MICHIGAN AERONAUTICS COMMISSION
Minutes of Meeting
July 16, 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 Paul C Miller Airport (8D4), 9100 Vinton Ave NW, Sparta, Michigan on Wednesday, July 16, 2025.

Commission Members Present
Benjamin Carter, Chair
Russ Kavalhuna, Vice Chair
Kevin Jacobs, Designee MDNR
Patrick McCarthy for Laura Mester, Designee MDOT
Brig. General Dan Kramer, Designee, MDMVA
Rick Fiddler, Commissioner
Capt. Greg Setla, Designee MSP
Bryan Budds, Director
Alicia Morrison, Commission Analyst

Commission Members Absent
Kelly Burris, Commissioner
Dr. Brian Smith, Commissioner

OPENING REMARKS, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE, ROLL CALL

The July 16, 2025, MAC meeting was called to order by Chair Ben Carter at 10:03 am.

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

Chair Carter 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 seven (7) Commissioners were present in person for a quorum.

WELCOME

Chair Carter called on Jim Lower, Sparta Village Manager, to share the welcome presentation. Jim Lower talked about the airport's economic impact, partnerships with the community and local school districts, future plans, and upcoming events.

COMMISSION BUSINESS

Minutes of May 21, 2025, Meeting

Chair Carter asked if there were any revisions to the minutes of the meeting held on May 21, 2025. There were none. Chair Carter entertained a motion to approve the minutes. The motion was moved by Commissioner Rick Fiddler and seconded by Commissioner Greg Setla to approve the minutes as presented. All voted in favor. Chair Carter announced the motion was carried.

Committee Updates
Chair Carter called on each committee chair to provide an update.

Commercial Aviation Advisory Committee: Chair Rick Fiddler stated the committee had not met in June. The next meeting is scheduled for August 26.

General Aviation Advisory Committee: MAC Chair Carter stated the committee had not met in June. The next meeting is scheduled for August 26.

Aviation Career Pipeline Committee: Alicia Morrison gave the committee update. She noted they met on June 24 and discussed the newly created Aviation Education Map with next steps being to compile data from airports and educators across the state, then to distribute accordingly. Alicia Morrison also shared that a project selection for the Aviation Education and Workforce Development Funding will be released soon.

Chair Carter noted the Executive Committee was meeting regularly and that minor changes in the MAC Bylaws were being reviewed by the Attorney General, then they would be brought to the Commission.

No action was required or taken by the Commission.

Establishment of Nominating Committee
Chair Carter stated that during the September 10, 2025, meeting, a new Chair and Vice Chair will be elected. In accordance with the MAC Bylaws, Chair Carter appointed Commissioner Brian Smith, Commissioner Rick Fiddler and Commissioner Russ Kavalhuna to serve as the Nominating Committee.

No action was required or taken by the Commission.

Request for Approval and Transfer of Appropriated Funds for State Block Grant Airports
Chair Carter called on Steve Houtteman to present the Airport Sponsor Contracts.

1. Padgham Field, Allegan (35D)
2. Gratiot Community Airport, Alma (AMN)
3. Gratiot Community Airport, Alma (AMN)
4. Gratiot Community Airport, Alma (AMN)
5. Atlanta Municipal Airport, Atlanta (Y93)
6. Atlanta Municipal Airport, Atlanta (Y93)
7. Atlanta Municipal Airport, Atlanta (Y93)
8. Wexford County Airport, Cadillac (CAD)
9. Fitch H Beach Municipal Airport, Charlotte (FPK)
10. Fitch H Beach Municipal Airport, Charlotte (FPK)
11. Fitch H Beach Municipal Airport, Charlotte (FPK)
12. Clare Municipal Airport, Clare (48D)
13. Dowagiac Municipal Airport, Dowagiac (C91)
14. Dowagiac Municipal Airport, Dowagiac (C91)

15. Gaylord Regional Airport, Gaylord (GLR)
16. Gladwin Zettel Memorial Airport, Gladwin (GDW)
17. Ionia County Airport, Ionia (Y70)
18. Jackson County Reynolds Field, Jackson (JXN)
19. Mason Jewett Field, Mason (TEW)
20. Jack Barstow Airport, Midland (IKW)
21. Oscoda County Dennis Kauffman Memorial Airport, Mio (51M)
22. Oscoda County Dennis Kauffman Memorial Airport, Mio (51M)
23. Mount Pleasant Municipal Airport, Mount Pleasant (MOP)
24. Ontonagon County Schuster Field, Ontonagon (OGM)
25. Ontonagon County Schuster Field, Ontonagon (OGM)
26. Ontonagon County Schuster Field, Ontonagon (OGM)
27. Romeo State Airport, Romeo (D98)
28. Mackinac County Airport, Saint Ignace (83D)
29. Mackinac County Airport, Saint Ignace (83D)
30. Paul C Miller Airport, Sparta (8D4)
31. Paul C Miller Airport, Sparta (8D4)
32. Paul C Miller Airport, Sparta (8D4)
33. Paul C Miller Airport, Sparta (8D4)
34. Paul C Miller Airport, Sparta (8D4)
35. Three Rivers Municipal Dr Haines Airport, Three Rivers (HAI)
36. Three Rivers Municipal Dr Haines Airport, Three Rivers (HAI)

Supplemental Transfers – No Action Required

1. Mackinac Island Airport, Mackinac Island (MCD)
2. Wexford County Airport, Cadillac (CAD)

Steve Houtteman stated this was a total of $2.6 million in funding transfers. Chair Carter asked if there were any questions. There were none. Chair Carter then asked for a motion to approve items 1-36 as presented. The motion was moved by Commissioner Russ Kavalhuna and seconded by Commissioner Rick Fiddler. All voted in favor. Chair Carter announced the motion was carried.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Chair Carter called on Director Bryan Budds to present his Director's Report.
Director Budds thanked Paul C Miller Airport (8D4) and the Village of Sparta for hosting the meeting. He re-emphasized the impact the airport has on the state and community.

Director Budds shared federal policy developments including the confirmation of new FAA Administration Bryan Bedford, impacts of the Big Beautiful Bill, and changes in the upcoming federal budget appropriations. He also noted the FAA continues to see significant staffing changes across the board.

Director Budds updated on current Michigan House and Senate bills impacting aviation including Aero Code revisions, Channeling Act changes, and bills relating to sustainable aviation fuel, aviation fuel sales and excise taxes, aviation equipment sales tax exemptions, and aviation employee health benefits which are all working their way through the state legislative process.

Director Budds shared the most recent statistics for fuel revenue and sales of gallons.

Director Budds encouraged airports to read the EGLE RFP currently posted through July 30, for PFAS remediation including testing, monitoring and equipment cleanout/replacement, and apply as appropriate.

Director Budds updated on Uncrewed Aerial Systems (UAS) and Advanced Air Mobility (AAM) happenings including the release of federal executive orders and DOD directives regarding drone use, the increase in temporary drone port licensing being done by MDOT Aero, and a highlight of statewide AAM Activation Fund Projects.

Director Budds noted there are 58 airports currently on provisional licenses.

Director Budds discussed the various Aero funding programs currently active: Air Service Program, State Local Program, PCI Program, Crack Seal and Paint Marking Program, COVID Programs and IIJA (BIL).

Director Budds shared current education and workforce development activities. He also shared a link on how to get involved in the 20-year anniversary celebration of the Airport Cooperative Research Program.

Director Budds provided a list of open positions at Aeronautics and congratulated several Aero staff members on recent promotions.

Director Budds concluded by sharing upcoming aviation events and reminding all participants that information shared in today's report will be available online at www.michigan.gov/aero.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Chair Carter asked if there were any commissioner comments. There were none.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Chair Carter asked if there were any public comments. Keith Newell, Airport Manager, Wexford County Airport, Cadillac invited all to attend the 5th annual Wings and Wheels event at the airport on August 23, 2025.

CLOSING

Chair Carter announced the next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, September 10 at Shanty Creek in Bellaire, in conjunction with the Michigan Airport Conference. He thanked all staff. Commissioners and the public for their participation. The official meeting concluded at 11:15 am.

PRESENTATION AND TOUR

Chair Carter welcomed Mikey Soper from the Office of Aeronautics to discuss the new AWOS system installed at Paul C Miller Airport in Sparta. Mikey Soper gave a short explanation of the system, then invited attendees to walk across the airfield to see the installed AWOS in action.

Ben Carter, Chair

Bryan Budds, Director