

# MICHIGAN AERONAUTICS COMMISSION

Minutes of Meeting  
Gaylord, Michigan  
September 16, 2009

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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 Treetops Resort, 3962 Wilkinson Road, Gaylord, Michigan 49735 on Wednesday, September 16, 2009, commencing at the hour of approximately 10:00 a.m.

## Members Present

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

## Members Absent

J. William Prochazka, Commissioner

## Staff Present

Lorraine White, Assistant to MAC  
Rick Hammond, Airports Division  
Mark Noel, Airports Division  
Matt Brinker, Aviation Services  
Dave Baker, Airports Division  
Tom Krashen, Aviation Services  
Gerry Edwards, Aviation Services

## Also Present

Roger Salo, MASCO  
Jim Koslosky, Gerald R. Ford Airport  
Lee Scherwitz, Saginaw Reg. Airport  
Steve Wellman, Jackson County Airport  
Jeff Nagel, MBS Airport  
Susy Avery, Wayne County Airport Auth.  
John Strehl, Antrim County Airport  
Cliff Moshoginis, Kalamazoo Airport  
Bill Blake, AOPA  
Karl Randall, Oakland County  
Jim Rice, Bishop Airport, Flint  
Larry Boron, WK Kellogg Airport  
Bob Selig, Lansing CRAA  
Dick Acker, Clare Municipal Airport

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



## I. OPENING REMARKS

The September 16, 2009, Michigan Aeronautics Commission meeting was called to order by Chairman, Sidney Adams, Jr., at 10:00 a.m. Roll call was taken; Commissioner Prochazka was absent.

Chairman Adams thanked all for attending and asked the audience to sign in.

## II. PRESENTATIONS

Director Abent asked Chairman Adams to join him at the podium to present the MAC Awards of Excellence. Director Abent gave background on the awards which date to 1990. He announced that Mr. Roger Salo is the 2009 winner of the individual award. He mentioned that Mr. Salo spent hundreds of hours with the Governor's Transportation Funding Taskforce, has been a tireless advocate for general aviation, and a good friend to the Bureau. He asked Mr. Salo to join him and Chairman Adams at the podium. Mr. Abent read the inscription on the plaque:

"In recognition of your enthusiastic advocacy on behalf of aviation in Michigan and your commitment to the enhancement of resources in partnership with the Michigan Aeronautics Commission."

Mr. Salo thanked the Commission, and members of the MAAE, MBAA, and AOP, adding that without them, he wouldn't be here. He is honored for something that he loves to do, which is working with these fine people to try to improve aviation in Michigan.

Mr. Abent indicated that the next award will be presented to an organization. He said this organization has dedicated a terrific amount of time and energy to partner with the Michigan Aeronautics Commission on many issues. This year's award is presented to the Michigan Association of Airport Executives (MAAE). Board members joined Mr. Abent and Chairman Adams at the podium. Mr. Abent recognized Mr. Lee Scherwitz, Brian Picardat, Jeff Nagel, Richard Acker, Larry Bowron and Cliff Moshoginis. He read the inscription on the plaque and presented the award:

"In recognition of your enthusiastic advocacy on behalf of aviation in Michigan and your commitment to the enhancement of resources in partnership with the Michigan Aeronautics Commission."

Mr. Abent thanked the board members.

Mr. Scherwitz spoke saying the MAAE represents the work force in Michigan. Whether they are members of the association or not, they feel that they need to look out for the airports that aren't in the membership, because it's about the aviation infrastructure system that they are supporting. They can't do this without the help and work of all the individuals in their airport systems. He added that this is all about team work, and he was privileged this year to have this superior team working with him. He recognized Brian Picardat as the



new president of MAAE for the next year. He thanked the Commission for the award and their support.

### III. COMMISSION BUSINESS

- A. Chairman Adams entertained a motion to approve Exhibit A, the minutes of the July 29, 2009 meeting, pending any corrections or changes. Moved by Commissioner Everman and supported by Commissioner Kavalhuna to approve the minutes as written. By a unanimous voice vote the motion carried.
- B. Chairman Adams asked Mr. Dave Baker, Airports Division, to present the airport grants. Mr. Baker gave an overview of the eight projects for funding approval.
1. W.K. Kellogg Airport, Battle Creek
  2. Detroit Metropolitan Wayne County Airport, Detroit
  3. Willow Run Airport, Detroit
  4. Bishop International Airport, Flint
  5. Gerald R. Ford International Airport, Grand Rapids
  6. Houghton County Memorial Airport, Hancock
  7. Kalamazoo/Battle Creek International Airport
  8. Owosso Community Airport, Owosso

As no questions were raised, Chairman Adams entertained a motion to approve the eight transfers as presented. Moved by Commissioner Everman and supported by Commissioner Hank to approve the projects as presented. By a unanimous voice vote the motion carried.

Mr. Baker then reported on three supplementals: Wexford County Airport in Cadillac, Tulip City Airport in Holland, and Ford Airport in Iron Mountain.

#### C. Modification of Approach Protection Plan Language

Chairman Adams called on Rick Hammond, Airports Division Administrator, for the report. Mr. Hammond indicated there were some minor adjustments on the issue statement that was included in the commission notebooks. The Commission has approved approach protection plans for all the public use airports in the state. These plans are designed to provide local zoning agencies and officials with land use and guidance for protection of the airport. He is requesting a slight correction in zone 1 on the guidance statement, citing the correction.

Mr. Hammond added that our legal counsel has asked us to include, in the documentation that we send out, a statement saying:

“Any airport sponsor or duly authorized representative of a zoned local governmental unit may request that the Michigan Aeronautics Commission amend an Airport Approach Plan. All such requests must clearly state the change



from the current plan, the reason for the requested change and any standards used to justify the modification. Please contact the Airports Division Zoning Specialist to request any such amendments.”

Mr. Hammond requested that the following amendments be made to the document that is sent out with the approach plans to the communities:

1. replace the words “corresponds to” with “similar to” in Zone 1,
2. the addition of the language advising communities that they can request, from the Commission, an amendment to the approach protection plan provided.

In every case, it is the Michigan Aeronautics Commission that must adopt the approach protection plan used by the zoning agencies. He also recognized Linn Smith for his efforts on the issue. Chairman Adams entertained a motion to accept the modification as reported. Moved by Commission Kavalhuna and supported by Commissioner Everman to adopt the amended language as proposed. By a unanimous voice vote the motion carried.

#### IV. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

#### V. REPORTS

##### DIRECTOR’S REPORT

Director Abent thanked the MAAE for hosting the meeting and inviting our staff to the conference. He also thanked Mr. Matt Barresi for the gifts to the Commissioner from the Gaylord Regional Airport. Mr. Barresi asked to say a few words. The gifts to the commissioners came from the Gaylord Chocolate Haus; he introduced Mr. Bruce Brown who owns the store and is a Commissioner on the Gaylord Regional Airport Board. Director Abent also thanked Commissioner Brown.

Director Abent gave an overview of his report; he will be giving a budget update, the 2009 FAA reauthorization, and an update on recent events.

Director Abent reported that the fuel tax revenue through July, 2008 vs. 2009 is down nearly 14%; this is the primary funding source for aeronautics activities. He presented a slide on the aviation fuel tax collections through July, 2009 vs. a five-year average in which revenues are down 24%. MDOT continues to work with the Michigan legislature on this issue. He doesn’t see this trend being reversed any time soon. He thanked everyone for their support in the effort to resolve this funding issue.

His next slide reflected the 2009 Federal Reauthorization highlights. FAA reauthorization expired in 2007; current funding from the FAA is authorized through a continuing



resolution which expires at the end of September. He discussed a comparison chart showing the 2009 Federal Highlights, House Bill 915 and Senate Bill 1451. This also included information on the state block grant and discretionary funds.

Director Abent briefly mentioned some recent events; the Detroit Metro Wayne County Airport Simulation Exercise held August 14, and the MBS International Airport terminal building groundbreaking held August 27.

Director Abent announced that Commissioner Collins recently appeared as Judge Jim Weaver, in the play "Anatomy of a Murder." This is the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the movie that was originally filmed in Marquette County. In recognition of the anniversary, there were month-long activities in the county, including a stage adaptation of the movie. Director Abent attended the production in Marquette, and commended Commissioner Collins on his performance. He also presented him with an Oscar statuette. Commissioner Collins briefly spoke of the play.

Director Abent thanked all for attending.

## VI. ELECTIONS

Director Abent announced that the Commission will be voting for new officers. On behalf of the Department and the staff, he thanked Chairman Adams for his service this year. He highlighted some of the year-long issues in which Chairman Adams was involved. As is our tradition, Director Abent presented Chairman Adams with a gavel plaque for his service as outgoing Chairman.

Chairman Adams thanked Mead and Hunt for the reception they hosted last night. He briefly spoke of his year as Chairman, adding it has been a pleasure to serve.

Director Abent indicated that due to the nominating committee configuration, Commissioner Kavallhuna would act as Chair of the nominating committee for purposes of forwarding nominations.

Commissioner Kavallhuna added his thanks to Mr. Brown for the chocolates, and thanked Chairman Adams for his efforts over the past year, he appreciates his leadership. He briefly discussed the nominating process. He recommended the nomination of:

- Commissioner Everman as Chairman,
- Commissioner Collins as Vice Chairman of the Michigan Aeronautics Commission,
- asked for the Commission's support on this nomination.

The motion was supported by Commissioner Hank. All voted in favor.

At this point outgoing Chair Adams passed the gavel to newly-elected Chairman Terry Everman.



Commissioner Everman indicated that it is a pleasure to serve as a public servant. He gave a brief history of his years in the aviation field. He commended Director Abent and his staff for their efforts. He added his thanks for the chocolate and mentioned that the dinner hosted by Mead and Hunt and the hospitality at the conference were wonderful. He thanked those present for their support. He looks forward to serving and adjourned the meeting at 10:37 a.m.

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Director

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Chairman

Dated \_\_\_\_\_

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