

**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*

April 23, 2013 Meeting Minutes

Members Present: Dennis Bowdoin, Bryan Budds, Paul Flinsky, Rick Fiddler, Brad Frederick, Eric Jaroch, Mark Johnson, Pete Kamarainen, Karl Klimek, Mark Perry

Members Absent: Dick Acker, Sean Brosnan, Bill Cattley, David Powell, John Strehl

Aero Staff Present: Rick Hammond, Hilary Vanderstow

Other Present:

Introductions & Welcome

Pete Kamarainen opened the meeting at 10:04 a.m.

Minutes Approval

Meeting minutes from February 26, 2013 were approved.

Review From Previous Meeting

Pete Kamarainen opens the discussion of scholarships for students learning to fly. A good model to follow is the Kentucky Institute for Aerospace Education (KIAE). So far, the KIAE program has approximately six hundred (600) kids. This program links school districts with a flight school to offer grants / scholarships to students to cover five hours of flying time. In order to be eligible for the scholarship, the student must complete two classes, Introduction to Aerospace and Private Pilot Ground School; both are offered in the High School.

Howell High School is starting a ground school program as an extra alternative to math and science courses. They are partnering with one of the flight schools near the high school. The idea has been brought to Grand Ledge High School as well, and a meeting for further discussion is scheduled.

One helpful program called AeroScholars is a certified online program. The AeroScholars program is STEM certified. This could help many students fulfill their requirements for graduation from a Michigan High School. One advantage of working

with a flight school is having someone knowledgeable on hand to help the students with questions they might have.

The Experimental Aircraft Association (EAA) provides free materials to schools to help students learn.

Teacher Workshops

No Child Left Behind requires that teachers are highly qualified and certified in the area they are assigned. Aviation would fit into math and science curriculums, as well as the vocational curriculum.

The state Board of Education has received a new set of standards of benchmarks for teachers. These new standards are called the Next Generation Science Standards. These will require teachers to integrate the four STEM requirements into their daily teaching.

The Next Generation Science Standards will allow an opening for aviation to be introduced into the classroom. Teacher workshops can help show teachers how to incorporate aviation into the new standards. For example, one topic of the workshop could be “Leveraging your local airport to improve STEM education as part of the Next Generation Science Standards.” Teacher workshops will help inform and excite the teachers about aviation, which could result in teachers as well as students getting their private pilot’s license.

Cindy Hasselbring is one teacher who attended a workshop at the Office of Aeronautics and took her first general aviation flight during the workshop. She has recently come close to becoming an Astronaut candidate. She is now in Washington, D.C. working with the Federal Aviation Administration and NASA.

Integrating aviation into classrooms is also a good way to get more women involved. Wings of Women (WOW) and Girls with Wings are two aviation groups that are directed towards women and girls.

In the past, teacher workshops included door prizes, giveaways, and break – out sessions. Break – out sessions ranged from airplane rides, tower tours, rocket building and launches, weather, airport directories, charts and more. The future teacher workshops should focus on getting airplanes in the hangers for teachers to see and learn about.

A pancake breakfast could be arranged the morning of the teacher workshop to get general aviation pilots to the Office of Aeronautics to talk with the attendees.

Teacher workshops could count towards continuing education units. The workshop could also end with receiving a certificate of completion to put in the attendee’s classroom.

The Aeronautics Commission would be willing to write a letter endorsing the integration of aviation into schools.

Although the previous cost of teacher workshops has been relatively low, one way to help lower the cost is to put a donation option on the Michigan airplane registrations.

Badge Program

The Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts and 4 – H are other areas that could benefit from aviation. By working with local airports, these groups can introduce an aviation badge.

North Fox Island Airport

Pete Kamarainen has a meeting with the Director of the Department of Natural Resources in May regarding the re – opening of North Fox Island Airport.

The private airfield liability action is moving forward. A bill should be complete within a few weeks. Most companies, including Delta Airlines is supportive of the bill.

Other

In Ypsilanti Township, the Yankee Air Museum made a formal announcement that they have entered a letter of intent to purchase part of a GM Plant. They would like to restore the facility and make it the new Yankee Air Museum.

Pete Kamarainen adjourned the meeting at 11:45.