

COUNTY OF MARQUETTE, MICHIGAN
Sawyer International Airport
Airport Advisory Committee

Thursday, August 4, 2011, 4:00 P.M.

Meeting Minutes

Second Floor Conference Room
Airport Services Center
Gwinn, MI 49841

Members Present: Committee Members Fred Benzie, John LaCourt, Frank Rosado, Scott Schulz, Charles Bergdahl and Steve Rodgers

Members Absent: Committee Members Andy Sikkema and Jim Cihak

Staff Present: Scott Erbisch, Director of Operations and Keith Kaspari, Airport Manager

Staff Absent: N/A

Guests Present: Brian Rochon, MDOT-Aeronautics, Pilot and U.P. Airport Inspector

1. **Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order by Chairman Benzie at: 4:05

2. **Approval of the Agenda:**

Airport Manager Keith Kaspari, requested an addition to the agenda, as 6-D, Air Service Development, USDOT Small Community Application.

Committee Member Schulz made a Motion to Approve the Agenda for August. Committee Member Rosado provided a second of approval.

Motion passed.

3. **Public Comment:** None Noted

4. **Approval of Minutes:**

Committee Members reviewed the minutes from the Advisory Committee meeting held on Thursday, August, 2011.

A motion was offered to approve the August 4, 2011 minutes by Committee Member Rosado with a second of support followed by Committee Member Rosado.

Motion passed.

5. Items for Discussion:

A. Cross Wind Runway Presentation (Brian Rochon)

Mr. Rochon provided the committee a power point presentation with informal discussion on concepts with regard to a general aviation crosswind runway.

Mr. Rochon used a section of taxiways Alpha and Foxtrot for a proposed future east-west runway, that he believed could be used for a cross-wind runway. Mr. Rochon did not discuss the future costs for engineering and design, and future construction costs.

Mr. Rochon discussed a concept of a "Utility" only runway, where-as it would be a paved cross-wind runway with a "visual-only" approach.

Mr. Rochon also discussed the concept of a turf cross-wind runway, that he believed would not interfere with future long-range planning, but would provide a two and maybe a three season runway for light general aviation aircraft – to include recreation, kit and sport aircraft.

Additional concepts discussed included the area that is currently designated in SAW's Airport Master Plan (AMP), as Alternative No: 5.

B. Long Range Planning

Scott Erbisch, Director of operations, requested of the committee members to revisit past discussion regarding the cost of the daily parking rate in the passenger terminal parking lot.

Current daily rate is \$5.00, and in prior meetings, the committee members approved an increase to \$6.00, effective on or about January 1, 2012.

Due to airports continuing to operate in a depressed overall economy, Mr. Erbisch is requesting of the committee members to retain the daily rate at \$5.00, and postpone the increase until further notice.

Committee Member Schulz provided a motion to hold the daily rate at \$5.00. Committee member LaCourt provided a second of support.

Motion passed.

Therefore, staff continues to be, and remains greatly concerned, regarding the following:

1. The continued call to reduce federal discretionary and non-discretionary funding (spending) from all federal agencies and/or departments.
2. Will AIP funding for non-hub primary airports like Sawyer remain at the current level of 95%?

AAAAE has indicated that the continued incline to fund the contract of the FAA's Air Traffic Controllers will impact other areas of the FAA for funding – including the Airport Improvement Program.

3. Will the State of Michigan be able to support airports at 2.50%, or greater, if federal AIP is reduced?
4. The possibility to see a reduction in annual AIP Entitlements reduced from the current level of \$1,000,000 per year, to levels seen in the 1990's at \$650,000, again, due to the call to reduce federal spending (See No: 1, above).
5. The determination of what we feel, as an airport staff, advisory committee, senior County staff determines as our project priorities – in contrast with what the FAA determines shall be the priority for Sawyer.
6. To expedite the “pay-go” or “pay-as-you-go” for Sawyer to complete the local-share costs of the project, staff is doubtful if we will see any increase in the foreseeable future of the Passenger Facility Charge rate which is currently \$4.50.

NOTE: As of CY-2009, the American Association of Airport Executives recommends that the PFC should be approximately \$8.13. Current buying power of the \$4.50 PFC is estimated today to be less than \$2.50.

7. Others, as may be determined.

If you have any questions or concerns, staff would like to receive comments from the Committee by NLT Friday, September 9, as the final draft of this ACIP will be completed and discussed with MDOT and FAA officials at the MAAE Fall Conference during the week of September 12th.

Thank you – Keith

cc: Steve Powers, County Administrator
Sue Vercoe, Finance Manager