

MICHIGAN AERONAUTICS COMMISSION

Minutes of Meeting
Lansing, Michigan
March 24, 2021

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 Wednesday, March 24, 2021.

COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT and LOCATION ATTENDING FROM

Russ Kavalhuna, Vice Chair – Dearborn, Michigan
Dr. Brian Smith, Commissioner – Detroit, Michigan
Roger Salo, Commissioner – Plymouth, Michigan
Kelly Burris, Commissioner – Fort Myers, Florida
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

Rick Fiddler, Chairperson

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 explained that Chairperson Rick Fiddler had a personal conflict, sending his apologies for being unable to attend and asking that Vice Chair Kavalhuna chair the meeting in his absence. Director Trout then turned the meeting over to Vice Chair Russ Kavalhuna.

The March 24, 2021 MAC meeting was officially called to order by Vice Chair Russ Kavalhuna at 10:02 am.

Vice Chair Kavalhuna thanked the Commissioners and all in attendance on the call for participating, and for allowing him to conduct the Commission business for today. He then led the attendees in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

Vice Chair Kavalhuna asked for a formal roll call. Roll call was taken. It was announced eight out of nine Commissioners were present for a quorum.



II. COMMISSION BUSINESS

A. Minutes of the January 21, 2021 Meeting

Vice Chair Kavalhuna asked if there were any revisions to the minutes of the meeting held on January 21, 2021. There were none. He entertained a motion to approve the minutes. The motion was moved by Commissioner Roger Salo and seconded by Commissioner Brian Smith to approve the minutes as presented. A majority roll call vote was conducted. **All voted in favor. Vice Chair Kavalhuna announced the motion is carried.**

B. Request for Approval and Transfer of Appropriated Funds

Vice Chair Kavalhuna called on Ms. Alissa VanHoof, who then presented the Airport Sponsor Contracts and Supplemental Transfers.

Airport Sponsor Contracts

1. Lenawee County Airport, Adrian
2. Huron County Memorial Airport, Bad Axe
3. Battle Creek Executive Airport at Kellogg Field, Battle Creek
4. Tuscola Area Airport, Caro
5. Fremont Municipal Airport, Fremont
6. Gerald R. Ford International Airport, Grand Rapids
7. Hillsdale Municipal Airport, Hillsdale
8. Mason County Airport, Ludington
9. Menominee Regional Airport, Menominee
10. Mount Pleasant Municipal Airport, Mount Pleasant
11. Luce County Airport, Newberry
12. Mackinac County Airport, Saint Ignace
13. Sandusky City Airport, Sandusky
14. White Cloud Airport, White Cloud
15. Statewide Crack Sealing Program
16. Statewide Pavement Marking Program
17. Statewide Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSAA) Airport Coronavirus Response Grant Program (ACRGP)

Supplemental Transfers – No Action Required

1. Presque Isle County Airport, Rogers City
2. Dupont Lapeer Airport, Lapeer

Vice Chair Kavalhuna asked if there were any further comments or questions.



Commissioner Kelly Burris asked if the airport identifier could be added to the transfer presentation slides. Ms. VanHoof responded they would include that for future presentations.

Commissioner Burris asked how often state airports are inspected. Ms. VanHoof responded every three years, noting there would be a presentation from the Office of Aeronautics Inspection Unit later in this meeting that would provide further details on inspection timelines.

Commissioner Burris asked what formula was used to determine CRRSAA grant amounts for primary airports. Ms. VanHoof responded there were several factors including cargo and enplanements, and the exact formulas could be found on the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) website www.faa.gov. Mr. Bryan Budds added there were also considerations for debt service and financial reserves, stating further detailed information on the formulas could be provided, if desired.

Commissioner Kevin Jacobs asked if the Fremont runway lighting project was using LED replacements and if there was any feedback on the efficiency of those type of fixtures. Ms. VanHoof responded there is not a lot of information on the efficiency, however, most projects were using the LED finding the benefits outweigh the disadvantages.

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

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

III. PRESENTATION

A. Office of Aeronautics Inspection Unit

Vice Chair Kavalhuna called on Mr. Bryan Budds, Deputy Director Office of Aeronautics, to introduce the Inspection Unit presentation.

Mr. Budds stated the Office would be highlighting a different unit and its functions over the next several MAC meetings, to better publicize the work we do, and customer services offered. He then introduced Mr. Michael Carnarvon, new Inspection Unit Supervisor to present on the Inspection and Licensing Unit.

Mr. Michael Carnarvon began by introducing himself and the staff of the Inspection and Licensing Unit, noting there is a current Inspector position vacancy. He then discussed the various types of inspections performed including public-use airports, flight schools, hospital heliports and helistops, and temporary



field permitting. He also explained the unit advises and consults on federal and state compliance issues, as well as fosters safety and development between the aviation community and the Office of Aeronautics.

Mr. Carnarvon explained the challenges currently faced within the unit needing to maintain both accurate and timely inspections and coordinating the integration of data with the Unmanned Aerial Systems program area.

Mr. Carnarvon concluded with an explanation and example of the new Compliance Report Card which the Office of Aeronautics will implement this spring.

Any questions on licensing or compliance can be directed to Michael Carnarvon, Inspection and Licensing Unit Supervisor at 517-242-2936 or carnarvonm@michigan.gov. The full presentation slides can be found at www.michigan.gov/aero under the Commission tab.

IV. REPORTS

A. MAC Director's Report

Vice Chair Kavalhuna called on Director Trout who then presented his report.

Director Trout began with an overview of the second coronavirus relief package, CRRSAA, signed into law on December 27, 2020. CRRSAA includes \$55,841,582 for eligible Michigan airports being divided as \$54,559,096 to primary airports and \$1,282,486 to non-primary airports. Further information on formulas used to determine amounts and eligibility can be found at www.faa.gov/airports/crrsaa.

Director Trout then discussed The American Rescue Plan which is an additional \$8 billion to airports nationwide to 'prevent, prepare for, and respond to coronavirus.' Michigan's share is expected to be approximately \$40-50 million to assist with costs related to operations, personnel, cleaning, sanitization, janitorial services to combat the spread of pathogens, debt service, rent relief for airport concessionaires, and airline payroll support programs. Additional information and exact breakdowns have yet to be released.

Director Trout then focused on a recent airport project at Alpena County Regional Airport. The airport completed a new terminal and site improvements at a cost of \$11,586,681. This outstanding project was completed on time, despite below zero temperatures and delivery delays due to the pandemic. The result is a modern and efficient facility that will serve the community for years to come.

Director Trout presented the latest aviation fuel revenue amount of \$1,175,604 for October 2020 through January 2021. This amounts to a (33.50%) decrease over the same reporting period last year. He also showed the aviation gallons



report for the same period of 227,738,004 gallons, which is also a (55%) decrease over last year.

Director Trout noted current fiscal year 2021 stats from the Office of Aeronautics which include 4,560 aircraft registrations processed, 1,934 tall structure permit applications reviewed and processed, 19 Airport Layout Plan updates under contract, and 26 environmental clearances for airport development projects.

Director Trout gave an update on the Automated Weather Operating Systems (AWOS) initiatives, noting the Task Force continues to meet and is currently drafting recommendations to present to the MAC on replacements/updates to Michigan's AWOS network. He shared a screen shot from a weather camera installed as part of a pilot program at Owosso Community Airport. 17 of 41 AWOS stations in the state have been inspected in 2021 so far.

Director Trout highlighted testimony from MAC Chairman Rick Fiddler and Cherry Capital Airport Manager Kevin Klein in front of the Michigan House Transportation Subcommittee on the state of Michigan's aviation industry. Specifically noting the subcommittee's interest in PFAS investigations and remedies at Michigan's airport. He also stated Rev Fire Group is offering PFAS Ecologic Test System training to interested airports. Contact rjones@revfiregroup.com for more information on training.

Director Trout discussed the following Office of Aeronautics information: 2021 Airport Directory is at the press and should be completed soon; the website and mobile app currently undergoing updates; the new Compliance Report Card is being rolled out this spring, as discussed in the previous presentation; a new Aero Project Management coverage map has been posted to the website for reference; and Aero PM's final phase is scheduled for completion by April 20.

Director Trout shared some newsworthy events including Aero staff volunteering for the Greater Lansing Food Bank stuffing food backpacks, and participation in the spring Adopt-a-Highway program. He congratulated new Aero Project Manager Wendi Chen on passing her P.E. exam and Michael Carnarvon on his promotion to Inspection Unit Supervisor. He also shared a screen shot of Commissioner Dr. Brian Smith on CNN celebrating the Tuskegee Airmen National Museum in Detroit.

Director Trout concluded his presentation with recognition of the NASAO 2021 Art Contest Winners for Michigan. Winners in each category are sent to the national level for judging and each participant receives a letter and certificate for participating.

V. SPECIAL RECOGNITIONS

Director Trout stated there were three special recognitions to be awarded.

He began with the retirement of Mr. Steve Sliver, EGLE's MPART Executive Director. He read from the award *"In recognition of your outstanding contributions to the State of Michigan through your 34 years of dedicated service. Your commitment to environmental improvements and work as Executive Director of the Michigan PFAS Action Response Team resulted in the most significant statewide environmental response to PFAS in the country. In addition to leading a strong response protecting public health and the environment, your leadership on MPART also drove innovative programs collecting unwanted firefighting foam, deployment of equipment to ensure safe foam testing at airports, and examination of contamination near airports. Your commitment and collaboration with the Office of Aeronautics on securing and administering millions of dollars in grants for PFAS action at Michigan airports is commended. We wish you well in your retirement."* Mr. Sliver then expressed his thanks and appreciation for the recognition.

Director Trout then recognized Major General Leonard Isabelle Jr., former MAC Commissioner, reading from the award *"This award is presented in recognition of over 30 years of distinguished service to Michigan's aviation community and as a past Commissioner with the Michigan Aeronautics Commission. In rising from the rank of Second Lieutenant in 1987 to Major General in 2016, while earning more than 25 commendations for your military service, illustrates the immense role you played in Michigan and across the nation. This military experience combined with your commercial aviation experience proved you to be a vital contributor to the strength of Michigan's aviation system. Your service to the Commission, the State of Michigan, and the Nation are commended."* Major General Isabelle thanked Director Trout and the Commission for the honor of serving and the recognition. Vice Chair Kavalhuna commented on the General's time serving the MAC and offered his personal thanks and congratulations. Commissioner Roger Salo also offered his personal thanks and congratulations on his military service and offered well wished for his retirement.

Director Trout concluded with recognition of longtime Office of Aeronautics employee Mark Noel. He read from the award *"This award of excellence is presented in recognition of your dedicated service and outstanding contributions to the transportation industry. Your more than 43 years of service with the Michigan Department of Transportation, including 32 years with the Office of Aeronautics, has resulted in successful completion of countless airport development projects and innovative improvements. Your accomplishments are a true example of leadership and dedication to the transportation and aviation industries. Today, we acknowledge your accomplishments and extend our deepest appreciation and heartfelt thanks for the challenges you have effectively managed over the years. May you always have blue skies ahead!"* Mr. Noel thanked the Commission and especially Director Trout for the award and for the wonderful career at Aeronautics.



Vice Chair Kavalhuna and Commissioner Roger Salo both offered their personal comments on Mr. Noel's contributions over the years and wished him well in the future.

VI. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Vice Chair Kavalhuna asked if any Commissioners would like to make a comment. There were none.

VII. PUBLIC COMMENTS


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

CLOSING

The next MAC meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, May 26, 2021. The location and format of the meeting will be announced pending any Covid-19 orders, restrictions and recommendations in place at that time.

Vice Chair Kavalhuna 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 or by calling 517-335-9568.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:40 a.m.



Russ Kavalhuna, Vice Chairman
On behalf of Rick Fiddler, Chairman

Michael G. Trout, Director

