MICHIGAN AERONAUTICS COMMISSION

Minutes of Meeting

March 19, 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 James Clements Municipal Airport, 614 South River Road, Bay City on Wednesday, March 19, 2025.

COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT

Benjamin Carter, Chair
Kelly Burris, Commissioner
Dr. Brian Smith, Commissioner
Rick Fiddler, Commissioner
Capt. Greg Setla, Designee MSP
Bryan Budds, Director
Alicia Morrison, Commission Analyst

COMMISSION MEMBERS ABSENT

Russ Kavalhuna, Vice Chair
Kevin Jacobs, Designee MDNR
Laura Mester, Designee MDOT – Attended Virtually, Abstained from Voting
Brig. General Dan Kramer, Designee, MDMVA

I. OPENING REMARKS, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE, ROLL CALL

The March 19, 2025, MAC meeting was called to order by Chair Ben Carter at 10:00 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 five (5) Commissioners were present in person for a quorum.

II. AVIATION HISTORY HIGHLIGHT

Chair Carter called on representatives from the James Clements Municipal Airport and the Flying Aero Club to present on the history of the airport. Bryan King, Airport Manager and Charles Binder, President, spoke on the rich history and importance of the airport in the community. Commissioner Fiddler added this airport is where both him and his father learned to fly in 1970 and 1930 respectively.

III. COMMISSION BUSINESS

A. Minutes of January 30, 2025, Meeting

Chair Carter asked if there were any revisions to the minutes of the meeting held on January 30, 2025. There were none. Chair Carter entertained a motion to approve the minutes. The motion was moved by Commissioner Kelly Burris and seconded by Commissioner Brian Smith to approve the minutes as presented. **All voted in favor. Chair Carter announced the motion was carried.**

B. Committee Updates

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

Commercial Aviation Committee Chair Rick Fiddler noted they met on March 5, made introductions, created a schedule for 2025, and discussed future action items.

General Aviation Committee Chair Brian Smith noted he was absent, but the committee met on March 5, made introductions, created a schedule for 2025 and discussed the goals of the MAC and how best to support them.

Aviation Career Pipeline Chair Kelly Burris noted they met on March 10, made introductions, created a schedule for 2025, and had a robust discussion on future action items.

The application and call for membership will be posted on the Commission website at www.michigan.gov/aero to solicit interest and participation in these committees.

Chair Carter also noted the Executive Committee was meeting regularly and would be starting a review of the MAC Bylaws for updates.

No action was required or taken by the Commission.

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. Lenawee County Airport, Adrian (ADG)
2. Lenawee County Airport, Adrian (ADG)
3. Ann Arbor Municipal Airport, Ann Arbor (ARB)
4. Ann Arbor Municipal Airport, Ann Arbor (ARB)
5. Battle Creek Executive Airport at Kellogg Field, Battle Creek (BTL)
6. Battle Creek Executive Airport at Kellogg Field, Battle Creek (BTL)
7. Coleman A Young Municipal Airport, Detroit (DET)
8. Frankfort Dow Memorial Field, Frankfort (FKS)
9. Fremont Municipal, Fremont (FFX)
10. Gaylord Regional Airport, Gaylord (GLR)
11. Gaylord Regional Airport, Gaylord (GLR)
12. Grand Haven Memorial Airpark, Grand Haven (3GM)
13. Mason County Airport, Ludington (LDM)
14. Menominee Regional Airport, Menominee (MNM)
15. Menominee Regional Airport, Menominee (MNM)
16. Menominee Regional Airport, Menominee (MNM)

17. Menominee Regional Airport, Menominee (MNM)
18. Jack Barstow Airport, Midland (IKW)
19. Jack Barstow Airport, Midland (IKW)
20. St Clair County International Airport, Port Huron (PHN)
21. St Clair County International Airport, Port Huron (PHN)
22. St Clair County International Airport, Port Huron (PHN)
23. Dr Haines Three Rivers Municipal Airport, Three Rivers (HAI)

Alissa VanHoof stated this was a total of $4.37M in funding. Chair Carter asked if there were any questions. There were none. Chair Carter then asked for a motion to approve items 1-23 as presented. The motion was moved by Commissioner Greg Setla 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 Funds for Primary Airports

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

AIP Funding

1. Alpena County Regional Airport, Alpena (APN)
2. Kalamazoo/Battle Creek International Airport, Kalamazoo (AZO)
3. Chippewa International Airport, Sault Ste Marie (CIU)
4. Chippewa International Airport, Sault Ste Marie (CIU)
5. Detroit Wayne County Metropolitan Airport, Detroit (DTW)
6. Escanaba Delta County Airport, Escanaba (ESC)
7. Escanaba Delta County Airport, Escanaba (ESC)
8. Flint Bishop International Airport, Flint (FNT)
9. Gerald R Ford International Airport, Grand Rapids (GRR)
10. Gerald R Ford International Airport, Grand Rapids (GRR)
11. Gerald R Ford International Airport, Grand Rapids (GRR)
12. Ford Airport, Iron Mountain (IMT)
13. Capital Region International Airport, Lansing (LAN)
14. MBS International Airport, Saginaw (MBS)
15. Marquette Sawyer Regional Airport, Marquette (SAW)
16. Marquette Sawyer Regional Airport, Marquette (SAW)
17. Cherry Capital Airport, Traverse City (TVC)
18. Cherry Capital Airport, Traverse City (TVC)

BIL Funding

19. Alpena County Regional Airport, Alpena (APN)
20. Kalamazoo/Battle Creek International Airport, Kalamazoo (AZO)
21. Kalamazoo/Battle Creek International Airport, Kalamazoo (AZO)
22. Chippewa International Airport, Sault Ste Marie (CIU)
23. Houghton County Memorial Airport, Hancock (CMX)
24. Detroit Wayne County Metropolitan Airport, Detroit (DTW)
25. Escanaba Delta County Airport, Escanaba (ESC)
26. Escanaba Delta County Airport, Escanaba (ESC)
27. Flint Bishop International Airport, Flint (FNT)
28. Gerald R Ford International Airport, Grand Rapids (GRR)

29. Ford Airport, Iron Mountain (IMT)
30. Capital Regional International Airport, Lansing (LAN)
31. MBS International Airport, Saginaw (MBS)
32. MBS International Airport, Saginaw (MBS)
33. Muskegon County Airport, Muskegon
34. Muskegon County Airport, Muskegon
35. Pellston Regional Airport of Emmet County, Pellston (PLN)
36. Pellston Regional Airport of Emmet County, Pellston (PLN)
37. Pellston Regional Airport of Emmet County, Pellston (PLN)
38. Marquette Sawyer Regional Airport, Marquette (SAW)
39. Cherry Capital Airport, Traverse City (TVC)

Chair Carter asked if there were any questions. There were none. He then asked for a motion to approve items 1-39 as presented. The motion was moved by Commissioner Brian Smith and seconded by Commissioner Kelly Burris. **All voted in favor. Chair Carter announced the motion was carried.**

E. Request for Approval and Transfer of Appropriated Funds for FY2025 Air Service Program

Chair Carter called on Patrick Murphy to present the FY 2025 Air Service Program contracts. Patrick Murphy gave an overview of the FY 2024 program, then presented the FY 2025 program.

1. Flint Bishop International Airport, Flint (FNT)
2. Kalamazoo/Battle Creek International Airport, Kalamazoo (AZO)
3. Capital Region International Airport, Lansing (LAN)
4. Manistee County Blacker Airport, Manistee (MBL)
5. Marquette Sawyer Regional Airport, Marquette (SAW)
6. Muskegon County Airport, Muskegon (MKG)
7. Pellston Regional Airport of Emmet County, Pellston (PLN)
8. Chippewa International Airport, Sault Ste Marie (CIU)

Chair Carter asked if there were any questions. Chair Carter asked if additional draw down on FY 2024 money would start happening soon. Alissa VanHoof responded yes, a late start for spending had been expected. He then asked for a motion to approve items 1-8 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.**

F. Airport Zoning Board Appointment

Chair Carter called on Alissa VanHoof to present the Airport Zoning Board appointment. This appoints Jennifer Moore as the MAC Representative for all state zoning boards current and future.

Chair Carter asked if there were any questions. There were none. He then asked for a motion to approve the zoning board appointment as presented. The motion was

moved by Commissioner Kelly Burris and seconded by Commissioner Rick Fiddler. **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 thanked James Clements Municipal Airport and the Valley Aero Club for hosting the meeting. He reviewed the economic impact the airport has on the state and community.

Director Budds congratulated the following award winners:

- Sandusky Airport – Aero GA Airport of the Year
- Cherry Capital Airport – Aero Commercial Airport of the Year
- Brian Merk, PE – Aero Consultant of the Year
- Todd Smith – Aero Employee of the Year
- Mikey Soper – Aero Supervisor of the Year
- Gene Rench, Ken Bowers, Mikey Soper, Zach Tecson, Linn Smith – MDOT Innovation Excellence Award
- Nicole Noll-Williams – MAAE Airport Manager of the Year

Director Budds introduced new Aero staff and promotions. He also discussed the outreach and field work that continues to be completed by Aero staff.

Director Budds shared federal policy updates including the FAA Continuing Resolution approval; Bryan Bedford being tapped for FAA Administration; and AIP Handbook Revisions continuing.

Director Budds discussed aviation related Michigan House and Senate bills introduced, as well as upcoming revenue considerations.

Director Budds provided an explanation on where the State Aeronautics Fund (SAF) revenue is derived from. He then explained how the aviation fuel sales and excise taxes contribute to the SAF.

Director Budds updated on the FY 2024 Fiscal Recovery Funds Air Service Program noting the draw down continues with an uptick in spending expected this summer.

Director Budds shared Advanced Air Mobility (AAM) project information and noted the AAM Activation Fund is currently accepting additional applications.

Director Budds reminded airport managers of education and outreach efforts including the Michigan Airport Conference, Aero Listen and Learn sessions, MAC Road Shows, Michigan Airport Planning (MAP) meetings, and the NASAO Airport Partner Program.

Director Budds shared the latest statistics from the Office of Aeronautics, including there are 51 airports currently on provisional licenses.

Director Budds concluded by sharing upcoming aviation events, as well as a tribute to Women Hall of Fame Aviators in celebration of March as Women's History Month.

V. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Chair Carter thanked all in attendance and the Valley Aero Club for their informative presentation and for hosting the meeting.

VI. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Helena Thornton made a public comment regarding the importance of sustainable aircraft fuel.

Charles Binder thanked the Commission and all in attendance for recognizing the historical importance of the James Clements Municipal Airport.

VII. CLOSING

Chair Carter announced the next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, May 21 at Oakland Southwest Airport (Y47) in New Hudson. The meeting concluded at 11:26 am.

Ben Carter, Chair

Bryan Budds, Director