

MICHIGAN AERONAUTICS COMMISSION

Minutes of Meeting
Lansing, Michigan
July 20, 2022

Pursuant to Section 31 of Act 327 of the Public Acts of 1945, the Commissioners of the Michigan Aeronautics Commission (MAC) met at the Charlevoix City Hall, 210 State Street, Charlevoix, Michigan on Wednesday, July 20, 2022.

COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT

Russ Kavalhuna, Chair
Kelly Burris, Vice Chair
Rick Fiddler, Commissioner
Benjamin Carter, Commissioner
Laura Mester, Designee MDOT
F/Lt Greg Setla, Designee MSP
Brig. Gen. Bryan Teff, Designee MDMVA
Mike Trout, Director
Bryan Budds, Commission Advisor
Alicia Morrison, Commission Analyst

COMMISSION MEMBERS ABSENT

Dr. Brian Smith, Commissioner
Kevin Jacobs, Designee MDNR

I. OPENING REMARKS

The July 20, 2022, MAC meeting was officially called to order by Chair Russ Kavalhuna at 10:01 am.

Chair Russ Kavalhuna welcomed all to the meeting. He thanked the City of Charlevoix and Charlevoix Airport for hosting the Commission. He welcomed distinguished guest State Transportation Commission Chair Todd Wyatt and other members of the public. He then asked everyone to join in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chair Kavalhuna asked for a formal roll call. Roll call was taken. It was announced seven (7) Commissioners were present for a quorum.

Chair Kavalhuna introduced Matthew Wyman, Airport Manager, Charlevoix Municipal Airport.

II. WELCOME/PRESENTATION

Matthew Wyman, Charlevoix Municipal Airport Manager, welcomed the Commission to Charlevoix. He gave a brief history of the Charlevoix airport and how it serves a wide Northern Michigan community, including Beaver Island. He continued by highlighting major airport construction projects completed. He then noted how



important his airport staff is. He emphasized how the staff is the key to their success and showed great appreciation for his team.

Chair Kavalhuna followed up by agreeing the airport team did a great job as he travelled through there this week, especially noting how helpful Vince was. Commissioner Ben Carter added his thanks to the airport team for their hospitality as he flew in for the meeting as well.

Chair Kavalhuna and Director Trout then presented Matthew Wyman a Certificate of Appreciation for their hospitality in hosting the Commission meeting.

III. COMMISSION BUSINESS

A. Minutes of the June 8, 2022, Meeting

Chair Kavalhuna asked if there were any revisions to the minutes of the meeting held on June 8, 2022. There were none. He entertained a motion to approve the minutes. The motion was moved by Commissioner Ben Carter and seconded by Commissioner Rick Fiddler to approve the minutes as presented. **All voted in favor. Chair Kavalhuna announced the motion is carried.**

B. Request for Approval and Transfer of Appropriated Funds

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

Airport Sponsor Contracts

1. Lenawee County Airport, Adrian (ADG)
2. Gratiot Community Airport, Alma (AMN)
3. Beaver Island Airport, Beaver Island (SJX)
4. Southwest Michigan Regional Airport, Benton Harbor (BEH)
5. Tuscola Area Airport, Caro (CFS)
6. Branch County Memorial Airport, Coldwater (OEB)
7. Branch County Memorial Airport, Coldwater (OEB)
8. Coleman A. Young Municipal Airport, Detroit (DET)
9. Frankfort Dow Memorial Field, Frankfort (FKS)
10. Frankfort Dow Memorial Field, Frankfort (FKS)
11. Hastings Airport, Hastings (9D9)
12. Roscommon County Blodgett Memorial Airport, Houghton Lake (HTL)
13. Ionia County Airport, Ionia (Y70)
14. Ford Airport, Iron Mountain/Kingsford (IMT)
15. Ford Airport, Iron Mountain/Kingsford (IMT)
16. Jackson County Reynolds Field, Jackson (JXN)
17. Jackson County Reynolds Field, Jackson (JXN)
18. Mount Pleasant Municipal Airport, Mount Pleasant (MOP)
19. Muskegon County Airport, Muskegon (MKG)



20. Oscoda-Wurtsmith Airport, Oscoda (OSC)
21. Owosso Community Airport, Owosso (RNP)
22. Oakland County International Airport, Pontiac (PTK)
23. Oakland County International Airport, Pontiac (PTK)
24. Oakland County International Airport, Pontiac (PTK)
25. Oakland County International Airport, Pontiac (PTK)
26. St. Clair County International Airport, Port Huron (PHN)
27. Romeo State Airport, Romeo (D98)
28. Saginaw County H. W. Browne Airport, Saginaw (HYX)
29. Sandusky City Airport, Sandusky (Y83)

Chair Kavalhuna asked for a motion to approve the transfers as presented. The motion was moved by Commissioner Brig. Gen. Bryan Teff and seconded by Commissioner F/Lt. Greg Setla 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.

IV. DIRECTORS REPORT

A. MAC Director's Report

Chair Kavalhuna called on Director Trout who presented his Director's Report.

Director Trout began by highlighting the Charlevoix Community Benefits including a \$33M local and \$41.3M state economic output benefit. Charlevoix supports many regional businesses including agriculture, commercial, industrial, manufacturing, professional, and retail, as well as the municipal airport which is home to two charter-based operations servicing Beaver Island and other regional locations.

Director Trout next updated on the federal stimulus packages – Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriation Act (CRRSAA) and the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) and how payments and reimbursements are continuing at various stages for each. He also discussed the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA)/Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL), noting three (3) Michigan airports – Detroit Metro (DTW), Gerald R. Ford International (GRR), and Flint Bishop International (FNT) - were selected for infrastructure improvements through the competitive airport terminal process.

Director Trout discussed the fiscal year (FY) 2023 Transportation Budget ([HB 5783](#)) highlighting the Office of Aeronautics summary as noted below.

- \$7.49M + 48 FTEs for Air Fleet and Aviation Services
- \$50,000 for Air Service



- One-time appropriations for:
 - \$33.8M for Airport Safety Improvement Program
 - \$2.1M for IIJA Adjustment
 - \$25M for Wayne County Infrastructure Grant
 - \$2M for Capital Region International Infrastructure Grant
 - \$3.9M for Automated Weather Operating System (AWOS) Upgrades
- Supplemental appropriations for:
 - \$12M General Fund for IIJA matching funds
 - \$350,000 for UAS Feasibility Study

Director Trout discussed the aviation gallons and excise tax reports noting both have shown strong increases over the pandemic lows and are expected to continue the upward trend.

Director Trout shared various statistics from the Office of Aeronautics, showing tremendous growth in all areas of the office. He touted all the hard work the Aero staff has put in, working through staffing challenges and office changes to still push through the biggest programs in Aero history.

Director Trout welcomed new staff – FAA Acting Regional Administrator Great Lakes Region, Elliott Black; Aero Electronics Tech, David Mellino; Aero Financial Analyst, Barb Diou-Roig; Engineer, Zach Bormet; and Engineer Development Program Interns Brandon Cotton, Paige Luft, and Gilbert Abu. He wished departing staff Jim Reverman and Heidi Spangler well on their future endeavors. He then gave a brief update on open positions in the Aero office.

Director Trout highlighted upcoming events such as the Michigan Aviation Training Professionals Course in Howell on July 21 and the Michigan Airport Conference on Mackinac Island September 12-16. He concluded with a variety of news headlines and short tributes to Lt. Colonel Alexander Jefferson and Jim Cook, both recently passed members of the Michigan aviation community.

Chair Kavalhuna asked Director Trout to give an update on the happenings at Detroit Coleman A. Young Municipal Airport (DET). The Director responded the Airport Layout Plan (ALP) was at the end of the 45-day comment period, tunnel efforts were still being discussed, and that Aero staff was meeting regularly with the airport management and project consultant. Vice Chair Burris asked if the ALP maintained both runways. Director Trout responded it includes the removal of one runway.

Commissioner Carter asked if the amount included in the FY 2023 budget for AWOS upgrades was the full amount requested and recommended by the MAC AWOS Committee. Director Trout answered yes, it was the full amount.



V. PRESENTATION

Commissioner Brig. General Bryan Teff presented on Operation Northern Agility 22-1. This was a military roadway landing exercise conducted in cooperation with MDMVA, MDOT and several other local agencies. He discussed the coordination and planning that went into the exercise and showed a video of the aircraft in action. Commissioner Teff also noted working with local company Orb on the development of vertical take-off manned and unmanned aircraft and the opening of an innovation center open to military staff for testing of these aircraft.

VI. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

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

Commissioner Carter commented that money was plentiful now for most airports due to the stimulus and rebound in travel, reminding all that these good times do not last forever and now is the time to plan for a recession or different economic situation.

VII. PUBLIC COMMENTS

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

Casey Ries, Gerald R. Ford International Airport, spoke about the BIL federal funding opportunity and asked for Commission support by keeping a voice in Washington DC showing the need for this funding and by promoting state legislative action on appropriating this money and getting it to the airports quickly. Chair Kavalhuna pledge the MAC's support as needed.

VIII. CLOSING

The next MAC meeting is scheduled for 11:00am on Wednesday, September 14, 2022, at Mission Point Resort, Mackinac Island, Michigan.

Chair Kavalhuna thanked the Commissioners, Office of Aeronautics staff, the Charlevoix community, 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 11:30 a.m.



Russ Kavalhuna, Chairman



Michael G. Trout, Director

