MICHIGAN AERONAUTICS COMMISSION
Minutes of Meeting
Big Rapids, Michigan
May 22, 2024

Pursuant to Section 31 of Public Act 327 of 1945, the Commissioners of the Michigan Aeronautics Commission (MAC or Commission) met at the Big Rapids Roben Hood Airport in Big Rapids, Michigan on May 22, 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
Laura Mester, Designee MDOT
Mike Trout, Director
Bryan Budds, Commission Advisor

COMMISSION MEMBERS ABSENT
Major General Bryan Teff, Designee, MDMVA
Alicia Morrison, Commission Analyst

I. OPENING REMARKS, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE, ROLL CALL

The May 22, 2024, MAC meeting was called to order by Chair Brian Smith at 10:00 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 Karin Palmer. It was announced five (5) Commissioners were present in person for a quorum.

II. WELCOME PRESENTATION

Steve Schroeder, Airport Manager, Big Rapids Roben-Hood 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 a runway extension and the installation of a wildlife fence around the property.

III. AVIATION EDUCATION HIGHLIGHT

Chair Smith called on Steve Reifert, Interim Associate Provost of Academic Operations Dean, Extended and International Operations at Ferris State University to speak about the future of Aviation Education at the University. Steve shared that

the university is in discussion with a Michigan flight school to create a four-year degree in aviation.

IV. AVIATION PROFESSIONAL OF THE YEAR AWARD – GARY TODD

Chair Smith called on Director Mike Trout. Director Trout presented Gary Todd of the Clare Municipal Airport in Clare with the Aviation Professional of the Year award. Director Trout thanked Gary for his outstanding contribution and sustained excellence serving as the airport's manager for the past decade.

V. COMMISSION BUSINESS

A. 2024 MAC Meeting Schedule Revision

Chair Smith called on Director Trout to present the revised MAC meeting schedule changing the September meeting date to October 2, 2024. Chair Smith asked if there were any questions. There were none. He then asked for a motion to approve the schedule adjustment presented. The motion was moved by Commissioner Kelly Burris and seconded by Commissioner Russ Kavalhuna to approve the schedule revision. **All voted in favor. Chair Smith announced the motion is carried.**

B. Minutes of the March 20, 2024, Meeting

Chair Smith asked if there were any revisions to the minutes of the meeting held on March 20, 2024. There were none. Chair Smith entertained a motion to approve the minutes. The motion was moved by Vice Chair Ben Carter and seconded by Commissioner Russ Kavalhuna to approve the minutes as presented. **All voted in favor. Chair Smith announced the motion is carried.**

C. Michigan Association of Airport Executives (MAAE) Contract Amendment

Chair Smith called on Bryan Buds to present the MAAE contract amendment. Chair Smith asked if there were any questions on the contract amendment presented. There were none. Chair Smith entertained a motion to approve the contract amendment. The motion was moved by Vice Chair Ben Carter and seconded by Commissioner Kelly Burris to approve the contract amendment. **All voted in favor. Chair Smith announced the motion is carried.**

D. Request for Approval of Cherry Capital Airport (TVC) Joint Airport Zoning Ordinance - Airport Approach Plan

Chair Smith called on Jenn Moore, Office of Aeronautics, to present on the Airport Approach Plan for Cherry Capital Airport (TVC). Jenn Moore shared this request is to redefine the Airport Hazard Area from 6.32 to 10 miles, which would closely resemble their airport approach procedures. Jenn Moore shared the Michigan Airport Zoning Act, Act 23 of 1950 as well as maps to show the current and future plans. Chair Smith entertained a motion to approve the Airport Approach Plan as presented. The motion was moved by Commissioner Russ Kavalhuna and seconded by Commissioner Rick Fiddler to approve the contract amendment. **All voted in favor. Chair Smith announced the motion is carried.**

E. Request for Approval and Transfer of Appropriated Funds

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

Airport Sponsor Contracts

1. Ann Arbor Municipal Airport, Ann Arbor (ARB)
2. Ann Arbor Municipal Airport, Ann Arbor (ARB)
3. James Clements Airport, Bay City (3CM)
4. Charlevoix Municipal Airport, Charlevoix (CVX)
5. Charlevoix Municipal Airport, Charlevoix (CVX)
6. West Michigan Regional Airport, Holland (BIV)
7. West Michigan Regional Airport, Holland (BIV)
8. Kirsch Municipal Airport, Sturgis (IRS)
9. Oakland County Troy Airport, Troy (VLL)
10. Oakland County Troy Airport, Troy (VLL)
11. West Branch Community Airport, West Branch (Y31)

Supplemental Transfers – No Action Required

1. Greenville Municipal Airport (6D6)
2. Ionia County Airport (Y70)

Chair Smith asked if there were any questions. There were none. He then asked for a motion to approve the Airport Sponsor Contracts, Items 1-11 as presented. The motion was moved by Vice Chair Ben Carter and seconded by Commissioner Kevin Jacobs. **All voted in favor. Chair Smith announced the motion is carried.**

IV. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Chair Smith called on Director Trout to present his Director's Report. Director Trout thanked Steve Schroeder and the Roben-Hood airport for hosting the MAC meeting. He discussed the fiscal year 2025 budget progression and highlighted different aspects of the Aviation Services and Airport Planning Sections within the Office of Aeronautics. Director Trout announced that he will be retiring and his last day as MAC Director will be July 5, 2024. He commended the Commission for its consistency during challenging times and thanked the Commission for its engagement and support over his tenure. Vice Chair Ben Carter commented the culture is evident in how everyone at the Office of Aeronautics works together. Chair Smith called on Laura Mester to explain the process to backfill the position. Laura Mester stated there will be an open competitive interview and the Michigan Civil Service Commission will provide the interview questions.

V. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Chair Smith shared he was pleased to see the Cherry Capital Airport and Cherry Festival Airshow reached an agreement. Commissioner Jacobs shared May 24 is Aircraft Maintenance Technician Day, in honor of Charles E. Taylor, who was an engine builder and served as mechanic to the Wright brothers. Commissioner Burris thanked the staff and everyone who assisted to make this meeting happen.

Commissioner Kavalhuna spoke on multiple topics regarding the leadership of Commissioner Burris and Director Trout.

VI. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Public comments were provided regarding a concrete crushing plant near Detroit and regarding seaplane operations near Houghton, Michigan.

VII. CLOSING

Chair Smith announced that the next MAC meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, July 17, 2024, at Pellston Regional Airport.

Chair Smith asked for a motion to adjourn. The motion was moved by Vice Chair Carter and seconded by Commissioner Burris.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:29 am.

Brian Smith, Chair

Michael G. Trout, Director