

MICHIGAN AERONAUTICS COMMISSION

Minutes of Meeting
Lansing, Michigan
May 27, 2020

Pursuant to Section 31 of Act 327 of the Public Acts of 1945 and Executive Directive 2020-75, the Commissioners of the Michigan Aeronautics Commission met via video conference call, on Wednesday, May 27, 2020.

Members Present

Roger Salo, Chair
Rick Fiddler, Vice Chair
Dr. Brian Smith, Commissioner
Russ Kavalhuna, Commissioner
Kelly Burris, Commissioner
Laura Mester, Designee - MDOT
Kevin Jacobs, Designee – MDNR
F/Lt. Brian Bahlau, Designee – MSP
Mike Trout, Director
Bryan Budds, Commission Advisor
Alicia Morrison, Commission Assistant

Members Absent

Brig. Gen. Bryan Teff, Designee – MDMVA

I. OPENING REMARKS

Director Mike Trout began by explaining the meeting was being held today via video conference call in accordance with Executive Directive 2020-75, enacted to allow teleconference public meetings due to the COVID-19 pandemic. He welcomed all who were participating and thanked the Commissioners for coming together in the new format, noting there were over 50 participants on the last Michigan Aeronautics Commission (MAC) video conference call, which is a significant increase from the most recent in-person meeting. He reminded anyone with questions to visit www.michigan.gov/coronavirus. Director Trout then turned the meeting over to Chairperson Roger Salo.

The May 27, 2020 MAC meeting was officially called to order by Chair Roger Salo at 10:00 a.m.

Chair Salo thanked the Commissioners and all in attendance on the call for participating. He stated his appreciation for the increased attendance on the video conference calls and hoped this continued for future meetings.

Chair Salo asked for a formal roll call. Roll call was taken. It was announced there were eight (8) Commissioners present, which is a quorum.



II. COMMISSION BUSINESS

A. Minutes of the April 9, 2020 Meeting

Chair Salo asked if there were any revisions to the minutes of the meeting held on April 9, 2020. There were none. He entertained a motion to approve the minutes. The motion was moved by Commissioner Rick Fiddler and seconded by Commissioner Russ Kavalhuna to approve the minutes as presented. A majority roll call vote was conducted. **All voted in favor. Chair Salo announced the motion is carried.**

B. Minutes of the May 14, 2020 Special Meeting

Chair Salo asked if there were any revisions to the minutes of the special meeting held on May 14, 2020. There were none. He entertained a motion to approve the minutes. The motion was moved by Commissioner Russ Kavalhuna and seconded by Commissioner Kevin Jacobs to approve the minutes as presented. A majority roll call vote was conducted. **All voted in favor. Chair Salo announced the motion is carried.**

C. Request for Approval and Transfer of Appropriated Funds

Chair Salo called on Alissa VanHoof who then presented the Airport Sponsor Contracts and Supplemental Transfers.

Airport Sponsor Contracts

1. James Clements Municipal Airport, Bay City
2. James Clements Municipal Airport, Bay City
3. Dowagiac Municipal Airport, Dowagiac
4. Fremont Municipal Airport, Fremont
5. West Michigan Regional Airport, Holland
6. West Michigan Regional Airport, Holland
7. Livingston County – Spencer J. Hardy Airport, Howell
8. Schoolcraft County Airport, Manistique
9. Saint Clair County International Airport, Port Huron
10. Presque Isle County Airport, Rogers City
11. Presque Isle County Airport, Rogers City
12. Chippewa County International Airport, Sault Ste. Marie
13. Chippewa County International Airport, Sault Ste. Marie
14. Chippewa County International Airport, Sault Ste. Marie
15. Chippewa County International Airport, Sault Ste. Marie
16. Chippewa County International Airport, Sault Ste. Marie
17. Chippewa County International Airport, Sault Ste. Marie
18. Statewide – Professional Pavement Condition Index Survey
19. Oakland Troy Airport, Troy
20. West Branch Community Airport, West Branch
21. West Branch Community Airport, West Branch
22. White Cloud Airport, White Cloud



Supplemental Transfers – *No Action Required*

1. Ionia County Airport, Ionia
2. Oscoda - Wurtsmith Airport, Oscoda

Chair Salo asked for additional information on the Pavement Condition Index (PCI), noting he thought the program started in Michigan, then expanded nationwide. Mark Noel answered with a brief history of the PCI Program, stating Michigan was one of the first to develop and track pavement condition.

Chair Salo then asked if there were any further comments or questions. Hearing none, he entertained a motion to approve item Nos. 1-22. The motion was moved by Commissioner Brian Smith and seconded by Commissioner Rick Fiddler to approve the Airport Sponsor Contracts, as presented. A majority roll call vote was conducted. **All voted in favor. Chair Salo announced the motion is carried.**

A complete list of contract descriptions can be viewed at www.michigan.gov/aero under the Commission tab.

III. REPORTS

A. MAC Director's Report

Chair Salo called on Director Trout who then presented his report.

Director Trout discussed the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act funding, which includes \$10 billion in funds to be awarded as economic relief to eligible airports affected by the Covid-19 pandemic. He highlighted that 94 Michigan airports are eligible for a total amount of over \$250,000,000 in operational funds.

Director Trout shared the current aviation fuel tax amounts collected of \$2,894,326 in Excise Tax and \$2,690,075 in Sales Tax through April 2020. He stated this reflects a \$129,535 or -4.32% decrease from April 2019. Director Trout also shared various Office of Aeronautics Aviation Services stats for Fiscal Year (FY) 2020 including 4,960 aircraft registrations processed; 104 dealer licenses issued; 32 flight school licenses issued; 2,433 tall structure permits processed; and 50 airport development projects environmentally cleared.

Director Trout provided the following updates on various topics of interest:

- The Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) Federal Work Share Program giving most state employees one (1) eight-hour layoff day per week.
- \$4 Million PFAS Testing Grant Request for Proposal (RFP) has been posted and will close on May 29, 2020.
- Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS) Task Force will be meeting this summer. MDOT Research is exploring future mobility.



- MDOT intends to comply with budget boilerplate requiring the development of RFP's for the sale of state-owned airports.

Director Trout welcomed new Office of Aeronautics staff Michael Carnarvon and Wendi Chen, and congratulated students Alysen Fedewa and Erika Hanses on their recent graduations.

Director Trout closed his report with good news including Commissioner Dr. Brian Smith being featured in the film "Through the Flak: War Stories of the Tuskegee Airmen", and that airline travel looks to be trending upwards for fall.

B. Automated Weather Observing System (AWOS) Task Group Report

Chair Salo asked Commissioner Rick Fiddler to present the AWOS Task Group update.

Commissioner Fiddler gave a short background on the AWOS Task Group and its members. He stated the extreme importance of the AWOS network to the aviation community and while the current 41 systems function well, manufacturer support for the older components is ending and it will be hard to maintain the appropriate level of safety without a solution.

Commissioner Fiddler emphasized the need for strategic direction for the future of Michigan's AWOS systems. He asked for MDOT and the MAC to support this important endeavor. He stated the next meeting will be held in June to review recommendations.

Chair Salo asked whether block grant monies could be used for upgrading the systems. Director Trout said it may be possible but would depend on a variety of factors. Commission designee Laura Mester suggested putting together a business case to submit to leadership for MDOT financing options. All supported the task force and requested upgrades.

IV. COMMISSION COMMENTS

Chair Salo asked if any Commissioner would like to make a comment.

Chair Salo commented that air traffic is increasing with ridership up 10% and hoping to increase to 30% over the next few months. Commissioner Fiddler agreed he has also seen a positive increase in air traffic.

Commissioner Brian Smith stated the Screaming Rebels fly-over of the Flint-Holly cemetery would be held Saturday, May 30.

Director Mike Trout noted the upcoming retirements of both Jeff Nagel, MBS and Brian Picardat, Grand Rapids, thanking them for their service and wishing them well in the future.

V. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Chair Salo asked if anyone would like to make a public comment.

Jeff King, West Michigan Regional Airport, stated Park Township Airport in Holland is closing and that local hangar space is tight, with some airports having a backlog. He questioned whether the general aviation airports in the area could expect some help with this issue. Director Trout acknowledged his concern, expressing that a backlog was good for continued interest in air travel and agreed to work with Mr. King on any concerns he has.

CLOSING

The next Michigan Aeronautics Commission meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, July 29, 2020, with the location to be determined pending any Executive Orders or further directives relating to COVID-19 in place at that time.

Chair Salo thanked the Commissioners, Office of Aeronautics staff, and the public for their participation today.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:40 a.m.

Roger Salo, Chairman

Michael G. Trout, Director

