MICHIGAN AERONAUTICS COMMISSION

Minutes of Meeting
Lansing, Michigan
January 31, 2025

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 Thursday, January 31, 2025.

COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT

Benjamin Carter, Chair
Russ Kavalhuna, Vice Chair
Dr. Brian Smith, Commissioner
Rick Fiddler, 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

Kelly Burris, Commissioner

I. OPENING REMARKS, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE, ROLL CALL

The January 31, 2025, MAC meeting was called to order by Chair Ben Carter at 10:01 am.

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

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

Chair Carter asked for a formal roll call. Roll call was taken by Alicia Morrison. It was announced eight (8) Commissioners were present in person for a quorum.

II. AVIATION EDUCATION HIGHLIGHT

Chair Carter called on representatives from the Aviation Careers Institute to speak on their aviation program flying out of Mason Jewett Airport in Lansing. Grace Fyke, Program Coordinator, spoke on the program and showed a video highlighting student activities and Crosswinds Aviation's support of the aviation students.

III. COMMISSION BUSINESS

A. Minutes of November 13, 2024, Meeting

Chair Carter asked if there were any revisions to the minutes of the meeting held on November 13, 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. Establishment of Committee Membership

Chair Carter presented the recommendations for membership to the General Aviation Advisory Committee, the Commercial Aviation Advisory Committee and the Aviation Career Pipeline Committee. Chair Carter stated each committee will be scheduled to meet in the off months from the MAC meetings, and goals for each will be drafted at the first meeting. He thanked all for their interest and dedication to Michigan's aviation system. Chair Carter asked for any further questions or comments. There were none. **No action was required or taken.**

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

Chair Carter called on Alissa VanHoof to present the Airport Sponsor Contracts.

1. Atlanta Municipal Airport, Atlanta (Y93)
2. Huron County Memorial Airport, Bad Axe (BAX)
3. Beaver Island Airport, Beaver Island (SJX)
4. Beaver Island Airport, Beaver Island (SJX)
5. Bois Blanc Island Airport, Bois Blanc Island (6Y1)
6. Tuscola Area Airport, Caro (CFS)
7. Frankfort Dow Memorial Field, Frankfort (FKS)
8. Fremont Municipal Airport, Fremont (FFX)
9. Greenville Municipal Airport, Greenville (6D6)
10. Oceana County Airport, Hart/Shelby (C04)
11. Roscommon County Blodgett Memorial Airport, Houghton Lake (HTL)
12. Roscommon County Blodgett Memorial Airport, Houghton Lake (HTL)
13. Roscommon County Blodgett Memorial Airport, Houghton Lake (HTL)
14. Roscommon County Blodgett Memorial Airport, Houghton Lake (HTL)
15. Lakeview Airport Griffith Field, Lakeview (13C)
16. Lakeview Airport Griffith Field, Lakeview (13C)
17. Oscoda County Dennis Kauffman Memorial Airport, Mio (51M)
18. Oscoda County Dennis Kauffman Memorial Airport, Mio (51M)
19. Oscoda County Dennis Kauffman Memorial Airport, Mio (51M)
20. Mount Pleasant Municipal Airport, Mount Pleasant (MOP)
21. Oscoda Wurtsmith Airport, Oscoda (OSC)
22. Kirsch Memorial Airport, Sturgis (IRS)
23. Kirsch Memorial Airport, Sturgis (IRS)
24. Three Rivers Municipal Dr Haines Airport, Three Rivers (HAI)

Supplemental Transfers – No Action Required

1. Southwest Michigan Regional Airport, Benton Harbor (BEH)

2. Grosse Ile Municipal Airport, Grosse Ile (ONZ)

Chair Carter asked if there were any questions. Commissioner Kevin Jacobs asked why the primary reason airports were on provisional licenses but still receiving grant money. Alissa VanHoof answered the provisional licenses were primarily due to obstruction issues, and the funding will assist in bringing the airport into compliance. There were no further questions. Chair Carter then asked for a motion to approve items 1-24 as presented. The motion was moved by Commissioner Kevin Jacobs and seconded by Commissioner Brian Smith. **All voted in favor. Chair Carter announced the motion was carried.**

D. Request for Approval and Transfer of Appropriated General Funds for FY 2025 State/Local Program

Chair Carter called on Alissa VanHoof to present the FY 2025 State/Local Program Sponsor Contracts.

1. Antrim County Bellaire Airport, Bellaire (ACB)
2. Clare County Airport, Harrison (80D)
3. Gratiot Community Airport, Alma (AMN)
4. Greenville Municipal Airport, Greenville (6D6)
5. Newmans Field, Kalamazoo (4NO)
6. Newmans Field, Kalamazoo (4NO)
7. Owosso Community Airport, Owosso (RNP)
8. Ray Community Airport, Ray (57D)
9. South Haven Regional Airport, South Haven (LWA)
10. Branch County Memorial Airport, Coldwater (OEB)
11. Cheboygan County Airport, Cheboygan (SLH)
12. Clare Municipal Airport, Clare (48D)
13. Gaylord Regional Airport, Gaylord (GLR)
14. Grand Haven Memorial Airpark, Grand Haven (3GM)
15. Kirsch Municipal Airport, Sturgis (IRS)
16. Kirsch Municipal Airport, Sturgis (IRS)
17. Livingston County Spencer J Hardy Airport, Howell (OZW)
18. Sparta Municipal Airport, Sparta (8D4)
19. Wexford County Airport, Cadillac (CAD)
20. Saginaw County HW Browne Airport, Saginaw (HYX)
21. Charlevoix Municipal Airport, Charlevoix (CVX)
22. Hillsdale Municipal Airport, Hillsdale (JYM)
23. Kirsch Municipal Airport, Sturgis (IRS)
24. Ontonagon County Airport, Ontonagon (OGM)
25. Ottawa Executive Airport, Zeeland (Z98)
26. Sanderson Field, Sault Ste Marie (ANJ)
27. Albert J Lindberg Airport, Hessel (5Y1)
28. Brooks Field, Marshall (RMY)
29. Clare County Airport, Harrison (80D)
30. Clare Municipal Airport, Clare (48D)
31. Empire Airport, Empire (Y87)
32. Fremont Municipal Airport, Fremont (FFX)

33. Grand Haven Memorial Airpark, Grand Haven (3GM)
34. Hillsdale Municipal Airport, Hillsdale (JYM)
35. Iosco County Airport, East Tawas (6D9)
36. Jackson County Airport Reynolds Field, Jackson (JXN)
37. Kirsch Municipal Airport, Sturgis (IRS)
38. Livingston County Spencer J Hardy Airport, Howell (OZW)
39. Luce County Airport, Newberry (ERY)
40. Marlette Township Airport, Marlette (77G)
41. Oakland County International Airport, Pontiac (PTK)
42. Presque Isle County Airport, Rogers City (PZQ)
43. Saginaw County HW Browne Airport, Saginaw (HYX)
44. Sparta Municipal Airport, Sparta (8D4)

Chair Carter asked if there were any other questions. There were none. He then asked for a motion to approve items 1-44 as presented. The motion was moved by Commissioner Brian Smith and seconded by Commissioner Rick Fiddler. **All voted in favor. Chair Carter announced the motion was carried.**

E. 2025 Michigan Association of Airport Executives (MAAE) Contract

Chair Carter called on Director Budds to present the 2025 MAAE Training Contract to support collaborative training efforts for airport managers.

Chair Carter asked for a motion to approve the 2025 MAAE Contract as presented. The motion was moved by Commissioner Greg Setla and seconded by Commissioner Daniel Kramer 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 congratulated Aero's Electronic Facilities Unit on receiving the Vertical Safety Solutions Safety Leadership Award, and new Deputy Director Linn Smith on his recent promotion.

Director Budds then shared there is much uncertainty with the budget and legislation currently. This includes federal program shifts, state revenue streams, and FY2026 budget recommendations. For now, MDOT is continuing business as usual until specifically otherwise directed.

Director Budds gave an update on the latest fuel tax revenue and gallons statistics.

Director Budds discussed the various general fund airport programs currently being worked on. He noted the current metrics for the FY24 Air Service Program, explaining that most metrics were not expected to be received until later in the calendar year. He also shared the timeline for the FY25 Air Service Program

- $5M – FY24 Air Service – Metrics being received, call closed
- $2M – FY25 Air Service – Call closing February 7

- $2M – FY24 State/Local Program – Call closed
- $4M – FY25 State/Local Program – Notification letters being sent, call closed

Director Budds shared the Aero UAS Operations Team coordinated Part 107 training for MDOT Users. He discussed current Advanced Air Mobility projects including Skyports, Traverse Connect, Michigan Central and BETA Technologies.

Director Budds reminded airport managers of upcoming education and outreach efforts including the 2025 Michigan Airport Conference and the NASAO Airport Partner Program. He also shared a new "Listen and Learn" opportunity being piloted in March after the MAC meetings where Aero staff will present on a topic of local interest, then have an open roundtable for discussion.

Director Budds concluded by sharing the new images in the Airport Directory, upcoming aviation events across the state, and the NASAO art contest winners.

V. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Vice Chair Kavalhuna stated the importance of the Air Service grants and programs. He noted he would like to see future reports on the impact of the funding. He then asked if airports did not use the Air Service funding granted to them, could it impact them receiving additional funds in the future. Director Budds answered that it would be taken into consideration. Vice Chair Kavalhuna then asked what the Air Service Program ask was for FY 2026. Director Budds answered $2M. Vice Chair Kavalhuna expressed the MAC's continued support.

VI. PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public comments were made.

VII. CLOSING

Chair Carter announced the next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 19 at James Clements Airport in Bay City. The meeting concluded at 9:58am.

Ben Carter, Chair

Bryan Budds, Director