

MICHIGAN AERONAUTICS COMMISSION

Minutes of Meeting
Lansing, Michigan
July 28, 2010

Pursuant to Section 31 of Act 327 of the Public Acts of 1945, the Commissioners of the Michigan Aeronautics Commission (MAC), created by said act, met at the Aeronautics Building, 2700 Port Lansing Road, Lansing, Michigan 48906 on Wednesday, July 28, 2010, commencing at the hour of approximately 10:00 a.m.

Members Present

Terry Everman, Chair
James Collins, Vice Chair
Sidney Adams, Commissioner
Russ Kavalhuna, Commissioner
Dan Atkinson, Designee – MSP
Dennis Fedewa, Designee – MDNR
Leon Hank, Designee – MDOT
Robert Johnston, Designee – DMVA
Dave Brickey, Legal Counsel
Rob Abent, MAC Director

Members Absent

Staff Present

Carol Aldrich, Airports Division
Dave Baker, Airports Division
Kim Bowman, Aviation Services
Barb Burris, Airports Division
Rick Carlson, Aviation Services
Kelly Crannell, Airports Division
Gerry Edwards, Aviation Services
Mark Grennell, Airports Division
Rick Hammond, Airports Division
Leanne Hengesbach, Aviation Services
Tom Krashen, Aviation Services
Molly Lamrouex, Airports Division
Pauline Misjak, Aviation Services
Mark Noel, Airports Division
Shelly Rathbun, Airports Division
Brian Rochon, Aviation Services
Linn Smith, Airports Division
Betsy Steudle, Airports Division
Lorraine White, Assistant to MAC

Also Present

Jon Bayless, Grand Ledge
Gordy Bogner, RW Armstrong
Ron Engel, Mead and Hunt
Janet Foran, MDOT Communications
Pat Frame, RS&H
Mark Johnson, Livingston County
Kristin Judge, Washtenaw County
John Mayfield, FAA, Detroit ADO
Brian Picardat, Gerald R. Ford
International Airport
Stephanie Swann, FAA, Detroit ADO

A list of all others present is attached to the official minutes.



I. OPENING REMARKS

The July 28, 2010, Michigan Aeronautics Commission meeting was called to order by Chairman Terry Everman at 10:04 a.m.

Chair Everman welcomed everyone attending.

Roll call was taken; there were no absences.

II. COMMISSION BUSINESS

- A. Chairman Everman entertained a motion to approve Exhibit A, the minutes of the May 19, 2010, meeting, pending any corrections or changes. Moved by Commissioner Adams and supported by Commissioner Kavalhuna to approve the minutes as written. The motion carried.
- B. Chairman Everman asked Mr. Dave Baker, Airports Division, to present the airport grants. Mr. Baker gave an overview of the 10 projects for funding approval.

Mr. Baker reported on the 10 transfer requests.

1. Bois Blanc Island Airport, Bois Blanc Island
2. Gerald R. Ford International Airport, Grand Rapids
3. Livingston County – Spencer J. Hardy Airport, Howell
4. Dupont-Lapeer Airport, Lapeer
5. Mt. Pleasant Municipal Airport, Mt. Pleasant
6. Muskegon County Airport, Muskegon
7. Oakland County International Airport, Pontiac
8. Romeo State Airport, Romeo
9. Kirsch Municipal Airport, Sturgis
10. Cherry Capitol Airport, Traverse City

Chairman Everman entertained a motion to approve the 10 transfers as given. Moved by Commissioner Adams and supported by Commissioner Johnston to approve the transfers. The motion carried.

Mr. Baker then presented the supplemental transfer for the West Branch Community Airport in West Branch to expand and rehabilitate the terminal building, rehabilitate REILs, MITLs and windcone lighting. Additional funds are being added to match the final construction, an increase of 15%.

- C. Oscoda Wurtsmith Airport Authority, Oscoda, Michigan.

Chairman Everman asked Director Abent to report on the Oscoda Wurtsmith Airport Authority in Oscoda. Rob gave the specifics of the proposal and asked Ms. Molly



Lamrouex to give a presentation; he mentioned that we will be asking the Commissioners to direct him to send another letter, on behalf of the Commission, expression their thoughts on the issue.

Ms. Lamrouex started the presentation saying the sponsor contacted MDOT early in 2010 and indicated that the Air Force and MDNRE were proposing installation of a new groundwater treatment system at the former air force base. There is an existing groundwater treatment system there, which is in close distance to the AuSable River. The airport is proposing a new system which would create ½ acre open pond and 2 acres of emergent wetlands, within 5000 feet of the runway.

This would be a sequential series treatment system. The area does have other water surfaces, the major concern is that these would be shallow systems, and the ambient temperatures of these shallow systems would be warmer than those temperatures of the native lakes. In Michigan in January, wildlife will seek out the warmer water systems that would remain open throughout the winter. The purpose of the presentation is to ask the Commission to help support the sponsor and ask the United States Air Force and the MDNRE to consider an alternative to this proposed treatment system.

Commissioner Everman thanked Ms. Lamrouex for her presentation.

Commissioner Kavalhuna abstained from commenting or voting on the issue as he is an employee of the federal government and wants to avoid a conflict of interest.

Commissioner Fedewa also abstained from commenting or voting as he is an employee of the MDNRE.

Chairman Everman agrees that safety is our utmost priority.

Commissioner Hank indicated that he feels we need to keep the dialog going; he moved to adopt the staff recommendation, as listed on page 2 of the memo given to the Commissioners, and to instruct Director Abent to begin discussion and to communicate our interest. The motion was supported by Commissioner Adams. The motion carried, with two abstaining.

Chairman Everman then asked Director Abent to write a letter explaining our position.

Chairman Eyerman recognized Mr. John Mayfield who introduced Stephanie Swann as his new assistant manager. Chairman Everman thanked Mr. Mayfield for taking an interest in MDOT for the help and support.

III. REPORTS

A. Commissioner Everman asked Director Abent to give the Director's Report.



Director Abent thanked John Mayfield for attending, he also recognized Mr. Brian Picardat from the Gerald R. Ford International Airport and current president of the MAAE.

Director Abent outlined the contents of his report.

He started with a budget update. The revenues at this point in 2010 are up a little, which is consistent with the last quarter. We are holding our own, up almost 5.4%. He said that over a five year average, we're still down about 14% and down approximately 50% from ten years ago.

For the upcoming events, Mr. Abent mentioned the MAAE Fall Conference, scheduled to be in Bellaire, Michigan. MDOT staff will be attending the conference. This will be the last MAAE event in which Mr. Picardat will be its president.

Director Abent mentioned a recent MBAA meeting, which was held in this building. The MBAA, in conjunction with the MAAE have been extremely supportive of our efforts to enhance revenues for aeronautics funding.

He also spoke of a recent meeting in the Governor's Office with American Airlines. They discussed their activities in Michigan and the future of aviation in Michigan.

Director Abent talked about staff recognitions. The Department of Transportation recognizes employees who have performed in a fashion that inspires our constituents to write about us. Occasionally we received a letter saying how we provided service; we call these Simply Super Service Awards. He asked Shelly Rathbun to join him at the podium. A framed copy of a letter was presented to Ms. Rathbun. Director Abent thanked Ms. Rathbun for her exceptional service.

Service Awards were given:

Carol Aldrich, 20 years of State Service.

Kim Bowman, 35 years of State Service.

Barb Burris, 25 years of State Service.

Rick Hammond, 20 years of State Service.

Mary Kay Trierweiler, 20 years of State Service

Director Abent thanked the Commission.

B. Public Comment.

Commissioner Hank referenced the May meeting, in which we discussed private air strips and the insurance liability concerns. He mentioned North Fox Island Airstrip and the liability issues associated with that. He also mentioned the Recreational



Aircraft Foundation (RAF) which represents the interests of recreational fliers who land on public land, and airstrips that are owned by the government but are maintained by very remote locations. From those three points, he is interested in what we can do in this state to help minimize the liability of people who maintain these strips, or are trying to do good things for the public by make these strips attractive for public use. Also, minimize the liability-type issues they have if they are just doing good things. Commissioner Hank also mentioned the effort to minimize the need for insurance. From the May meeting, we heard from some people who are having trouble getting insurance, or the insurance is very costly because of the liability issue. Other states have some laws that address this issue and minimize the liability. He is personally interested in the concept and asks what we can do to help the issue. He feels this is a good public policy. He is asking if staff can get the facts and work on the issue and discuss it further at the September MAC meeting. Commissioner Hank also offered to assist.

Chairman Everman agreed this would be a good idea, he asked Director Abent to explore what other states are doing, and try to compile a list of concerns to consider to see what we can do as a commission. This will be discussed further at the September Meeting.

Commissioner Kavalhuna asked Director Abent if we came to an idea of what would eventually address the concerns of Commissioner Hank, would we have the authority with the enabling legislation of this commission to do so, or is this something the legislature would have to act on; he suspects the latter. If we did come to a consensus, would we have to petition the legislature to do this or would we actually have the authority to do it ourselves. He would like the staff comments.

Commissioner Everman stated that this would have to be explored before a decision is made.

Director Abent said we would look into the situation.

Commissioner Fedewa echoed Commissioner Hank's opinion that this should be explored. Hopefully this can be resolved in a resolution that will actually be more airport-friendly. He applauds the effort and has his full support.

Chairman Everman said that as staff explores this, we should get the concerns and needs and see what other states are doing, so that it can be brought back to the Commission.

Commissioner Hank feels this will need legislation or a change in the law to make it clear to land owners. We should be advocates of the legislation.

Chairman Everman repeated the first thing we have to do is find out the concerns, how they affect us, what our limitations are, and what obstacles we may have to overcome. He is confident that we'll be able to take action.



Commissioner Collins said private airstrip owners should be involved in the discussion, possibly the group that presented at the May meeting, the Michigan Private Airstrip Owners Association (MPAOA).

Chairman Everman said we would get all the players involved. He also commended the Aeronautics staff and airport managers.

Chairman Everman announced the next meeting will be Wednesday, September 15 at Bellaire, Michigan.

Meeting adjourned at 10:38 a.m.

Director

Chairman

Dated _____

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