MICHIGAN AERONAUTICS COMMISSION
Minutes of Meeting
Jackson, Michigan
March 20, 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 Jackson County Reynolds Field Airport, 3568 Wildwood Avenue, Jackson, Michigan on March 20, 2024.

COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT

Dr. Brian Smith, Chair
Benjamin Carter, Vice Chair
Rick Fiddler, Commissioner
Kelly Burris, Commissioner
Russ Kavalhuna, Commissioner
Kevin Jacobs, Designee MDNR
F/Lt. Greg Setla, Designee MSP
Jean Ruestman for Laura Mester, Designee MDOT
Major General Bryan Teff, Designee, MDMVA
Mike Trout, Director
Bryan Budds, Commission Advisor
Alicia Morrison, Commission Analyst

MAC Meeting Minutes - Nov. 2023

COMMISSION MEMBERS ABSENT

None

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

The March 20, 2024, MAC meeting was called to order by Chair Brian Smith at 10:02 am.

Chair Smith welcomed all to the meeting and thanked all in attendance. He also thanked Jackson County Reynolds Field for hosting the Commission.

Chair Smith 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 all nine (9) Commissioners were present in person for a quorum.

II. WELCOME PRESENTATION

Juan Zapata, Airport Manager, Jackson County Reynolds Field Airport welcomed the Commission and community members present and thanked them for attending. He then spoke about current and future projects taking place at the airport, highlighting the new tower project funded with Bipartisan Infrastructure Legislation (BIL) grant.

III. STUDENT HIGHLIGHT

Chair Smith introduced Reece Blackgrove who spoke about his experiences as an aviation student and instructor at Flight School Jackson.

III. COMMISSION BUSINESS

A. Minutes of the January 25, 2024, Meeting

Chair Smith asked if there were any revisions to the minutes of the meeting held on January 25, 2024. There were none. Chair Smith entertained a motion to approve the minutes. The motion was moved by Commissioner Russ Kavalhuna and seconded by Commissioner Kelly Burris to approve the minutes as presented. **All voted in favor. Chair Smith announced the motion is carried.**

B. Ownership Transfer of Linden Prices Airport, Linden (9G2)

Chair Smith called on Bryan Budds to present on the ownership transfer of Linden Prices Airport (9G2). Vice Chair Carter asked about the current status of the taxiway and runway. Bryan Budds answered that the PCI is below 50, which indicates poor condition. Vice Chair Carter then asked if maintenance would be required to keep the taxiway and runway in working condition if ownership reverted. Bryan Budds replied yes. Chair Smith asked if there were any further questions. There were none. He then asked for a motion to approve the ownership transfer as presented. The motion was moved by Commissioner Rick Fiddler and seconded by Commissioner Kelly Burris to approve the motion. **All voted in favor. Chair Smith announced the motion is carried.**

C. Request for Approval and Transfer of Appropriated Funds for Primary Airports

Chair Smith called on Jim Hartman to present the Primary Airport Sponsor Contracts.

Airport Sponsor Contracts

Primary AIP Grants

1. Gerald R. Ford International Airport, Grand Rapids (GRR)
2. Kalamazoo/Battle Creek International Airport, Kalamazoo (AZO)
3. Ford Airport, Iron Mountain (IMT)
4. Ford Airport, Iron Mountain (IMT)
5. Alpena County Regional Airport, Alpena (APN)
6. Muskegon County Airport, Muskegon (MKG)
7. Delta County Airport, Escanaba (ESC)
8. Capital Region International Airport, Lansing (LAN)
9. Chippewa County International Airport, Sault Ste. Marie (CIU)
10. Flint Bishop International Airport, Flint (FNT)
11. Marquette Sawyer Regional Airport, Marquette (SAW)
12. Pellston Regional Airport of Emmet County, Pellston (PLN)
13. Houghton County Memorial Airport, Hancock (CMX)
14. MBS International Airport, Saginaw (MBS)
15. Willow Run Airport, Detroit (YIP)
16. Detroit Wayne County Metropolitan Airport, Detroit (DTW)

Primary BIL AIG and BIL ATP Grants

17. Alpena County Regional Airport, Alpena (APN)
18. Detroit Willow Run, Detroit (YIP)
19. Detroit Metropolitan Wayne County Airport, Detroit (DTW)
20. Muskegon County Airport, Muskegon (MKG)
21. Delta County Airport, Escanaba (ESC)
22. Houghton County Memorial Airport, Hancock (CMX)
23. Capital Region International Airport, Lansing (LAN)
24. Chippewa County International Airport, Sault Ste. Marie (CIU)
25. Chippewa County International Airport, Sault Ste. Marie (CIU)

26. Marquette Sawyer Regional Airport, Marquette (SAW)
27. Cherry Capital Airport, Traverse City (TVC)
28. Flint Bishop International Airport, Flint (FNT)
29. Gerald R. Ford International Airport, Grand Rapids (GRR)
30. Gerald R. Ford International Airport, Grand Rapids (GRR)
31. Gerald R. Ford International Airport, Grand Rapids (GRR)
32. Pellston Regional Airport of Emmet County, Pellston (PLN)

Chair Smith asked if there were any questions. There were none. He then asked for a motion to approve items 1-32 of the Primary Airport Sponsor Contracts as presented. The motion was moved by Commissioner Kevin Jacobs and seconded by Commissioner Kelly Burris to approve the Primary Airport Sponsor Contracts as presented. **All voted in favor. Chair Smith announced the motion is carried.**

D. Request for Approval and Transfer of Appropriated Funds for State Block Grant Airports

Chair Smith called on Alissa VanHoof to present the State Block Grant Program Airport Sponsor Contracts and Supplemental Transfers.

State Block Grant Program AIP and BIL Grants

1. Antrim County Airport, Bellaire (ACB)
2. Antrim County Airport, Bellaire (ACB)
3. Bois Blanc Island Airport, Bois Blanc (6Y1)
4. Frankfort Dow Memorial Field, Frankfort (FKS)
5. Grand Haven Memorial Airpark, Grand Haven (3GM)
6. Greenville Municipal Airport, Greenville (6D6)
7. West Michigan Regional Airport, Holland (BIV)
8. West Michigan Regional Airport, Holland (BIV)
9. Jackson County Reynolds Field Airport, Jackson (JXN)
10. Jackson County Reynolds Field Airport, Jackson (JXN)
11. Mason Jewett Field, Mason (TEW)
12. Jack Barstow Airport, Midland (IKW)]
13. Oakland County International Airport, Pontiac (PTK)
14. Saginaw County H.W. Browne Airport, Saginaw (HYX)
15. Saginaw County H.W. Browne Airport, Saginaw (HYX)
16. Sandusky City Airport, Sandusky (Y83)
17. Sandusky City Airport, Sandusky (Y83)
18. Paul C. Miller Sparta Airport, Sparta (8D4)
19. Paul C. Miller Sparta Airport, Sparta (8D4)
20. Paul C. Miller Sparta Airport, Sparta (8D4)

Supplemental Transfers >15% of Original Transfer

21. Huron County Memorial Airport, Bad Axe (BAX)

Supplemental Transfers – No Action Required

1. Menominee Regional Airport, Menominee (MNM)
2. Menominee Regional Airport, Menominee (MNM)

Chair Smith asked if there were any questions. There were none. He then asked for a motion to approve items 1-21 of the State Block Grant Program Airport

Sponsor contracts as presented. The motion was moved by Vice Chair Ben Carter and seconded by Commissioner Bryan Teff. **All voted in favor. Chair Smith announced the motion is carried.**

E. Request for Approval and Transfer of Appropriated Funds for Fiscal Year 2024 General Fund Programs

Chair Smith called on Alissa VanHoof and Linnea Ulland to present the State/Local and Air Service Program Contracts.

1. **State/Local Program**
   a. Statewide Crack Sealing Program
   b. Statewide Paint Marking Program
   c. Linden Prices Airport, Linden (9G2)
2. **Air Service Program**
   a. Flint Bishop Airport, Flint (FNT)
   b. Kalamazoo/Battle Creek International Airport, Kalamazoo (AZO)
   c. Capital Region International Airport, Lansing (LAN)
   d. Sawyer Marquette Regional Airport, Marquette (SAW)
   e. MBS Airport, Saginaw (MBS)
   f. Cherry Capital Airport, Traverse City (TVC)
   g. Houghton County Memorial Airport, Hancock (CMX)
   h. Chippewa County International Airport, Sault Ste. Marie (CIU)

Chair Smith asked if there were any questions.

Commissioner Kavalhuna stated he had much interest in the success of the Air Service program and therefore had several comments and questions. He began by noting the substantial increase in Air Service Program funding. He asked to confirm there were eight (8) airport requests being approved today. Alissa VanHoof clarified the approval was for up to $750,000 for 8 airport requests. Final applications and any reimbursement adjustments needed would be brought to a future MAC meeting. Commissioner Kavalhuna then asked when the airports could start using this funding. Alissa VanHoof stated not until they were under contract. Commissioner Kavalhuna asked what sort of monitoring or metrics would be used to ensure proper use of funding and what MDOT's involvement will be. Alissa VanHoof answered the reporting would be driven by Federal Relief Funding metrics, which currently looks at increases in enplanements and passengers. She noted MDOT was willing to review these as needed or requested by the Commission. Commissioner Kavalhuna continued by asking if progress would be reported back to the MAC. Alissa VanHoof responded there would be quarterly metric reporting as noted above and a close out report which would be shared with the Commission. Commissioner Kavalhuna asked if there was a local match required and what the contract length was. Alissa VanHoof stated no financial match, but documented local support was requested as part of the final application process and the contract would be for one (1) year. Commissioner Kavalhuna concluded by asking what the ask in future fiscal years would be. Alissa VanHoof replied the ask would be for $5M again, noting MDOT Aeronautics had $17M in requests showing need.

Commissioner Kelly Burris asked what project descriptions were given and if they were mainly routes going south. Alissa VanHoof replied that the pre-applications did not require detailed information on routes, and the final applications did require a detailed discussion of origin and destination of specific routes being sought after.

Vice Chair Ben Carter noted that the increase from $50,000 to $5M was significant and continuity on how it is spent would be important.

Chair Brian Smith commented the additional Air Service Program money was greatly appreciated and encouraged tourism in the state, including partnerships with those promoting aviation, such as air shows.

Chair Smith then asked for a motion to approve items 1 and 2 of the State/Local Program and Air Service Program as presented. The motion was moved by Vice Chair Ben Carter and seconded by Commissioner Rick Fiddler. Commissioner Kelly Burris abstained from voting. All others voted in favor. Chair Smith announced the motion is carried.

II. SPECIAL PRESENTATION

Chair Smith welcomed Dean George Pavey from the West Michigan Aviation Academy who presented on aviation education programs available at the academy and how to bring those to community airports. Dean Pavey was accompanied by David, an aviation student who spoke about his surreal experience becoming a pilot. Dean Pavey discussed initiatives started in Oklahoma that paved the way for nationwide initiatives in aviation education and workforce development.

Commissioner Burris asked if they employed a full-time position within their Commission for these initiatives. Dean Pavey answered it started at the district level and grew into a larger full-time position.

III. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

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

Director Trout began by honoring notable women of aviation in celebration of March as Women's History Month. He also provided current statistics and resources for information on women in aviation.

Director Trout gave a legislative update noting the Federal Government had passed a Continuing Resolution extending transportation funding through May 10, 2024. He also noted the State Block Grant Memorandum of Agreement was signed by MDOT Aeronautics. In the state legislative update, Director Trout highlighted the following legislative initiatives being worked on for 2024: Aero Code Revisions, UAS Task Force Revisions, Aircraft Registration Fee Changes and Tax Credit for Sustainable Aviation Fuel Use.

Director Trout provided further information on the proposed Aircraft Registration Fee Increase. He discussed State Aeronautics Fund revenue sources and uses, highlighting what registration modifications would be used for.

Director Trout recapped details on the Air Service Program emphasizing final application dates.

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

Jackson County Reynolds Field was highlighted by Director Trout for their Contract Tower Project. The project amount was $3,573,932 and was completed by contractor Sorenson Gross. Paul Nicastri is the Aero Project Manager and Mead & Hunt is the Consultant on the project.

Director Trout welcomed new Aero employees Patrick Murphy and Dylan Drumheller. He also noted the FY 2023 Annual Report was completed and published.

Director Trout discussed current uncrewed aerial systems (UAS) and advanced air mobility (AAM) initiatives.

Director Trout discussed recent good news items including the following stories:

- Gerald R. Ford International Airport breaks pre-pandemic record with 3.7M passengers in 2023 - mlive.com
- Why exploration team believes they found Amelia Earhart's plane - CNN
- Wexford County Airport Receives MI Community Center Grant for building a multi-use pavilion community center at the airport – Michigan.gov
- Jackson Airport: Proving Grounds for Drone Innovations - fox47news.com

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 congratulations to the winners of the 2024 NASAO International Art Contest.

IV. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Chair Smith thanked MDOT Aeronautics for their work in putting together the MAC meetings and their excellent customer service to the airports.

Commissioner Kevin Jacobs asked if there was a deadline to submit for the Crack Sealing/Paint Marking Programs. Alissa VanHoof responded there was a call for projects in the fall.

Vice Chair Carter thanked Jackson County Reynolds Field Airport and their staff for hosting the Commission. He noted the work being done to better Michigan aviation. He commented on the proposed increase in aircraft registration fees, noting input from pilots and aviators should be considered. He stated the funds were essential revenue but worried the 10-fold increase may not be received well and encouraged ongoing communication on any changes.

V. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Steve Tupper made comments in support of the Traverse City Air Show.
Sarah Pagano made comments in support of the air show.
Dean Greenblatt made comments in support of the Traverse City Air Show.

Commissioner Kelly Burris noted her dismay at the disagreement between parties regarding the air show. Director Trout stated MDOT Aeronautics was aware of the issues and is continuing to engage with both parties to find an equitable solution.

VI. CLOSING

The next MAC meeting is scheduled for 10:00 am on Wednesday, May 22, 2024, at Big Rapids Roben-Hood Airport, Big Rapids Michigan.

Chair Smith thanked the commissioners, Office of Aeronautics staff, and the public for their participation today, noting information from today's meeting can be found at www.michigan.gov/aero.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 p.m.

Brian Smith, Chair

Michael G. Trout, Director