

MICHIGAN AERONAUTICS COMMISSION

Minutes of Meeting
Chesterfield Township, Michigan
May 25, 2016

Pursuant to Section 31 of Act 327 of the Public Acts of 1945, the Commissioners of the Michigan Aeronautics Commission, created by said act, met at the Macomb Transportation Service Center, 26170 21 Mile Road, Chesterfield Township, Michigan on Wednesday, May 25, 2016, commencing at the hour of approximately 10:00 a.m.

Members Present

Rick Fiddler, Chairman
Russ Kavalhuna, Vice Chairman
Roger Salo, Commissioner
J. David VanderVeen, Commissioner
Kevin Jacobs, Designee – MDNR
Dave Brickey, Legal Counsel
Mike Trout, Director

Members Absent

Laura Mester, Designee – MDOT
Brig. Gen. Len Isabelle, Designee – MDMVA
Capt. Joe Gasper, Designee – MSP
Pete Kamarainen, Commissioner

Staff Present

Carol Aldrich
Dave Baker
Judy Baker
Bryan Budds
Elyse Lower
Brigitte Pricco
Jim Reverman
Hilary Vanderstow

Also Present

Bill Bertrand, Brighton Airport
Joe Hass, Troy Oakland Pilots
Jack Haviland, Brighton Airport
Richard Largent
Tracy Lanciano, Brighton Airport
John Mayfield, Federal Aviation Administration
Mark Muzzin, STARBASE One, Selfridge ANGB
John Strehl, Antrim County Airport
Maj. Bart Ward, Michigan Air National Guard

I. OPENING REMARKS

The May 25, 2016 Michigan Aeronautics Commission (Commission) Meeting was called to order by Chairman Rick Fiddler at 10:00 a.m. Chairman Fiddler welcomed all those present. He asked everyone to rise, and the Pledge of Allegiance was cited.

Roll call was taken. Commissioners Laura Mester, Len Isabelle, Joe Gasper, and Pete Kamarainen were absent.



II. COMMISSION BUSINESS

A. Minutes of the March 24, 2016 Meeting

Chairman Fiddler asked if there were any revisions to the minutes of the meeting held on March 24, 2016. There were none. He entertained a motion and support to approve the minutes. The motion was moved by Commissioner Roger Salo and supported by Commissioner Dave VanderVeen. **All voted in favor.**

B. Request for Approval and Transfer of Appropriated Funds

Chairman Fiddler asked Dave Baker to present the airport sponsor contracts. Mr. Baker proceeded to explain each contract.

1. Beaver Island Airport, Beaver Island
2. Cheboygan County Airport, Cheboygan
3. Dowagiac Municipal Airport, Dowagiac
4. Iosco County Airport, East Tawas
5. Gaylord Regional Airport, Gaylord
6. Hillsdale Municipal Airport, Hillsdale
7. Gogebic Iron County Airport, Ironwood
8. Gogebic Iron County Airport, Ironwood
9. Kalamazoo/Battle Creek International Airport, Kalamazoo
10. Price's Airport, Linden
11. Sawyer International Airport, Marquette
12. Brooks Field, Marshall
13. Mason Jewett Field, Mason
14. Luce County Airport, Newberry
15. Ontonagon County Airport-Schuster Field, Ontonagon
16. Pellston Regional Airport of Emmet County, Pellston
17. Pellston Regional Airport of Emmet County, Pellston
18. Presque Isle County/Rogers City Airport, Rogers City
19. MBS International Airport, Saginaw
20. MBS International Airport, Saginaw
21. Mackinac County Airport, Saint Ignace
22. Mackinac County Airport, Saint Ignace
23. Mackinac County Airport, Saint Ignace
24. Statewide-Local – PCI Surveys
25. Statewide-Local – Crack Sealing

Chairman Fiddler asked if there were any further comments or questions. Hearing none, he entertained a motion and support to approve item Nos. 1 – 25. The motion was moved by Vice Chairman Russ Kavalhuna and supported by Commissioner Salo to approve the airport sponsor contracts. **All voted in favor.**



A complete list of the contracts can be viewed in full at www.michigan.gov/aero. Under QuickLinks, select “Michigan Aeronautics Commission” and then “Contract Approvals.”

Chairman Fiddler thanked Mr. Baker for his report.

III. REPORTS

A. MAC Director’s Report

Chairman Fiddler asked Director Mike Trout to give his report.

Director Trout welcomed everyone and reported on the Michigan Aviation System Plan (MASP) update. The contract was awarded to Mead & Hunt, Inc., with a draft document target date of December 31, 2016, to be presented to the Commission early next year. One of the key components is community benefit assessment. The Economic Development Research Group will be providing a component of a statewide economic benefit as part of the update. Director Trout presented a chart displaying the milestones and deliverables of the contract.

Director Trout presented an updated organizational chart of the Office of Aeronautics with staff changes highlighted. (The chart can be viewed as part of the Director’s Report on Aero’s website described below.)

Director Trout reported on the following statistics:

- Fuel Tax Revenue – Fiscal Year to Date (Oct. – March)
 - 2015 = \$2,555,839
 - 2016 = \$2,508,191 (2% increase)
- Tall Structure Permits
 - 2015 = 2,568 (460 wind turbines) Total
 - 2016 = 1,181 (289 wind turbines) Year to Date (Jan. – April)
- State Aircraft Flight Hours – Fiscal Year to Date (Oct. – April)
 - 2015 = 584.9
 - 2016 = 505.2 (13.6% decrease)
- Registered Aircraft Renewals
 - 2015 = 5,816
 - 2016 = 5,597 (to date)

Director Trout reported on the following activities:

- Vice Chairman Kavalhuna has been selected to take part in a six-month national leadership development effort called the Presidential Leadership Scholars Program.
- Commissioner Salo has been invited to participate in the Governor’s 21st Century Infrastructure Commission Transport Subcommittee and will present on behalf of the Michigan Business Aviation Association on June 8, 2016.
- A hearing on unmanned aerial systems (UAS) is scheduled for May 26, 2016, before the Senate Transportation Committee.



- The Fiscal Year 2017 Budget is moving closer to being approved. In the proposed budget, \$250,000 is allocated to the Air Service Program.
- The new 2040 State Long-Range Transportation Plan is open for public comment and can be viewed at www.michigan.gov/mdot, under “Projects and Programs.”
- A decision on FAA’s Reauthorization continuing resolution is expected to be announced in June. Currently, the extension is through July 15, 2016, and it is anticipated that another extension will be to the end of the year.

Coming soon will be:

- MAC Meeting – July 27, Office of Aeronautics, Lansing
- NASAO Annual Conference – Sept. 10-14, San Antonio, Texas
- MAAE Fall Conference – Sept. 12-16, Gaylord
- AOPA Fly-In – Sept. 16-17, W.K. Kellogg Airport, Battle Creek
- Air Transportation Expo – Sept. 22, Oakland County Int’l Airport, Pontiac

Director Trout recognized and congratulated the following employees:

- Jay Henning, Aero’s Maintenance Technician – 20 Years of State Service
- Kelly Badra – New Airspace Analyst, Planning and Development Section
- Jim Reverman – New Project Manager, Planning and Development Section
- Bryan Budds – New Commission Advisor, Office of Aeronautics
- Elyse Lower – New Grants & Contracts Unit Supervisor, Programming Section

Director Trout’s report can be viewed in full at www.michigan.gov/aero. Under QuickLinks, select “Michigan Aeronautics Commission” and then “Director’s Updates.”

Chairman Fiddler thanked Director Trout for his report.

B. General Aviation Committee

Chairman Fiddler asked Bryan Budds to give the General Aviation (GA) Committee report on behalf of Commissioner Kamarainen.

Mr. Budds stated that the GA Committee met on April 27, 2016, at Duncan Aviation in Battle Creek. As part of the committee’s goals to implement aviation education and opportunities to high school students, the superintendent in Alanson has created a private pilot ground school program with the help of two other districts. The program will be held at the Pellston Regional Airport.

The Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association will be hosting a Fly-In in Battle Creek on September 17, 2016, and are looking for volunteers to work the event.

Mr. Budds reported that North Fox Island Airstrip is officially in the 2016 Michigan Airport Directory and the Michigan Aeronautical Chart. A reminder for visitors: no cell phone reception, no facilities or buildings, and lots of snakes. He also stated that plans for an airstrip on Neebish Island are in the works.



The committee discussed the private airstrip liability pertaining to airport owners and users and existing legislation including HB 4244, which would provide some liability protection. Joe Hass informed the GA Committee about current UAS activities and concerns. Many drone reports are appearing to not actually be drones.

Chairman Fiddler thanked Mr. Budds for his report.

C. Commercial Air Service Committee

Chairman Fiddler asked Vice Chairman Kavalhuna to give his report on the Commercial Air Service (CAS) Committee.

Vice Chairman Kavalhuna began his report by stating that since the Commission has adopted the updated Policy Plan for Michigan Air Service, the CAS Committee has not convened. He suggested that if the budget passes with funds allocated to the Air Service Program, the Commission may want to delegate to the CAS Committee the task of working with staff to review program guidelines and determine how funds can be distributed.

Chairman Fiddler thanked Vice Chairman Kavalhuna for his report.

IV. PRESENTATION

A. Mark Muzzin, Deputy Director, STARBASE One

Chairman Fiddler welcomed and invited Mr. Muzzin to present.

Mr. Muzzin began by stating that STARBASE One is a federally funded Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) education program based on Selfridge Air National Guard Base for 25 years. The Selfridge STARBASE Site is the first in existence. There is also a facility in Battle Creek and in Alpena. There are over 50 STARBASE sites nationally. The program focuses on inspiring students and is a 25-hour, five-day curriculum for 4th-6th graders. Approximately 1,800 students participate annually.

Mr. Muzzin's presentation can be viewed in full at www.michigan.gov/aero. Under QuickLinks, select "Michigan Aeronautics Commission" and then "Commission Presentations." For more information on STARBASE One, visit their website at www.starbaseone.org.

Chairman Fiddler thank Mr. Muzzin for his presentation.

V. COMMISSION COMMENTS

Chairman Fiddler asked if any of the Commissioners would like to make a comment.



Commissioner VanderVeen spoke about the crack sealing program, which FAA authorizes funding for every three years. He stated that it is an excellent program because crack sealing equates to dollars spent on pavement repair, particularly in Michigan. Commissioner VanderVeen stated that every three years may work for smaller airports, but there are a lot of larger airports that have enough pavement where crack sealing should take place every year. In terms of best practices, Commissioner VanderVeen suggested that large airports be allowed to match the State of Michigan in purchasing tar kettles. Tar kettles would be an excellent application, and he requested that it be considered.

Commissioner Kevin Jacobs provided input regarding Neebish Island stating that plans for an airstrip is a very practical goal for an island that has year-round occupancy and a high number of residences. He is interested in seeing how it develops.

Commissioner Salo requested that a letter be drafted in support of the U.S. Senate package (FAA Reauthorization Act) in which there are no user fees and no air traffic control privatization. Chairman Fiddler entertained a motion and support to approve the authorization for staff to draft and mail letters to the Michigan Congressional Delegation in support of the U.S. Senate package. The motion was moved by Commissioner Salo and supported by Commissioner VanderVeen. **All voted in favor.**

VI. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Chairman Fiddler asked if anyone would like to make a public comment.

Joe Hass, Troy Oakland Pilots, shared with the Commission current state and activity of UAS. Pilots are reporting objects in the sky to be UAS when they are actually other objects, such as balloons. Anything being reported is being classified as a UAS.

CLOSING

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, July 27, 2016, 10:00 a.m., in the Aeronautics Auditorium, Lansing, Michigan.

Chairman Fiddler adjourned the meeting at 11:05 a.m.

Signed

Rick Fiddler, Chairman

Signed

Michael G. Trout, Director

Dated: July 27, 2016

