

**Michigan Aeronautics Commission
General Aviation Committee**

Commissioner Pete Kamarainen, Chairman

*Office of Aeronautics
Commission Room
2700 Port Lansing Rd
Lansing MI 48906*

June 16, 2012 Meeting Minutes

Members Present: Dick Acker, Dennis Bowdoin, Bryan Budds, James Canders, Paul Flinsky, Brad Frederick, Eric Jaroch, Pete Kamarainen, Karl Klimek, John Strehl

Members Absent: Sean Brosnan, Bill Cattley, Mark Johnson, Mark Perry, David Powell,

Aero Staff Present: Rick Hammond, Hilary Vanderstow

Introductions & Welcome

Pete Kamarainen opened the meeting at 1:32 p.m. New member, Dennis Bowdoin, was welcomed into the committee.

Minutes Approval

Meeting minutes from April 24, 2012 were approved.

Mission Statement

Mission Statement "To promote long-term, sustainable growth of general aviation throughout Michigan" approved.

General Aviation committee objectives are to enhance awareness of economic value to local, regional communities, communicate the general aviation value of a high – quality, statewide air transportation system, and to support initiatives that foster enthusiasm for and sustainability of general aviation at the community to statewide level.

House Bill 2045 / FAA Grant

Bryan Budds shared with the committee a background of House Bill 2045. House Bill 2045 is waiting on approval from the Governor. This bill dedicates a portion of sales tax from aviation fuel and other products to the Aeronautics fund. The portion of this is around ten million dollars, for this year. The bill protects this money for specific use by Aeronautics. The Bureau of Aeronautics will control the money.

Rick Hammond FAA should be releasing the grant money soon. The authorization on this grant was signed months ago.

Paradise Airport

Bryan Budds shared with the committee the status of an airport in Paradise, MI. A local hotel owner in Paradise is pushing for new airport to benefit the community. This airport could be beneficial for emergency uses.

Brad Frederick offered help from RAF to Paradise, MI to get an airport started. However, emergency services do not need an airport in that area and there is availability of surrounding airports.

Pete Kamarainen reminded committee that most airports in Michigan have started as a grass strip, and have expanded to meet expanding needs.

Rick Hammond informed committee that an airport in Paradise would potentially be eligible for Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) funds. The Bureau of Aeronautics have already funded them money for a site selection study and a user survey. The result of the site selection study was a parcel of land owned by Department of Natural Resources (DNR). The result of the user survey was less than five hundred (500) operations a year, resulting in not being eligible.

Brad Frederick offered to keep committee informed on Paradise, MI.

North Fox Island Airport

Pete Kamarainen updated committee on the Commission meeting discussion on North Fox Island airport. DNR sent a letter to Pete Kamarainen discussing the negative natural influence that an airport would have on the island. Pete is looking into the original sale of the land to see what the intention of the seller was in regards to the airport. The best way to obtain the land for an airport would be a hand – off of land.

Rick Hammond stated that the sale or hand – off of land from DNR would require legislative action. The ideal scenario would be for DNR to keep possession of the land, but allow people to run and take care of the airport / runway. The unimproved airport license is meant for airports like North Fox Island.

Brad Frederick shared that the Wildlife Division of DNR does not want the airport. The director of DNR could potentially support the airport.

Rick Hammond suggested that there should be a commission level discussion about approaching DNR on the subject of this airport.

Brad Frederick has sent an email request to meet with the Director of DNR. The Wildlife Division is worried about endangered species and endangered breeding grounds of the animals that live on the island.

Pete Kamarainen reminded the committee that the goal of flying to North Fox Island is to preserve nature, preserve natural resources, and explore / observe the wildlife. Pilots would be open to suggestions and rules from DNR while on the island.

Brad Frederick stated that the RAF is trying to put together a network of remote airports that pilots can fly into and camp, fish, and enjoy nature.

Rick Hammond believes that a Wildlife Division override is possible. There are past examples, such as Lost Creek Airport, where a three – way land swap occurred to obtain the land needed for the airport.

Pete Kamarainen would like to pursue communication with DNR to open / re – open North Fox Island Airport. The General Aviation committee will prepare correspondence with the Aeronautics Commission to suggest discussion about North Fox Island.

Brad Frederick asked if the committee should focus on North Fox Island as a single, or all potential recreational airports as a whole.

Pete Kamarainen stated that we should concentrate on one at a time; this way we can use the success of North Fox to further other airports in the future.

A motion to recommend the commission pursue communication with DNR to re – open North Fox Island Airport was introduced by Pete Kamarainen and supported by the committee. The motion passed.

General Aviation Fly – In Activities

Pete Kamarainen brought up the idea of working with Pure Michigan on advertising Michigan's fly – in activities and events. Pete led the committee into the discussion of amenities offered at airports. He used the example of Mackinac Island Airport. There is no coffee, ice, bicycles, computers or other useful things that would be nice to have at a busy airport. Pete has heard that there is a lot of extra money coming in to the state parks from mining and mineral taxes. Since Mackinac Island (and some other airports) is run by state parks, they should be able to use some of that money to buy bicycles for the pilots to use.

Karl Klimek suggested working with a bicycle company downtown to fund, donate, or set up a stand at the airport. Discussion with the airport manager could help give us ideas and inform us of restrictions.

Rick Hammond agreed to follow up with Mackinac Island Airport regarding this discussion.

Committee agrees that the action for bicycles should be made by the airport manager. The idea of having a tip jar next to the bicycles was mentioned.

John Strehl suggested using marketing programs to supply advertisements, such as coffee cups, to supply to the airports.

Pete Kamarainen opens discussion about Michigan's Aviation fly – in events. He suggests that members of the committee attend these events and talk with pilots about their suggestions, needs, and ideas.

James Candors noticed that the Battle Creek Air Show was not on the events page. He brought up the point that many other events may not be on the list as well. He also suggested notify people at the Michigan Association of Airport Executives (MAAE) round table to enter their events onto the events page on the Michigan.gov website.

Karl Klimek brought up the idea of creating a Facebook page for Michigan fly – in events. This could be used to post pictures of events, and help get younger people involved. Karl Klimek offers to set up the Facebook page.

Paul Flinsky states that the General Aviation committee needs to get communities aware that it exists.

Bryan Budds suggested sending a representative from the General Aviation committee to events to help spread the word to the communities and pilots.

Pete Kamarainen continues the discussion in branding and marketing the committee. These things could be as simple as having a logo and the mission statement on business cards, Facebook, and stationary.

John Strehl suggested putting a page in the next Airport Directory talking about the committee, and what the committee does.

Dick Acker suggested introducing the General Aviation committee, and the Facebook page, at the MAAE meetings.

James Canders brought up the idea of using the Facebook page as a topic at the MAAE meeting; “Market Your Airport on Facebook.”

Dennis Bowdoin mentioned the idea of the committee having a booth at the Great Lakes International Aviation Conference. A suggestion was made to share a booth with the RAF.

Paul Flinsky and James Canders volunteered to handle booth at this conference.

Pete Kamarainen suggested holding a General Aviation meeting at the conference for people to watch and give their ideas.

Rick Hammond will have nameplates made and pictures taken of Dennis Bowdoin and Brad Frederick before the next committee meeting.

Dick Acker brought up the question of having a budget for the marketing aspect. Rick Hammond believes that the Bureau of Aeronautics can supply money for this.

Dick Acker informed the committee of a one – day Airport 101 class for airport managers on Monday June 25, 2012.

Karl Klimek suggested sending out a notice to plane owners, manager, and aviation students introducing the Facebook page.

Pete Kamarainen adjourned the meeting at 3:15.