MICHIGAN AERONAUTICS COMMISSION

Minutes of Meeting
Lansing, Michigan
November 13, 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 Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) Office of Aeronautics (Aero), 2700 Port Lansing Road, Lansing, MI 48906 on Wednesday, November 13, 2024.

COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT

Dr. Brian Smith, Chair
Benjamin Carter, Vice Chair
Russ Kavalhuna, Commissioner
Kevin Jacobs, Designee MDNR
Capt. Greg Setla, Designee MSP
Laura Mester, Designee MDOT
Brig. General Dan Kramer, Designee, MDMVA
Bryan Budds, Director
Alicia Morrison, Commission Analyst

COMMISSION MEMBERS ABSENT

Rick Fiddler, Commissioner
Kelly Burris, Commissioner

I. OPENING REMARKS, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE, ROLL CALL

The November 13, 2024, MAC meeting was officially called to order by Chair Brian Smith at 10:01 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 seven (7) Commissioners were present in person for a quorum.

II. AVIATION EDUCATION HIGHLIGHT

Chair Smith called on representatives from Eaton County Regional Education Service Agency to speak on their aviation program. Director Margo Hazelman and Student Coordinator Marcee Theisen gave details on their program, and how airports can support aviation students.

III. 2024 ELECTIONS AND COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

A. Chair and Vice Chair Elections

Chair Smith led into elections announcing his term had come to an end. He thanked the Commission and fellow Commissioners for his successful tenure as chair, noting that he had fulfilled his mission to fly to a MAC meeting today.

Chair Smith then stated in accordance with MAC bylaws and pursuant to agreement from members of the Nominating Committee, the following nominations were tendered for the offices of Chair and Vice Chair of the MAC, for a one-year term beginning immediately upon election.

For the office of Chair, Commissioner Ben Carter
For the office of Vice Chair, Commissioner Russ Kavalhuna

These nominations required a vote of majority approval.

Chair Smith asked if there were any further comments or questions. Hearing none, he entertained a motion to approve the nominations as presented. The motion was moved by Commissioner Laura Mester and seconded by Commissioner Kevin Jacobs to approve the nominations. **All voted in favor. Chair Smith announced the motion was carried.**

Chair Smith then turned the meeting and gavel over to new Chair Ben Carter. New Chair Carter thanked the Commission for the honor of being elected and gave a short history on his background.

Director Budds then presented outgoing Chair Smith with a gavel plaque and highlighted his accomplishments including oversight on the transfer of billions in federal dollars and being a strong advocate for aviation education and workforce development in Michigan.

B. Executive Committee Appointments

New Chair Carter stated in accordance with Article VI of the MAC Bylaws on Standing Committees, he has the honor and duty to appoint members to the Executive Committee. He continued the bylaws state the Committee is to be comprised of three commissioners, at least two of whom shall be appointive, with the Commission Chair serving and acting as presiding officer. Chair Carter then appointed Vice Chair Russ Kavalhuna and immediate past Chair Brian Smith to serve with him on the Executive Committee. No vote was required.

C. Additional Committee Establishments

New Chair Carter stated in accordance with Article VII of the MAC Bylaws on Special Committees, he is establishing two new committees - the General Aviation Advisory Committee and the Commercial Aviation Advisory Committee. Chair Carter then stated the committees will consist of members of the aviation industry and chaired by a member of the Commission with support from MDOT Aeronautics staff. The goals of the committees will be to ensure aviation policies remain aligned with emerging

trends in aviation and the current state of the industry. Chair Carter then named Commissioner Brian Smith as Chair of the General Aviation Advisory Committee and Commissioner Rick Fiddler as Chair of the Commercial Aviation Advisory Committee. New Chair Carter also re-established the Aviation Career Pipeline Committee and named Commissioner Kelly Burris as Chair. No vote was required.

IV. COMMISSION BUSINESS

A. Minutes of October 2, 2024, Meeting

Chair Carter asked if there were any revisions to the minutes of the meeting held on October 2, 2024. There were none. Chair Carter entertained a motion to approve the minutes. The motion was moved by Commissioner Brian Smith and seconded by Commissioner Greg Setla to approve the minutes as presented. **All voted in favor. Chair Carter announced the motion was carried.**

B. 2025 MAC Schedule

Chair Carter presented the 2025 MAC meeting schedule noting the Road Show will continue with meeting locations planned for Bay City, New Hudson, Sparta, Bellaire and Hillsdale. Chair Carter asked for any further questions or comments. There were none. Chair Carter entertained a motion to approve the schedule as presented. The motion was moved by Commissioner Brian Smith and seconded by Commissioner Kevin Jacobs to adopt the schedule. **All voted in favor. Chair Carter announced the motion was carried.**

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

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

1. Gerald R Ford International Airport, Grand Rapids (GRR)
2. Flint Bishop International Airport, Flint (FNT)
3. Pellston Regional Airport of Emmet County, Pellston (PLN)
4. Muskegon County Airport, Muskegon (MKG)
5. Detroit Wayne County Metropolitan Airport, Detroit (DTW)
6. Kalamazoo/Battle Creek International Airport, Kalamazoo (AZO)
7. Flint Bishop International Airport, Flint (FNT)
8. Ford Airport, Iron Mountain (IMT)
9. Muskegon County Airport, Muskegon (MKG)
10. Alpena County Regional Airport, Alpena (APN)

Chair Carter asked why there is a difference between the pre-application amount and the awarded amount. Jim Hartman answered generally it was because there were project scope changes. Chair Carter asked if there were any other questions. There were none. He then asked for a motion to approve items 1-10 as presented. The motion was moved by Commissioner Russ Kavalhuna and seconded by Commissioner Greg Setla. **All voted in favor. Chair Carter announced the motion was carried.**

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

Chair Carter called on Alissa VanHoof to present the State Block Grant Program Airport Sponsor Contracts.

1. Gratiot Community Airport, Alma (AMN)
2. Manistee County Blacker Airport, Manistee (MBL)
3. Manistee County Blacker Airport, Manistee (MBL)
4. Manistee County Blacker Airport, Manistee (MBL)
5. Brooks Field, Marshall (RMY)
6. Brooks Field, Marshall (RMY)
7. Jerry Tyler Memorial Airport, Niles (3TR)
8. Owosso Community Airport, Owosso (RNP)
9. Owosso Community Airport, Owosso (RNP)
10. Owosso Community Airport, Owosso (RNP)
11. Canton Plymouth Mettetal Airport, Plymouth (1D2)
12. Canton Plymouth Mettetal Airport, Plymouth (1D2)
13. Presque Isle County Airport, Rogers City (PZQ)
14. Presque Isle County Airport, Rogers City (PZQ)
15. Romeo State Airport, Romeo (D98)
16. Mackinac County Airport, Saint Ignace (83D)
17. Mackinac County Airport, Saint Ignace (83D)
18. South Haven Area Regional Airport, South Haven (LWA)
19. South Haven Area Regional Airport, South Haven (LWA)

Supplemental Transfers – No Action Required

1. Mason Jewett Field, Mason (TEW)
2. Cherry Capital Airport, Traverse City (TVC)

Alissa VanHoof also noted the 2024 Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Reauthorization was approved, increasing the federal share of FY 2025 and FY 2026 grants to 95 percent. She reiterated the FY 2022 funds are expiring, and applications are due by March 1, 2025. Chair Carter asked if there were any other questions. There were none. He then asked for a motion to approve items 1-19 as presented. The motion was moved by Commissioner Russ Kavalhuna and seconded by Commissioner Brian Smith. **All voted in favor. Chair Carter announced the motion was carried.**

E. 2025 Weather Systems Contract Approval

Chair Carter called on Tom Smith to present the 2025 Weather System Contracts.

Automated Weather Observation Systems

1. Dr. Haines Three Rivers Municipal Airport, Three Rivers (HAI)
2. Harbor Springs Municipal Airport, Harbor Springs (MGN)

Chair Carter asked for a motion to approve the Weather Systems Contracts as presented. The motion was moved by Commissioner Brian Smith and seconded by Commissioner Greg Setla to approve the contracts as presented. **All voted in favor. Chair Carter announced the motion was carried.**

IV. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Chair Carter called on Director Bryan Budds to present his Director's Report.

Director Budds gave a brief legislative update saying a robust lame duck session was expected. He updated on proposed changes to aircraft registration fees noting the increase was built into the Fiscal Year (FY) 2025 budget, but statutory changes would still need to be enacted.

Director Budds shared the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) announcement that FY 2025 and FY 2026 BIL AIG Grants would be 95% federal and 5% state with no local match. He also reminded airports to submit requests for expiring BIL funding by March 1, 2025.

Director Budds gave brief updates on the timelines of the Air Service and Local / State Programs, as well as Office of Aeronautics performance metrics.

Director Budds shared the current Uncrewed Aerial System (UAS) initiatives including the DMVA Uncrewed Triple Challenge and the first license issuance of a temporary drone port at Michigan Central Station.

Director Budds concluded with reminders on the NASAO Airport Affiliate Training Program, the NASAO Art Contest, and the Michigan Airport Conference being held February 19-20 at the Lansing Center.

V. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

No Commissioner comments were made.

VI. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Casey Ries, Gerald R. Ford International Airport in Grand Rapids read a letter from a student (himself) who attended aviation career day in 1995, noting how much of an impact it had on his future career choice and encouraging airports to continue supporting aviation education and workforce development.

VII. CLOSING

Chair Carter announced the next MAC meeting is scheduled for Thursday, January 30 at MDOT Office of Aeronautics in Lansing, Michigan.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:22 am.

Ben Carter, Chair

Bryan Budds, Director