

# MICHIGAN AERONAUTICS COMMISSION

Minutes of Meeting  
Lansing, Michigan  
March 20, 2014

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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 the Aeronautics Building, 2700 Port Lansing Road, Lansing, Michigan, on Thursday, March 20, 2014, commencing at the hour of approximately 10:00 a.m.

## Members Present

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

## Members Absent

Capt. Mike Caldwell, Designee – MSP

## Staff Present

Carol Aldrich  
Kelly Badra  
Dave Baker  
Judy Baker  
Tara Ball  
Neal Barncard  
Rick Carlson  
Jennifer Forbes  
Mark Grennell  
Rick Hammond  
Leanne Hengesbach  
Chip Kraus  
Pauline Misjak  
Mark Noel  
Anu Taneja  
Rachelle Thorn

## Also Present

Joe Hass, Troy Oakland Pilots  
Mark Johnson, Livingston County Airport  
Kelly Jost, C&S Engineers, Inc.  
Keith Kaspari, Capital Region Airport Authority  
John Lauve  
John Mayfield, Federal Aviation Administration  
Clint Nemeth, QoE Consulting  
Brian Picardat, Kent County Department of  
Aeronautics  
Casey Ries, QoE Consulting  
Stephanie Swann, Federal Aviation Administration



## I. OPENING REMARKS

The March 20, 2014 Michigan Aeronautics Commission (Commission) Meeting was called to order by Chairman Pete Kamarainen at 10:20 a.m.

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

Roll call was taken. Capt. Mike Caldwell was absent.

## II. COMMISSION BUSINESS

A. Chairman Kamarainen asked if there were any revisions to the minutes of the meeting on January 22, 2014. There were none. He entertained a motion to approve the minutes as written. **The motion was moved by Commissioner Russ Kavalhuna and supported by Commissioner Dave VanderVeen to approve the minutes as written. The motion was passed unanimously.**

B. Chairman Kamarainen asked Mr. Dave Baker to present the airport sponsor contracts.

1. Lenawee County Airport, Adrian
2. Padgham Field, Allegan
3. Gratiot Community Airport, Alma
4. Tuscola Area Airport, Caro
5. Cheboygan County Airport, Cheboygan
6. Grosse Ile Municipal Airport, Detroit/Grosse Ile
7. Dowagiac Municipal Airport, Dowagiac
8. Gaylord Regional Airport, Gaylord
9. Gladwin Zettel Memorial, Gladwin
10. Oceana County Airport, Hart/Shelby
11. Hastings City/Barry County Airport, Hastings
12. Hillsdale Municipal Airport, Hillsdale
13. Roscommon County Blodgett Memorial Airport, Houghton Lake
14. Livingston County – Spencer J. Hardy, Howell
15. Gogebic Iron County Airport, Ironwood
16. Jackson County – Reynolds Field, Jackson
17. DuPont – Lapeer Airport, Lapeer



18. Schoolcraft County Airport, Manistique
19. Marlette Township Airport, Marlette
20. Sawyer International, Marquette
21. Jack Barstow Airport, Midland
22. Mt. Pleasant Municipal Airport, Mount Pleasant
23. St. Clair County International Airport, Port Huron
24. Ray Community Airport, Ray
25. Ray Community Airport, Ray
26. Chippewa County International Airport, Sault Ste. Marie
27. Chippewa County International Airport, Sault Ste. Marie
28. Paul C. Miller – Sparta Airport, Sparta
29. Statewide-Local, Crack Sealing
30. West Branch Community Airport, West Branch

Chairman Kamarainen asked if there were any further comments or questions on the 30 sponsor contracts. Hearing none, he entertained a motion to approve the contracts. **The motion was moved by Vice Chairman Roger Salo and supported by Commissioner VanderVeen to approve the contracts. All voted in favor.**

A list of the sponsor contracts can be viewed in full on the Michigan Aeronautics Commission Web page at [www.michigan.gov/aero](http://www.michigan.gov/aero) under QuickLinks.

Mr. Baker presented the two supplemental transfers: Mackinac Island Airport, Mackinac Island and W.K. Kellogg Airport, Battle Creek. He explained the process for the transfers. There were no questions on the supplemental transfers. **No Commission action is required.**

Chairman Kamarainen commented that he flies to Mackinac Island often, bringing people to different conferences held on the island. He spoke about pilots walking downtown to obtain ice and coffee for their passengers and how it would be nice to enhance the airport in terms of services offered to passengers.

Chairman Kamarainen thanked Mr. Baker for his report.

C. Chairman Kamarainen asked Mr. Rick Hammond to present the Air Service Grants.

1. Alpena County Regional Airport, Alpena
2. Delta County Airport, Escanaba
3. Delta County Airport, Escanaba



4. Delta County Airport, Escanaba
5. Bishop International Airport, Flint
6. Gerald R. Ford International Airport, Grand Rapids
7. Houghton County Memorial, Hancock
8. Ford Airport, Iron Mountain/Kingsford
9. Gogebic Iron County Airport, Ironwood
10. Capital Region International, Lansing
11. Sawyer International, Marquette
12. Muskegon County Airport, Muskegon
13. MBS International Airport, Saginaw
14. Chippewa County International Airport, Sault Ste. Marie
15. Cherry Capital Airport, Traverse City

Chairman Kamarainen asked if there were any further comments or questions on the 15 Air Service Grants. Hearing none, he entertained a motion to approve the grants. **The motion was moved by Vice Chairman Salo and supported by Commissioner Scott Heather. All voted in favor.**

A list of the Air Service Grants can be viewed in full on the Michigan Aeronautics Commission Web page at [www.michigan.gov/aero](http://www.michigan.gov/aero) under QuickLinks.

Chairman Kamarainen thanked Mr. Hammond for his report.

### III. REPORTS

#### A. MAC Director's Report

Chairman Kamarainen asked Director Trout to give his report.

Director Trout welcomed everyone. He began his report by stating two weeks ago he had the opportunity to testify in front of the House Transportation Subcommittee of the Appropriations Committee regarding the Fiscal Year 2015 Aeronautics Budget. He shared a few points of his presentation.

- Capital outlay changes will reflect estimated revenue
  - Projected \$200 million shortfall over 5 years
- Local and federal funds are unchanged (similar to 2014)
- State Aeronautics Fund is reduced to balance the available revenue
- Governor's recommendation includes \$2 million of General Funds to match federal aid



Director Trout presented slides comparing the current Fiscal Year 2014 appropriation with 2015 estimates for both revenue and expenses.

He spoke about a notable ongoing project at Reynolds Field in Jackson. The project entails the reorientation of runway 6/24 to 7/25 and a full parallel taxiway to meet proper runway safety areas, for a total anticipated project cost of \$33 million. To date, there has been almost \$14 million funded with over \$19 million of improvements necessary to clear runway safety areas.

Director Trout spoke about Fiscal Year 2015 Aeronautics challenges.

- Declining fuel tax revenue
  - 3 cents per gallon since 1929
  - 1.5 cents per gallon rebate to air carriers
- Zero remaining fund balance
- Increase in debt service
- Federal Reauthorization issues which could include:
  - Changes in funding levels
  - Changes in non-primary entitlements
  - Changes in passenger facility charges
  - Changes in match requirements

Director Trout presented a slide on airport pavement conditions showing that the overall condition continues to be “Good or Better” for 80 percent of our airports. To maintain this, we need to talk about good pavement condition continuously, because it is the most important asset on an airport.

Director Trout summarized the Governor’s Fiscal Year 2015 recommended budget for MDOT.

- No new revenue package
- Innovative within resources available
- Includes \$254 million of General Funds for transportation
  - \$2 million of Aeronautics Fund
- Matches all federal aid
- Address further decline of asset conditions
  - Roads, bridges, rails, runways
- Need for stable sustainable revenue
  - HB 4571, 4572 & 4677 (H-4)

Director Trout thanked Commissioner Laura Mester for her presentation to the Michigan Business Aviation Association during their Legislative Day on March 18. In her presentation, Commissioner Mester provided a comprehensive overview of transportation needs.



He spoke about the Michigan Airports Conference held in February, stated that it was a great success and shared survey results, showing a high level of satisfaction and some great suggestions.

Director Trout asked if there were any questions.

Vice Chairman Salo stated that there seems to be activity regarding funding and inquired whether we will see any outcome this year regarding these bills.

Director Trout stated that at this point the House has passed bills, and the Senate is now engaged in that process. However, it is an election year. If something does not happen fairly soon, it will most likely wait until after the election or next year. There is a window of opportunity to get our message heard, make our needs known, and have something happen within the next couple of months.

The conversation continued regarding a comprehensive revenue package for the transportation system. Chairman Kamarainen stated that we need to stay engaged and be part of the discussion and suggested that we further discuss this topic during the next executive committee conference call.

Chairman Kamarainen thanked Director Trout for his report.

Director Trout's report can be viewed in full on the Michigan Aeronautics Commission Web page at [www.michigan.gov/aero](http://www.michigan.gov/aero) under QuickLinks.

#### B. Update on 20:1 Approach Penetrations

Chairman Kamarainen asked Mr. Mark Grennell to give his report on 20:1 Approach Penetrations and Loss of Night Procedures.

Mr. Grennell began his report by stating that the commissioners have asked for an update on this topic. He stated that 20:1 approach obstructions have been an issue not only in Michigan, but across the country. For clarification, Mr. Grennell explained that 20:1 approaches are located off the end of the runway, 200 feet out. The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) is now imposing night procedure restrictions on those airports that have penetrations to this 20:1 surface. He explained the history of what has been encountered in Michigan, FAA notifications, and case studies on the topic.

Mr. Grennell explained airports affected in Michigan are as follows:

- NPIAS Airports with Approach Procedures: 88
  - Number currently with Night Procedure Restrictions: 54 (61%)
- Non-NPIAS Airports with Approach Procedures: 9
  - Number currently with Night Procedure Restrictions: 3 (33%)



He also explained that these numbers will likely increase, since not all airports have received the biannual review of their approach procedures.

Chairman Kamarainen thanked Mr. Grennell for his report.

Mr. Grennell's report can be viewed in full on the Michigan Aeronautics Commission Web page at [www.michigan.gov/aero](http://www.michigan.gov/aero) under QuickLinks.

#### C. Update on General Aviation Committee

Chairman Kamarainen asked Vice Chairman Salo to give his report.

Vice Chairman Salo reported that the General Aviation (GA) Committee met in February. The committee was excited to receive a membership application from Anna Koerber, a high school student from Grand Blanc. Anna brings a new level of youth and excitement to the group and is sure to be a tremendous asset.

He stated that the GA Committee discussed at length H.R. 3708, General Aviation Pilot Protection Act of 2013. The bill was written to resemble the current exemption for FAA third class medical certificate for sport pilots. H.R. 3708 would expand the exemption to pilots of aircraft: (1) Not operating for hire; (2) Operation under visual flight rules; (3) Below 14,000 feet mean sea level; and (4) Not flying at a speed in excess of 250 knots. The committee voted unanimously to ask the Michigan Aeronautics Commission to send a letter of support to FAA and key members of Congress supporting the General Aviation Pilot Protection Act of 2013. A draft letter was included in the books for Commission approval.

Vice Chairman Salo stated that the GA Committee concluded their meeting with an open discussion on thoughts in developing a "Fly Pure Michigan" campaign, supporting a portable aviation teaching aid, and continuing support for the Teacher Workshop, which was resurrected last fall. The date for this year's workshop is set for October 18, 2014, in the Aeronautics Building.

Chairman Kamarainen asked if there were any further comments or questions regarding the letter to FAA and the Michigan Congressional Delegation in support of H.R. 3708, the General Aviation Pilot Protection Act of 2013. Hearing none, he entertained a motion to approve the letter. **The motion was moved by Commissioner VanderVeen and supported by Commissioner Rick Fiddler supporting the letter, with Commissioner Russ Kavalhuna abstaining. All voted in favor.**

Chairman Kamarainen thanked Vice Chairman Salo for his report.

#### D. Update on Air Service Committee

Chairman Kamarainen asked Commissioner Kavalhuna to give his report.



Commissioner Kavalhuna reported that the Air Service Committee is in the process of selecting a consultant to assist in developing a strategy for providing improvements to Michigan's air service system. Within the next 30-45 days, the committee expects to complete the review and scoring of the proposals received. Once a selection has been made, the committee will be working with the consultant over the next 6 to 12 months. At that time, a presentation will be made to the Commission on the findings.

Chairman Kamarainen thanked Commissioner Kavalhuna for his report.

#### **IV. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS**

Chairman Kamarainen asked the commissioners if they wished to make any comments.

Commissioner Kavalhuna commented that he along with Director Trout, Laura Mester, Pauline Misjak, and Commissioner Salo enjoyed their time at Commissioner Fiddler's open house for Amway's new hangar at the Gerald R. Ford International Airport on February 12. Commissioner Fiddler is Executive Vice President of Amway Aviation. The hangar, the airplanes, the system were all a model of perfection and very impressive. It was enjoyable to see the respect Commissioner Fiddler's peers had for him for his great work on the project and throughout his career. He congratulated Commissioner Fiddler for his accomplishments and stated that it is an honor to have him serve on the Commission.

There were no other comments.

#### **V. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Chairman Kamarainen asked if anyone wished to make a public comment.

Casey Ries, QoE Consulting, followed up on Mr. Grennell's presentation by stating they represent a number of general aviation clients around the state including the Kirsch Municipal Airport, Sturgis, which he spoke about. Limiting GPS approaches is a very real problem for the communities. Where it becomes the biggest concern is when all of the approaches receive NOTAMs 'not available at night.' A Category C aircraft (jet) bringing business traffic into the community is unable to file a flight plan at night. He stated that Mr. Grennell has done a really good job in helping to define the steps to address the problem. In reality, many of these sites should not have had Category C and D approaches published. They were published, which the communities have come to appreciate and now they are being taken away. Mr. Ries stated that this causes a unique situation where they need to respond very quickly. Mr. Ries stated that on behalf of the airports, he appreciates what the Office of Aeronautics and Commission are doing to support them and continued support will be appreciated.

Joe Hass, representing Troy Oakland Pilots based at the Oakland/Troy Airport, thanked the Commission for their support in trying to obtain night time approach into Oakland/Troy



Airport. Mr. Hass spoke about whether there is a system in place to mitigate problems in the future regarding 20:1 approach obstructions. He commended Mr. Grennell for his excellent report on the subject. Mr. Hass spoke about how the STEM education at the Teacher's Workshop held in October morphed into participating in the Education Day held at the International Auto Show in Detroit, where the Academy of Model Aeronautics came in and taught classes on aviation, and young adults built and flew model airplanes. He also spoke about a STEM workshop he participated in at the Kent Intermediate School District in Grand Rapids, working with junior and senior students as well as teachers.

Chairman Kamarainen thanked both Mr. Ries and Mr. Hass for their comments.

There were no other public comments.

### CLOSING

The next meeting will be Wednesday, May 14, 10:00 a.m., at the Michigan Institute of Aviation and Technology, Canton, Michigan.

Chairman Kamarainen adjourned the meeting at 11:25 a.m.



Pete Kamarainen, Chairman



Michael G. Trout, Director

Dated

5/14/14

