

# MICHIGAN AERONAUTICS COMMISSION

Minutes of Meeting  
Lansing, Michigan  
March 28, 2018

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Pursuant to Section 31 of Act 327 of the Public Acts of 1945, the commissioners of the Michigan Aeronautics Commission met at the Aeronautics Building, 2700 Port Lansing Road, Lansing, Michigan, on Wednesday, March 28, 2018.

## Members Present

J. David VanderVeen, Chairman  
Russ Kavalhuna, Commissioner  
Rick Fiddler, Commissioner  
Maj. Gen. Len Isabelle, Designee – MDMVA  
Dave Wresinski, Alternate Designee – MDOT  
Dave Brickey, Legal Counsel  
Mike Trout, Director

## Members Absent

Pete Kamarainen, Vice Chairman  
Roger Salo, Commissioner  
Capt. Joe Gasper, Designee – MSP  
Kevin Jacobs, Designee – MDNR

## Staff Present

Judy Baker  
Tara Ball  
Neal Barncard  
Bryan Budds  
Michele Duncan  
Jennifer Forbes  
Leanne Hengesbach  
Tammie Lewandowsky  
Elyse Lower  
Mark Noel  
Sue Payne  
Brigitte Pricco  
Linn Smith  
Michael Soper  
Betsy Steudle  
Anu Taneja  
Christina Thelen  
Mary Kay Trierweiler

## Also Present

Mike Borta, QoE Consulting  
Larry Bowron, City of Battle Creek  
Michael Frezell, MDOT, Office of Communications  
Nate Granger, Foth Infrastructure & Environment, LLC  
Mark Johnson, Livingston Co.-Spencer J. Hardy Airport  
Curt Largent  
Bob Leisenring, Mead & Hunt, Inc.  
John Mayfield, Federal Aviation Administration  
Phillip Johnson, Prein&Newhof  
Michael Pelzer, Pegasus Parachuting Services  
John Strehl, Antrim County Airport  
John Stroo, Prein&Newhof



## I. OPENING REMARKS

The March 28, 2018 Michigan Aeronautics Commission (Commission) Meeting was called to order by Chairman J. David VanderVeen at 10:00 a.m.

Chairman VanderVeen welcomed all those present. He welcomed Dave Wresinski, MDOT's alternate designee serving on the Commission, and thanked him for filling in on short notice. Chairman VanderVeen asked everyone to rise, and the Pledge of Allegiance was cited. Roll call was taken.

## II. COMMISSION BUSINESS

A. Chairman VanderVeen asked if there were any revisions to the minutes of the meeting held on January 25, 2018. There were none. He entertained a motion to approve the minutes. The motion was moved by Commissioner Rick Fiddler and seconded by Commissioner Len Isabelle to approve the minutes as presented. **All voted in favor.**

B. Elyse Lower presented the Air Service Program Grants and Airport Sponsor Contracts.

### **Air Service Program Grants**

1. Alpena County Regional Airport, Alpena
2. Willow Run Airport, Detroit
3. Delta County Airport, Escanaba
4. Bishop International Airport, Flint
5. Gerald R. Ford International Airport, Grand Rapids
6. Houghton County Memorial, Hancock
7. Ford Airport, Iron Mountain Kingsford
8. Gogebic Iron County Airport, Ironwood
9. Kalamazoo/Battle Creek International, Kalamazoo
10. Capital Region International, Lansing
11. Manistee County – Blacker, Manistee
12. Sawyer International, Marquette
13. Muskegon County Airport, Muskegon
14. Pellston Regional Airport of Emmet County, Pellston
15. Chippewa County International Airport, Sault Ste. Marie
16. Cherry Capital Airport, Traverse City

### **Airport Sponsor Contracts**

1. Antrim County Airport, Bellaire
2. Wexford County Airport, Cadillac
3. Fitch H. Beach Municipal, Charlotte
4. Branch County Memorial, Coldwater
5. Dowagiac Municipal Airport, Dowagiac
6. Frankfort Dow Memorial Field, Frankfort
7. Gladwin Zettel Municipal, Gladwin
8. Abrams Municipal Airport, Grand Ledge
9. Greenville Municipal Airport, Greenville
10. Greenville Municipal Airport, Greenville



11. Oceana County Airport, Hart/Shelby
12. Oceana County Airport, Hart/Shelby
13. Lakeview - Griffith Field, Lakeview
14. Mason County Airport, Ludington
15. Mason County Airport, Ludington
16. Manistee County – Blacker, Manistee
17. Marlette Township Airport, Marlette
18. Marlette Township Airport, Marlette
19. Marlette Township Airport, Marlette
20. Luce County Airport, Newberry
21. Presque Isle County, Rogers City
22. Kirsch Municipal Airport, Sturgis
23. Kirsch Municipal Airport, Sturgis
24. West Branch Community Airport, West Branch

Chairman VanderVeen asked if there were any further comments or questions. Hearing none, he entertained a motion to approve item Nos. 1 – 16 of the Air Service Program Grants and item Nos. 1 – 24 of the Airport Sponsor Contracts. The motion was moved by Commissioner Fiddler and seconded by Commissioner Isabelle to approve the grants and contracts as presented. **All voted in favor.**

A complete list of grant and contract descriptions can be viewed on the Michigan Aeronautics Commission web page under “Meetings” and then “Contract Approvals” at [www.michigan.gov/aero](http://www.michigan.gov/aero).

Ms. Lower reported on two supplemental transfers: Oakland County International Airport, Pontiac and Chippewa County International Airport, Sault Ste. Marie. **No Commission action was required.**

C. Bryan Budds introduced Mike Soper of the Electronic Facilities Unit.

Mr. Budds presented and requested approval for five-year contract terms for Automated Weather Observation Systems (AWOS) and Weather Briefing Systems (WBS). He explained that during recent meetings, the Commission approved a variety of AWOS and WBS contracts. In executing the approvals, Aeronautics staff identified a potential area of ambiguity with the duration and terminology used in approving and extending the contracts. Specifically, contracts were viewed as new, renewals or extensions depending on the current status. This terminology was inconsistent with the contracting process currently in place across the department. Therefore, it was proposed to adjust the current three-year contracts that included two one-year extensions to a single five-year contract.

In order to accomplish this policy change and ensure approval of recent contracts at the requested length, the following list of contracts was resubmitted for Commission approval for a five-year contract term.



### **Automated Weather Observation Systems**

1. Antrim County Airport, Bellaire
2. DuPont-Lapeer Airport, Lapeer
3. Jack Barstow Airport, Midland
4. Roben-Hood Airport, Big Rapids
5. Charlevoix Municipal Airport, Charlevoix
6. Fitch H. Beach Municipal Airport, Charlotte
7. Branch County Memorial Airport, Coldwater
8. Hillsdale Municipal Airport, Hillsdale
9. Schoolcraft County Airport, Manistique
10. Mason Jewett Field, Mason
11. Monroe Custer Airport, Monroe
12. Mt. Pleasant Municipal Airport, Mt. Pleasant
13. Luce County Airport, Newberry
14. Owosso Community Airport, Owosso
15. Saginaw County H. W. Browne Airport, Saginaw
16. Kirsch Municipal Airport, Sturgis
17. West Branch Community Airport, West Branch

### **Weather Briefing Systems**

18. Ann Arbor Municipal Airport, Ann Arbor
19. Delta County Airport, Escanaba
20. Gaylord Regional Airport, Gaylord
21. Houghton County Memorial Airport, Hancock
22. West Michigan Regional Airport, Holland
23. Mackinac Island Airport, Mackinac Island
24. Pellston Regional Airport of Emmet County, Pellston
25. Chippewa County International Airport, Sault Ste. Marie

Chairman VanderVeen asked if there were any further comments or questions. Hearing none, he entertained a motion to approve item Nos. 1-25 of the AWOS and WBS each for a five-year contract term. The motion was moved by Commissioner Russ Kavalhuna and seconded by Commissioner Fiddler. **All voted in favor.**

## **III. REPORTS**

### **A. MAC Director Report**

#### Updates

Director Mike Trout provided updates on the following:

- **Closeout Process Improvement**  
Director Trout thanked FAA's Detroit Airports District Office Manager John Mayfield and staff, Sawyer International Airport Director Duane DuRay of Marquette, and MBS International Airport Director Jeff Nagel of Saginaw, as well as Aeronautics staff, for their involvement in the process improvement sessions held last month. A plan has been developed to reduce the contract



closeout process from two years down to six months. The closeout process will continue to be monitored for further improvements.

➤ State Legislation

- SB 917 through 922 – A package of six bills was introduced on March 21, 2018, that would regulate unmanned aircraft systems (UAS) or drones. The legislation is based on recommendations from the UAS Task Force and would mostly amend the Unmanned Aircraft Systems Act, which was passed in 2016. A similar package of five UAS bills (HB 5494 through 5498) passed the House on March 23, 2018.
- HB 4350/4351 – Two bills would exempt aircraft parts for repairs and maintenance from sales and use tax. Both bills were passed by the House on May 25, 2017 and remain in the Senate.
- SB 626/627 – Two bills involving seaplane operation that would change state law to allow MDOT to regulate the use of inland waters by aircraft; would exclude application of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to aircraft regulated by the Michigan Aeronautics Commission. Both bills remain in the Senate.
- Budget Proposals – There has been an Executive, House, and Senate budget proposal submitted. Proposed changes include flight operations as a separate line in the budget to track expenditures and a reduction of current FTE positions being proposed.

➤ Federal Legislation

- Congress passed a \$1.3 trillion omnibus bill to fund most federal government programs and agencies through the end of Fiscal Year 2018. The legislation provides a significant increase in funding for many highway, transit, rail, and aviation programs, including a \$1 billion increase in Airport Improvement Program funding and a \$5 million increase in Essential Air Service funding. The legislation also includes a six-month extension of FAA programs and funding, which currently is authorized under a short-term extension that expires on March 31, 2018. Air traffic control privatization was not part of the legislation.

Statistics

Director Trout reported on the following:

- Fuel Tax Revenue
  - Excise (3¢) FY to Date (Oct. – Jan.)
    - 2018 = \$2,296,388
    - 2017 = \$2,363,663
    - (2.85% decrease)



- Sales (2%) FY to Date
  - Q1 = \$1,745,428  
(SAF 35% - \$610,899/QAF 65% - \$1,134,529)
  - Q2 = \$904,390  
(SAF 35% - \$316,536/QAF 65% - \$587,854)

*Note:* SAF = State Aeronautics Fund  
QAF = Qualified Airport Fund

- Contract Closeouts FYTD
  - 13 Primary Airport Grants
  - 26 State Block Sub Grants
  - 1 State Block Grant
  - 7 State/Local Grants
- Tall Structure Permits
  - 2018 = 1,300 (174 wind turbines) Year Total
  - 2017 = 4,497 (369 wind turbines) Year Total
- State Aircraft Flight Hours – FY (Oct. – Feb.)
  - 2018 = 322
  - 2017 = 379

#### Recent Events

- MBAA/MAAE Legislative Day at the Capitol, March 14, 2018.
- Capital Area Aviation Academy Tour at Aeronautics, March 14, 2018.

#### Staff

Director Trout recognized the following staff:

- Tammie Lewandowsky, New Flight Scheduler, Transport and Safety Section.
- Christina Thelen, New Contract Specialist, Planning and Development Section.
- Lena Smith, New Inspector, Transport and Safety Section.
- Brigitte Pricco, Senior Executive Management Assistant, Office of Aeronautics, was commended for presenting in front of MDOT’s Leadership Team, where she provided an update on the Administrative Professionals Conference held in 2017. During the leadership team meeting, all administrative staff were recognized with business cards that state “Director of First Impressions.” Director Trout took the opportunity during the Commission meeting to present Sue Payne, General Office Assistant, Office of Aeronautics, with her business cards. He thanked both Ms. Pricco and Ms. Payne for their great work.

#### Coming Soon

- MAC Off-Site Meeting – May 23, 2018, Willow Run Airport, Ypsilanti, MI.
- Battle Creek Field of Flight Air Show – June 29 thru July 4, 2018, Battle Creek, MI.
- EAA AirVenture – July 23-29, 2018, Oshkosh, WI.
- MAAE Fall Conference – Sept. 10-14, 2018, Harbor Springs, MI.
- NASAO Annual Conference – Sept. 23-25, 2018, Oklahoma City, OK.



Director Trout's report can be viewed in full on the Michigan Aeronautics Commission webpage under "Meetings" and then "Director's Reports" at [www.michigan.gov/aero](http://www.michigan.gov/aero).

- B. General Aviation Advisory Committee – Chairman VanderVeen reported on behalf of Vice Chairman Pete Kamarainen.

#### Airport Preservation and Development

The committee has been looking at Detroit's Coleman A. Young International Airport to see how it can help the users of the airport preserve and enhance operations.

The Two-Hearted River Airstrip in the Upper Peninsula is waiting on final inspection and should be opened this spring.

#### Promote Flying in the State

An E-passport program is being developed with the help of the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association (AOPA). The goal is to develop an app to promote flying within the state and region. The vision is an award-based electronic system that aviators can use to receive credit for airports visited.

#### Pilot Shortage

The committee is committed to develop new aviators, mechanics, and aerospace professionals. A program is being developed based on the Young Eagles Program through the Experimental Aircraft Association (EAA) called Fly A Science Teacher (FAST). The intent is to fly a teacher in each school district to promote aerospace education throughout Michigan. The committee would like to see two classes in every high school – Intro to Aerospace in the 11<sup>th</sup> Grade and Private Pilot Ground School in the 12<sup>th</sup> Grade. The program would use AOPA resources for teachers to become familiar with the materials and receive credit for continuing education.

#### EAA AirVenture

The committee has been working with the Michigan Economic Development Corporation, Michigan Association of Airport Executives, and Michigan Business Aviation Association to promote a stronger presence at Oshkosh's AirVenture.

Chairman VanderVeen expressed concern that discretionary small flying is down. He said one airport is reporting a 62 percent downturn of this type of flying and stated that we need to address broad issues with the General Aviation Advisory Committee.

- C. Commercial Air Service Advisory Committee – Commissioner Kavalhuna discussed a pilot shortage that is hitting flight instruction schools and regional airlines hard. He said that in the next four years, mandatory retirements will hit the major airlines, and it is very likely we could see a reduction in services for regional airlines.

D. Safety Advisory Committee – No Report.

E. UAS Advisory Committee – No Report.

**IV. COMMISSION COMMENTS**

Chairman VanderVeen proposed that the Commission actively recognize special aviation events throughout the state.

**V. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

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

John Mayfield, FAA, spoke about federal legislation and clarified the additional \$1 billion in appropriations for the Airport Improvement Program.

**CLOSING**

The next Michigan Aeronautics Commission meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, May 23, 2018, 10:00 a.m., at the Yankee Air Museum, Willow Run Airport, Ypsilanti, Michigan.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:10 a.m.

(approved/signed, original on file)  
J. David VanderVeen, Chairman

(approved/signed, original on file)  
Michael G. Trout, Director

Dated: May 23, 2018

