MICHIGAN AERONAUTICS COMMISSION
Minutes of Meeting
Lansing, Michigan
January 25, 2024

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 Office of Aeronautics, 2700 Port Lansing Road, Lansing, Michigan on January 25, 2024.

COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT
Dr. Brian Smith, Chair
Benjamin Carter, Vice Chair – via Teams, Non-voting
Rick Fiddler, Commissioner
Kevin Jacobs, Designee MDNR
Laura Mester, Designee MDOT
Major General Bryan Teff, Designee, MDMVA
Mike Trout, Director
Bryan Budds, Commission Advisor
Alicia Morrison, Commission Analyst

MAC, Michigan Aeronautics Commission

COMMISSION MEMBERS ABSENT
Kelly Burris, Commissioner
Russ Kavalhuna, Commissioner
F/Lt. Greg Setla, Designee MSP

I. OPENING REMARKS, ROLL CALL, and PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The January 25, 2024, MAC meeting was officially called to order by Chair Brian Smith at 9:04 am.

Chair Smith welcomed all to the meeting and thanked all in attendance.

Chair Smith then asked everyone to join in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chair Smith asked for a formal roll call. Roll call was taken by Alicia Morrison. It was announced five (5) Commissioners were present in person for a quorum.

II. STUDENT HIGHLIGHT

Chair Smith thanked the Office of Aeronautics for hosting and asked Mike Trout to introduce Linnea Ulland, MDOT Aeronautics Student Intern to speak on her experiences.

Linnea Ulland thanked the Commission for the opportunity to speak. She shared her aviation journey, noting her time at Western Michigan University, and her dreams of becoming an airport manager or aviation administrator. She concluded by encouraging all young aviators to follow their dreams.

III. COMMISSION BUSINESS

A. Minutes of the November 15, 2023, Meeting

Chair Smith asked if there were any revisions to the minutes of the meeting held on November 15, 2023. There were none. Chair Smith entertained a motion to approve the minutes. The motion was moved by Commissioner Rick Fiddler and seconded by Commissioner Kevin Jacobs to approve the minutes as presented. **All voted in favor. Chair Smith announced the motion is carried.**

B. Request for Approval and Transfer of Appropriated Funds

Chair Smith called on Elyse Lower, who then presented the transfers.

Airport Sponsor Contracts

1. Ann Arbor Municipal Airport, Ann Arbor (ARB)
2. Ann Arbor Municipal Airport, Ann Arbor (ARB)
3. Huron County Memorial Airport, Bad Axe (BAX)
4. Wexford County Airport, Cadillac (CAD)
5. Wexford County Airport, Cadillac (CAD)
6. Wexford County Airport, Cadillac (CAD)
7. Cheboygan County Airport, Cheboygan (SLH)
8. Frankfort Dow Memorial Field, Frankfort (FKS)
9. Gladwin Zettel Memorial Airport, Gladwin (GDW)
10. Abrams Municipal Airport, Grand Ledge (4D0)
11. Abrams Municipal Airport, Grand Ledge (4D0)
12. West Michigan Regional Airport, Holland (BIV)
13. Ionia County Airport, Ionia (Y70)
14. Manistee County Blacker Airport, Manistee (MBL)
15. Manistee County Blacker Airport, Manistee (MBL)
16. Schoolcraft County Airport, Manistique (ISQ)
17. Menominee Regional Airport, Menominee (MNM)
18. Oscoda County Dennis Kauffman Airport, Mio (51M)
19. Mount Pleasant Municipal Airport, Mount Pleasant (MOP)
20. Mount Pleasant Municipal Airport, Mount Pleasant (MOP)
21. Mount Pleasant Municipal Airport, Mount Pleasant (MOP)
22. White Cloud Airport, White Cloud (42C)

Supplemental Transfers >15% of Original Transfer

23. Fitch H. Beach Airport, Charlotte (FPK)
24. Owosso Community Airport, Owosso (RNP)

Supplemental Transfers <15% of original transfer – No Action Required

1. Capital Region International Airport, Lansing (LAN)
2. Sandusky City Airport, Sandusky (Y83)

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

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

IV. DIRECTORS REPORT

A. MAC Director's Report

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

Director Trout began by thanking all those in attendance in Lansing and via Teams.

Director Trout gave a legislative update noting the Federal Government had passed a short term laddered Continuing Resolution extending transportation funding through March 1, 2024. He also noted the Airport and Airway Extension Act of 2023 was passed extending Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) authorities through March 8, 2024. He stated the Memorandum of Understanding between the FAA and the National Association of State Aviation Officials (NASAO) had been signed. He then highlighted NASAO legislative priorities and that the Aeronautics Code revisions were still pending in the Michigan Legislature.

Director Trout provided an update on the Air Service Program developed to stimulate economic activity and air service connectivity in Michigan. These funds are Fiscal Recovery Funds appropriated through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) and therefore subject to federal guidelines. The program timeline has pre-applications due to MDOT Aero on February 2, 2024, and final applications due June 7, 2024. Questions on the Air Service Program can be directed to MDOT-AirService@michigan.gov.

Director Trout also offered further details on the State/Local Program developed to help non-air service airports address unfunded airport maintenance, preventive maintenance, and capital needs. This program will fund the Crack Sealing and Paint Marking Programs for fiscal year (FY) 2024. The remaining fund allocation is to be determined at the time of this meeting.

Director Trout highlighted the Airport Improvement Program (AIP) stating FY 2024 project announcements may be delayed due to the reauthorization. FY 2024 Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) Airport Improvement Grants (AIG) were announced and can be found here **www.faa.gov/bil/airport-infrastructure**.

Director Trout provided current Excise Fuel Tax and Sales Fuel Tax data.

Sparta Airport (8D4) was highlighted by Director Trout for their Reconstruct Runway Lighting Project. The project amount was $892,836.63 and was completed by contractor Countyline. Paul Nicastri is the Aero Project Manager and Prein & Newhof is the Consultant on the project. The project was completed on time and under budget.

Director Trout shared year-to-date performance metrics on various Aero programs.

Director Trout announced the Office of Aeronautics had recently completed their first informational video showcasing the work done in the Office. Featuring Aero employees, the video was completed using federal technical funding. A pre-flight safety video was also completed for all passengers flying aboard state aircraft. Director Trout welcomed new employees and offered congratulations to those receiving service awards, and on two recent baby girls born to Office staff.

Director Trout discussed current uncrewed aerial systems (UAS) and advanced air mobility (AAM) initiatives including MDOT's collaboration with Michigan Central on the Advanced Aerial Innovation Region (AAIR), as well as two current research projects on Communications Mesh and Multi-Modal Electric Charging Stations. He discussed the newly created MDOT UAS Operations Group formed as a collaboration between users for program development and policy consistency. Director Trout also noted an upcoming UAS Peer Exchange being held at the Office of Aeronautics the week of August 19, 2024.

Director Trout discussed recent good news items including the following stories: MDOT/City of Detroit/Electreon Unveil First Public EV-charging Roadway at Michigan Central; It Costs More to Register a Car in Michigan than an Airplane; and Traverse City County Club Donates $55,000 to Mid-Michigan Honor Flight. He also shared a timeline with upcoming events at airports around Michigan. A full list of events, fly-ins and aviation happenings can be found at www.michigan.gov/aero.

Director Trout concluded by offering his condolences in memory of former Commissioner Fred Rakunas.

V. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Chair Smith asked if any Commissioners would like to make comments. There were none.

VI. PUBLIC COMMENTS

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

Heb Schulke (?) noted the Michigan Aviation Safety Forum is being held at Plymouth Canton Airport on February 10.

VII. CLOSING

The next MAC meeting is scheduled for 10:00am on Wednesday, March 20, 2024, at Jackson County Reynolds Field, Jackson, Michigan.

Chair Smith 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 9:52 a.m.

Brian Smith, Chair

Michael G. Trout, Director