

# MICHIGAN AERONAUTICS COMMISSION

Minutes of Meeting  
Lansing, Michigan  
September 14, 2022

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Pursuant to Section 31 of Act 327 of the Public Acts of 1945, the Commissioners of the Michigan Aeronautics Commission (MAC or Commission) met at the Mission Point Resort, 6392 Main Street, Mackinac Island, Michigan on Wednesday, September 14, 2022.

## COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT

Russ Kavalhuna, Chair  
Kelly Burris, Vice Chair  
Rick Fiddler, Commissioner  
Benjamin Carter, Commissioner  
Dr. Brian Smith, Commissioner  
Kevin Jacobs, Designee MDNR  
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

None

### I. OPENING REMARKS

The September 14, 2022, MAC meeting was officially called to order by Chair Russ Kavalhuna at 11:03 am.

Chair Russ Kavalhuna welcomed all to the meeting. He thanked the Mackinac Island community and Mission Point Resort for hosting the Commission. 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 all nine (9) Commissioners were present for a quorum.

### II. COMMISSION BUSINESS

#### A. Minutes of the July 20, 2022, Meeting

Chair Kavalhuna asked if there were any revisions to the minutes of the meeting held on July 20, 2022. There were none. He entertained a motion to approve the minutes. The motion was moved by Commissioner Ben Carter and seconded by Commissioner Bryan Teff 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. Beaver Island Airport, Beaver Island (SJX)
2. Frankfort Dow Memorial Field, Frankfort (FKS)
3. Oceana County Airport, Hart-Shelby (C04)
4. Jerry Tyler Memorial Airport, Niles (3TR)
5. Jerry Tyler Memorial Airport, Niles (3TR)
6. Sandusky City Airport, Sandusky (Y83)

### Bipartisan Infrastructure Legislation Grant

1. Gerald R. Ford International Airport, Grand Rapids (GRR)

### Supplemental Transfers – *No Action Required*

1. Brooks Field, Marshall (RMY)
2. Gogebic-Iron County Airport, Ironwood (IWD)
3. Gogebic-Iron County Airport, Ironwood (IWD)
4. Gogebic-Iron County Airport, Ironwood (IWD)
5. Oakland County International Airport, Pontiac (PTK)
6. Gaylord Regional Airport, Gaylord (GLR)

Chair Kavalhuna asked for a motion to approve the transfers as presented. The motion was moved by Commissioner Rick Fiddler and seconded by Vice Chair Kelly Burris 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](http://www.michigan.gov/aero) under the Commission tab.

## III. DIRECTORS REPORT

### A. MAC Director's Report

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

Director Trout began by sharing Governor Whitmer declared September 2022 as Aviation Month in Michigan by proclamation. This is in recognition of all the aeronautics related work and activities creating positive economic and social impact throughout the State.

Director Trout next updated on the federal covid stimulus packages. For the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, 19 grants totaling



\$242,253,903, along with 162 reimbursement payments in the amount of \$210,614,976 have been processed to date. For the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriation (CRRSA) Act, 30 grants totaling \$55,828,582 and 57 reimbursement payments in the amount of \$41,854,241 have been processed to date. And for the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), 30 grants totaling \$169,645,464 have been awarded with reimbursement processing expected to begin in January 2023.

Director Trout also discussed the Bipartisan Infrastructure Legislation (BIL), noting MDOT Office of Aeronautics (Aero) received \$12 million in General Funds to match BIL grants. Aero will be matching the Airport Infrastructure Grant allocations with the traditional Airport Improvement Program contributions (5% and 2.5% for designated economically distressed communities). The Airport Terminals Program Grants are 95% federal and 5% local funding. Aero will be providing half of the local match (2.5%).

Director Trout gave a state legislative update. SB 1071/HB 6172 earmarks a portion of aviation fuel sales tax revenue to the State Aero Fund. MDOT is evaluating the bills, but it does set the stage for a significant funding increase. HB 6361/HB 6362 revises the Aeronautics Code with minor technical adjustments and provisions related to skydiving operations and flight schools. MDOT is evaluating the bills. A one time \$3.9 million General Fund appropriation was approved to upgrade Michigan's aging Automated Weather Operating Systems (AWOS) network. This comes in part due to a recommendation from the MAC AWOS Committee.

Director Trout briefly discussed the Five-Year Transportation Program for 2023-2027. He also highlighted the latest Aviation Excise Fuel Tax numbers noting the August figures required correction by Treasury and an update will be provided at the November meeting.

Director Trout shared upcoming events including the 2023 NASAO Youth Aviation Art Contest deadline of January 10; 8<sup>th</sup> annual girls in Aviation Day on September 24, and the Chippewa General Aviation Terminal Grand Opening on October 20.

Director Trout welcomed new Aero staff – Barb Diou-Roig, Financial Analyst; David Mellino, Electronics Tech and Zach Bormet, Engineer/Project Manager. He congratulated Aero staff who were recently promoted – Michele Duncan, Licensing Analyst; Sue Payne, Grants/Contracts Analyst; and Tony Smit, UP Inspector/Pilot. He concluded with a brief update on open positions in the Aero office.



#### IV. **MAC AWARDS OF EXCELLENCE**

Chair Kavalhuna explained that in 1990 the MAC began a tradition to recognize individuals and organizations whose innovative contributions have led to significant improvements to facilities, operations, or public relations that support aviation in Michigan. Since that time, many groups and individuals throughout Michigan have been recognized by the MAC for their significant commitment to aviation and their extraordinary efforts. He then asked Vice Chair Kelly Burris to present the organization award.

Vice Chair Burris asked President Bob Green and the Mid-Michigan Honor Flight board members to stand, then began with a personal note of how important the organization receiving the award was to her and how their work for veterans was so very important and appreciated. She then read from the award, "In recognition of your outstanding commitment to honoring veterans by giving them memorable, safe, and rewarding Tours of Honor. Your organization's mission to transport America's veterans to Washington D.C. to visit the memorials dedicated in honor of their sacrifice. Many of the recipients of your generosity would be unable to experience this opportunity without the work of the dedicated pilots and individuals who give their time to this important cause. The Michigan Aeronautics Commission thanks you for your worthy aviation contribution to the State of Michigan." Vice Chair Burris offered her heartfelt congratulations and welcomed President Green to make a few comments. President Green thanked the Commission, gave a history on this organization introducing and recognizing his board members, and concluded with his appreciation of the recognition and being able to attend.

Chair Kavalhuna then announced the individual award winner was being given to two individuals this year. In recognition of the bipartisanship shown in passing a budget supporting Michigan aviation, the MAC is proud to present the individual awards to Senator Jim Ananich and Senator Jim Stamas, noting Senator Stamas could not be in attendance and his award would be presented at a later date. He continued by reading from Senator Ananich's award, "In recognition of your outstanding contributions to the State of Michigan serving in both the Michigan State Senate and House of Representatives and being elected by your peers as Senate Minority Leader for two consecutive terms. Your commitment in passing a bipartisan budget which benefits the State's aviation system by promoting significant expansion of airport development projects; funding upgrades of the automated weather operating systems that are integral to aviation safety; and securing state matching funds for the Bipartisan Infrastructure Legislature federal stimulus for airport infrastructure improvements. Your accomplishments and leadership exemplify the characteristics befitting of the Michigan Aeronautics Commission Award of Excellence." Chair Kavalhuna offered his congratulations and invited Senator Ananich to say a few words. The Senator thanked the Commission for the award, noting it was an honor to serve the people of Michigan and to be a part of the Commission meeting and Michigan Airport Conference.



## V. ELECTIONS

Chair Kavalhuna led into the elections by announcing his term had come to an end. He thanked the Commission and fellow Commissioners for his successful tenure as Chair.

Chair Kavalhuna then stated in accordance with MAC bylaws and pursuant to agreement from members of the Nominating Committee, comprised of Chair Kavalhuna and Commissioner Brian Smith, the following nominations were tendered for the offices of Chairperson and Vice Chairperson of the MAC, for a one-year term beginning immediately upon election. For the office of Chairperson, Commissioner Kelly Burris and for the office of Vice-Chairperson, Commissioner Brian Smith. These nominations required a vote of majority approval.

Chair Kavalhuna asked if there were any further comments or questions. Hearing none, he entertained a motion to approve the nominations as presented. The motion was moved by Commissioner Bryan Teff and seconded by Commissioner Rick Fiddler to approve the nominations. A majority roll call vote was conducted. **All voted in favor. Chair Kavalhuna announced the motion is carried.**

Chair Kavalhuna then turned the meeting and gavel over to new Chair Kelly Burris.

New Chair Burris thanked the Commission for the honor of being elected and gave a short history on her background. She gave thanks to Russ Kavalhuna for his leadership and friendship, noting that she has an open-door policy and welcomes comments and feedback on activities of the Commission.

Director Trout and Chair Burris then presented outgoing Chair Kavalhuna with a gavel plaque and highlighted his accomplishments including oversight on the transfer of billions in federal COVID relief dollars; providing MAC support to airports seeking assistance in securing competitive COVID relief funding; and collaborating with bipartisan legislative and government figures in support of Michigan airports.

## VI. COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

New Chair Burris stated in accordance with Article VI of the MAC Bylaws on Standing Committees, she has the honor and duty to appoint members to the Executive Committee. She continued the bylaws state the Committee is to be comprised of three commissioners, at least two of whom shall be appointive, with the Commission Chair serving and acting as presiding officer. Chair Burris then appointed Vice Chairperson Brian Smith and immediate past Chair Russ Kavalhuna to serve with her on the Executive Committee. No vote was required.

Chair Burris then stated it had been past practice to establish various special committees to evaluate issues that may arise, drawing on the expertise of the commissioners as necessary to establish specific task forces or groups. She stated she will take this into consideration and introduce new committees at future meetings. No vote was required.



**VII. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS**

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

**VIII. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Chair Burris 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 thanked the Commission and MDOT Aero staff, in particular Mike Trout and Bryan Budds, for their support in securing \$12 million in BIL funding.

Miles Weaver, Past President, Michigan Association of Airport Executives(MAAE), thanked the Commission for their support of his tenure and announced Steve Smigelski will serve as President for 2022-2023, and welcomed new MAAE board members James Canders and Kelly Jost.

**IX. CLOSING**

The next MAC meeting is scheduled for 10:00am on Wednesday, November 16, 2022, at the MDOT Office of Aeronautics, 2700 Port Lansing Road, Lansing, Michigan.

Chair Burris thanked the Commissioners, Office of Aeronautics staff, the Mackinac Island community, 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 11:58 a.m.

Kelly Burris, Chair

Michael G. Trout, Director

