

County of Marquette  
Sawyer International Airport  
Airport Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, August 10, 2008, 4:00 P.M.  
Airport Services Center, Second Floor Conference Room  
Gwinn, MI 49841

**Members Present:** Frank Rosado, Scott Schulz, Andy Sikkema, Steve Rodgers and Fred Benzie

**Members Absent:** Chairman Bob Struck and John LeCourt

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

**Guests Present:** Eric Anderson, Marquette County Planning Dept.

1. **Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 4:04 p.m.
2. **Approval of Minutes (August, 2008) ó**

The committee reviewed the minutes from August, 2008. A motion was made by Andy Sikkema, supported by Scott Schulz. Motion approved and carried unanimously.

**3-A. Approval of the Agenda:**

Staff requested to include the following:

Informational Items: 4-B, YTD 2008 passenger numbers and State of Michigan airport statistics through June.

Old Business: 5-A, Renewafuels (Update)

A motion was made by Andy Sikkema, supported by Frank Rosado. Motion approved unanimously.

**3-B. Public Comment:** None

**4. Informational Items:**

- A. Staff provided an update of AIP and MAP funded projects, to include the following:

**MAP Grant No: 2407 (Parking Lot Expansion Project)**

Parking lot expansion project complete at approximately 90%. Final elements the of the project includes the installation of the six (airside) parking lot light poles, deorative fencing and security bollards at both north and south entrances, north and south pedestrian cross-walks and center (canopy) cross-walk.

**AIP Grant No: 2508 (Runway Reconstruction Project)**

Project began on Monday, August 4<sup>th</sup> with the work proceeding ahead of schedule.

**MAP Grant No: 2608 (Hangar Rehabilitation Project)**

This project is scheduled to be bid in mid-August with work to begin in October. Project improvements consist of Interior improvements to Hangars 662, 663 & 666, and interior and exterior improvements to Building (Hangar) 402.

This grant also includes design funds for the FY-09 projects ó also under the MAP program.

- B. Keith Kaspari updated the committee members the YTD-2008 passenger numbers. Through the month of July, Sawyer is nearly 11,000 passengers behind the same period during CY-2007. The high cost of aviation fuel, and high fares from the Sawyer market are believed to be the two major contributors to the reductions in travel this summer.

Staff continued comment that Sawyer is one of many commercial services airports in Michigan that are seeing reductions in passenger travel.

**5. Old Business**

- A. Scott provided an update to the committee on the Marquette County (Sawyer) / Telkite / Renewafuels tenancy in Hangars 666 & 667. An aerial photograph was presented to the membership to describe the footprint of the hangars and changes to the airport's perimeter fence line.

**6. New Business**

- A. Staff provided a copy of the first draft of Sawyer's 5-year Airport Capital Improvement Program (ACIP), with special emphasis for FY-2009.

Staff continued comment regarding project and equipment acquisitions and the funding for the projects as listed, for either or both discretionary, entitlement or 100% funding with Passenger Facility Charges (PFC's).

Scott Erbisch described the urgency for the improvements associated with the airfield lighting system, and Keith described the urgency for the replacement of two pieces of snow removal equipment (snowblower and materials spreader), yet emphasized the first priority would be the airfield lighting system complete with devices or a system for lightning protection.

Staff requested the committee review the 5-year ACIP and provide to staff any questions, comments or concerns they may have as this list of projects will be submitted to FAA and MDOT staff at the upcoming September Fall Conference of the Michigan Association of Airport Executives.

**7. Public Comment**

None

## **8. Staff and Committee Member Comment**

Fred Benzie inquired about the AON-Explorer relationship with Telkite and the County. Scott Erbisich replied AON-Explorer will return to Sawyer on Wednesday, August 13 for two focus groups scheduled at 9:00 and 2:00 respectively here at the second floor conference room of the Airport Services Center.

Scott provided updates to the committee members on Argonics facility (across from the Sage Bldg.) as a result of a recent tour of the site to assess their on-going construction operations; Superior Extrusion with the anticipated re-route of Avenue G; and, Delphi (Sawyer R&D ó Winter Test Center) whereby Delphi will be hosting some prospects who are interested in coming to Sawyer to potentially assume the lease structure from Delphi as this division of Delphi is profitable.

Keith provided an update to the committee members on the following:

- Receipt of an additional FAA grant, Grant No: 2708, at \$75,000, for design services associated with project funded through the Military Airports Program for FY-2009.
- Staff submitted Appendix B (Summary Information) to the USDOT for inclusion into the Small Community Air Service Development Program. USDOT staff are currently reviewing applications as submitted. Staff anticipates notification to successful applicants by NLT the Labor Day Holiday as all agreements must be approved prior to the end of the September (current fiscal year).

## **9. Adjournment**

A motion was made by Fred Benzie to adjourn the meeting. The motion was supported by Scott Schulz and approved. Motion approved and carried unanimously. Time: 5:14.