

MICHIGAN AERONAUTICS COMMISSION

Minutes of Meeting
Lansing, Michigan
March 23, 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 Office of Aeronautics, 2700 Port Lansing Road, Lansing, Michigan, on Wednesday, March 23, 2022.

COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT

Russ Kavalhuna, Chair
Kelly Burris, Vice Chair
Rick Fiddler, Commissioner
Benjamin Carter, Commissioner
Dr. Brian Smith, Commissioner
Laura Mester, Designee MDOT
Kevin Jacobs, Designee MDNR – via Teams, abstaining from voting per bylaws
Mike Trout, Director
Bryan Budds, Commission Advisor
Alicia Morrison, Commission Analyst

COMMISSION MEMBERS ABSENT

F/Lt. Brian Bahlau, Designee Michigan State Police
Brig. Gen. Bryan Teff, Designee MDMVA

I. OPENING REMARKS

The March 23, 2022, MAC meeting was officially called to order by Chair Russ Kavalhuna at 10:03 am.

Chair Russ Kavalhuna welcomed all to the meeting and 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 six (6) Commissioners were present for a quorum.

II. COMMISSION BUSINESS

A. Minutes of the February 1, 2022, Special Meeting

Chair Kavalhuna asked if there were any revisions to the minutes of the meeting held on February 1, 2022. There were none. He entertained a motion to approve the minutes. The motion was moved by Commissioner Rick Fiddler and seconded by Commissioner Brian Smith 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 Alissa VanHoof, who then presented the Airport Sponsor Contracts and Supplemental Transfers.

Airport Sponsor Contracts

1. Ann Arbor Municipal Airport (ARB), Ann Arbor
2. Atlanta Municipal Airport (Y93), Atlanta
3. Tuscola Area Airport (CFS), Caro
4. Tuscola Area Airport (CFS), Caro
5. Grand Haven Memorial Airpark (3GM), Grand Haven
6. Hillsdale Municipal Airport (JYM), Hillsdale
7. Schoolcraft County Airport (ISQ), Manistique
8. Marlette Township Airport (77G), Marlette
9. Oscoda County Dennis Kauffman Memorial Airport (51M), Mio

Supplemental Transfers – No Action Required

1. Livingston County Spencer J. Hardy Airport (OZW), Howell
2. Oakland County International Airport (PTK), Pontiac
3. Mount Pleasant Municipal Airport (MOP), Mount Pleasant

Chair Kavalhuna asked if there were any further comments or questions. Vice Chair Kelly Burris asked if Phase 3 for the ARB project was the final stage environmental study. Alissa VanHoof replied yes.

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 Ben Carter to approve the transfers as presented. **All voted in favor.** Note: Vice Chair Kelly Burris abstained for the ARB vote due to known conflicts. **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.

C. Request for Approval of Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Grant Applications/Commitment of Matching Funds

Chair Kavalhuna called on Alissa VanHoof, who first gave an explanation on the role of MDOT Office of Aeronautics (Aero) with the primary airports and how that would be changing, then presented the FAA Grant Applications/Commitment of Matching Funds.

1. Alpena County Regional Airport (APN), Alpena
2. Willow Run Airport (YIP), Detroit
3. Detroit Metro Wayne County Airport (DTW), Detroit
4. Delta County Airport (ESC), Escanaba



5. Bishop International Airport (FNT), Flint
6. Gerald R. Ford International Airport (GRR), Grand Rapids
7. Houghton County Memorial Airport (CMX), Hancock
8. Ford Airport (IMT), Iron Mountain
9. Kalamazoo Battle Creek International Airport (AZO), Kalamazoo
10. Capital Region International Airport (LAN), Lansing
11. Sawyer International Airport (SAW), Marquette
12. Muskegon County Airport (MKG), Muskegon
13. Pellston Regional Airport of Emmet County (PLN), Pellston
14. MBS International Airport (MBS), Saginaw
15. Chippewa County International Airport (CIU), Sault Ste. Marie
16. Cherry Capital Airport (TVC), Traverse City

Chair Kavalhuna asked if there were any further comments or questions. Chair Kavalhuna then clarified whether the airports whose estimated amounts were unknown would be brought back to the Commission once determined. Alissa VanHoof answered those airports did not have FY 2022 projects expected. Chair Kavalhuna then asked if this was a once yearly approval. Alissa VanHoof answered yes.

Commissioner Brian Smith asked what happens since the FY 2023 state match was lacking, where does this money come from and how can the issue be fixed? Alissa VanHoof replied, the locals or airport sponsors would need to cover any match required by FAA. She continued that state funding is covered by revenue and appropriated by state legislature. Commissioner Smith asked where Aero revenue comes from. Alissa VanHoof responded through fuel tax, sales tax, and parking tax revenue. Aero can also request additional funds from the state General Fund. Commissioner Laura Mester clarified funds can be requested through the Governor's Office and Budget Office, but if not approved, there would be no match. This could defer project completions until resources are found. Director Trout emphasized that the intent is not to leave any available federal dollars on the table.

Chair Kavalhuna then asked for a motion to approve the applications as presented. The motion was moved by Commissioner Kelly Burris and seconded by Commissioner Brian Smith to approve the applications as presented. **All voted in favor. Chair Kavalhuna announced the motion is carried.**

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

III. REPORTS

A. MAC Director's Report

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

Director Trout began with a federal stimulus update summarizing as follows:

- Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act
www.faa.gov/airports/cares_act
 - 19 grants awarded to date totaling \$242,253,904.
 - 148 reimbursement payments to date made to 86 airports totaling \$200,583,022.
- Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSAA) www.faa.gov/airports/crrsaa/
 - 30 grants awarded to date totaling \$55,828,582.
 - 26 reimbursement payments to date made to 25 airports totaling \$3,862,599.
- American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)
www.faa.gov/airports/airport_rescue_grants/
 - 30 grants awarded to date totaling \$169,645,464.
 - Reimbursement payments expected to start in January 2023.

Director Trout then discussed the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) also known as the Bipartisan Infrastructure Legislation (BIL).

<https://www.faa.gov/bil/airport-infrastructure>

- Requested Airport Capital Improvement Plan (ACIP) updates received and sent to FAA by requested March 11 deadline.
- No state matching funds are available for BIL projects.
- FAA IIJA/BIL Frequently Asked Questions can be found at this link - https://www.faa.gov/sites/faq/files/2022-03/BIL_FAQs_1.pdf
- BIL Airport Terminals Competitive Program applications due March 28. <https://www.faa.gov/bil/airport-terminals>

Director Trout discussed the Aero's recommended FY 2023 budget. MDOT's overall gross appropriation increased \$1.6 million over FY 2022 to \$6,300,948,900. The State Aeronautics Fund (SAF) is projected to increase by \$728,000 and the Qualified Airport Fund by \$650,000. SAF appropriation recommendations are as follows:

- Aviation Services = \$7.4M + 48 FTE's. An increase of \$1.4M (including a roll-up of \$1M from Air Fleet Operations) and two (2) FTE's.
- Air Service Program = \$50,000. Unchanged from FY 2022.
- Airport Improvement Program = \$132.5M. An increase of \$26.9M (Federal, state, and local funding sources).

Also included is \$95M in Capital Outlay for federal BIL funding and \$3.9M in General Fund for Automated Weather Operating Systems (AWOS) upgrades, as recommended by the MAC AWOS Task Force.

Director Trout noted the FY 2022 Supplemental Appropriations requested:

- AIP Local Match - \$4,991,500
- Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS) Feasibility Study - \$350,000
- ARPA Funding – General Aviation \$2,799,000; Primary \$168,878,500



Director Trout also noted the FY 2023 Boilerplate Sections retained:

- 310 Requires the MAC to share meeting agenda and minutes
- 383 Requires travel report for state aircraft
- 801 Maintains SAF lapse language
- 901 Maintains AIP matching requirement

Director Trout next discussed Congressional Earmarks for Michigan airports including \$1,500,000 for Kalamazoo/Battle Creek International Airport; \$1,827,000 for Roben-Hood Airport, Big Rapids; \$1,294,000 for Gerald R. Ford International Airport, Grand Rapids; and \$8,183,000 for Capital Regional International Airport, Lansing.

Director Trout highlighted the new General Aviation Terminal Building at the Chippewa County International Airport, Sault Ste. Marie. This new terminal cost \$6,610,302 to complete with a tentative opening in January 2023. Construction was done by Howard Immel Construction with work continuing through the winter on foundations, underground utilities, and elevator shaft. The Aero Project Manager was Jim Reverman, the Consultant was Mead and Hunt, and the Airport Manager is Tami Beseau.

Director Trout shared AIP funding statistics from FY 2018-2021, showing how the total program increase from \$84.4M in 2018 to \$314.7M in 2021, a nearly quadrupling of the program overall.

Director Trout highlighted the Michigan Airport Conference, held at the Kellogg Hotel and Events Center, East Lansing, on February 16-17, 2022. Over 200 in person attendees enjoyed presentations on Advanced Air Mobility, Sustainability and Resilience, Unleaded Avgas and BIL/IIJA, among others. Honors for Airports of the Year were given to Oakland County Airports and Consultant of the Year was given to Colin Wheeler, Kimley-Horn. Director Trout and the MAC extended their congratulations on these honorable wins.

Director Trout congratulated Aero employee Steve Houtteman on his promotion to Planning and Environmental Unit Supervisor, and wished a happy retirement to Leanne Hengesbach, Financial Analyst, who said farewell after 43 years of state service. He also stated several positions within Aeronautics will be posted or filled soon including an Aviation Electronics Technician, a Veteran Intern, two (2) Airport Development Project Managers/Engineers, an Environmental Specialist, and a Financial Analyst. All Aero postings can be found at [State of Michigan Job Openings | Departments: Transportation | Sorted by Job Title ascending | LIVE. WORK. PLAY. \(governmentjobs.com\)](https://www.governmentjobs.com).

Director Trout concluded his presentation with recognition of several newsworthy mentions:

- Michigan Court of Appeals Ruling on Tuscola County Wind Farm Case <https://www.thedailynews.cc/articles/michigan-court-of-appeals-rules-tuscola-county-judge-repeatedly-erred-in-wind-farm-ruling/>
- Oakland County Airport of the Year - [County's trio of airports land MDoT honors - The Oakland Press](#)
- NASAO International Art Contest – Michigan Winners Ethan Chan, Shelley Ouyang, and Amani Aggour - [International Aviation Art Contest - National Association of State Aviation Officials \(nasao.org\)](#)
- FAA Great Lakes Airport Design Challenge – Michigan Winners, Team Aero GRR and Team Aireos DTW - [3rd place – K-6 Primary – Team Aero – Gerald R. Ford International Airport; 1st place – 7-12 Primary – Team Aireos – Detroit Metropolitan Wayne County Airport](#)

IV. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Chair Kavalhuna welcomed First Lieutenant Greg Setla to the meeting. Lt. Setla replaced F/Lt. Brian Bahlau at the Michigan State Police and may be joining the Commission, pending recommendation from Col. Gasper. Chair Kavalhuna commented that the MAC is a successful entity serving the aviation community in Michigan and avoiding politics.

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

Commissioner Laura Mester commented for the MAC and Aero to keep in mind that in 2031 the revenue from the airport parking tax goes away. While this seems quite far in the future, now is the time to start thinking about future funding sources to provide the state match.

Commissioner Brian Smith commented that the correspondence from the Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) to the airport communities on the PFAS issue seemed to have a negative tone. He questioned whether the MAC could write a letter to EGLE asking them to be kinder in their messaging. Chair Kavalhuna responded that MDOT Director Ajegba was already working with the director of EGLE on this issue and a resolution would be reported back to the Commission at a future meeting.

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 on MAAE activities . Miles Weaver provided the following information:

- MAAE, EGLE and Legislators met regarding PFAS in February. MAAE is requesting more collaboration with these entities.
- MAAE gave testimony supporting HB 4915-4917 allowing car sharing operations on airport property.



- MAAE thanked those involved in the February Airport Conference, noting its success, and encouraging participation in MAAE's committees.

Miles Weaver concluded by thanking the MAC and Aero for their continuing partnership and support.

Janel MacNee, Airport Manager, Gros Ile Airport, introduced herself as the new Airport Manager for the Gros Ile airport, explaining this was a new role for her, as her background was in real estate. She asked if there had been any collaboration with the realtor associations regarding tree and obstruction issues. She stated most homeowners do not read the fine print regarding tree obstruction removal liability and responsibility and hoped there could be a way to work together to bring awareness to the issue. Chair Kavalhuna responded that he will explore the issue and provide a response in the near future.

CLOSING

The next MAC meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, May 25, 2022, at the Western Michigan University, College of Aviation, 237 Helmer Road North, Battle Creek, Michigan.

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 11:03 a.m.



Russ Kavalhuna, Chairman



Michael G. Trout, Director