

**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*

October 22, 2013 Meeting Minutes

- Members Present: Dennis Bowdoin, Paul Flinsky, Brad Frederick, Eric Jaroch, Pete Kamarainen, Karl Klimek, David Powell, John Strehl,
- Members Absent: Dick Acker, Sean Brosnan, Bryan Budds, Bill Cattley, Rick Fiddler, Mark Johnson, Mark Perry
- Aero Staff Present: Rick Hammond, Hilary Vanderstow
- Other Present: Dan Schiffer

Introductions & Welcome

Rick Hammond opened the meeting at 10:03am. Pete Kamarainen is now the chair of the Michigan Aeronautics Commission. Roger Salo will be the new chair of the General Aviation Committee.

Dennis Bowdoin introduced the committee to Dan Schiffer. Dan has volunteered to bring an airplane to the teacher's workshop to be held on Saturday.

Minutes Approval

Meeting minutes from August 20, 2013 were approved.

Teacher's Workshop

There are currently twenty pre – registrations for the workshop on Saturday. Walk – in registrants are expected. However, it is recommended that there is a "Plan B" in case there is not a high turnout. The schedule can be easily restructured. The hanger could hold the aircraft, as well as one large classroom setting. The presenters could speak to all attendees or a large portion of them. Airplane rides and tower tours are still planning to be available for the day.

A press release will be released this week to help promote the event.

The idea was brought up of offering a "bring a friend" or a "2 for 1" deal for attendees. This would help put people at the workshop and also help market for next year's

workshop. Other ideas can stem from the workshop such as “Fly a Teacher – Fly Ins.”

Presenters and people bringing aircraft should engage with teachers about the science, mathematical, and technological side of aircrafts including things such as weather. Teachers need to see that there are local airports they can work with to teach their students.

With the rising shortage of pilots, mechanics, etc., the teacher’s workshop can also help get students interested in aviation.

Dennis and the Michigan Institute of Aviation Technology have talked with the Great Lakes Aviation Conference (GLAC) Committee and they are going to give one teacher a free pass to the conference. This pass will allow one teacher and up to four students’ free entry.

Tim Smith will be flying in and out of the Grand Ledge airport in order to attend the conference. Tim is the head of the Institute of Aviation Education in Kentucky. They have a state wide initiative working with aviation in schools.

Members from the committee that are helping with the workshop will be arriving around 7:00am Saturday morning. This will leave plenty of time to set up before registration starts at 8:00am.

Coffee, donuts, pop, water, and snacks will be provided in the morning and throughout the day with the help of a sponsorship.

A rough date for the 2014 teacher’s workshop should be available soon.

North Fox

The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has given permission to re – open North Fox Island Airport. However, a five million dollar liability insurance policy, paid for the full term of the five year lease is needed. This is \$17,500 up front. One way to do this is to talk to local townships about taking control on the airport or to talk with the State of Michigan about taking on an airport with volunteer workers. The only state that requires liability insurance on airstrips is Arizona.

The Governor’s office is real big of the public – private partnership. North Fox Airport might fit in this.

The Recreational Aviation Foundation (RAF) is working with partners to get aviation activities added into the Michigan Recreational Use Statute. This leads to the question of quality of care standards. Although adding aviation to the Recreational Use Statute, it could also cause some problems in regards to quality of care and distinguishing what an airstrip is.

Other

It was proposed for the next meeting to open the committee’s scope to general aviation needs on a broader scale.

Although focusing on teachers and students through STEM is a good long term goal, the committee also needs to focus on the short term goals of promoting the use of airplanes and getting airports involved within the community. With the teacher's workshop out of the way, it is important not to forget the original goals. One way to do this is to get the airports and managers in touch with the Chamber of Commerce. This can get the word out to communities about things happen at the airport and festivals in the community.

The 2013 Airport Directory did not have the dawn patrols or festivals listed. This is missed potential for the older generation who has airplanes but do not use the internet.

The idea was brought up of having a General Aviation Committee booth at (GLAC) to connect with the general aviation population. It would be helpful to develop a survey to have available at a booth. The survey could ask about the top issues concerning the general aviation community and what has already been done at your airport to draw attention to aviation. This will show the committee what issues need to addressed. A similar survey could also be sent to Western Michigan University and Eastern Michigan University to hear from the younger generation.

It was proposed to invite students from Western Michigan University to sit on the committee, as a rotating slot, to involve the younger generation of aviation into the discussions.

The committee would like to look into offering or joining with someone to offer scholarships for aviation.

In other states, general aviation is still seen as a sport. Pilots are still spending their days at the airport hanging out and talking with others. In Michigan, flying is seen as a way of transportation. It is not seen as a sport.

The question was raised about a Michigan Pilot's Association, and if it would be helpful in getting pilot's to talk to each other, and get their airplanes out of the hanger.

Rick Hammond adjourned the meeting at 12:15.