

MICHIGAN AERONAUTICS COMMISSION

Minutes of Meeting
Lansing, Michigan
January 26, 2023

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 Air Zoo Flight Innovation Center, 6151 Portage Road, Portage, Michigan, on Thursday, January 26, 2023.

COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT

Kelly Burris, Chair
Dr. Brian Smith, Vice Chair
Rick Fiddler, Commissioner
Benjamin Carter, Commissioner
Russ Kavalhuna, Commissioner
Kevin Jacobs, Designee MDNR
Laura Mester, Designee MDOT
Brig. Gen. Bryan Teff, Designee MDMVA
Mike Trout, Director
Bryan Budds, Commission Advisor
Alicia Morrison, Commission Analyst

COMMISSION MEMBERS ABSENT

F/Lt Greg Setla, Designee MSP

I. OPENING REMARKS

The January 26, 2023, MAC meeting was officially called to order by Chair Kelly Burris at 10:00 am.

Chair Burris welcomed all to the meeting and thanked all in attendance. She gave a special thanks to Sarah Pagano for bringing Aviator Cookies and to the Air Zoo for hosting. She then asked everyone to join in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chair Burris asked for a formal roll call. Roll call was taken. It was announced eight (8) Commissioners were present for a quorum.

Chair Burris welcomed Michael Martin from the Air Zoo who gave a brief introduction to the Air Zoo and what its mission is. Commissioners were invited on a guided tour after the meeting in support of this important museum.

II. COMMISSION BUSINESS

A. Minutes of the November 16, 2022, Meeting

Chair Burris asked if there were any revisions to the minutes of the meeting held on November 16, 2022. There were none. She entertained a motion to approve the



minutes. The motion was moved by Commissioner Rick Fiddler and seconded by Commissioner Russ Kavalhuna to approve the minutes as presented. **All voted in favor. Chair Burris announced the motion is carried.**

B. Request for Approval and Transfer of Appropriated Funds

Chair Burris called on Alissa VanHoof, who then presented the Air Service Program Grants and Airport Sponsor Contracts and Supplemental Transfers.

**Air Service Program Grants
(Aircraft Rescue and Firefighting Training)**

1. Willow Run Airport (YIP), Detroit
2. Bishop International Airport (FNT), Flint
3. Gerald R. Ford International Airport (GRR), Grand Rapids
4. Houghton County Memorial Airport (CMX), Hancock
5. Ford Airport (IMT), Iron Mountain
6. Gogebic – Iron County Airport (IWD), Ironwood
7. Kalamazoo/Battle Creek International Airport (AZO), Kalamazoo
8. Capital Region International Airport (LAN), Lansing
9. Manistee County – Blacker Airport (MBL), Manistee
10. Muskegon County Airport (MKG), Muskegon
11. Pellston Regional Airport (PLN), Pellston
12. Oakland County International Airport (PTK), Pontiac
13. MBS International Airport (MBS), Saginaw
14. Chippewa County International Airport (CIU), Sault Ste. Marie
15. Cherry Capital Airport (TVC), Traverse City

Airport Sponsor Contracts

1. Battle Creek Executive Airport at Kellogg Field (BTL), Battle Creek
2. Beaver Island Airport (SJX), Beaver Island
3. Greenville Municipal Airport (6D6), Greenville
4. Jackson County – Reynolds Field (JXN), Jackson

Non-Traditional Grant Contracts

5. Detroit Metropolitan Wayne County Airport (DTW), Detroit – Environmental Mitigation Pilot Program
6. Detroit Metropolitan Wayne County Airport (DTW), Detroit – Voluntary Airport Low Emissions Program
7. Gerald R. Ford International Airport (GRR), Grand Rapids – Environmental Mitigation Pilot Program

Supplemental Transfers – No Action Required

1. Charlevoix Municipal Airport (CVX), Charlevoix



Commissioner Carter questioned whether the non-traditional grants to DTW and GRR had local funds secured already. Alissa VanHoof responded yes, the local funds have been proven and received.

Chair Burris asked for a motion to approve the transfers as presented. The motion was moved by Vice Chair Brian Smith and seconded by Commissioner Rick Fiddler to approve the transfers as presented. **All voted in favor. Chair Burris announced the motion is carried.**

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

C. 2023 Michigan Association of Airport Executives Contract Approval

Chair Burris called on Bryan Budds, who then presented the 2023 Michigan Association of Airport Executives (MAAE) contract.

Bryan Budds explained the long-standing relationship between MAAE and MDOT Aeronautics. He presented the following categories and funding breakdown for approval.

Category	MDOT	MAAE	Total
Michigan Aviation Professionals Training Course	\$3,000	\$1,000	\$4,000
Non-Part-139 ARFF Training for Community Fire Departments*	\$4,000	\$2,000	\$6,000
Post-Secondary School Student Scholarships*	\$6,000	\$4,000	\$10,000
Intern Program	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$10,000
Michigan Airport Conferences	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$20,000



Special Aviation Event Sponsorship	\$2,000	\$1,000	\$3,000
Total	\$30,000	\$23,000	\$53,000

Commissioner Carter questioned how many scholarships and internships were intended to be given. Bryan Budds responded with up to 10-15.

Chair Burris entertained a motion to approve the contract as presented. The motion was moved by Commissioner Ben Carter and seconded by Commissioner Russ Kavalhuna to approve the contract as presented. **All voted in favor. Chair Burris announced the motion is carried.**

III. DIRECTORS REPORT

A. MAC Director’s Report

Chair Burris called on Director Trout who presented his Director’s Report.

Director Trout began by give a federal Covid relief funding update. 166 payments to 87 airports totaling \$212,543,032 have been reimbursed under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act and 88 payments to 74 airports totaling \$46,919,413 have been reimbursed under the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriation (CRRSA) Act. Reimbursement requests for the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) began in January 2023 with 7 payments to 4 airports totaling \$11,897,852 have been processed.

Director Trout next updated on the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) funding noting in fiscal year (FY) 2023 Michigan has 90 eligible airports with an announced allocation of \$71,461,058. Additional information on BIL funding can be found on the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) website at [Bipartisan Infrastructure Law | Federal Aviation Administration \(faa.gov\)](https://www.faa.gov/bipartisan-infrastructure-law).

Director Trout shared a Notice of Funding Opportunity for FAA FY 2022 Supplemental Discretionary Grants. Applications are due to FAA by 5:00pm Eastern Time on January 31, 2023.

Director Trout reported the latest fuel tax information. The Excise Tax Revenue is trending upward from FY 2022 and has increased dramatically from the pandemic lows of FY 2021. The Sales Tax Revenue is also increasing from FY 2022 numbers.



Director Trout provided a legislative update listing the new Chairs of the various House and Senate Transportation Subcommittees of the 102nd Michigan Legislature. He also stated the Aeronautics Code Revisions were being worked on at MDOT Aero and would be reintroduced in 2023. Senate Bill 22 was reintroduced clarifying prohibition of weapons in a sterile airport area.

For FY 2023, Director Trout shared the Office of Aeronautics' priority areas of focus which are:

1. Address Workforce Issues with focus on key career opportunities, recruiting and hiring, retaining workers, and women in aviation careers.
2. Enhance Air Service Development Program by evaluating program guidelines and incentive opportunities.
3. Environmental Stewardship starting with the transition to Chlorine free AFFF.

Director Trout continued with uncrewed aerial systems (UAS) updates. He noted Aero leadership attended an industry summit in Detroit with various UAS leaders to discuss future emerging aviation initiatives. He noted the UAS Beyond Visual Line of Sight (BVLOS) Corridor Feasibility study is wrapping up with the Final Report expected by the end of March. This study was also highlighted as third on MEDC/OFME's Top 5 2022 Mobility Innovation Highlights. Director Trout also shared two new UAS research projects about to kick off which are a Multimodal Electric Aircraft Charging Station Project and Aviation Technology Communications Mesh Project.

Director Trout then highlighted the recent obstruction removal project at South Haven Airport. This was a 16-acre obstruction removal on Runway 5 end. The consultant was Mead and Hunt, and the cost was \$132,846. He noted the airport is working on a plan to plant native grasses on the parcel to minimize future obstructions and clearing.

Director Trout updated on the Office of Aeronautics FY 2023 to date statistics noting there were 78.8 total flight hours of state aircraft; 884 tall structure permit reviews; 95 compliance report cards prepared; 7 UAS runway obstruction surveys completed; 23 Airport Layout Plan updates under contract; and 228 DBE goals added. He then welcomed new Aero Inspector, Craig Pearson, and congratulated Bryan Budds on being named Co-Chair of the NASAO Emerging Technology Committee.

Director Trout concluded his presentation by congratulating the 2023 NASAO International Art Contest state winners – Fiona from Allen Elementary School in Ann Arbor, Paityn from Mendon Schools in Mendon, and Jane from Huron High School in Ann Arbor. All three winners will have their art sent to Washington DC for judging at the national level.



Director Trout presented Phil Johnson with the MAC Service Award for his 45+ years of dedicated service working in the aviation industry with over 30 of those in the State of Michigan. The MAC thanks Phil for his service. Phil Johnson then gave his thanks to the aviation community and the MAC for this recognition.

IV. PRESENTATION

Kalamazoo/Battle Creek International Airport (AZO) Manager, Craig Williams, was welcomed to the meeting and asked to give his presentation.

Craig Williams began by discussing AZO's mission, goals, vision, and core values. He then highlighted recent upgrades at the airport including a Snow Removal Equipment Building constructed using CARES funding and plans for a runway extension.

Craig Williams discussed how airline industry factors are changing the air service dynamics including how business travel is down and smaller airports are now working towards attracting leisure air service. He also spoke on airport professional development and how attracting employees to all sectors of aviation is critical for continued success.

Chair Burris asked if there had been an increase in general aviation (GA) and how the MAC can support GA and fixed base operations. Craig Williams responded there has been 20% growth in GA and they are using CRRSA funding to invest in a new GA ramp anticipating future growth.

Commissioner Kavalhuna asked how much air service was down at KZO and what incentives can be offered to attract new carriers. Craig Williams answered a 15-20% overall decrease with other tangibles (car rental services, etc.) down as much as 25-30% total. He responded he was unsure of what incentives are feasible, but they can include landing fees, rent, ground handling, and marketing.

V. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Chair Burris asked if any Commissioners would like to make a comment. There were no additional comments or questions from Commissioners.

VI. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Chair Burris asked if anyone would like to make a public comment. There were no public comments.

VII. CLOSING

The next MAC meeting is scheduled for 9:00am on Wednesday, March 22, 2023, at the Midland Jack Barstow Airport, 2700 Port Lansing Road, Lansing, Michigan.

Chair Burris 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 11:16 a.m.



Kelly Burris, Chair



Michael G. Trout, Director

