

MICHIGAN AERONAUTICS COMMISSION

Minutes of Meeting

Lansing, Michigan

March 22, 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 Jack Barstow Midland Airport, 2800 Airport Road, Midland, Michigan, 48642 on Wednesday, March 22, 2023.

COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT

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

COMMISSION MEMBERS ABSENT

Kevin Jacobs, Designee MDNR
F/Lt Greg Setla, Designee MSP
Brig. Gen. Bryan Teff, Designee MDMVA

OPENING REMARKS, ROLL CALL, and PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The March 22, 2023, MAC meeting was officially called to order by Chair Kelly Burris at 9:01 am.

Chair Burris welcomed all to the meeting and thanked all in attendance. She gave a special thanks to Aviator Cookies for providing meeting treats and to the Jack Barstow Midland Airport for hosting. She made note of March as Women's History Month, thanking all the women leaders in the room. 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 five (5) Commissioners were present for a quorum.

I. WELCOME PRESENTATION

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Chair Burris welcomed Sarah Pagano, Airport Manager, from Jack Barstow Midland Airport who gave a brief introduction to the airport and its mission. Sarah discussed the various community outreach efforts the airport participates in, highlighting the upcoming College/Career Day on April 29 and Aviator Camp on June 12-16. Sarah concluded with a comprehensive look at the economic benefits the airport brings Midland and the vision for the future of aviation in the Midland area.

Vice Chair Brian Smith asked about details of the Aviator Camp. Sarah Pagano answered it was a week-long, day camp exposing school age kids to careers in aviation, and there is currently a wait list for students wanting to attend. Vice Chair Smith asked if the airport was interested or thinking of expanding the program since they had such success. Sarah answered yes, they wanted to but did not have the resources (space and volunteers) to make that happen currently. Vice Chair Smith stated there is a similar program, Ace Academy, in Detroit and forming a partnership could be beneficial.

II. COMMISSION BUSINESS

A. Minutes of the January 26, 2023, Meeting

Chair Burris asked if there were any revisions to the minutes of the meeting held on January 26, 2023. There were none. She entertained a motion to approve the minutes. The motion was moved by Commissioner Ben Carter and seconded by Vice Chair Brian Smith 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 transfers.

Airport Sponsor Contracts

1. Antrim County Airport (ACB), Bellaire
2. Coleman A. Young Municipal Airport (DET), Detroit
3. Detroit Metropolitan Wayne County Airport (DTW), Detroit
4. Grosse Ile Municipal Airport (ONZ), Grosse Ile
5. Grosse Ile Municipal Airport (ONZ), Grosse Ile
6. Bishop International Airport (FNT), Flint
7. Jack Barstow Airport (IKW), Midland
8. Saginaw County H. W. Browne Airport (HYX), Saginaw
9. Paul C. Miller Sparta Airport (8D4), Sparta
10. Paul C. Miller Sparta Airport (8D4), Sparta

Supplemental Transfers >15% of Original Transfer

1. Saginaw County H. W. Browne (HYX), Saginaw



Supplemental Transfers – No Action Required

1. Marlette Township Airport (77G), Marlette
2. Tuscola County Airport (CFS), Caro

Statewide Crack Sealing and Paint Marking Program

1. Padgham Field Airport (35D), Allegan
2. Gratiot Community Airport (AMN), Alma
3. Tuscola Area Airport (CFS), Caro
4. Dowagiac Municipal Airport (C91), Dowagiac
5. Iosco County Airport (6D9), East Tawas
6. Harbor Springs Municipal Airport (MGN), Harbor Springs
7. Hastings Airport (9D9), Hastings
8. Hillman Airport (Y95), Hillman
9. Hillsdale Municipal Airport (JYM), Hillsdale
10. Livingston County Spencer J Hardy Airport (OZW), Howell
11. Ionia County Airport (Y70), Ionia
12. Gogebic Iron County Airport (IWD), Ironwood
13. Mackinac Island Airport (MCD), Mackinac Island
14. Oakland County Southwest Airport (Y47), New Hudson
15. Oakland County International Airport (PTK), Pontiac
16. Sanderson Airport (ANJ), Sault Ste Marie
17. Sebewaing Township Airport (98G), Sebewaing
18. Haines Airport (HAI), Three Rivers
19. West Branch Community Airport (Y31), West Branch

Air Service Program

1. Delta County Airport (ESC), Escanaba
2. MBS International Airport (MBS), Saginaw
3. Sawyer International Airport (SAW), Marquette

Primary Airport Improvement Program

1. Willow Run Airport (YIP), Detroit
2. Detroit Metro Wayne County Airport (DTW), Detroit
3. Delta County Airport (ESC), Escanaba
4. Bishop International Airport (FNT), Flint
5. Gerald R. Ford International Airport (GRR), Grand Rapids
6. Kalamazoo Battle Creek International Airport (AZO), Kalamazoo
7. Capital Region International Airport (LAN), Lansing
8. Capital Region International Airport (LAN), Lansing



9. Sawyer International Airport (SAW), Marquette
10. Sawyer International Airport (SAW), Marquette
11. Muskegon County Airport (MKG), Muskegon
12. Pellston Regional Airport of Emmet County (PLN), Pellston
13. MBS International Airport (MBS), Saginaw
14. Chippewa County International Airport (CIU), Sault Ste Marie

Commissioner Carter asked if this were a pre-approval for the Primary Airport Transfers, would Aero come back for a final approval? Alissa VanHoof answered no, this would serve as approval. Commissioner Carter also asked if the local funds being used were already secured from the local entities. Alissa VanHoof answered yes, the airport must show proof to the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) of secured funding before approval.

Commissioner Mester asked if there was a timeframe for using state match funds. Alissa VanHoof answered the state funds do not expire but the FAA has a four-year period of performance. She also noted capital funding carries forward if not used. It was then noted that the state match for BIL/IIJA comes from \$12M allotted from the state General Fund.

Commissioner Carter asked once the MAC approves the funding transfers, how does the funding roll out to the airport and what is Aero's role. Alissa VanHoof answered Aero's actions are governed by the Aeronautics Code of Michigan with the main involvement being in administering the state match, planning, funding, processing and close out activities.

Chair Burris asked for a motion to approve the transfers as presented. The motion was moved by Commissioner Ben Carter and seconded by Commissioner Rick Fiddler to approve the transfers as presented. **All voted in favor noting Vice Chair Brian Smith abstained from the DET vote due to conflicts. Chair Burris announced the motion is carried. Due to a lack of quorum with Vice Chair Smith abstaining, the DET transfer will be presented again at the May MAC meeting.**

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

III. DIRECTORS REPORT

A. MAC Director's Report

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



Director Trout began with an update on the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) funding sharing the announced awards to Detroit Metropolitan Wayne County Airport (DTW), Gerald R. Ford International Airport (GRR), Flint Bishop Airport (FNT), Chippewa International Airport (CIU), Hillsdale Municipal Airport (JYM), and Cherry Capital Airport (TVC). 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 news of aviation workforce development grants that were awarded to Northwestern Michigan College (\$3.8M for a Student Aviation Center) and Tuskegee Airmen National Historical Museum (\$500,000 for Youth Program Development.)

Director Trout reported the latest fuel tax information. The excise tax revenue continues to trend upward showing an overall increase of 6.61% over FY 2022. The sales tax revenue also shows a 13.07% increase over FY 2022.

Director Trout provided a state legislative update discussing the proposed FY 2024 budget. MDOT Aero highlights include a \$20M increase in FAA revenue, a slight decrease (\$13,600) for Aviation Services, and an increase of 7.7% for Airport Improvement Programs. The Air Service Program remains unchanged at \$50,000. There are no new announced boilerplates for Aero.

Director Trout next gave a national legislative update stating the full committee nomination hearings for Phillip Washington to become FAA Administrator began March 1. He also updated on the National Association of State Aviation Officials (NASAO) Washington DC Briefing held February 28 – March 3. Speakers included FAA Acting Administrator Billy Nolan, Rick Larson, and Shannetta Griffin. Director Trout also made note of the current national aviation policy leaders.

Mio airport was highlighted by Director Trout for their recent Snow Removal Equipment Acquisition Project. The equipment was purchased using the MIDeal program and was coupled with local funding.

Director Trout updated on Aero FY 2023 to date statistics noting there were 48 open Airport Improvement Program/BIL/Covid Relief grants, 16 Airport Layout Plan updates under contract, 4 land acquisition projects completed, 30 airport development projects environmentally cleared, 60 airports inspected for

pavement condition, and 2,287 tall structure applications reviewed and processed. He then highlighted the robust cash balance in the State Aeronautics Fund, shared that the 2023 Airport Directory would be released soon, and that the 2023 Michigan Aeronautical Chart was back and being distributed at specific airports and public facilities statewide. Director Trout shared that Aero's new Aviation Services Section Manager was starting April 3 and there is a current posting for an Engineer/Project Manager. Director Trout also shared the conferences Aero staff have recently attended including American Council of Engineering Companies, County Road Administration, Disadvantaged Business Enterprises, Michigan Airport Conference, Michigan Infrastructure and Transportation Association, NASAO, Michigan Safety Conference, TranspoCon and Transportation Research Board.

Director Trout highlighted recent news stories on the passing of former Flint airport director, Jim Rice; Eaton County Regional Education Service Agency's new aviation program; Hillsdale Airport's \$2.5M Airport Terminal Program grant award; and recognition for GRR and DTW from the Airport Service and Quality Awards. He then shared upcoming events including April 8 Western Michigan University (WMU) College of Aviation Fly-in; April 29 Drone Safety Day; May 8-9 Michigan Airport Professionals Training Course and Maintenance Workshop; July 17-20 FAA National Civil Rights Training Conference; and September 11-14 Michigan Association of Airport Executives-MDOT Michigan Airport Conference.

Director Trout concluded by celebrating women in aviation and transportation for March which is Women's History Month. He discussed March 8 being International Women's Day and Women's Airline Pilots Day, highlighting Emily Howell Warner who was the first female airline pilot hired in January 1973. He also acknowledged MAC Chair Kelly Burris for her appointment to the WMU Board of Trustees and MAC Commissioner Laura Mester for being named 2023 Women's Transportation Seminar Woman of the Year.

IV. AWARD PRESENTATION

Chair Burris and Director Trout presented awards which were scheduled to be given at the cancelled Michigan Airport Conference.

Director Trout began with the General Aviation Airport of the Year Award for Harry W. Browne Airport in Saginaw. He read from the award: "This award is presented in recognition for the attentive care and commitment to airport management and operations by the H.W. Browne airport staff. Your dedication to excellence in maintenance and safety at the airport by supporting state of the art LED lighting at



runway edges and approach paths contribute greatly to the safe and efficient operation of the airport. The superior customer care and aviation services provided serve the community and flying public of Michigan well. The MDOT Office of Aeronautics honors the airport staff for a job well done.” He then offered his congratulations and invited Alan Kaufman, Airport Manager, to say a few words. Alan Kaufman thanked the Commission and Aero for the recognition.

Chair Burris then awarded the Airport Community Involvement Award to Sarah Pagano, Airport Manager, Jack Barstow Midland Airport. She read from the award: “This award is presented in recognition of distinguished service in supporting aviation education and community awareness at the Jack Barstow Airport in Midland. Your efforts and dedication have been recognized by both MDOT Office of Aeronautics and the City of Midland in bringing positive attention and focus to aviation-related initiatives at the airport. Supporting local food trucks during ‘Food Truck Friday’ as well as partnering with the local library for monthly story hours and with the local EAA for ‘Aviation Career Night’ have strengthened airport awareness and created a positive impact in the community. The fun and educational opportunities you offer at the airport promote a friendly atmosphere and create an interest in aviation for all members of the community that will leave positive impacts well into the future.” Chair Burris then welcomed Sarah Pagano to say a few words. Sarah Pagano thanked the Commission and Aeronautics for the recognition.

V. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

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

Commissioner Ben Carter thanked Sarah Pagano for her inspiration to bring fun events to the airport. He also noted that he enjoys the MAC “roadshow” visiting airports throughout the state. He also thanked the MAC Pipeline Committee for bringing awareness to the issue of recruitment and retention of women and minorities into the aviation industry.

Commissioner Mester commended Aero on how well they advocate for all aviation in the state including with the state legislature. She noted MDOT is proud of the work Aero staff does.

VI. PUBLIC COMMENTS

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



Dot Hornsby, local pilot, thanked Sarah Pagano and the MAC for having the meeting in Midland. She stated it was important for the community to have the recognition to increase local funding.

Tom Ryden, local pilot, also stated his appreciation for the MAC traveling to Midland to meet. He agreed that it was impactful in the community for communication and marketing purposes and was in favor of the MAC going on the road more.

Dan Kelly, H.W. Browne Airport, stated he was proud to see the airport receive the GA Airport of the Year award. He noted the rich history of the airport in Saginaw County and how the airport is keeping it alive.

Dave Keller, Brighton Airport, thanked the Commission for their work and asked for assistance with some legal matters at the Brighton Airport regarding obstructions. Director Trout stated Aero was aware and involved and would follow up as appropriate.

VII. CLOSING

The next MAC meeting is scheduled for 10:00am on Wednesday, May 24, 2023, at a location to be determined.

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 10:19 a.m.



Kelly Burris, Chair



Michael G. Trout, Director