committee

Commissioner Fiddler reported that the committee last met on July 18, 2018. Michigan Senate Bill 920 was discussed. The Legislature is considering a suggested amendment to establish a distance-based airspace restriction near critical infrastructure that conflict with recommendations of the UAS Task Force. The committee debated this topic and made the following recommendations:

- Oppose establishment of distance-based restriction key facilities.
- Support the principles outlined in the UAS Task Force Report.
- Continue to serve as a resource to the Legislature so that existing federal regulation is considered when contemplating statewide UAS policy.
- Support efforts to ensure both hobbyists and commercial UAS users are examined equally when considering regulatory oversight.
- If statewide UAS restrictions are enacted, support the establishment of an exemption or approval process for legitimate UAS use.

The UAS Advisory Committee also discussed the establishment of a UAS conference in conjunction with the existing airport conference or as a standalone event. A planning committee will be established to discuss options for the event.

F. Pilot Shortage Task Group

Chairman VanderVeen reported that on June 28, 2018, the task group met to discuss what the state can do to impact and address the pilot shortage problem. The group determined that awareness and cost are the biggest issues.

- Outreach – Focus on how education towards aviation careers should begin at an earlier age and continue in high school. A concern is the lack of education that school counselors have regarding aviation careers. Often, the focus is on four-year college curriculums and not on other types of careers.
- Cost – Obtaining flight hours is costly. It was suggested that loans and/or grants be made available to more students interested in aviation careers. Incentives and loan forgiveness programs are other considerations. Flight simulators are less expensive and could be an option for counting towards flight hours. There are many potential students not applying due to costs and requirements.

The task group consists of industries such as the military, airlines, flight schools, smaller part 61 flight schools, and more. Possible federal recommendations would involve the 1500-hour rule, simulator qualifications, and restricted airline transport pilot licensing changes. Possible state recommendations would involve tax incentives, loan program, grant program for job driven airport improvements, Career and Technical Education requirements for teachers, and the governor's Marshall Plan for Talent.

V. COMMISSION COMMENTS

Commissioner Isabelle gave an update on PFAS (firefighting foam) stating that this is a national problem. He explained that the composite was developed in the early 1970's, designed to combat fires. After years of research, health concerns for the environment surfaced. In addition to firefighting foam, the compound can be found in stain- and water-repellent fabrics, nonstick products (e.g., Teflon), cleaning products, and more. Foam is the one highlighted now. The Michigan Department of Environmental Quality has been working with various departments in identifying sites throughout Michigan. An advisory team from the governor's office heads a subgroup of state departments and stakeholders to help identify various sites that may have been impacted. The Office of Aeronautics is part of that group reaching out to airports to identify affected areas.

VI. PUBLIC COMMENTS

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

Howard Fink, Park Township Airport, reported that a 15-member committee (representing the community) has been working diligently to enhance their airport, trying to create an asset for the public to enjoy. An idea is to form an "air park" model. The idea would be to integrate an educational proponent that would tie into recruiting individuals interested in aviation, as well as recreational activities. The airport welcomes advice and/or resources anyone would be able to provide.

CLOSING

The next Michigan Aeronautics Commission meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, Sept. 12, 2018, 11:00 a.m., Harbor Springs, Michigan. The meeting will take place in conjunction with MAAE's fall conference.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

(approved/signed, original on file)
J. David VanderVeen, Chairman

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

Dated: September 12, 2018

