MICHIGAN AERONAUTICS COMMISSION

Minutes of Meeting

May 21, 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 Oakland Southwest Airport, 57751 Pontiac Trail, New Hudson, Michigan on Wednesday, May 21, 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
Dr. Brian Smith, Commissioner
Rick Fiddler, Commissioner
Capt. Greg Setla, Designee MSP
Bryan Budds, Director
Alicia Morrison, Commission Analyst

COMMISSION MEMBERS ABSENT

Kelly Burris, Commissioner

I. OPENING REMARKS, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE, ROLL CALL

The May 21, 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 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. WELCOME

Chair Carter called on Cheryl Bush and Micah DeMeyer from Oakland Southwest Airport (Y47) to share their welcome presentation. Cheryl Bush and Micah DeMeyer talked about the airport's economic impact, future plans and upcoming events.

III. COMMISSION BUSINESS

A. Minutes of March 19, 2025, Meeting

Chair Carter asked if there were any revisions to the minutes of the meeting held on March 19, 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.**

B. Committee Updates

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

Commercial Aviation Advisory Committee Chair Rick Fiddler noted they met on April 29 and discussed the current Air Service Guidelines. Reviews and updates are ongoing.

General Aviation Advisory Committee Chair Brian Smith noted they met on April 29 and discussed the State Licensing Application and Guidelines. Reviews and updates are ongoing. The Committee also shared individual aviation experience and hopes for the committee.

Aviation Career Pipeline Chair Kelly Burris was absent. Committee member Sarah Pagano gave the committee update. She noted they met on April 29 and discussed the newly created Aviation Education Map and next steps to distribute to airport and educators across the state. Sarah Pagano also shared that a Call for Projects to utilize $50,000 in Aviation Education and Workforce Development Funding will be released next week.

Chair Carter noted the Executive Committee was meeting regularly and had started a review of the MAC Bylaws with only minor changes being noted.

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 Zach Bormet to present the Airport Sponsor Contracts.

1. Lenawee County Airport, Adrian (ADG)
2. Atlanta Municipal Airport, Atlanta (Y93)
3. Southwest Michigan Regional Airport, Benton Harbor (BEH)
4. Charlevoix Municipal Airport, Charlevoix (CVX)
5. Fitch H Beach Municipal Airport, Charlotte (FPK)
6. Fitch H Beach Municipal Airport, Charlotte (FPK)
7. Fitch H Beach Municipal Airport, Charlotte (FPK)
8. Branch County Memorial Airport, Coldwater (OEB)
9. Branch County Memorial Airport, Coldwater (OEB)
10. Grosse Ile Municipal Airport, Grosse Ile (ONZ)
11. Grosse Ile Municipal Airport, Grosse Ile (ONZ)
12. Gladwin Zettel Memorial Airport, Gladwin (GDW)

13. Gladwin Zettel Memorial Airport, Gladwin (GDW)
14. Greenville Municipal Airport, Greenville (6D6)
15. Greenville Municipal Airport, Greenville (6D6)
16. Hastings Airport, Hastings (9D9)
17. Hastings Airport, Hastings (9D9)
18. Hillsdale Municipal Airport, Hillsdale (JYM)
19. Roscommon County Blodgett Memorial Airport, Houghton Lake (HTL)
20. Roscommon County Blodgett Memorial Airport, Houghton Lake (HTL)
21. Roscommon County Blodgett Memorial Airport, Houghton Lake (HTL)
22. Ionia County Airport, Ionia (Y70)
23. Ionia County Airport, Ionia (Y70)
24. Dupont Lapeer Airport, Lapeer (D95)
25. Dupont Lapeer Airport, Lapeer (D95)
26. Mackinac Island Airport, Mackinac Island (MCD)
27. Mackinac Island Airport, Mackinac Island (MCD)
28. Schoolcraft County Airport, Manistique (ISQ)
29. Luce County Airport, Newberry (ERY)
30. Jerry Tyler Memorial Airport, Niles (3TR)
31. Canton Plymouth Mettetal Airport, Plymouth (1D2)
32. Canton Plymouth Mettetal Airport, Plymouth (1D2)
33. Saginaw County HW Browne Airport, Saginaw (HYX)
34. Statewide Pavement Condition Index (PCI) Program
35. West Branch Community Airport, West Branch (Y31)
36. White Cloud Airport, White Cloud (42C)

Supplemental Transfers – No Action Required

1. Gratiot Community Airport, Alma (AMN)
2. Gaylord Regional Airport, Gaylord (GLR)

Zach Bormet stated this was a total of $10.6 million in funding. 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 Kevin Jacobs and seconded by Commissioner Rick Fiddler. **All voted in favor. Chair Carter announced the motion was carried.**

D. Request for Approval of Automated Weather Observation System (AWOS) Contract

Chair Carter called on Mike Soper to present the AWOS Contract. Mike Soper shared details of the maintenance contract for approval.

1. Gladwin Zettel Memorial Airport, Gladwin (GDW)

Chair Carter asked if there were any questions. There were none. He then asked for a motion to approve item 1 as presented. The motion was moved by Commissioner Rick Fiddler and seconded by Commissioner Greg Seta. **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 Oakland Southwest Airport (Y47) and the Warbirds of Glory Museum for hosting the meeting. He discussed the economic impact the airport has on the state and community.

Director Budds shared the newly released Aeronautics Program Accomplishments Infographic highlighting key performance indicators for the Office of Aeronautics, including a total of $269,042,581 transferred by the MAC in Fiscal Year (FY) 2024.

Director Budds congratulated Aero staff and airport managers who were retiring and/or moving on to other jobs. He congratulated MAC Vice Chair Russ Kavalhuna on his recent promotion to President of Western Michigan University.

Director Budds shared federal policy developments including Real ID requirements, the US House $15B proposal to modernize air traffic control system, communication from USDOT regarding obligations/expectations for all entities receiving federal funding, and the proposed 'skinny' aviation budget for FY 2026.

Director Budds discussed Michigan House and Senate bills impacting aviation including Aero Code revisions, aircraft registration fee modifications, sustainable aviation fuel program, tax exemptions for aircraft parts and purchases, and fuel excise and sales tax revisions. He also congratulated Selfridge and Commissioner General Kramer on securing a new fighter jet for the base.

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. He also shared the most recent numbers for fuel revenue and sales by gallons.

Director Budds shared data on Uncrewed Aerial Systems (UAS) flights being flown from MDOT overall, showing how drone use has increased throughout the department. He shared photos and recaps of recent Advanced Air Mobility (AAM) initiatives including the Uncrewed Triple Challenge (UTC) which was held May 19-21 in northern Michigan.

Director Budds discussed collaboration between Aero's UAS Team and other state departments in response to the recent northern Michigan ice storm. This also was an opportunity for Director Budds to remind all airports to review their emergency management plans.

Director Budds noted there are 50 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 encouraged airports and educators to watch for a call for projects for the Aviation Education and Workforce Development Program to be coming soon.

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.

V. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Chair Carter congratulated Vice Chair Kavalhuna on his promotion to President of Western Michigan University. Chair Carter also acknowledged the efforts of the Uncrewed Triple Challenge also noting what an exciting time it is for aviation in Michigan.
Commissioner Kramer thanked the Commission and State for supporting the new Selfridge fighter jet.
Vice Chair Kavalhuna noted Chair Carter's son Jason, also a pilot, was in the audience and welcomed him. He also recognized the attendance of past MAC member and Oakland County Director of Central Services, Dave Vanderveen.
Commissioner Smith stated Western Michigan University was in good hands with Vice Chair Kavalhuna at the helm.

VI. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There was no public comment.

VII. CLOSING

Chair Carter announced the next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, July 16 at Paul C Miller Airport (8D4) in Sparta. The official meeting concluded at 11:20 am.

VIII. PRESENTATION AND TOUR

Chair Carter welcomed Patrick Mihalek with the Warbirds of Glory Museum who discussed their mission and efforts to include area students in efforts to restore an aircraft and bolster interest in aviation. Patrick Mihalek stated, "We are investing in others because someone invested in us."

Ben Carter, Chair

Bryan Budds, Director