

# MICHIGAN AERONAUTICS COMMISSION

Minutes of Meeting  
Lansing, Michigan  
January 21, 2021

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Pursuant to Section 31 of Act 327 of the Public Acts of 1945, Public Act 254 of 2020, and recommendations to prevent the spread of Covid-19, the Commissioners of the Michigan Aeronautics Commission (MAC) met via video conference call, on Thursday, January 21, 2021.

## COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT and LOCATION ATTENDING FROM

Rick Fiddler, Chair – Ada, Michigan  
Russ Kavalhuna, Vice Chair – Dearborn, Michigan  
Dr. Brian Smith, Commissioner – Detroit, Michigan  
Roger Salo, Commissioner – Plymouth, Michigan  
Kelly Burris, Commissioner – Pleasant Ridge, Michigan  
Brig. Gen. Bryan Teff, Designee MDMVA – Lansing, Michigan  
Laura Mester, Designee MDOT – Clinton County, Michigan  
Kevin Jacobs, Designee MDNR – Roscommon, Michigan  
F/Lt. Brian Bahlau, Designee MSP – Lansing, Michigan  
Mike Trout, Director – Clarklake, Michigan  
Bryan Budds, Commission Advisor – Howell, Michigan  
Alicia Morrison, Commission Analyst – Lansing, Michigan

## COMMISSION MEMBERS ABSENT

None

### I. OPENING REMARKS

Director Mike Trout began by explaining the meeting was being held via video conference call in accordance with recommendations to slow the spread of COVID-19. He welcomed all who were participating and thanked the Commissioners for coming together in the virtual format. He then turned the meeting over to Chairperson Rick Fiddler.

The January 21, 2021 MAC meeting was officially called to order by Chair Rick Fiddler at 10:02 am.

Chair Fiddler thanked the Commissioners and all in attendance on the call for participating. He then led the attendees in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chair Fiddler asked for a formal roll call. Roll call was taken. It was announced all nine (9) Commissioners were present for a quorum.

### II. COMMISSION BUSINESS

#### A. Minutes of the November 18, 2020 Meeting



Chair Fiddler asked if there were any revisions to the minutes of the meeting held on November 18, 2020. There were none. He entertained a motion to approve the minutes. The motion was moved by Commissioner Roger Salo and seconded by Commissioner Kelly Burris to approve the minutes as presented. A majority roll call vote was conducted. **All voted in favor. Chair Fiddler announced the motion is carried.**

**B. 2021 MAC Revised Meeting Schedule**

Chair Fiddler asked if there were any corrections or changes to the revised schedule, noting the location for the January and March meetings as changed to virtual and the meeting date for July as changed to July 21.

Commissioner Brian Smith asked if the “To be determined” designation on the meeting locations was due to the unknown Covid-19 restrictions that could be in place at that time. Commission Analyst, Alicia Morrison, answered yes and that it would be updated as needed.

Chair Fiddler then asked for a motion to approve the proposed revised schedule. The motion was moved by Commissioner Roger Salo and seconded by Commissioner Brian Smith to approve the revised 2021 MAC schedule as presented. A majority roll call vote was conducted. **All voted in favor. Chair Fiddler announced the motion is carried.**

**C. Request for Approval and Transfer of Appropriated Funds**

Chair Fiddler called on Alissa VanHoof, who was represented by Bryan Budds due to a conflict, who then presented the Air Service Program Grants, Airport Sponsor Contracts and Supplemental Transfers.

**Air Service Program Grants  
(Aircraft Rescue and Firefighting Training)**

1. Willow Run Airport, Detroit
2. Delta County Airport, Escanaba
3. Bishop International Airport, Flint
4. Gerald R. Ford International Airport, Grand Rapids
5. Houghton County Memorial Airport, Hancock
6. Ford Airport, Iron Mountain
7. Gogebic-Iron County Airport, Ironwood
8. Kalamazoo-Battle Creek International Airport, Kalamazoo
9. Capital Region International Airport, Lansing
10. Manistee County-Blacker Airport, Manistee
11. Sawyer International Airport, Marquette
12. Muskegon County Airport, Muskegon
13. Pellston Regional Airport, Pellston
14. Oakland County International Airport, Pontiac
15. MBS International Airport, Saginaw



16. Chippewa County International Airport, Sault Ste. Marie
17. Cherry Capital Airport, Traverse City

**(Capital Improvement and Equipment)**

18. Delta County Airport, Escanaba
19. Ford Airport, Iron Mountain
20. Sawyer International Airport, Marquette
21. Cherry Capital Airport, Traverse City

**Airport Sponsor Contracts**

1. Gladwin Zettel Municipal Airport, Gladwin
2. Canton-Plymouth-Mettetal Airport, Plymouth
3. Canton-Plymouth-Mettetal Airport, Plymouth

*Supplemental Transfers >15% of Original Transfer*

4. Ewart Municipal Airport, Ewart

**Supplemental Transfers – No Action Required**

1. Huron County Memorial Airport, Bad Axe
2. Kirsch Municipal Airport, Sturgis
3. Cheboygan County Airport, Cheboygan

Chair Fiddler asked if there were any further comments or questions. There were none.

Chair Fiddler then asked for a motion to approve the transfers as presented. The motion was moved by Commissioner Roger Salo and seconded by Commissioner Brian Smith to approve the transfers as presented. A majority roll call vote was conducted. **All voted in favor. Chair Fiddler announced the motion is carried.**

A complete list of contract descriptions can be viewed at [www.michigan.gov/aero](http://www.michigan.gov/aero) under the Commission tab.

### III. REPORTS

#### A. MAC Director's Report

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

Director Trout began with a Covid-19 pandemic update stating the MAC will continue to meet virtually per Public Act 254 of 2020, through March 31, 2021. The Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) has plans for vaccination of essential workers, however, telework and building closures continue through March 31, 2021. He also noted the state hiring freeze, which had been in effect since spring 2020, has now been lifted.

Director Trout shared an overview of the second coronavirus relief package, the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriation Act (CRRSAA)



signed into law on December 27, 2020. CRRSAA includes \$2 billion in funds for eligible airports and concessions at these airports. He referenced the Airport Coronavirus Response Grant Program established by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) to assist in communication the grant process. Please visit [www.faa.gov/airports/crrsaa](http://www.faa.gov/airports/crrsaa) for more information.

Director Trout reviewed the current grant and project activity occurring in the Office of Aeronautics, sharing CARES Act Grant totals of \$256,958,769 to 94 airports, FAA Airport Improvement Program (AIP) Grant totals of \$239,625,903 in 18 grants, and State Block Sub-Grant totals of \$2,628,000 to 75 airports. He stated FY 2021 is starting with 100 open grants. He also stated the Office is actively involved in 30 design, 65 construction, and 5 equipment AIP projects.

Director Trout discussed MDOT's Five Year Transportation Program (5YTP), highlighting the FY 2021-2025 Multi-Modal Program projecting \$606 million over the five years to Aviation Services. Additional information on MDOT's 5YTP can be found at [www.michigan.gov/mdot5yearprogram](http://www.michigan.gov/mdot5yearprogram).

Director Trout shared the latest aviation fuel revenue of \$722,343 year to date for FY 2021. Totals for FY 2020 (\$3,899,820) and FY 1921 (\$5,422,958) show a -28% decrease from year to year.

Director Trout highlighted unmanned aerial systems (UAS) happenings, including the next UAS Task Force meeting to be held Thursday, April 22, 2021; UAS assisted inspection flight are scheduled at 38 airports this year; and the FAA Final Rules issued on Remote Identification of UAS and UAS Operations Over People at Night. Additional information on these rules can be found at [www.faa.gov/uas](http://www.faa.gov/uas).

Director Trout noted current FY 2021 stats from the Office of Aeronautics which include 3,390 aircraft registrations processed, 920 tall structure permit applications reviewed and processed, 15 Airport Layout Plan updates under contract, 12 environmental clearances for airport development projects and 18 new airport managers licensed using the new online exam. He also noted dealer and flight school licensing opened on January 1, 2021.

Director Trout shared that in 2020, Michigan had 45 registered flight schools, down from 57 in 2019. The decrease is attributed to the pandemic. He discussed that AOPA Flight Training Scholarship applications are being accepted through February 14 at [www.AOPA.org/training-and-safety/students/flight-training-scholarships](http://www.AOPA.org/training-and-safety/students/flight-training-scholarships). He also noted a full list of Michigan Flight Schools can be found at [www.michigan.gov/aero/licensingandregistration](http://www.michigan.gov/aero/licensingandregistration).

Director Trout highlighted the following current upcoming events: Aero PM Phase 1 went live December 16 with Phase 2 and 3 rollout expected in the spring; the



virtual Michigan Airport Conference will be held February 17-18, please visit [www.michairports.org](http://www.michairports.org) to register; the AWOS Task Force will be meeting February 2; the virtual NASAO Washington Conference will be held February 24-26; and the Women in Aviation Conference will be held March 11-12.

Director Trout provided an explanation of the Office of Aeronautics organizational structure and what each section's functions and staffing make-up are. This information, along with contact phone numbers for all staff, can be found at [www.michigan.gov/aero](http://www.michigan.gov/aero).

Director Trout concluded his presentation with recognition of the Aero CARES Act Grant Team for their nomination of an MDOT Simply Super Service Award for unprecedented work on the CARES Act grant disbursements. He also congratulated the following staff on their Years of Service Awards: Kim Bowman – 45 years; Linn Smith – 30 years; Jim Reverman – 30 years; Mary Kay Trierweiler – 30 years; and Alissa VanHoof – 20 years.

#### **IV. PRESENTATION**

##### **A. Navigating Airspace Permitting Requirements: Airspace 101 – Linn Smith, Office of Aeronautics**

Mr. Linn Smith, Supervisor, Office of Aeronautics, began by discussing the various entities that compete for airspace. He noted there are multiple agencies and legislation with oversight responsibility for airspace from determinations to permitting, including the FAA, Michigan Tall Structures Act, Michigan Airport Zoning Act, Michigan Aeronautics Code, and the Michigan Zoning Enabling Act.

Mr. Smith discussed FAA Part 77.9 and the Michigan Tall Structure Act which help define what structures and heights requiring filing. He also discussed the Meteorological Tower Requirements which were amended in 2016.

Mr. Smith laid out the tall structure process which starts with the FAA Notice Criteria Tool where a 7460-1 is filed. If a tall structure permit is required, an application package is created by Aero. FAA then makes a determination. Applicable zoning is applied, and an airspace review team review is conducted if necessary. The final step is the issuance of a permit by the Office of Aeronautics.

Mr. Smith detailed the Obstruction Evaluation/Airport Airspace Analysis (OE/AAA) Notice Criteria Tool, its functions and limitations, noting the Office of Aeronautics is available to assist applicants with this process.

Mr. Smith laid out the coordination that must occur throughout the process with both FAA and within the various units in the Office of Aeronautics. He stated the process generally takes approximately 60 days but may take longer if there are FAA issues. He also explained when a special airspace study would be required.

Mr. Smith concluded his presentation by sharing the Office of Aeronautics contacts for Tall Structure or Airport Zoning questions or assistance. The full presentation can be found at [www.michigan.gov/aero](http://www.michigan.gov/aero) under the Commission tab.

## V. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Chair Fiddler asked if any Commissioners would like to make a comment.

Commissioner Kevin Jacobs asked if the fuel revenue numbers presented in Director Trout's report were reporting jet fuel or low-lead fuel or a combination of both. Director Trout responded it was a combination of both, but the low-lead fuel is a small percentage.

Commissioner Roger Salo commented that it appeared more airplanes were using auto gasoline which is causing the fuel revenue to go to the roads versus aeronautics.

Commissioner Brian Smith questioned what type of inspections are UAS assisting with? Director Trout stated it was approaches and Bryan Budds also added obstructions, explaining UAS was able to fly areas that traditional inspections could not visualize well.

## VI. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Chair Fiddler asked if anyone would like to make a public comment. There were no public comments.

## CLOSING

The next MAC meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 24, 2021, as a virtual meeting due to Covid-19 recommendations in place at this time.

Chair Fiddler thanked the Commissioners, Office of Aeronautics staff, and the public for their participation today, reminding everyone that information presented today could be found at [www.michigan.gov/aero](http://www.michigan.gov/aero) or by calling 517-335-9568.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:54 a.m.



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Rick Fiddler, Chairman



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Michael G. Trout, Director