

COUNTY OF MARQUETTE, MICHIGAN
Sawyer International Airport
Airport Advisory Committee
Thursday July 9, 2015 4:00 P.M.
Meeting Minutes

Members Present: Steve Rodgers, Karen Alholm, Frank Rosado, and Stephen Adamini.

Members Absent: Scott Schulz, John LaCourt, and Donald Kristola

Staff Present: Steve Schenden, Director of Operations, and Duane DuRay, Airport Manager

Staff Absent: None

Guests Present: Ed Glasgow

1. Call to Order:

Secretary Rodgers called the meeting to order at 4:02 p.m.

2. Approval of the Agenda:

A motion was made by Member Adamini, supported by Commissioner Alholm, to approve the agenda as prepared. Motion passed unanimously.

3. Public Comment:

A. None noted

4. Approval of Minutes:

A motion was made by Member Adamini, supported by Commissioner Alholm, to approve the June 2015 minutes with the correction to reflect Commissioner Alholm's absence from the June meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

5. Suggested Agenda Items:

- A. New Employee: Airport Manager DuRay provided the Committee an overview of the process completed in hiring a Training Officer replacement. The new Training Officer replaces Mr. John Rowe who resigned to take another position in Wisconsin. Staff placed advertising in several mediums and interviewed four applicants. Mr. Joseph Perry was selected and scheduled to start on July 13, 2015. He brings training experience from 131 rescue unit, Bell hospital, firefighting, and EMS service.
- B. US Customs Work: Airport Manager DuRay updated the Committee on staff's continuing efforts to acquire customs services at Sawyer, including assistance from Mr. Scott Erbisch, County Administrator, and the US Customs and Border Patrol (CBP). Efforts include communication with the Michigan Governor's office, Senator Peters Office, MEDC, Ms. Jannette Matravers, Field Operations CBP, Detroit and Mr. Patrick Wilson, Port Director Sault Ste. Marie CBP Office. Responses from CBP

have been less than encouraging, but staff will continue to investigate alternate avenues to provide a CBP presence at Sawyer International Airport.

- C. Envoy Insulation Concerns: Mr. Steve Rodgers has requested some investigation into the fire barrier applied within his facilities. The product is beginning to resemble the same delamination issues experienced in hangar 400, 423, 424, and 425. Staff will begin looking for a correction to pending issues to avoid possible hazards to personnel and equipment at the Envoy operation.

6. Items of Discussion:

- A. Sawyer Marketing Strategy: DuRay disseminated copies of the marketing strategy for Committee review and comment.
- B. Air Service Study: DuRay updated the Committee on continuing efforts with the LSCP's Multi-Modal Transportation Task Force and the recent selection of a consulting firm to complete the Air Service Study. The Task Force reviewed information from different air service firms and chose Trillion to complete the study. The Task Force continues to solicit the necessary funding for the project and staff will provide future updates.

7. Informational Items & Project Updates:

- A. Runway Shoulder and Lighting Projects: DuRay reported on the progress of the ongoing Shoulder and Lighting project which remains on schedule (with limited complications to-date) and a target completion date of July 30, 2015.
- B. Access Control and Gate Improvements: DuRay briefed the Committee on the scope and detail of the project. The new system will enhance control, security and accountability at the commercial passenger terminal along with five entry and exit gates. This project is scheduled for 150 days of construction beginning in August - contingent upon an FAA Airport Improvement Program Grant award.
- C. Airfield Paint Marking: DuRay provided details surrounding an airfield painting and marking project, scheduled as a seven-day project slated for fall - contingent upon an FAA Airport Improvement Program Grant award.
- D. Disaster Drill: DuRay summarized outcomes from the disaster drill held on June 20th. Participation from responding agencies, tenants, and volunteers was the best turn out Sawyer has ever seen for this type of event. Big thanks go out to Teresa Schwalbach, the Marquette County Emergency Management Coordinator, for all of the help organizing the drill.
- E. Discover Sawyer: DuRay provided highlights of the upcoming 2nd annual airport open house to be held on July 11. New events include helicopter rides, and participation from the Sports Car Club of America (SCCA), which complement the other venues and create more opportunities for participation - and a successful event.

F. Marketing Strategy/Annual Report: Covered this earlier in the meeting.

8. Late Additions: None

9. Public Comment: None

10. Staff and Committee Member Comment Member Rosado informed the Committee of a recently signed five-year Federal Control Tower contract. This contract will give stability to the control tower operation for the next five years. Member Rosado also inquired about the lighting study and upgrades to the tower lighting system. Discussion ensued. Member Rodgers informed the Committee of American Airline's decision to postpone its prior plan to provide larger aircraft in August – until January with the possibility of securing an additional turn flight while working around maintenance upgrades to the Envoy fleet. Mr. Rodgers also provided information on Envoy's tentative planning of fleet size and aircraft replacement schedules.

11. Adjournment: At 5:13 p.m., a motion was made by Member Rodgers, supported by Commissioner Alholm, to adjourn. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted by Duane DuRay, Airport Manager