

COUNTY OF MARQUETTE, MICHIGAN
Sawyer International Airport
Airport Advisory Committee

Wednesday, February 11, 2009, 4:00 P.M.
Meeting Minutes

Second Floor Conference Room
Airport Services Center
Gwinn, MI 49841

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

Members Absent: Chairman Bob Struck, Steve Rodgers and John LaCourt

Staff Present: Scott Erbisch and Keith Kaspari

Staff Absent: N/A

Guests Present: None

1. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 4:10 p.m. by Scott Erbisch.

2. Approval of Minutes: (January, 2009)

A motion to approve the minutes was placed by Andy Sikkema, with a second by Frank Rosado. Those present approved the motion. Discussion ensued regarding holding future meetings on the first Thursday of the month at 4:30. Motion passed.

3. Approval of the Agenda:

Staff (Scott) requested a revision to the agenda, to add 7-A, "Notification to Members of the Committee who are unable to attend," under 7 (New Business). Staff (Keith) requested to add the following items, 5-D thru 5-K, under 5 Informational Items, as follows:

- 5-D LSCP Ambassadors Draft Transportation White Paper for Lansing visit;
- 5-E Federal Stimulus Language with AAAE Airport Legislative Alert and the Future FAA Reauthorization Bill
- 5-F Newspaper Article, Detroit Free Press;
- 5-G Newspaper Article, Escanaba Daily Press;
- 5-H Statewide Michigan Decreases in Airline Passenger Traffic;
- 5-I Projects Update;
- 5-J Visits by Oshkosh Truck Corporation; and,
- 5-K Receipt of USDOT/FAA Grant No: 2809.

A motion was presented by Fred Benzie to accept the agenda, as revised, with support by Andy Sikkema. Motion passed.

4. Public Comment: None

5. Informational Items:

- A. Staff provided an update and copy of correspondence to the Committee with regard to a recap of air service for CY-08. Passenger travel at Sawyer saw a decrease of nearly 20% (19.28) in contrast with CY-2007.
- B. Staff (Keith) provided an update to the Committee with regard to the February 4 & 5, 2009 Michigan Airports Conference in Lansing. Keith provided comment that there are many concerns regarding the following:
 - 1. Future funding for the MDOT-Aeronautics department;
 - 2. Future funding for the State Aeronautics Fund (SAF);
 - 3. Lack of funding for Air Service Program Grants;
 - 4. Future replacement for the Mobile ARFF Trainer, with a replacement estimated at \$1.6M, and with a remaining service life of 5-6 years;
 - 5. New FAA Advisory Circular for Winter Operations (complete re-write);
 - 6. Possibility for unfunded mandates due to the proposal by the International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF);
 - 7. Beginning with FY-2010, new requirement for a 10-year Airport Capital Improvement Program (ACIP), in contrast with current requirement for a 5-year;
 - 8. Projects funded under the new Stimulus program; and,
 - 9. New sponsor requirements for Grant requests and Grant Administration.

- C. Staff (Scott and Keith) provided an update to the Committee with the possibility of air service from Sawyer to Lansing.

Due to a decrease in service from Lansing, whereby Allegiant Air moved to Grand Rapids, this new vacancy opened up an opportunity for potential air service between the Upper Peninsula and Lansing with the service originating from Sawyer.

Staff is working with Lansing airport staff to continue efforts to bring air service between the U.P. and Lansing.

In the interim, LSCP staff has assisted airport staff with routing an air service survey to various Chamber members throughout Marquette County and other Chambers and businesses in the U.P.

- D. Staff (Keith) provided the members of the Committee a draft copy of the LSCP Ambassadors Transportation Paper. Talking points to be compiled in the White Paper for discussion with State legislators and agency department heads, include:

North-South Corridor along M-95 from Iron Mountain to Humboldt Township, and US-41/M-28 to Marquette; Customs Office in Marquette County; Stop Light Relocation on US-41West; US-41 Michigamme Curve Relocation; East-West Access in South Marquette County; and Increased Funding for Local Road Commissions and Cities (to name a few).

- E. Staff (Keith) provided members of the Committee an update with regard to the Stimulus funds, and an Airport Legislative Alert via the American Association of Airport Executives (AAAE).

Staff provided a list of five (5) projects (4 bricks and mortar and 1 equipment) to the Detroit office of the FAA for their considerations as staff felt that they would meet the criteria and be eligible for possible future Stimulus funding.

The projects are as follows:

1. Phase II construction for an on-airfield lighting vault and improvements to the taxiway lighting system. Estimated Costs: \$3.4M;
2. Continue runway and taxiway pavement reconstruction. Estimated Costs: \$1.6M;
3. Phase I (Design) and Phase II (Construction) for reconstruction of runway shoulders and improvements to the runway edge lights. Estimated Costs: \$2.2M;
4. Purchase of Replacement Snow Removal Equipment (Snowblower, Material Spreader and Equipment for application of Anti-Icing or De-Icing Chemicals). Estimated Cost: \$1.5M; and,
5. Phase I replacement for the concrete joint sealant and crack seal material. Estimated Cost: \$750,000.

While the American Association of Airport Executives (AAAE) requested \$3B for the FAA's Airport Improvement Program (AIP), final bill language approved an amount at \$1.1B, whereby 50% of the funds would need to be issued in the first 120-days, with the remaining 50% issued to airports within 12-months.

Staff is optimistic that Marquette County could receive funding for one or more of the above projects.

- F.** Staff (Keith) provided a copy of a newspaper article to the Committee members from the Detroit Free Press.

The article provided an update regarding an increase of funding (from \$900M to \$1.8M) for roads in Michigan with funding via the Stimulus funds currently approved in Congress.

- G.** Staff (Keith) provided a copy of a newspaper article to the Committee members from the Escanaba Daily Press regarding Sawyer being the regional airport for the Upper Peninsula.

The article questioned the need to subsidize the small airports in the U.P. with Sawyer located in nearby Marquette County.

- H.** Staff (Keith) provided a handout to the Committee members with regard to a Statewide look at the decreases in passenger travel at Michigan's commercial service airports.

The handout (compiled from MDOT-Aero's website), noted many airports in Michigan that saw double-digit decreases in passenger ridership during CY-2008.

- I. Staff (Keith) provided an update to the Committee with regard to the AIP and MAP funded projects.

For the AIP funded projects, staff submitted all final grant application and related documents to the FAA, via MDOT, to comply with their request by NLT Tuesday, February 10.

For the MAP funded projects, staff commented that work continues by Gundlach Champion in Hangars 662, 663, 666 and 402, yet there was some additional, albeit minor, removal of Asbestos Containing Building Materials (ACBM) that needed to be removed in Hangar-666, before additional demolition work continues.

For FY-2009, staff anticipates that all information submittals to MDOT for the MAP Program, referred to as Part B, will be due within 90-days.

- J. Staff (Keith) provided an update to the Committee with regard to a visit by engineers and sales representatives from the Oshkosh Truck Corporation (OTC).

Engineers from OTC will be on site the week of February 16 to begin testing of a new series of high-speed snowblower.

Testing is being completed on behalf of officials from the Port Authority of New York & New Jersey.

Additionally, technicians from OTC will be on site during the week of February 23 to troubleshoot the power-divider on the 2008 Oshkosh Striker airport fire truck. ARFF vehicle should be out of service for no more than one week.

- K. Staff (Keith) provided an update to the Committee with the future receipt of USDOT/FAA Grant No: 2809.

Staff is scheduled to take to the County Board of Commissioners Grant No: 2809 on Tuesday, February 17 that encompasses the 5 projects for the FY-2009 program with AIP Entitlement funds.

6. Old Business

- A. Staff (Scott) briefed the Committee regarding an update to the WAAS.

Scott updated the committee that the trees identified in previous email correspondence by FAA and MDOT officials have been cut down, with the letter of completion submitted to the FAA.

On behalf of the project, a letter was submitted from the office of Congressman Bart Stupak to the FAA to request the FAA to elevate the priority for completion of Sawyer WAAS project.

7. New Business

7-A Notification to members who are unable to attend the Airport Advisory Committee meeting.

Discussion ensued that it was decided that staff would provide the information to the Committee members as soon as possible.

8. Public Comment None

9. Staff and Committee Member Comment

- Committee member Andy Sikkema provided an update with regard to future roadway improvements on M-553 from U.S. 41 to County Road 428.

Staff (Keith) requested of Andy Sikkema to ensure that PSA's are sent out well in advance to allow for potential Sawyer passengers to be aware of traffic delays due to construction.

- Committee member Frank Rosado requested an update from Explorer Solutions.
- Staff (Scott) provided comment regarding airport talking points on how to re-address, follow-up and provide timely updates to the Committee.

Scott furthered comment requesting staff and committee members to have an open dialogue and to work together for the benefit of the airport.

- Keith provided comment to the Advisory Committee regarding receiving a phone call from Minot AFB, for officials from the AFB to possibly use Sawyer as a future site for conducting flight training operations with a Boeing B-52 bomber.

10. Adjournment

A motion for adjournment was provided by Frank Rosado, with support from Scott Schulz.

Motion passed with the members adjourning at 5:28 p.m.