

**COUNTY OF MARQUETTE, MICHIGAN  
Sawyer International Airport**

**Airport Advisory Committee Meeting  
Thursday, June 4, 2009, 4:30 P.M.  
Meeting Minutes**

**Airport Services Center,  
Second Floor Conference Room  
Gwinn, MI 49841**

**Members Present:** Chairman Bob Struck, Frank Rosado, Scott Schulz, Fred Benzie, John LaCourt, Steve Rodgers

**Member(s) Absent:** Andy Sikkema

**Staff Present:** Keith Kaspari, Scott Erbisch

**1. Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 4:35 p.m. by Chairman Struck

**2. Approval of the Minutes:** A motion to approve the minutes was made by Steve Rodgers and supported by Scott Schulz and unanimously approved by the Committee.

**3. Approval of the Agenda:** A motion to approve the Agenda, with additions, was made by Fred Benzie and supported by John LaCourt and unanimously approved by the Committee.

**4. Public Comment:** None

**5. Informational Items:**

Staff provided verbal updates on the following informational items:

- A. Live Burn Exercise Update
- B. Tri-Annual Exercise of June 27<sup>th</sup>
- C. Explorer Solutions Update
- D. Runway Safety Action Team Meeting, May 19 Summary (Keith / Frank)
- E. Annual FAA Inspection Results of No Discrepancies
- F. Airport Risk & Liability Insurance Inspection of No Discrepancies
- G. Tentative Allocation, FAA / ARRA Stimulus Grant No: 2909
  - Airfield Vault Construction & Phase I Taxiway Lighting Improvements
  - Tentative Notice of Award
  - Additional Consideration for ARRA
- H. FY-2009 FAA of MAP Grant. Improvements to 400-Series Hangars
- I. Phase III Parking Lot PARCS Project
- J. ASC Building Alarm Project
- K. Runway & Taxiway Pavement Rehab. Project
- L. FY-2008 FAA of MAP Grant. Improvements to 400 & 600-Series Hangars
- M. 10-Year ACIP, FYs 2010 - 2019
- N. FAA of MAP Application, FYs 2010 - 2014

## 6. Old Business

- A. Scott Erbisch advised that the EAA was looking to move into building 600, but that the insurance requirements were a concern on the behalf of the EAA. If the insurance requirements could be met within their limited budget, they would move their office into the South/West area of the building.
- B. Staff advised that there was no new information on the WAAS.
- C. John LaCourt volunteered to use his plane to fly County Staff interested in going to Cherry Capital Airport to look at their runway sweeper unit. He advised that the cost would be the fuel for the flight. Scott Erbisch advised that he would look into any possibly liability issues with the County's Risk Manager. This was also discussed under 7.3.
- D. Scott Erbisch advised that he would be presenting the final draft of the Airports Master Plan in advance of the July 1, 2009 Airport Advisory meeting. He further advised that there will be a County Board Work Session on Thursday, July 16<sup>th</sup> to review the Master Plan. All Airport Advisory Members are invited and encouraged to attend.

## 7. New Business

A. Role and Input / Airport Advisory Agenda ó Fred Benzie began the discussion by providing 2 sample agendas for consideration for use by the Airport Advisory Committee. The concern raised was:

- 1) Too much time on informational items. Also, these items should be supplied to the Committee in advance of the meeting so that they can be accepted for file or questions asked. The concerns was that the Committee did not attempting to read them at the last minute and they were not prepared to respond appropriately.
- 2) Consideration should be given to the order that items are placed on the agenda. For example, action or discussion items should come before informational items.
- 3) Lastly, Fred Benzie advised that County Board action items should come to the Airport Advisory Committee before they go to the County Board.

John LaCourt also expressed his concern over the number of informational items and the order of the agenda.

Steve Rodgers would like to see the information items sent out in advance of the meeting or to Committee members when staff is able and not necessarily have them on the agenda.

B. Informational Items ó This agenda item is covered in the discussion in 7A.

C. Sweeper Visit ó Cherry Capital Airport. See 6C for the discussion on this item.

D. Private Pilot Training and Plan ó John LaCourt raised the question of whether or not there were any known obstacles for someone to start a Private Pilot Training program at Sawyer. For example, did the Airport Support such an endeavor and what would be required.

Airport Staff advised that Sawyer International Airport supports the development of such a program at Sawyer. There are specific requirements and documents that are needed before someone can provide private pilot lessons, but the Airport has and will continue to support

this assuming all legal aspects are in order. Skyward Aviation and Boreal Aviation are two such programs that had been supported in the past.

Additional discussion took place regarding attempting to attract another established private pilot trainer to Sawyer International Airport. Fred Benzie also mentioned the potential of the development of a Flying Club.

Fred Benzie was tasked with seeing if an established U.P. Private Pilot Trainer would come to Sawyer.

**8. Public Comment:** None

**9. Staff and Committee Member Comment**

Keith Kaspari advised that Marquette County was advised that it does not appear that previously approved Military Airport Program funds will be available for Buildings 627 and 608. We have been advised to bid the entire project, but may not receive the funding.

Keith Kaspari advised that \$827,000 will be released in 2009 for repair of 44 slabs on the runway and taxiway. These funds were not anticipated to be available until 2010/

**10. Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at approximately 6:12 p.m.