

# MICHIGAN AERONAUTICS COMMISSION

Minutes of Meeting  
Crystal Mountain Resort  
Thompsonville, Michigan  
September 16, 2015

---

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 Crystal Mountain Resort, Thompsonville, Michigan, on Wednesday, September 16, 2015, commencing at the hour of approximately 10:30 a.m.

## Members Present

Roger Salo, Chairman  
Rick Fiddler, Vice Chairman  
Pete Kamarainen, Commissioner  
J. David VanderVeen, Commissioner  
Russ Kavalhuna, Commissioner  
Laura Mester, Designee – MDOT  
Capt. Joe Gasper, Designee – MSP  
BG Len Isabelle, Designee – MDMVA  
Kevin Jacobs, Designee – MDNR  
Dave Brickey, Legal Counsel  
Mike Trout, Director

## Members Absent

## Staff Present

Kelly Badra  
Dave Baker  
Judy Baker  
Neal Barncard  
Matt Brinker  
Randy Coller  
Kelly Crannell  
Michelle Duncan  
Jennifer Forbes  
Leanne Hengesbach  
Chip Kraus  
Mark Noel  
Steve Schultz  
Ralph Sims  
Mike Soper  
Anu Taneja  
Mary Kay Trierweiler

## Also Present

Matt Barresi, Gaylord Regional Airport  
Steve Beebe, Wexford County Airport  
W. Douglas Bell, Manistee County – Blacker Airport  
Tammy Beseau, Chippewa County Int'l. Airport  
Mike Borta, QoE Consulting  
Mike Bown, Trillion Aviation  
Jeff Clark, Ray Community Airport  
Duane DuRay, Sawyer International Airport  
Del Fairbanks, Detroit Metro Wayne Co. Airport  
Shirley Gibson, City of Charlevoix  
Spencer Gillette, Steven Baldwin Associates  
Michael Holdwick, RS&H, Inc.  
Eric Jaroch, Roscommon County Airport  
Mark Johnson, Livingston Co.–Spencer J. Hardy Airport  
Kelly Jost, C&S Engineers, Inc.  
Gary Kellan, Oscoda – Wurtsmith Airport  
Abeer Khatib, C&S Companies  
Kevin Klein, Cherry Capital Airport  
Mike Lafferty, Roben – Hood Airport



Barry Lind, Manistee County – Blacker Airport  
Ron Ludema, West Michigan Regional Airport  
Alexander Masters, Muxlow Surveying  
Kent Maurer, Jackson County – Reynolds Field  
Joseph McCabe, Wayne County Airport Authority  
Jeff Nagel, MBS International Airport  
Clint Nemeth, QoE Consulting  
Daniel Otto  
Brian Picardat, Gerald R. Ford Int'l. Airport  
Brian Quinlan, Burns & McDonnell  
Karl Randall, Oakland County Int'l. Airport  
Brian Ryks, Kent County Dept. of Aeronautics  
Theresa Samosiuk, Wayne Co. Airport Authority  
Don Seelye, Charlevoix ALP Committee  
Chris Sieklucki, Kalamazoo/Battle Creek Int'l. Airport  
Steve Smigelski, Alpena County Regional Airport  
Kelly Smith, Delta County Airport  
John Strehl, Antrim County Airport  
Erich Thiel, RS&H, Inc.  
Frank Thorman, DuPont – Lapeer Airport  
Stephanie Ward, Mead & Hunt  
Steve Wellman, Jackson County – Reynolds Field  
Craig Williams, Bishop International Airport  
Amanda Woodin, Kalamazoo-Battle Creek Int'l. Airport  
Scott Woody, Charlevoix ALP Committee

## **I. OPENING REMARKS**

The September 16, 2015 Michigan Aeronautics Commission (Commission) Meeting was called to order by Chairman Roger Salo at 10:30 a.m.

Chairman Salo welcomed all those present. He asked everyone to rise, and the Pledge of Allegiance was cited.

Roll call was taken. All commissioners were present.

Before business took place, Chairman Salo stated that there was a slight change in the agenda. The Electronic Invoice Presentation will be moved to the "Reports" section, following Director Trout's report.



## II. COMMISSION BUSINESS

A. Chairman Salo asked if there were any revisions to the minutes of the meeting held on July 22, 2015. There were none. He entertained a motion and support to approve the minutes. The motion was moved by Commissioner Russ Kavalhuna and supported by Vice Chair Rick Fiddler to approve the minutes as written. **All voted in favor.**

### B. Request for Approval and Transfer of Appropriated Funds

Chairman Salo asked Dave Baker to present the following airport contracts and grants. Mr. Baker proceeded to explain each contract.

1. Bois Blanc Island Airport, Bois Blanc Island
2. Wexford County Airport, Cadillac
3. Grosse Ile Municipal Airport, Detroit/Grosse Ile
4. Grosse Ile Municipal Airport, Detroit/Grosse Ile
5. Greenville Municipal Airport, Greenville
6. Roscommon County Blodgett Memorial, Houghton Lake
7. DuPont – Lapeer Airport, Lapeer
8. Luce County Airport, Newberry
9. Canton-Plymouth-Mettetal Airport, Plymouth
10. Canton-Plymouth-Mettetal Airport, Plymouth
11. St. Clair County International Airport, Port Huron
12. Chippewa County International Airport, Sault Ste. Marie
13. Paul C. Miller – Sparta Airport, Sparta

#### **Supplemental Transfers Requiring Action**

14. Fitch H. Beach Municipal Airport, Charlotte
15. Jackson County – Reynolds Field, Jackson

Commissioner Dave VanderVeen commented that, at some point, he would like to see state-owned airports (specifically referring to Canton-Plymouth-Mettetal Airport) back in local hands so the State of Michigan is not competing with sponsors for state funds. Director Mike Trout stated that there is a lot of effort in working towards that goal. Director Trout thanked Commissioner VanderVeen for his comment.

Chairman Salo asked if there were any further comments or questions. Hearing none, he entertained a motion and support to approve item Nos. 1 - 15. The motion was moved by Commissioner Dave VanderVeen and supported by Commissioner Kavalhuna 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](http://www.michigan.gov/aero). Under QuickLinks, select “Michigan Aeronautics Commission” and then “Contract Approvals.”

Mr. Baker presented three supplemental transfers: Houghton County Memorial Airport, Hancock; Muskegon County Airport, Muskegon; and Grosse Ile Municipal Airport,



Detroit/Grosse Ile. He explained the process for each transfer. **No Commission action is required.**

Chairman Salo thanked Mr. Baker for his report.

C. Chairman Salo asked Steve Schultz to present the maintenance contract.

### **Automated Weather Observation System (AWOS)**

#### **1. West Branch Community Airport, West Branch**

Mr. Schultz presented and provided information regarding the contract, which will establish the responsibilities for operation and maintenance of an AWOS and Data Dissemination System at the airport.

Chairman Salo asked if there were any further comments or questions. Hearing none, he entertained a motion and support to approve the contract. The motion was moved by Vice Chair Fiddler and supported by Commissioner Len Isabelle. **All voted in favor.**

Chairman Salo thank Mr. Schultz for his report.

### **III. REPORTS**

A. Chairman Salo asked Commissioner Kamarainen to give his report on the General Aviation (GA) Committee.

Commissioner Pete Kamarainen reported that the GA Committee met on August 12, 2015, at Michigan Aerospace Corporation in Ann Arbor. The meeting began with a presentation on unmanned aerial systems. The committee discussed ways to get people interested in aviation and visiting their airports. The committee also discussed ideas on mentoring students.

North Fox Island Airport is now open and is officially a public-use airport. North Fox is a beautiful island with many activities, i.e., hiking, fishing, camping, birdwatching, etc. Commissioner Kamarainen thanked the GA Committee and the Office of Aeronautics in seeing this endeavor through.

Commissioner Kamarainen stated the committee has a couple of ideas to pursue in the near future: (1) "Island-Hop Michigan" – There are a number of islands in Michigan, i.e., North Fox, Bois Blanc, Drummond, Beaver, and Mackinac Islands. The committee is putting together a marketing program to encourage people to explore the different islands throughout the state. (2) "Fly-A-Science Teacher" – The committee is putting together a program to get science teachers interested in aviation, adding aviation to curriculums, and getting students learning about aviation. A goal is to have Intro to Aerospace in the 10<sup>th</sup> grade and Private Pilot Ground School in the 11<sup>th</sup> grade, culminating with the FAA



written test. A science program would be instrumental in encouraging students to seek out aviation, whether it is in maintenance, administration, air traffic control, unmanned aerial systems, or becoming a pilot. If anyone knows of a science teacher who would be interested in this type of program, please contact the GA Committee.

Chairman Salo thanked Commissioner Kamarainen for his report.

- B. Chairman Salo asked Commissioner Kavalhuna to give his report on the Commercial Air Service (CAS) Committee.

Commissioner Kavalhuna began his report by holding up a draft of the Policy Plan for Michigan Air Service (PPMAS) for 2015, stating that PPMAS has been the main topic of work the CAS Committee has been undertaking. The last time such a report was delivered was in 2001. The draft plan was provided to each commissioner for their review, with an opportunity to comment and ask questions over the next two months. Commissioner Kavalhuna also invited the public to provide comments and ask questions. During the next meeting in November, the Commission will have the opportunity to vote for approval and adoption of the plan.

Commissioner Kavalhuna introduced Matt Brinker, Office of Aeronautics, and asked him to come up and say a few words regarding the policy plan.

Mr. Brinker began by stating those who have attended the last few Commission meetings have been kept up to date about the progress on the PPMAS. The CAS Committee has been working with Mike Bown of Trillion Aviation to update the plan, which is well over a decade old. The work that the committee has been undertaking is very important. The industry is very fluid and dynamic, and a lot has changed. Therefore, it was time to take a fresh look at the plan.

Mr. Brinker thanked members of the CAS Committee who have devoted a lot of time and work into the project and provided a variety of opinions and viewpoints that were very helpful during the process. Committee members are: Chair Russ Kavalhuna, Vice Chair Dave VanderVeen, Director Mike Trout, Kevin Klein with Cherry Capital Airport, Phil Johnson with Gerald R. Ford International Airport, and Carl Muhs with Avflight.

Mr. Brinker introduced Mr. Bown of Trillion Aviation to share an overview of his analysis and forecasting that he has done to help with this project.

Mr. Bown began his report by stating that there are three sections he will be discussing: Industry Overview, Statewide Booking and Leakage Overview, Essential Air Service (EAS) Review. He proceeded to present and explain findings of the plan.

In summary, Mr. Bown spoke about:

- Airline capacity reductions have had a negative impact upon the nation's smallest airports since the recession in the late 2000s;

- This has in large part resulted in air traffic from these airports “leaking” to larger airports with more air service options;
- Compounded with pilot shortages and future fleet plans, these trends are expected to worsen;
- EAS markets have been relatively unaffected and have to some degree benefited from these trends;
- Longer-term EAS markets are at risk as the political winds change;
- Given historical modifications to the EAS program, Michigan markets will likely be unaffected, although more draconian changes would have an impact and Michigan needs to be prepared.

Commissioner Kavalhuna thanked Mr. Bown for his presentation and asked if there were any questions from the public for Mr. Bown. There were no questions.

Commissioner Kavalhuna reported that he wanted to make clear a couple of things he and the committee envisioned as goals for the report. (1) The committee wanted the report to be a blueprint of what was happening in the airline industry over more than a decade since the last report in 2001; and (2) The committee wanted the report to be useful in crafting policy going forward either for the Commission or for any legislative body looking at the report. He also stated that his particular viewpoint on the report was to try to maintain and preserve air service for the entire state of Michigan. This proved to be a difficult task, because the interests in various parts of the two peninsula state are geographically driven to be so different.

Commissioner Kavalhuna stated that anyone viewing the report may ask two main questions: (1) Why is there no reference or detailed analysis of Grand Rapids and/or Detroit? (2) Why is there so much focus on EAS? He expressed that he wanted to be clear in providing answers to these questions. Grand Rapids and Detroit are the closest we have to a pure market in the air service structure in Michigan. Demand is simply driving the market. There is the littlest amount of subsidy or government intervention. For the most part, the committee believes that those markets will be able to sustain by themselves purely on customer demand. In contrast, are the remaining air service airports that are at least somewhat affected or majorly affected by EAS, which is the federal government’s intervention to the pure market of air service in those communities. The EAS airports are simply apples and oranges in comparison to Detroit and Grand Rapids; and because they are so affected by government policy, the committee thought it was most useful for this document to analyze that policy, explain why it exists and potentially how it could change. That is why the report provides detailed background on EAS, providing an explanation as to what may effect change in EAS; and if change takes place, what policymakers at the local, state, and federal levels might consider in keeping air service quality and numerous in Michigan.

Commissioner Kavalhuna stated that at the end of the report there are some potential changes noted, and that is all they are – potential changes. Someone might ask why the report did not provide ideas of what policymakers should do. The reason is that EAS is



controlled by the federal government, and they are driving the markets at least to a medium degree, if not a large degree. To give recommendations is somewhat difficult, because the political process will dictate what will happen.

The report may not give you what you want to hear, but will better serve you to answer questions from the field and be better equipped to talk to your legislative leaders about what you think of EAS or what you think about the service in your area.

Commissioner Kavalhuna stated that developing the PPMAS report was an important task to the committee, and he feels good about the product and hopes everyone does too.

Chairman Salo asked what the Commission should do over the next two months to improve and/or understand the document better. Commissioner Kavalhuna suggested to read it, think about it, and invite comments from the vast network of aviation professions to give feedback. He stated that he would like to receive feedback analyses from each commissioner, positive or negative. They can present to Commissioner Kavalhuna either at the next Commission meeting or reach out to him directly.

Chairman Salo thanked Commissioner Kavalhuna for his report.

Mr. Bown's presentation can be viewed in full at [www.michigan.gov/aero](http://www.michigan.gov/aero). Under QuickLinks, select "Michigan Aeronautics Commission" and then "Commission Presentations."

C. Chairman Salo asked Director Mike Trout to give his report.

Director Trout welcomed everyone and thanked Commissioner Kavalhuna, Mr. Brinker, Mr. Bown, and the CAS Committee for the work that has been done on the PPMAS. He commended all for a job well done. Director Trout stated that Michigan is the second largest EAS state (Alaska is the largest), and it is important that we review the report and evaluate alternatives to changes within the system.

Director Trout began his report by highlighting some of the accomplishments under the leadership of Chairman Salo.

- Chairman Salo (along with staff and the Commission) carefully and thoughtfully put forward the Meteorological Evaluation Tower (MET) legislation, considering the pros, cons, and all of the nuances of METs. Legislation is now introduced (HB 4727) and is currently in the Committee on Local Government. This is an important aspect to safety and aviation throughout the state of Michigan.
- Commissioner Salo has been right in the forefront during all of the long-term funding discussions. Regardless of what hat he wore, he has advocated and supported long-term funding for aviation throughout Michigan. We know he will continue that support, and we thank him for that.

- Commissioner Salo provided support of the General Aviation Pilot Protection Act and Pilot's Bill of Rights 2, which are important measures going forward making a difference nationally and internationally in the way that pilots are protected.
- Other accomplishments consist of work done by both the GA and CAS Committees, partnerships with the Michigan Business Aviation Association and the Michigan Association of Airport Executives, undertaking some very important issues.

Director Trout thanked Chairman Salo for his leadership and a great year.

Director Trout briefed the Commission on aviation funding, providing a synopsis of the Aeronautics Budget showing a need of \$18 million in order to maintain federal, state, and local programs.

Director Trout spoke about the State Long-Range Transportation 30-Year Plan. The plan is in the process of being reevaluated, and the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) is seeking comments on the Public Involvement Plan through September 30, 2015. To view the plan, go to [www.michigan.gov/slrp](http://www.michigan.gov/slrp) and submit comments to Bob Parsons, MDOT Public Involvement and Hearings Officer, MDOT Bureau of Development.

Director Trout reported that MDOT has a strategic plan in place stating that "MDOT will be recognized as a progressive and innovative agency with an exceptional workforce that inspires public confidence." The highlight of MDOT's vision is "progressive and innovative." The methods in which we put this into action is by way of "Wildly Important Goals" (WIGs). Director Trout challenged each section within the Office of Aeronautics (Aero) to have a WIG to work towards in creating a culture of more innovative thoughts and actions. He stated that each area has taken on a different path and explained the following:

#### Planning and Development Section

Update the Michigan Airport System Plan (MASP) to align with MDOT's current Strategic Plan. Update will incorporate current airport data and federal asset study information, as well as economic impacts of airports to local economies and tie that to the Regional Prosperity Initiative.

Measure: Current system plan was last updated in 2008. Final draft of MASP to be completed by December 31, 2016, with Commission approval.

#### Transport and Safety Section

Replace outdated and inefficient applications and processes (FlightPak replacement). Current flight scheduling software is approximately 15 years old and developed with outdated technology. New flight scheduling system will be web-based allowing all users



of the system, as well as customers, to utilize mobile technology to schedule and receive flight information.

Measure: New web-based application scheduled to be purchased and implemented by October, 2015.

Programming Section

Replace existing consultant and contractor payment process with ProjectWise electronic workflow. Existing process utilizes paper and old procedures resulting in lost invoices and long approval process. New electronic workflow will ensure document security and version control of documentation and incorporate efficient technologies to deliver payments faster.

Measure: New electronic workflow scheduled for March 1, 2016 implementation.

Director Trout spoke about Aero's new electronic invoice processing, which he asked Chip Kraus to provide an update on.

Mr. Kraus began his report by thanking MDOT staff participating on the team: Laura Wise, Jennifer Forbes, Kelly Badra, Brett Whitmore, as well as Accounting Services representatives Gail Watson and Jennifer Dingman, and ProjectWise experts Heather VerHage and Greg Vanis.

Mr. Kraus explained that the goal is to replace the existing paper invoicing process with an electronic workflow for consultant and contractor payments. The objective is to incorporate digital approvals and workflows into the payment process to achieve a 25 percent reduction in payment processing time. The benefits are: (1) Faster approvals and payments to consultants and contractors; (2) Reduced MDOT staff time to process and provide status; and (3) Reduced costs by eliminating mailings and paper copies.

The following describes Aero's current paper invoicing process compared to the new electronic invoicing process:

<b>Current Process</b>	<b>New Process</b>
Traditional mail to send and receive Invoices.	ProjectWise workflow and e-mail communication.
Original signatures.	Electronic approvals.
Invoices lost in the mail and not accessible.	Invoices stay in one place and accessible by all users.
One month average processing.	Two week average processing.
Aero staff time needed for status updates.	Audit trail available for instant status to all users.

Mr. Kraus reported that the workflow has been completed by MDOT's ProjectWise experts and are currently establishing login credentials for airport sponsors and



consultants. Remaining steps are to finish testing the workflow at two sites with participation from two consultant firms, develop training materials (training to begin in November), and provide ProjectWise installation instructions to airport sponsors and consultants, with implementation date scheduled for March 1, 2016.

Director Trout reported that September is Michigan Aviation Month. The Michigan Air Tour will take place on September 17-20. The tour will take place in Pontiac, Ludington, Mt. Pleasant, and Sandusky. The Air Transportation Expo is scheduled for September 25, 2015, at Oakland County International Airport, showcasing the advantages and opportunities business aviation provides throughout Michigan.

Chairman Salo thanked Director Trout and Mr. Kraus for their reports.

Director Trout's report can be viewed in full at [www.michigan.gov/aero](http://www.michigan.gov/aero). Under QuickLinks, select "Michigan Aeronautics Commission" and then "Director's Reports."

#### IV. MAC AWARDS OF EXCELLENCE

Chairman Salo provided the background of the awards. This year, there was one individual and one organization award being presented. The individual award goes to Pete Butchko and the organization award to the U.S. Coast Guard Air Station Traverse City.

**Pete Butchko** was unable to attend and accept his award. He recently retired from the United States Department of Agriculture as Wildlife Services State Director for Michigan and is being awarded for his leadership and dedication to Michigan airports in the identification, management, and reduction of wildlife hazards to aviation. The award will be presented to Mr. Butchko in November during the next Commission meeting.

#### U.S. Coast Guard Air Station Traverse City

Chairman Salo invited Cmdr. Greg Matyas (Commanding Officer of Air Station Traverse City) and Cmdr. Shad Soldano (Executive Officer of Air Station Traverse City) to the podium and presented the award. The following inscription was read:

*In recognition of outstanding service and dedication to the protection of Michigan citizens and guests and for ensuring public safety both on land and over water, the Michigan Aeronautics Commission acknowledges your proven versatility and successful utilization of aircraft in search and rescue operations, safeguarding our shorelines and keeping our lakes and lakeshore communities safe and enjoyable. Your daily sacrifice and bravery represents the best humanity has to offer, and it is with great pride that we honor your commitment to our state and service to this nation. With our highest respect and admiration, we express our gratitude for the watchful eye and constant vigilance of the U.S. Coast Guard Air Station Traverse City.*



Chairman Salo stated that on behalf of the Commission, he is pleased and honored to present the award to the U.S. Coast Guard Air Station Traverse City. Cmdr. Matyas and Cmdr. Soldano said a few words expressing their gratitude on behalf of the Coast Guard and thanked the Commission for the honor.

Director Trout expressed his appreciation and thanked the Coast Guard for their service. He recognized Cmdr. Matyas as the new Commanding Officer of Air Station Traverse City, stating that the change of command ceremony took place this past July. He also made it known that during this past August, the U.S. Postal Service honored the United States Coast Guard on its 225<sup>th</sup> anniversary by dedicating a Forever Stamp “for its role in protecting the security of the nation and advancing vital maritime interests.”

## V. PRESENTATION

Mr. Kraus provided an update on the electronic invoice processing earlier in the meeting.

## VI. ELECTIONS

Chairman Salo announced that his term as chairman has come to an end. He thanked Vice Chair Rick Fiddler, Committee Chairs Kavalhuna and Kamarainen, fellow commissioners, and the staff of the Office of Aeronautics for their support throughout the year. Chairman Salo spoke of the nominating procedure. He stated that in accordance with the Michigan Aeronautics Commission Bylaws, he along with Commissioner Kamarainen nominated the offices of chairman and vice chairman of the Michigan Aeronautics Commission for a one-year term beginning immediately upon election.

For the Office of Chairman: Rick Fiddler

For the Office of Vice Chairman: Russ Kavalhuna

Chairman Salo entertained a motion and support to approve the nominations as presented. The motion was moved by Commissioner VanderVeen and supported by Commissioner Isabelle to appoint Rick Fiddler as Chairman; and Russ Kavalhuna as Vice Chairman. **All voted in favor with Vice Chairman Fiddler and Commissioner Kavalhuna abstaining.**

## VII. PASSING OF THE GAVEL

Chairman Salo handed over the gavel announcing and congratulating Rick Fiddler, the new Michigan Aeronautics Commission Chairman.

Director Trout commended Chairman Salo for his dedication to the Michigan Aeronautics Commission and presented him with an honorary plaque congratulating Chairman Salo on a successful year. Chairman Salo thanked Director Trout, the Commission, and everyone for a great year.



## VIII. COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

The new Chairman Fiddler thanked Commissioner Salo for his service and leadership during the past year. He stated that he is honored to be elected as the Commission Chairman and to continue in the past chair's footsteps. He looks forward to working with everyone in the very near future.

In accordance with the Bylaws, Article VII, Special Committees, Chairman Fiddler announced the reestablishment of the following committees and reappointments of the respective chairs:

- General Aviation Committee
  - Reappointment of Committee Chair: Pete Kamarainen
- Commercial Air Service Committee
  - Reappointment of Committee Chair: Russ Kavalhuna

## IX. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

There were no Commission comments.

## X. PUBLIC COMMENT

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

Del Fairbanks, Detroit Metro Wayne County Airport, announced and congratulated Joseph McCabe, Wayne County Airport Authority, for his recent Accredited Airport Executive Certification. Chairman Fiddler congratulated Mr. McCabe for his accomplishment.

Commissioner Salo commented that Ms. Fairbanks may be considered the first lady of aviation in Michigan attending today's meeting and expressed that it was great to have her there.

Kevin Klein, Cherry Capital Airport, commended the Coast Guard in Traverse City for all that they have offered for aviation in Michigan and thanked them for the outstanding work that they do. He stated that he cannot say enough for the partnership that they have at the airport. It truly exemplifies what aviation is all about. Mr. Klein thanked the Commission for granting the Award of Excellence to them.

Mr. Klein commented on the PPMAS stating that it is a stepping stone to grow upon and asked the Commission to look at the report as a beginning, not as an accomplishment. He stated that he believes there are areas in the report that needs further study. As identified by Trillion Aviation, there are middle ground airports that need to be looked at. He asked the Commission to study what is happening in Grand Rapids and Detroit. Mr. Klein talked about the \$1.5 million in Moline, Illinois that was granted by the state (mentioned in Mr. Bown's



presentation). In the 1980s, the Commission was very aggressive in offering grants to airports to bring back certain aspects of air service. He stated that Traverse City was one of those airports. The airport lost jet service, and the Commission put forth a \$400 thousand grant working with the Convention and Visitors Bureau. Only \$6,000 of the grant was spent, but that risk guarantee put forward returned jet service to Traverse City. He thanked the Commission and stated that these are the activities that need to be a building block to go forward to use, to ensure Aeronautics has the right funding for aviation programs.

Mr. Klein stated that there is legislation regarding ride-hailing services such as Uber. He asked that the Commission follow legislation, because airports are looking for an exemption to be able to regulate, under airport ordinances, what happens at airports regarding ground transportation. Currently, Uber and similar types of companies are looking for a broad legislation that applies to them across the state, and that is a major fund source air carrier airports would lose.

Barry Lind, Manistee County – Blacker Airport, stated that since his airport is an EAS airport, his first reaction is based on what was presented and referred to what Director Trout stated earlier – Michigan has nine EAS airports, more than any state in the nation other than Alaska. One congressional district has eight of those EAS airports. Due to the unique geography of the state, air service plays such an important role. While it is not necessarily the Commission's role, Mr. Lind believes that Michigan needs to be more actively engaged in advocating to Washington its interests as it relates to EAS. We should be at the forefront to the extent we can, ensuring that our interests as a state are being heard and that Washington understands where we stand. We also need to be looking at what is transpiring throughout the rest of the country as it relates to how air service develops and how it is funded. Mr. Lind expressed concern on the lack of involvement by airports that are directly impacted by EAS in the development of the revised PPMAS. The report directly impacts the future and function of airports within the state system, and he asked that their voices be heard.

Kelly Smith, Delta County Airport, stated that her airport is an EAS airport since 9/11. EAS is very critical to Delta County in order to have commercial airline service. Ms. Smith stated that one of the main reasons why there has been increase for Delta County Airport is due to the due diligence on their part to continue to market, and receiving the marketing grant from MDOT is a big impact. PPMAS is critical. The Upper Peninsula is huge, and having commercial airline service is vital to the economic development and impact in the communities. Ms. Smith expressed that they need the Commission's support, because EAS is critical for the whole state.

Commissioner Kavalhuna thanked everyone for their comments and stated that he hears what is being said. He particularly hears the airport managers who are affected by EAS or EAS driven, and that they definitely are in favor of it. He asked that folks reach out to him or Mr. Brinker during the next couple of months so discussions can be continued regarding PPMAS.



There were no other public comments.

**CLOSING**

The next Michigan Aeronautics Commission meeting is scheduled for Thursday, November 12, 2015, 10:00 a.m., in the Aeronautics Building, 2700 Port Lansing Road, Lansing, Michigan.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:15 p.m.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Roger Salo, Chairman

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Michael G. Trout, Director

Dated: 11-12-15

