

**Michigan Aeronautics Commission
General Aviation Committee**

To promote long-term, sustainable growth of general aviation throughout Michigan.

Commissioner Pete Kamarainen, Chairman

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

June 18, 2013 Meeting Minutes

Members Present: Dennis Bowdoin, Bryan Budds, Paul Flinsky, Brad Frederick, Eric Jaroch, Mark Johnson, Karl Klimek, David Powell, John Strehl

Members Absent: Dick Acker, Sean Brosnan, Bill Cattley, Rick Fiddler, Pete Kamarainen, Mark Perry

Aero Staff Present: Rick Hammond, Hilary Vanderstow

Other Present: George Eyster, Steve Zelle

Introductions & Welcome

Rick Hammond opened the meeting at 10:05 a.m.

Minutes Approval

Meeting minutes from April 23, 2013 were approved.

Private Air Strips

Steve Zelle, President of the Michigan Private Airstrip Owners Association (MPAOA) opened the discussion of Private Airstrips in Michigan. In four years, the MPAOA has grown from seven to one hundred twenty seven members. The biggest item the MPAOA has been working on is a liability project that would add private airstrips to the existing Michigan Recreational Activity Statutes. The only changes added to the existing Statutes are the words "aviation activities" as well as a paragraph that defines "aviation activities." A meeting was recently held between MPAOA, State Representatives, and a member of the Legislative Services Bureau. A new draft of the Statutes should be complete soon; it is predicted to go through this fall when the Legislature resumes. Not only will this draft protect private airstrips, but it also protects land owners in general. Lately, there has been a decrease in the amount of private airstrips in Michigan. This is due to deaths, divorces, sales, and other reasons.

The MPAOA participates in fly ins, aviation conferences, as well as speaking at organizations, and meetings.

Avemco Aviation Insurance is one of the popular aviation insurance agencies. Land and airplane owners that are members of the MPAOA can receive a discount on Avemco insurance. Avemco offers an insurance policy that covers the runway, taxiway, and the tie – down area.

The MPAOA is also a member of a joint task force between the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) to streamline the 7480-1 process. This is the form to put in an airstrip, or apply for an identifier.

Aviation Fuel Tax Bill

A portion of the sales tax collected from aviation fuel has been dedicated to the Aeronautics fund in the past year as a temporary fix. The State is currently looking for a long term solution. Two house bills have been brought up that would remove the three cent excise tax and sales tax on both types of fuel, and install a four percent wholesale tax. That four percent tax collected would be dedicated to the Aeronautics fund, and is estimated to generate thirty five to sixty million dollars. The goal is to get these bills passed through the House of Representatives before the end of the month. There has been some concern regarding the price difference between 100 low lead and jet fuel. There has been discussion of creating a price ceiling on 100 low lead, to keep the price down. Delta has also introduced a bill to the Senate to eliminate the three cent excise tax and reduces the sales tax on only commercial purchases of jet fuel. The Delta bill would not dedicate any funds to the Aeronautics fund. The Aeronautics Commission and Michigan Department of Transportation – Office of Aeronautics both approve the House bills.

A motion was passed to give a recommendation to the Aeronautics Commission supporting the House bills.

North Fox Island Airport

The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has agreed to open North Fox Island Airport. The Forestry Division Chief and Brad Frederick will be going over the details.

Brad Frederick also talked with the DNR Department Manager in Newberry regarding re – opening Two – Hearted Airport.

These two airports will be opened to the public under the Unimproved Airport status.

The DNR has showed interest in the Office of Aeronautics opening North Fox Island Airport. The Recreational Aviation Foundation (RAF) is interested in sponsoring the Airport depending on what restrictions are set in place.

NDIA / STEM

Michigan was one of the target states for the National Defense Industrial Association (NDIA). The NDIA is trying to initiate bringing Aerospace and Aviation elements into Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) education.

According to the Department of Education, a bill is on the floor to add three million dollars to the Department of Education to support STEM education. However, this is only

to be used for FIRST Robotics teams.

Teacher Workshop

The teacher workshop is scheduled for October 26, 2013. The workshop will be held at the Office of Aeronautics from 9:00am – 3:00pm. Planning is currently in progress within the General Aviation Committee. Western Michigan University has offered to sponsor lunch for the workshop.

The Office of Aeronautics will send a request for October 26th to be Aviation / Aerospace Education Day.

Air Tour

The Michigan Air Tour is being held September 20 – 22, 2013. It will start in Tuscola County and end in Greenville.

Other

Rick Hammond adjourned the meeting at 11:40.