

**Michigan Aeronautics Commission  
General Aviation Committee**

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

**October 21, 2015 Meeting Minutes**

Members Present: Dennis L. Bowdoin, Bryan Budds, Brad Frederick, Joseph Hass

Members Absent: William H. Cattley, Paul F. Flinsky, Rick Hammond, Eric Jaroch, Mark Johnson, Pete Kamarainen, Anna Koerber, Mark Perry, David M. Powell, John Strehl, Eric Vander Stel

Aero Staff Present: Randy Collier, Mark Grennell, Erika Hanses

**Introductions and Welcome**

Brad Frederick opened the meeting at 10:05 a.m.

**North Fox Island Update**

Mr. Frederick shared with the group that the lease for the airport has been signed and is currently in the mail. Even though there were issues with deed restrictions, North Fox Island is an official airport.

**Flight Schools Liability**

Randy Collier shared his concerns regarding the liability of flight schools. In Michigan, the owner of an aircraft is liable for any damage done. This hinders training and schools since some of the owners do not want to deal with the risks involved allowing students and others to use their aircraft.

Mr. Collier suggested that this policy should be fixed. Bryan Budds proposed that there should be a national push from Congress, thus obtaining a national perspective of the liability policy to help further the cause. Dennis Bowdoin suggested that an exemption should be added to the policy to lessen the risk of the aircraft owners.

**Night Approach Issues-Oakland/Troy**

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) removed the night approach two years ago due to safety issues – trees need to be cut, wires and poles need to be lit. Mark Grennell shared with the committee his knowledge of the condition and where Oakland/Troy stands. A flight check needs to be redone, as well as a new PAPI (Precision Approach Path Indicator).

## **UAV Roundtable**

The FAA currently has no regulations set for drones. They are trying to apply manned aircraft regulations to unmanned aircraft. There is talk for UAVs to be registered, which requires them to have a GPS and updated software at all times.

Mr. Budds shared that, due to no action from the federal government, the states are getting involved. He and AOPA testified regarding the drone bill (drones need to be at least 1,000 feet from a prison) while also staying neutral.

## **Island Hop Michigan (Marketing Ideas)**

Mr. Frederick suggests getting Pure Michigan involved to help obtain more interest in aviation, but money is needed to fulfill that option. Mr. Collier suggested partnering with Michigan Aviation Association and Air Tour, as well as small flying associations, such as in Hastings. Another suggestion was made to have an island safety seminar. The attendees would learn about flying over water.

## **Flight School License and Regulations**

Mr. Collier shared with the committee his opinion that flight school licenses may be over regulated and suggested that FAA should be involved in regulating flight schools, not the Office of Aeronautics (Aero). If Aero was not involved in the inspection of flight schools, the School Board of Education would take over due to the Proprietary Act. Mr. Collier suggested a possible revision to the act so FAA would do inspections instead.

Legislation involvement was suggested to get this thought moving.

## **Other**

Dennis Bowdoin shared with the committee that Crosswinds is no longer only partnered with Howell High School, but with Ingham County ISD, as well. Livingston County ISD is one that they wish to add to the program.

Mr. Frederick adjourned the meeting at 11:50 a.m.