

**Michigan Aeronautics Commission
General Aviation Committee**

Commissioner Pete Kamarainen, Chairman

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

February 23, 2012 Meeting Minutes

Members Present: Dick Acker, Sean Brosnan, Bryan Budds, James Canders, Paul Flinsky, Eric Jaroch, Mark Johnson, Pete Kamarainen, Karl Klimek, David Powell, John Strehl

Members Absent: Cheryl Bush, William Cattley, Ronald Ludema, Mark Perry

Aero Staff Present: Rick Hammond, Betsy Steudle, Hilary Vanderstow, Lorraine White

Others Present: Bob Peckham, Russ Kavalhuna

Introductions & Welcome

Pete Kamarainen opened the meeting at 2:35 p.m. He introduced himself and then introductions were made around the room. Lorraine White called J. David VanderVeen on the speaker phone to say a few words of appreciation to the committee. Pete Kamarainen leads discussion regarding the current state of aviation and the challenges it is facing.

Schedule

General Aviation Committee will meet once, every other month.

Mission Statement

Pete Kamarainen introduced a general mission statement for the committee.

“To promote and increase the use and enjoyment of general aviation throughout Michigan over the next 1 – 5 years.”

Discussion:

The committee members discussed adding the following words into the mission statement:

- Awareness
- Value
- Efficient
- Continuation
- Impact

- Economics

Mission Statement was not finalized.

Economic and Education Brainstorming

Pete Kamarainen led open discussion about actions to take to increase aviation activity both in our economy and in education.

Discussion:

Dick Acker – Focus on interested kids. Introduce flight / aviation camps. Fly Michigan advertisements at Oshkosh.

Sean Brosnan – Money should be given to the top airports.

Bryan Budds – Airports need better marketing strategies for their communities.

James Canders – Schools and airports can offer job shadowing, tours, and job fairs.

Paul Flinsky – A better definition of General Aviation is needed. Michigan needs to promote the affordability of schooling and use of aviation.

Rick Hammond – General Aviation is all aviation that does not include commercial airlines and military. Michigan can advertise “Fly Michigan Tourism” with the “Pure Michigan” advertisements. Increase promotion of Aviation Week. Aviation needs a “local spark plug.” Too many airports are dependent on Federal Funds.

Eric Jaroch – Airports need to increase activity.

Mark Johnson – Who are we trying to reach?

Pete Kamarainen – Aviation electives in schools through colleges and West Michigan Aviation Academy. Michigan needs to look at aviation through the economic benefits and increasing education. Bring communities to airports for sightseeing.

Karl Klimek – People need to know the value of General Aviation. Introduction of aviation classes at Math & Science centers and vocational centers. Fit aviation into new school curriculums.

Bob Peckham – Students need to know the benefits of becoming a pilot. They need to see the cost of schooling compared to the potential earning ability. Money should be spent on airports based on the economic impact the money will have. Airports have become transportation for drugs. Airports need the money to run like a business. Michigan has too many airports.

David Powell – Aviation needs the state’s support. Michigan is facing a shortage of pilots, mechanics and management.

John Strehl – Aviation needs an advocate

Additional Topics Discussed

- Attendance at Dawn Patrols
- Utilize resources at MI Math & Science Centers
- Teacher Workshop
- Teaming with MEDC to promote local airports
- Using “Ambassadors Program” approach

Measures

Pete Kamarainen asked the committee how the success can be measured. Committee agreed on measuring success in the form of:

- Increase in aviation enrollment
- Increase in gallons of gas sold (not including rebated, Delta)
- Increase in gallons of gas sold (all)
- Every month starting 03/01/12

Ideas for Next Meeting

Pete Kamarainen encouraged each member to tell two people about aviation, and to keep the mission statement in mind. The committee discussed the starting of a Facebook page. Rick Hammond will check on creating a discussion page exclusively for the General Aviation Committee members.

Mr. Kamarainen adjourned the meeting at 4:37.