

MICHIGAN AERONAUTICS COMMISSION

Minutes of Meeting

Harris, Michigan

September 13, 2017

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 in Harris, Michigan, in conjunction with the Michigan Association of Airport Executives (MAAE) Fall Conference on September 13, 2017.

Members Present

Russ Kavalhuna, Chairman
Dave VanderVeen, Vice Chairman
Rick Fiddler, Commissioner
Pete Kamarainen, Commissioner
Roger Salo, Commissioner
Laura Mester, Designee – MDOT
Capt. Joe Gasper, Designee – MSP
Kevin Jacobs, Designee – MDNR
Kathleen Gleeson, Legal Counsel
Mike Trout, Director

Members Absent

MG Len Isabelle, Designee – MDMVA

Staff Present

Carol Aldrich
Kelly Badra
Dave Baker
Judy Baker
Jeannine Barnett
Randy Coller
Jennifer Forbes
Erika Hanses
Hilary Hoose
Elyse Lower
Mark Noel
Brigitte Pricco
Jim Reverman
Anu Taneja
Linda Travis
Mary Kay Trierweiler

Also Present

Matt Barresi, Gaylord Regional Airport
Tami Beseau, Chippewa County International Airport
Anton Bjorkman, Kalamazoo/Battle Creek Int'l. Airport
Mike Borta, QoE Consulting
Mark Breukink, Mead & Hunt, Inc.
Lisa Carr, Gerald R. Ford International Airport Authority
Chris Cook, Grayling Army Airfield
Duane DuRay, Sawyer International Airport
Brad Frederick, Recreational Aviation Foundation
Ernest Gubry, Federal Aviation Administration
Dennis Hext, Houghton County Memorial Airport
Eric Jaroch, Roscommon Co.-Blodgett Memorial Airport
Kelly Jost, C&S Engineers
Gary Kellan, Oscoda Wurtsmith Airport
Barry Lind, Manistee County – Blacker Airport
Ron Ludema, West Michigan Regional Airport
Kent Maurer, Jackson County-Reynolds Field
Joseph Medici, Bishop International Airport
Mike Munson, Oscoda Wurtsmith Airport Board
Clint Nemeth, QoE Consulting
Keith Newell, Grosse Pointe
Daniel Otto, Lansing



David Powell, Western Michigan University
David Reid, Kalamazoo/Battle Creek Int'l. Airport
Theresa Samosiuk, Wayne County Airport Authority
Adam Shaw, Grayling Army Airfield
Chris Sieklucki, MBS International Airport
Wayne Sieloff, Capital Region International Airport
Kelly Smith, Delta County Airport
John Strehl, Antrim County Airport
Dianne Walker, DWLLC
Miles Weaver, W. K. Kellogg Airport
Amanda Woodin, Kalamazoo/Battle Creek Int'l. Airport
Gordon Zuehlke, Michigan Department of Natural Resources

I. OPENING REMARKS

The September 13, 2017 Michigan Aeronautics Commission (Commission) meeting was called to order by Chairman Russ Kavalhuna at 11:00 a.m. He welcomed all those present and asked everyone to rise, and the Pledge of Allegiance was cited. Chairman Kavalhuna thanked Kelly Smith, Delta County Airport Manager, for hosting the MAAE Conference.

Roll call was taken.

II. COMMISSION BUSINESS

A. Chairman Kavalhuna asked if there were any revisions to the minutes of the meeting held on July 26, 2017. There were none. He entertained a motion to approve the minutes. The motion was moved by Vice Chairman Dave VanderVeen and seconded by Commissioner Roger Salo to approve the minutes as presented. **All voted in favor.**

B. Chairman Kavalhuna asked Dave Baker to present the airport sponsor. Mr. Baker proceeded to explain each contract.

1. Houghton County Memorial, Hancock
2. Houghton County Memorial, Hancock
3. Houghton County Memorial, Hancock
4. Houghton County Memorial, Hancock
5. Hastings City/Barry County Airport, Hastings
6. Ford Airport, Iron Mountain/Kingsford
7. Ford Airport, Iron Mountain/Kingsford
8. Sawyer International, Marquette
9. Presque Isle County/Rogers City Airport, Rogers City
10. Romeo State Airport, Romeo
11. White Cloud Airport, White Cloud

Chairman Kavalhuna asked if there were any further comments or questions. Hearing none, he entertained a motion to approve item Nos. 1 – 11. The motion was moved by



Commissioner Pete Kamarainen and seconded by Commissioner Kevin Jacobs to approve the airport sponsor contracts. **All voted in favor.**

A complete list of contract descriptions can be viewed in full on the Michigan Aeronautics Commission web page under “Meetings” and then “Commission Contract Approvals” at www.michigan.gov/aero.

C. Mr. Baker also presented the following Automated Weather Observation System (AWOS) contract renewals.

1. Gratiot Community Airport, Alma
2. Grosse Ile Municipal Airport, Detroit/Grosse Ile
3. Mason County Airport, Ludington
4. St. Clair County International Airport, Port Huron

Mr. Baker provided information regarding the contracts explaining that with the installation of each AWOS, the Office of Aeronautics establishes a contract with the sponsor to set the responsibilities of each party for the shared maintenance and operation of the AWOS, a Data Collection System, and a Weather Briefing System. These maintenance contracts have a limited time period so as each contract is about to expire, either a new contract is drafted to renew the maintenance responsibilities or a time extension is invoked.

Chairman Kavalhuna asked if there were any further comments or questions. Hearing none, he entertained a motion to approve item Nos. 1 – 4. The motion was moved by Commissioner Salo and seconded by Vice Chairman VanderVeen to approve the AWOS contract renewals. **All voted in favor.**

D. Chairman Kavalhuna asked Linn Smith to present the airport approach plan for the Two-Hearted Airport in Newberry.

The Aeronautics Code of the State of Michigan provides that the Commission may adopt an airport approach plan for each licensed airport, which describes the state plan for approach protection areas. Local zoning officials are to use the determination of the protection area as a guide in adopting standards for its local zoning ordinances. The Commission has adopted an airport approach plan for the majority of the licensed airports.

Mr. Smith presented and explained the approach plan for the Two-Hearted Airport. After further discussion, it was requested that the Commission approve the above plan.

Chairman Kavalhuna asked if there were any further comments or questions. Hearing none, he entertained a motion to approve the airport approach plan for the Two-Hearted Airport. The motion was moved by Commissioner Kamarainen and seconded by Commissioner Salo to approve the plan as presented. **All voted in favor.**

III. REPORTS

- A. Chairman Kavalhuna asked Commissioner Pete Kamarainen to give his report on the General Aviation (GA) Advisory Committee. Commissioner Kamarainen reported that the GA Advisory Committee met on August 16, 2017, at the Office of Aeronautics.

The committee discussed the condition of the Coleman A. Young Municipal (Detroit City Airport) and a local tenant group's efforts to support the airport.

The committee discussed the Two-Hearted Airport in Newberry. Brad Frederick heads the development of the airstrip, which has many recreational opportunities.

The committee continues discussion with the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association regarding a Fly Michigan passport program.

On September 23, 2017, at the Ionia County Airport, the School of Missionary Aviation of Technology (SMAT) is hosting training for 8-12 graders to learn about aviation and career opportunities.

- B. Commercial Air Service Advisory Committee – No Report.
- C. Safety Advisory Committee – No Report.
- D. Chairman Kavalhuna asked Director Trout to give his report. Director Trout welcomed everyone and recognized the MAAE Board, President Matt Barresi and Executive Director Shawn Jezak for their hard work in planning the conference and thanked them for hosting the Commission meeting.

Updates

Director Trout provided updates on the following:

- NASAO Annual Conference – Bryan Budds currently attending the conference.
 - Federal Legislation – Staying engaged of federal issues is priority, such as FAA Reauthorization, Air Traffic Control, and Essential Air Service.
- Michigan Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) Task Force
The task force has met twice and a report will be submitted to the Governor in November of this year. At least four more meetings are scheduled during the next two months. There is considerable interaction among the 27 members, along with good discussions and presentations. These meetings are open to the public and are held at the Office of Aeronautics.
- Proposed Fiscal Year 2018 MDOT/MAAE Contract
 - Includes matching funds on workshops, grants, scholarship, and airport internship assistance program.
 - Commission will be asked to approve contract in November.



Statistics

Director Trout reported on the following:

- Fuel Tax Revenue
 - Excise (3¢) FY to Date (Oct. – July)
2017 = \$4,792,760
2016 = \$4,280,030
(12% increase)
 - Sales (2%) 2017 – FY to Date
Q1 = \$1,838,231
(SAF 35% - \$643,381/QAF 65% - \$1,194,850)
Q2 = \$1,854,654
(SAF 35% - \$649,129/QAF 65% - \$1,205,525)
Q3 = \$2,203,688
(SAF 35% - \$771,290/QAF 65% - \$1,432,398)
Q4 = \$1,642,742
(SAF 35% - \$574,960/QAF 65% - \$1,067,782)

FYTD Total = \$7,539,315
(SAF = \$2,638,760/QAF = \$4,900,555)

Note: SAF = State Aeronautics Fund
QAF = Qualified Airport Fund
- Tall Structure Permits
 - 2017 = 3,023 (171 wind turbines) Year to Date
 - 2016 = 3,698 (466 wind turbines) Year Total
- Registered Aircraft Renewals
 - 2017 = 5,519 Year To Date
 - 2016 = 5,752 Year Total
- State Aircraft Flight Hours – FY to Date (Oct. – July)
 - 2017 = 726.5
 - 2016 = 751.5
- Contract Close-Outs – FY to Date (Oct. – July)
 - 29 Primary Airport Grants
 - 107 Individual Non-Primary Grants
 - 31 State/Local
 - 3 State Block Grants
- Air Service Program
 - ARFF Training (16 Airports)
 - \$48,007 Total Funded
((\$32,000 State/\$16,007 Local)
 - Airport Awareness (13 Airports)
 - \$141,118 Total Funded
((\$115,000 State/\$26,118 Local)



- Capital Improvement/Equipment (10 Airports)
 - \$131,699 Total Funded
 - (\$98,525 State/\$33,174 Local)

Staff Updates

Director Trout provided the following updates:

- Jennifer Forbes, New Airport Zoning Specialist, Planning & Development Section
- Sue Payne, New Office Assistant, Programming Section
- Gabriel Bogart, New Pilot, Transport & Safety Section
- Robert Spicuzza, New Pilot, Transport & Safety Section

Year in Review

Director Trout highlighted some of the accomplishments under the leadership of Chairman Kavalhuna:

- Michigan Air Service Program Updated Guidelines
- State Aeronautics Fund Cash Balance Issue
- Off-Site Commission Meeting at Oscoda-Wurtsmith Airport
- Michigan Aviation System Plan Update
- Third Term Commission Reappointment

Coming Soon

- Aviation Professional Training Course – Sept. 25, Mt. Pleasant
- UAS Task Force Meeting – Sept. 27, Office of Aeronautics, Lansing
- MAC Meeting – Nov. 8, Office of Aeronautics, Lansing
- Michigan Airport Conference – Feb. 21-22, East Lansing

Director Trout's report can be viewed in full on the Michigan Aeronautics Commission web page under "Director's Reports" at www.michigan.gov/aero.

IV. MAC AWARDS OF EXCELLENCE

Chairman Kavalhuna provided the background of the awards. This year, there was one organization award and one individual award presented. The organization award went to Brad Frederick/Recreational Aviation Foundation and the individual award went to Captain Dave Powell, Dean of Western Michigan University College of Aviation.

Brad Frederick/Recreational Aviation Foundation

Mr. Frederick is a member of the GA Advisory Committee and serves on the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Advisory Panel. He also is the Michigan liaison for the Recreational Aviation Foundation, an organization dedicated to preserving existing airstrips and creating new public-use recreational airstrips. Chairman Kavalhuna presented the award to Mr. Frederick. The following inscription was read:

This award is presented in recognition of the tremendous dedication and organizational effort in preserving and developing public-use recreational airstrips throughout the United States, particularly North Fox Island in Lake Michigan and



the Two Hearted Airstrip in the Upper Peninsula. The Michigan Aeronautics Commission acknowledges the remarkable effort, perseverance, skill, and knowledge needed to negotiate access and preserve safe operations at the state's newest public-use airports.

Chairman Kavalhuna stated that on behalf of the Commission, he is pleased and honored to present the award to the Recreational Aviation Foundation. Mr. Frederick expressed his gratitude on behalf of the foundation and thanked the Commission for the honor. He thanked Office of Aeronautics staff for their assistance throughout the years, as well as Commissioner Kamarainen for introducing him to the appropriate people within DNR.

Captain Dave Powell

Captain Powell is the Western Michigan University College of Aviation dean in Battle Creek. He has served the college in leadership and operations for over 13 years. Under his administration, enrollment has grown by a significant margin and the college is seeing more pilots, airport managers, and aviation maintenance technicians each year. Chairman Kavalhuna presented the award to Captain Powell. The following inscription was read:

This award is being presented in recognition of your outstanding contributions to aviation education through your leadership at the Western Michigan University College of Aviation. Under your deanship, enrollment continues to grow, aircraft and labs are technologically advanced, and graduates are career-ready professionals in the field of aviation. The college will continue to produce outstanding aviation professionals who are highly sought after by employers worldwide, in large part due to your commitment to their success.

On behalf of the Commission, Chairman Kavalhuna congratulated Captain Powell for his outstanding work. Captain Powell thanked the Commission, expressed his appreciation, and stated that it is an honor and a pleasure to receive the award.

V. ELECTIONS

Chairman Kavalhuna announced that his term as chairman has come to an end. He thanked Vice Chairman VanderVeen, Committee Chairmen Kamarainen, Salo, Fiddler, fellow commissioners, and the staff of MDOT's Office of Aeronautics for their support throughout the year.

Chairman Kavalhuna spoke of the nominating procedure. He stated that in accordance with the Michigan Aeronautics Commission Bylaws, he along with Commissioner Fiddler 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: Dave VanderVeen
For the Office of Vice Chairman: Pete Kamarainen



Chairman Kavalhuna asked if there were any comments or questions. Hearing none, he made a motion to approve the nominations as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Salo to appoint Dave VanderVeen as chairman; and Pete Kamarainen as vice chairman. **All voted in favor with Vice Chairman VanderVeen and Commissioner Kamarainen abstaining.**

Chairman Kavalhuna proposed to amend the Commission Bylaws to allow for two consecutive one-year terms for the office of chairperson. The Bylaws currently permit a one-year term. After discussion and questions, Chairman Kavalhuna made a motion for staff to draft recommended language amending Article IV (Officers). The motion was seconded by Commissioner Kamarainen. **All voted in favor with Commissioner Laura Mester abstaining.**

(In accordance with the Bylaws, Article XI states: "These bylaws may be amended by a majority of the Commissioners after at least one regular meeting in advance to consider the proposed amendments in written form." Therefore, the proposed amendment will be drafted and presented for consideration during the next Commission meeting scheduled for Nov. 8, 2017, and voted on during the meeting scheduled for Jan. 25, 2018.)

VI. PASSING OF THE GAVEL

Chairman Kavalhuna handed over the gavel announcing and congratulating Dave VanderVeen, the new Michigan Aeronautics Commission Chairman.

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

VII. COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

The new Chairman VanderVeen thanked Commissioner Kavalhuna and commended him 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 VanderVeen announced the reestablishment of the following committees and appointments of the respective chairmen:

- General Aviation Advisory Committee
Purpose: To promote the use of general aviation and enhance awareness to ensure this vital segment of aviation remains viable.
 - Appointment of Committee Chairman: Pete Kamarainen

- Commercial Air Service Advisory Committee
Purpose: To support growth and retention of commercial air service and those airports that support passenger travel in Michigan.
 - Appointment of Committee Chairman: Russ Kavalhuna



- Safety Advisory Committee
 - Purpose: To promote safety as the key value of aviation by identifying significant industry risks and serving as a center of expertise on a wide range of safety matters.
 - Appointment of Committee Chairman: Rick Fiddler
- Michigan Aeronautics Code Update
 - Commission Representatives: Roger Salo and Russ Kavalhuna

VIII. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Chairman VanderVeen spoke about various initiatives, including alternative contracting opportunities MDOT offers and is interested in possibly updating and streamlining contracting procedures relating to aviation.

Chairman VanderVeen asked if any of the commissioners would like to make additional comments.

Commissioner Jacobs stated that the DNR has three full-time pilots in the Upper Peninsula (U.P.) and are based in Houghton-Hancock, Newberry, and Escanaba. Between the three pilots, they fly hundreds of hours a year for survey work/forest fire detection. Being that there is limited airstrips in the U.P., Commissioner Jacobs emphasized the appreciation for the efforts that have gone into the opening of the Two-Hearted Airstrip.

IX. PUBLIC COMMENTS

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

Kelly Smith, Delta County Airport Manager, thanked MAAE for holding their conference in Escanaba and for everyone making the trip. She thanked the Commission for their support. Ms. Smith announced that she is retiring as airport manager May of 2018.

CLOSING

The next Michigan Aeronautics Commission meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, Nov. 8, 2017, 10:00 a.m., Aeronautics Building, 2700 Port Lansing Road, Lansing, Michigan.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 p.m.

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

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

Dated: November 8, 2017

