

# MICHIGAN AERONAUTICS COMMISSION

Minutes of Meeting  
Lansing, Michigan  
May 26, 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 Wednesday, May 26, 2021.

## **COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT and LOCATION ATTENDING FROM**

Rick Fiddler, Chairperson – Ada, Michigan  
Russ Kavalhuna, Vice Chair – Dearborn, Michigan  
F/Lt. Brian Bahlau, Designee MSP – Jackson, Michigan  
Kelly Burris, Commissioner – Ann Arbor, Michigan  
Kevin Jacobs, Designee MDNR – Roscommon, Michigan  
Todd White, Designee MDOT – Mount Pleasant, Michigan  
Roger Salo, Commissioner – Kalamazoo, Michigan  
Dr. Brian Smith, Commissioner – Detroit, Michigan  
Mike Trout, Director – Clarklake, Michigan  
Bryan Budds, Commission Advisor – Howell, Michigan  
Alicia Morrison, Commission Analyst – Lansing, Michigan

## **COMMISSION MEMBERS ABSENT**

Brig. Gen, Bryan Teff, Designee MDMVA

### **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 and noted we plan to be back in person for the July meeting, pending any unexpected restrictions. Director Trout then turned the meeting over to Chair Rick Fiddler.

The March 24, 2021 MAC meeting was officially called to order by Chair Rick Fiddler at 10:01 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 eight out of nine Commissioners were present for a quorum.

### **II. COMMISSION BUSINESS**

#### **A. Minutes of the March 24, 2021 Meeting**



Chair Fiddler asked if there were any revisions to the minutes of the meeting held on March 24, 2021. There were none. He entertained a motion to approve the minutes. The motion was moved by Commissioner Roger Salo and seconded by Vice Chair Russ Kavalhuna 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. Request for Approval of Revised Air Service Program Guidelines**

Bryan Budds discussed the Office of Aeronautics (Aero) Air Service Program Guidelines, explaining the goals of the program and the four categories this program provides funding for (Aircraft Rescue and Firefighting, Airport Awareness, Capital Improvement and Equipment, and Carrier Recruitment and Retention.) He highlighted the changes made since the last revision in 2016, including changes in enplanement program requirements due to decreases in passengers during the pandemic, and adding health and safety to the overall program goals and objectives.

Commissioner Kelly Burris asked if adjusting the enplanements downward would require us to adjust upward as air travel returns to pre-pandemic levels. Mr. Budds responded that this would be readjusted as needed in the future.

Chair Fiddler asked if there were any further questions or comments. There were none. He entertained a motion to approve the Air Service Program Guidelines. The motion was moved by Commissioner Brian Smith and seconded by Commissioner Roger Salo to approve the guidelines 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 Ms. Alissa VanHoof, who then presented the Airport Sponsor Contracts and Supplemental Transfers.

**Airport Sponsor Contracts**

1. Padgham Field, Allegan
2. Beaver Island Airport, Beaver Island
3. Beaver Island Airport, Beaver Island
4. Branch County Memorial Airport, Coldwater
5. Willow Run Airport, Detroit
6. Delta County Airport, Escanaba
7. Delta County Airport, Escanaba
8. Delta County Airport, Escanaba
9. Delta County Airport, Escanaba
10. Frankfort Dow Memorial Field, Frankfort
11. Abrams Municipal Airport, Grand Ledge
12. Abrams Municipal Airport, Grand Ledge



13. Hastings Airport, Hastings
14. Ionia County Airport, Ionia
15. Ford Airport, Iron Mountain/Kingsford
16. Ford Airport, Iron Mountain/Kingsford
17. Gogebic-Iron County Airport, Ironwood
18. Gogebic-Iron County Airport, Ironwood
19. Sawyer International Airport, Marquette
20. Sawyer International Airport, Marquette
21. Menominee Regional Airport, Menominee
22. Mount Pleasant Municipal Airport, Mount Pleasant
23. Oakland Southwest Airport, New Hudson
24. Jerry Tyler Memorial Airport, Niles
25. Owosso Community Airport, Owosso
26. Saint Clair County International Airport, Port Huron
27. Chippewa County International Airport, Sault Ste Marie
28. Chippewa County International Airport, Sault Ste Marie
29. Chippewa County International Airport, Sault Ste Marie
30. Cherry Capital Airport, Traverse City
31. Cherry Capital Airport, Traverse City
32. Cherry Capital Airport, Traverse City
33. Oakland Troy Airport, Troy
34. Oakland Troy Airport, Troy
35. Statewide Paint Marking and Crack Seal Program

**Supplemental Transfers – No Action Required**

1. Monroe Custer Airport, Monroe
2. Jack Barstow Airport, Midland
3. Ontonagon County – Schuster Field, Ontonagon
4. Dr. Haines Airport, Three Rivers

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 Brian Smith and seconded by Vice Chair Kavalhuna 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 by welcoming Todd White who was attending in place of Laura Mester, representing the Michigan Department of Transportation. He noted the exciting projects that were discussed in Ms. VanHoof's presentation and how the airline industry is starting to recover from the pandemic.

Director Trout then gave an overview of the multiple coronavirus relief packages currently being worked on.

- The Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act provided \$256,958,769 to 94 Michigan airports.
  - All state block grant agreements have been awarded for a total amount of \$2,628,000 to 75 airports.
  - 18 direct Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) grants have been awarded for a total amount of \$239,625,000.
  - 113 reimbursement payments to 77 airports for a total amount of \$167,630,482 have been processed.
  - Additional information can be found at [www.faa.gov/airports/cares\\_act](http://www.faa.gov/airports/cares_act)
- The Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSAA) provided \$55,841,582 for 92 eligible Michigan airports.
  - 12 grants have been awarded to date totaling \$44,318,004.
  - State appropriation for these funds is pending.
  - Further information on formulas used to determine amounts and eligibility can be found at [www.faa.gov/airports/crrsaa](http://www.faa.gov/airports/crrsaa).
- The American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) 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.
  - Airport Improvement Program grants awarded this year will be at 100 percent federal share.
  - Additional information can be found at [www.faa.gov/airports/airport\\_rescue\\_grants](http://www.faa.gov/airports/airport_rescue_grants)

Director Trout discussed the Fiscal Year (FY) 2022 Aero budget, stating the Executive Budget Recommendation for FY 2022 was \$7,077,700 (combined appropriations) with 46 full time employees. Revenues are expected to meet appropriation requirements for FY 2022. He also mentioned the state Aeronautics Code revisions are expected upon passage of the FY 2022 budget.

Director Trout presented the latest aviation fuel revenue amount of \$2,129,752 for October 2020 through April 2021. This amounts to a (26.42%) decrease over



the same reporting period last year. He also showed the aviation gallons for the same period, reporting 118,407,116 gallons, which is also a (31.42%) decrease over last year.

Director Trout highlighted a recent airport project at Reynolds Field in Jackson County. This was a rehabilitation of the apron terminal and adjacent taxiway E at a cost of \$3,194,400. Approximately 16,400 SYD of 9" and 6" concrete was placed, as well as new edge lighting and apron flood lights being added. The project was facilitated by Consultant Mead and Hunt's Dan Kehoe, Contractor Mead Brothers Excavating and Aero Project Manager Amanda Hopper.

Director Trout noted current FY 2021 stats from Aero which include 4,023 tall structure permit applications reviewed and processed, 21 participating airports in the Statewide Pavement Marking Program (up from five in 2020), and 24 participating airports in the Statewide Crack Sealing Program (up from six in 2020.)

Director Trout gave an update on the Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS) initiatives, noting the UAS Task Force met on April 21 and revisited its goals and mission, as well as hearing from Michigan State University and Northern Michigan University on their drone education programs. He stated pre-flight planning is completed for 38 UAS-aided airport inspections. He also noted a UAS Feasibility Study Request for Proposals (RFP) has been posted with a tentative contract execution date of fall 2020. The RFP can be viewed in MDOT's SIGMA system at <https://sigma.michigan.gov/webapp/PRDVSS2X1/AltSelfService>.

Director Trout shared the following Aero information:

- Michigan Department of Health and Human Services and MDOT are participating in a Travel Points Testing program to bring Covid-19 testing to Welcome Centers and airports. Visit [www.Michigan.gov/coronavirus](http://www.Michigan.gov/coronavirus) for details.
- A 'Getting to Know Aero PM' presentation for sponsors and consultants will be held June 9.
- Inspection Compliance Report Cards have been sent to each public-use airport.
- State office buildings will re-open on July 15.
- The Aero aircraft have returned to flight. Contact Tammie at 517-803-5828 for information or to schedule. Aircraft Travel Reports are posted each quarter and reported to the Legislature annually. To view these reports, visit [https://www.michigan.gov/mdot/0,4616,7-151-9622\\_11045---,00.html](https://www.michigan.gov/mdot/0,4616,7-151-9622_11045---,00.html).

Director Trout congratulated and thanked the following Aero staff for their years of state service.

Jim Hartman – 5 years  
Betsy Steudle – 20 years



Jay Henning – 25 years  
Jennifer Moore – 25 years

Director Trout welcomed back co-op Jared Arnett to the Project Management Unit, also noting two additional students will be joining Aero in June. Aero is also currently interviewing for the Aviation Manager and Aviation Inspector positions.

Director Trout concluded his presentation with a reminder of the Office of Aeronautics Mission Statement: “To Develop and Preserve a Safe, High-Quality, Statewide Air Transportation System” and the MDOT Mission Statement: “Providing the Highest Quality Integrated Transportation Services for Economic Benefit and Improved Quality of Life.”

Commissioner Brian Smith asked for additional information on the UAS Task Force and the education programs that were presented at the most recent meeting. Director Trout responded he was the Chairperson for the 27-member Task Force. He stated the education presentation would be shared with interested members and could be found on the Aero website at [www.michigan.gov/aero](http://www.michigan.gov/aero).

Commissioner Roger Salo asked if it was easier to conduct airport inspections using UAS. Director Trout responded yes that a big benefit of the program was being predictive on approach controls.

Commissioner Kevin Jacobs asked, with the record number of tall structure applications, how many of those get denied. Bryan Budds answered that we could pull a definite number, but many of the applications do not require permits and are only submitted for review due to their locations relative to airports.

Commissioner Roger Salo asked who would set the formula for distribution of The American Rescue Plan funding. Director Trout responded the FAA.

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

Chair Fiddler asked if any Commissioners would like to make a comment. There were no additional comments beyond the questions addressed above.

#### **V. 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, July 21, 2021 at the Office of Aeronautics building in Lansing.



Chair Fiddler thanked the Commissioners, Aero 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 10:47 a.m.



Rick Fiddler, Chairman



Michael G. Trout, Director