

MICHIGAN AERONAUTICS COMMISSION

Minutes of Meeting
Lansing, Michigan
November 17, 2021

Pursuant to Section 31 of Act 327 of the Public Acts of 1945, the Commissioners of the Michigan Aeronautics Commission (MAC) met at the Office of Aeronautics, 2700 Port Lansing Road, Lansing, Michigan on Wednesday, November 17, 2021.

COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT

Russ Kavalhuna, Chairperson
Kelly Burris, Vice Chairperson – via Teams from Detroit, Michigan
Flight/Lieutenant Brian Bahlau, Designee for Michigan State Police (MSP)
Rick Fiddler, Commissioner
Kevin Jacobs, Designee for Michigan Department of Natural Resources
Laura Mester, Designee for Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT)
Dr. Brian Smith, Commissioner
Mike Trout, Director
Bryan Budds, Commission Advisor
Alicia Morrison, Commission Analyst

COMMISSION MEMBERS ABSENT

Brigadier General Bryan Teff, Designee for Michigan Department of Military and Veterans Affairs
Ben Carter, Commissioner

I. OPENING REMARKS

Director Mike Trout began by introducing himself and welcoming everyone to the meeting. He reminded all attending in person to sign in and for those joining virtually via Microsoft Teams to mute their microphones and turn off their cameras. He then turned the meeting over to Chair Russ Kavalhuna.

The November 17, 2021, MAC meeting was officially called to order by Chair Russ Kavalhuna at 10:02 am.

Chair Kavalhuna next led the attendees in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chair Kavalhuna thanked the Commissioners and all in attendance for participating. He then asked for a formal roll call. Roll call was taken. It was announced that five out of nine Commissioners were present for a quorum. Note: Two additional commissioners joined the meeting a few minutes late, but prior to commission business or voting. This made for seven out of nine Commissioners present for a quorum.

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II. COMMISSION BUSINESS

A. Minutes of the September 15, 2021, Meeting

Chair Kavalhuna asked if there were any revisions to the minutes of the meeting held on September 15, 2021. There were none. He entertained a motion to approve the minutes. The motion was moved by Commissioner Rick Fiddler and seconded by Commissioner Kevin Jacobs to approve the minutes as presented. **All voted in favor. Chair Kavalhuna announced the motion is carried.**

B. 2022 MAC Meeting Schedule

Chair Kavalhuna asked if there were any corrections or changes to the draft schedule, noting the January meeting location has been confirmed as Mt. Pleasant. There were none. Note – Commissioner Smith stated during the Commissioner Comments period that the July date conflicted with the OshKosh airshow. He invited the Commission to consider meeting in OshKosh. Chair Kavalhuna stated he was not sure the MAC Bylaws allowed for meetings to be held outside the state of Michigan and the July date would be changed if this could not be accommodated.

Chair Kavalhuna then entertained a motion to approve the proposed schedule. The motion was moved by Commissioner Rick Fiddler and seconded by Commissioner Kevin Jacobs to approve the 2022 MAC schedule as presented. **All voted in favor. Chair Kavalhuna announced the motion is carried.**

C. Request for Approval and Transfer of Appropriated Funds

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

Alissa VanHoof began by giving a summary of the federal stimulus packages, then continued with the summaries of each transfer below.

Airport Sponsor Contracts

1. Gratiot Community Airport, Alma
2. Detroit Metropolitan Wayne County Airport, Detroit
3. Frankfort Dow Memorial Field, Frankfort
4. Fremont Municipal Airport, Fremont
5. Abrams Municipal Airport, Grand Ledge
6. Lakeview Airport – Griffith Field, Lakeview
7. DuPont – Lapeer Airport, Lapeer
8. Mackinac Island Airport, Mackinac Island
9. Oscoda – Wurtsmith Airport, Oscoda
10. Owosso Community Airport, Owosso
11. South Haven Area Regional Airport, South Haven
12. Paul C. Miller – Sparta Airport, Sparta

Supplemental Transfers >15% of Original Transfer



13. Roben – Hood Airport, Big Rapids
14. Drummond Island Airport, Drummond Island
15. Prices Airport, Linden

Supplemental Transfers – No Action Required

1. Oscoda – Wurtsmith Airport, Owosso
2. Romeo State Airport, Romeo
3. Kirsch Municipal Airport, Sturgis
4. West Branch Community Airport, West Branch
5. Roscommon County – Blodgett Memorial Airport, Houghton Lake
6. Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriation (CRRSA) Act Airport Coronavirus Response Grant Program (ACRGP), Statewide

Chair Kavalhuna asked if there were any further comments or questions. Vice Chair Kelly Burris asked what the Mackinac Island hangar use would be for. Alissa VanHoof responded it would be for winter month storage of aircraft. There were no further questions. Chair Kavalhuna then asked for a motion to approve the transfers as presented. The motion was moved by Commissioner Brian Smith and seconded by Commissioner Rick Fiddler to approve the transfers as presented. **All voted in favor. 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.

D. 2022 Weather Systems Contract Approval

Chair Kavalhuna called on Mike Soper, who then presented the 2022 Weather Systems Contracts.

Automated Weather Observation Systems (AWOS)

1. Ionia County Airport, Ionia – Expires 10/01/2022
2. Oscoda – Wurtsmith Airport, Oscoda – Expires 10/17/2022
3. St. Clair County International Airport, Port Huron – Expires 10/23/2022
4. Huron County Memorial Airport, Bad Axe – Expires 10/29/2022
5. Mason County Airport, Ludington – Expires 11/19/2022

Chair Kavalhuna asked if there were any questions or comments on the AWOS contracts. There were none. He entertained a motion to approve the contracts. The motion was moved by Commissioner Rick Fiddler and seconded by Commissioner Brian Smith to approve the contract as presented. **All voted in favor. Chair Kavalhuna announced the motion is carried.**

E. 2022 Michigan Association of Airport Executives (MAAE) Contract Approval



Chair Kavalhuna called on Director Trout, who then presented the 2022 MAAE Contract. A summary of the contract award can be viewed at www.michigan.gov/aero under the Commission tab.

Chair Kavalhuna asked if there were any questions or comments. There were none. He entertained a motion to approve the contract. The motion was moved by Commissioner Brian Smith and seconded by Commissioner Brian Bahlau to approve the contract as presented. **All voted in favor. Chair Kavalhuna announced the motion is carried.**

III. REPORTS

A. MAC Director's Report

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

Director Trout started his report by giving an overview of the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSAA) and the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) federal stimulus packages.

- CRRSAA provided \$55,841,582 to 92 Michigan airports.
 - CRRSAA now being processed.
 - All airports should submit completed reimbursement request forms through ProjectWise.
 - State Block Grants airports should also complete the CRRSAA Agreement (Subgrant).
 - Additional information can be found at www.faa.gov/airports/crrsaa
- ARPA provided \$169,677,474 for 92 eligible Michigan airports.
 - Waiting on state appropriation. Airports are urged to contact their legislators to express the urgent need to appropriate funding.
 - MDOT Aero is currently verifying with State Block Grant Airports on accepting funding and working on the Block Grant Application.
 - Additional information can be found at www.faa.gov/airports/airport_rescue_grants

Director Trout then discussed the current aviation gallons versus credits for FY 2021. He emphasized there was an upward trend showing recovery from the pandemic months. The total gallons showed a 2.15% increase, and the total credits showed a 1.80% increase. He then discussed both the excise fuel revenue and the 2% sales tax revenue, noting the sales tax revenue was down considerably for FY2021 total due to a six-month delay in reporting and also the high increase in fuel prices.

Director Trout next highlighted a recent airport project at Troy Airport. This was a rehabilitation of runway and renumbering from 9/27 to 10/28. The project cost was \$848,689 and the project contractor was Ajax Paving Industries. The consultant was RS&H, and the Aero Project Manager was Elyse Lower.



Director Trout discussed the FY 2021 Aero statistics, noting the increase in grants, contracts and applications processed in all areas. Highlights included Primary AIP Grants nearly doubling in amount, and the number of airports participating in the Crack Sealing and Paint Marking Programs over tripling from FY2020 numbers. He also shared that 93 Inspection Compliance Report Cards were issued in the pilot year of that initiative.

Director Trout then announced the new Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) which allows for \$25 billion over five years for aviation system and airport infrastructure upgrades including \$15 billion for a new airport infrastructure grant program, \$5 billion for a competitive airport terminal grant program, and \$300 million for upgrades to air traffic control facilities. Director Trout pointed out that this package is brand new at this time and information is still being disseminated. Chair Kavalhuna asked if there were any details on how the IIJA funds would be distributed. Director Trout answered there was an implementation task group being formed at the national level to discuss the distribution of funds. Chair Kavalhuna followed up by asking who was on the task group and if the MAC could nominate someone to participate. Bryan Budds answered that was unknown at this time, but the task group would probably be formed at a national level as part of a larger transportation group with aviation as a piece of the whole group. Chair Kavalhuna then asked for details on how the competitive program would work. Bryan Budds answered that per the FAA ADO at this time, the capital monies would flow through the traditional mechanisms, but the competitive funds may come through the USDOT. Chair Kavalhuna asked if state appropriation of the funds would be needed. Bryan Budds responded that all federal stimulus money had required appropriation so far and it was expected this would too.

Director Trout continued his report with some good news/bad news on air service in Michigan, reporting that Flint Bishop International Airport created 88 new jobs by adding Allegiant Air services, but that Lansing and Kalamazoo were both losing United Airlines service. The MAC and Office of Aeronautics continues to look for ways to improve air service in Michigan.

Director Trout provided the following Aero staffing updates:

- Welcome Heidi Spangler as the new State Block Grant Specialist.
- Welcome FAA Detroit ADO Lead Community Planner Katy Delaney
- Congrats to Aero Aviation Specialist Matt Brinker on his promotion to Aviation Manager.
- Aero Finance and Operations Manager 14 currently posted.
- Aero Limited Term Grant Analyst 9-11 currently posted.

Director Trout next introduced the new internal organization realignment within the Office of Aeronautics. This change was made with the goal of aligning limited

existing resources with Aero's objectives. Director Trout shared the updated organizational chart which can be found at www.michigan.gov/aero.

Director Trout shared the following events and information from around the state:

- Michigan Airport Conference being held February 16-17 at Kellogg Hotel and Event Center in East Lansing.
- 2022 NASAO Youth Aviation Art Contest entries being accepted through January 10.
- Future FAA/Aero weather station partnership being explored, to be rolled out at the Airport Conference.
- US borders re-opened November 8 to international travelers.
- Operation Good Cheer being held December 4 at Roben-Hood Airport, Big Rapids.

Director Trout gave special acknowledgement to the 2021 Aviation Hall of Fame inductees: Katherine Chamberlain, Frederick Zinn, Capt. Ralph Fletcher, Virgil Williams, Lawrence 'Larry' Bush and Cody Welch.

He concluded by bringing awareness to a local missing person Brendan Santo who was last seen October 29 on the campus of MSU. Please contact the MSU police tip line at 844-99-MSUPD with any information.

IV. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Chair Kavalhuna asked if there were any Commissioner comments.

Commissioner Kevin Jacobs extended a special thank you to the Office of Aeronautics staff – Bryan Budds, Linn Smith, Laura Wise, Michael Carnarvon, Steve Houtteman, Jen Moore, Elyse Lower and Director Trout – for their work and support on the Roscommon Airport. He explained that Roscommon is a Tier III airport, which means it does not receive state funding. This team completed the work efficiently and the airport is now open for use. Chair Kavalhuna thanked Commissioner Jacobs for his comments and service to the commission.

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

V. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Chair Kavalhuna asked if anyone would like to make a public comment.

Miles Weaver, President, Michigan Association of Airport Executives (MAAE), asked to give an update. He introduced himself, then gave the following update from MAAE:

- MAAE supports legislative bills 4915-4917
- MAAE is working with legislators and the Office of Aeronautics to get ARPA funding appropriated.



- MAAE supports upgrading the AWOS statewide network.
- MAAE appreciates being included in the MPART meeting with EGLE, FAA and MDOT to discuss airport PFAS issues.
- MAAE is working on a strategic plan for their organization. They hope to continue a good working relationship with the MAC and the Office of Aeronautics and appreciates the support it receives from both.

Chair Kavalhuna thanked Miles Weaver and offered his assistance in advocating for ARPA legislation and appropriation. Chair Kavalhuna asked if there were any further public comments. There were none.

CLOSING

The next MAC meeting is scheduled for Thursday, January 20, 2022, at 10:00am at the Mt. Pleasant City Commerce Chambers, as a joint meeting with the State Transportation Commission.

Chair Kavalhuna 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 or by calling 517-335-9568.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:56 a.m.



Russ Kavalhuna, Chairman



Michael G. Trout, Director