

COUNTY OF MARQUETTE, MICHIGAN
Sawyer International Airport
Airport Advisory Committee
Thursday May 11, 2017 4:00 P.M.
Meeting Minutes

Members Present: Bob Muelle, County Commissioner Steve Adamini, John LaCourt, Frank Rosado, and County Commissioner Alholm.

Members Absent: Steve Rodgers and Scott Schultz.

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

Staff Absent: None

Guests Present: None

1. Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order by Frank Rosado at 4:00 pm.

2. Approval of the Agenda:

Motion was made by Commissioner Adamini, supported by Member Muelle to approve the Agenda. Motion passed unanimously.

3. Public Comment:

- A. Airport Manager DuRay spoke for the Marquette County Flying Club (MCFC). The club was planning on having a spokesperson to address the Committee on the tentative plan to purchase another aircraft and to request the Committee to support a motion for an extension for the reduction of monthly T-hangar rent. The County of Marquette awarded the MCFC a hangar reduction in previous years and the club wishes to extend that onto the next T-hangar rental. Discussion took place, Chairperson Rosado and Commissioner Alholm requested more information on what the Club provided to the public to justify another reduction. Manager DuRay will provide additional information for the next meeting.

4. Approval of Minutes February 2017:

Motion was made by Committee Member La Court, supported by County Commissioner Alholm, to approve the Minutes. Motion passed unanimously.

5. Items of Discussion:

- A. Envoy Hangar Update: DuRay briefed the Committee on the status of the Envoy Map Project; there is no new information regarding the MAP application. Commissioner Alholm asked if staff was aware of specific timelines for the MAP funding if it is approved. Manager DuRay thought the funding, if awarded, would not be available until August 2017. Discussion took place.

Chairman Rosado stated he heard there may be some new growth at the Envoy operation with the hiring or some additional aircraft technicians. A good sign of Envoy growth.

Director Schenden briefed the Committee on the progress of the hangar thermal barrier evaluation; staff is waiting to retrieve the samples of insulation as soon as the lifts and the staff are properly trained and certified.

6. Informational Items & Project Updates:

- A. US Army Update: DuRay spoke on the icing operation and that it ended in the first part of May for the 2016/17 icing season. The operation was profitable for Marquette County and several surrounding businesses. The actual number for the Airport profit will need to be calculated. The Army has signed a Letter of Intent for the 2017/18 season starting on November 1 and stated they should be prepared to sign the lease agreement for hangar 663 in September. They will be testing with Korean Aerospace Industries LTD. (KAI) again; KAI was testing at Sawyer International Airport during the 2015/16 season and need to return to finish the icing tests required for their aircraft. Discussion took place.
- B. Airport Awareness Grant Potential \$5,000 addition: DuRay informed the Committee on potential of receiving \$5,000 in additional Marketing funds to promote the Minneapolis flights. DuRay will keep the Committee informed on the awarding of these funds.
- C. Minneapolis Flight Update: DuRay briefed the Committee on the progress of the Minneapolis flights. The April flight load factors have been down from the previous month from 75% to the 60% range, but year over year passenger count from March 2016 to March 2017 has experienced a 21% increase total passenger count directly related to the Minneapolis flights. For several years Marquette carried 36% of all of the Upper Peninsula passengers, but for the 2017 Calendar year, Marquette has increased to 43% of all of the Upper Peninsula Passengers. Discussion took place.
- D. Discover Sawyer: DuRay informed the Committee about the revised Discover Sawyer Days from August 13 to August 6, and the change in venue from Hangar 663 over to Building 600. The Events Committee is working with various groups to garner sponsors for the event and all Sponsors will get six months of advertising in the commercial terminal on a back lit sign. Discussion took place.
- E. Tower (Elevator): Director Schenden briefed the Committee that the tower could operate without an elevator, but Sawyer will need to acquire a couple of items. The items are breathing devices for the staff in the tower in the event they needed to exit the building and the stairwell was filled with smoke and an escape repelling apparatus to lower the staff from the top floor to the ground on the exterior of the building if the stairs are unpassable. A combined cost is roughly \$60,000 and Mr. Schenden applied for a County Capital Improvement request for the funding. Commissioner Alholm asked about the cost to repair the elevator, Mr. Schenden stated the cost to repair the elevator at \$175,000, but the evacuation system will still need to be installed and available. Mr. Schenden provided two options for the tower, either close the tower or get the \$60,000 from the County to get the repelling system and breathing equipment. Chairman Rosado spoke on looking at the current system and possible saving substantial money by possible using the existing system if it can still be utilized.

Mr. Schenden is looking for a motion of support from the Airport Advisory Committee on moving forward with the acquisition of breathing devices and replacement of the repelling system. Commissioner Alholm requested a more detailed cost analysis on breathing packs and the cost to replace or repair the repelling system so the Committee is able to have a detailed motion for the

County Board. Discussion took place and the staff will compile costs for the systems needed and Chairman Rosado will inspect the current repelling system, both will report back to the Advisory Committee.

- F.** Envoy Aircraft Storage: Envoy Air Inc. is requesting to park two (2) aircraft on the commercial ramp for 18 months. Director Schenden has informed Mr. Erbisch of the request and the staff is recommending the storage of the aircraft at no charge for the parking, but any real expenses like snow removal would be charged to Envoy. Discussion took place. A motion was made by Committee Member LaCourt to allow Envoy Air Inc. to park two (2) aircraft on the commercial ramp at no cost for up to 18 months, any expenses that are acknowledged will be billed to Envoy Air Inc. supported by Member Muelle to approve. Motion passed unanimously.

7. Late Additions: None

8. Public Comment: None

9. Staff and Committee Member Comment: Member Muelle asked about the progress of Customs. Discussion took place on how it affects the surrounding businesses and how it would affect the operation if we had Customs.

Member LaCourt asked if staff heard anything about Biogenic, he heard they were being sold. Discussion took place.

Chairman Rosado informed the Committee that he heard the Michigan State Police are acquiring two Huey helicopters and are planning on basing one at the Escanaba airport. Also Chairman Rosado wanted to commend the Staff for starting to replace light fixtures with LED fixtures to save energy.

Director Schenden wanted to comment on the Russian jet and the current fund transfer of \$27,000 to the airport for ramp and other misc. fees. Also Mr. Schenden informed the Committee that hangar 663 was going to be leased on a short term basis to Hooper construction. This lease will add to the current space rented in support of the hospital construction.

10. Adjournment: Commissioner Alholm made a motion, supported by Commissioner Adamini to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

Adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by Duane DuRay, Airport Manager