

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

**Thursday, February 4, 2010, 4:30 P.M.  
Meeting Minutes**

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

**Members Present:** Committee Chairman Bob Struck, and Committee Members Andy Sikkema, Scott Schulz and Fred Benzie.

**Members Absent:** John LaCourt, Steve Rodgers and Frank Rosado

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

**Guests Present:** Jim Cihak, Marquette County Commissioner and Roger Bentlage, Member, Sawyer Chapter of the EAA

**1. Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 4:40 p.m. by Chairman Struck.

**2. Public Comment:** None

**3. Approval of the Agenda:**

Chairman Struck requested to add an item to the agenda, referred to as 5-H, Additional Committee Members.

A Motion of Support was offered by Committee Member Scott Schulz, with a second offered by Committee Member Sikkema. Motion carried with approval of the agenda as revised.

**4. Approval of Minutes: (August, 2009 & January, 2010)**

Committee members reviewed the minutes from August, 2009. A Motion of Support was offered by Committee Member Schulz, with a second by Committee Member Sikkema. Motion passed.

The minutes from January 2010 were also reviewed by the Committee. A Motion of Support to approve the minutes was offered by Committee Member Benzie, with a Second offered by Committee Member Sikkema. Motion passed.

5. **Items for Discussion:**

- A. **KSAW Aerobatic Practice Area:** Roger Bentlage, a member of the local chapter of the Experimental Aircraft Association, was present to discuss his recent application to the FAA for the addition of a proposed aerobatic (flight) practice area.

The aerobatic practice area is proposed to be located west of Runway 1/19. Mr. Bentlage commented that this would be the only known or FAA approved aerobatic practice area located in the Upper Peninsula, and that there are limited areas located in the southern lower peninsula.

Mr. Bentlage commented that he is looking for support from the Airport Advisory Committee to supplement his application.

A Motion of Support to support the Aerobatic Practice Area was offered by Committee Member Committee Member Benzie, pending approval by the Marquette County Risk Manager. A Second was offered by Committee Member Schulz. Motion passed.

- B. **Wide Area Augmentation System - (WAAS):** Mr. Kaspari provided an update of the WAAS System for Runway 19. Sawyer is still on track to have an operational approach / approved procedure, on or about April 8, 2010.

- C. **Visit To Cherry Capital Airport – Review of Snow Removal Equipment - Snowbroom:** Mr. Kaspari provided an update to the Committee Members regarding the visit early on Thursday afternoon by Keith and Committee Vice Chairman LaCourt regarding the review of the multi-purpose snowbroom that is used by maintenance staff at TVC.

Maintenance personnel at Cherry Capital Airport took delivery in November, 2009, of two (2) multi-purpose snowbrooms - a Snowmauler with a tractor & cab combo.

The unit is equipped with a 24-foot blue-max snowplow blade, a 15-foot under-body scraping blade, a 22.5-foot tow-behind snow broom, a 400-mph airblower rear-view camera, and the various radios and light strobes.

The equipment was priced at approximately \$540,000 each, and have taken the place of other snowplows and other support equipment to conduct snow removal operations.

The snowbrooms are now their primary piece of snow removal equipment used by the maintenance staff. Overall, the staff seems to be very pleased with the overall functionality of the equipment, and believe they plan on acquiring two more.

To enhance the removal of icing conditions on the pavement surfaces, staff at Cherry Capital utilize a potassium acetate liquid in combination with the snowbrooms.

Costs for the chemical have greatly fluctuated between \$2.00 and nearly \$12.00 per gallon. Current costs find Cherry Capital staff paying between \$5.00 and \$6.00 per gallon.

Since the arrival of the equipment in November, the snowbrooms have approximately 200+ hours. Older front-mounted brooms have been relegated to secondary, backup or support pieces of equipment.

We continued discussion regarding the maintenance of the equipment, and was informed that it would be recommended to replace the broom-head between 80-120 hours of use – of which, changing the wafers on the broom head has an estimated cost of approximately \$4,100.00.

I was advised by Mr. Kevin Klein, Assistant Airport Director, that if Sawyer decides on a future purchase of a snowbroom, that we can expect to repaint the airfield on an annual basis.

Cost for repainting the airfield is estimated at approximately \$90,000.

- D. Passenger Terminal Restroom Project:** Scott Erbisich provided an update to the Committee Members regarding the. An early estimate received by Mr. Erbisich provided that a proposed restroom in the terminal gate area would cost between \$17,000 and \$22,000, excluding the cost of engineered drawings.

Mr. Erbisich has tasked Mead & Hunt to provide a Concept Budget Report (CBR) that includes an estimate regarding the cost of engineering, construction and construction oversight.

Mr. Erbisich continued comment that staff will also look at a cost of a proposed (separate) men's and women's restroom, rather than just a single unisex restroom.

Mr. Erbisich has requested this CBR Report to be made available to the Committee at the March meeting.

- E. Grass (Turf) Runway:** Mr. Kaspari provided an update to the Committee on his previous discussions during the January meeting of the local EAA Chapter. Due to the location of the south hammerhead (east-west configuration) to the General Aviation section of the airfield, and in contrast with the development of a turf runway, discussion continued regarding the potential re-use of the paved south hammerhead (taxiway to the former USAF tanker alert pad) that intersects with the west edge of the approach to, and the threshold of Runway 1.

Additional discussion continued regarding the possible type of runway designation (visual, utility, other), along with any lighting and overall length required (possibly 2,400-feet).

Mr. Kaspari provided comment with regard to tasking Mead & Hunt to perform a "feasibility study" to ascertain potential costs for the recertification or re-use of this pavement area.

Discussion continued regarding whether an Environmental Assessment (EA) was required, or to request a possibly variance by the FAA to utilize this section of pavement for very light General Aviation, sport or recreational aircraft.

A Motion of Support was provided by Committee Member Bezie, with a Second offered by Committee Member Schulz. Motion passed.

- F. Strategic Planning:** Mr. Erbisch provided an update to the Committee Members regarding on-going sessions by County Staff on Airport Strategic Planning.

Mr. Erbisch continued comment to the Committee regarding the overall importance of the airport to the local Marquette County area, as well as to the Central Region of the Upper Peninsula, and the Primary and Secondary passenger catchment areas as outlined in Sawyer's Airport Master Plan.

- G. FY-2010 Airport Department Budget:** Mr. Erbisch also provided to the Committee Members a copy of the current budget for the Airport Department.

- H. Additional Committee Members:** Commissioner Cihak has made a request to be considered to serve as an additional member of the Advisory Committee.

Discussion continued regarding members of the committee as either an alternate or appointed position.

Discussion ensued that the Committee By-Laws would need to be reviewed, as well as possible formal action by the County Board of Commissioners.

**6. Informational Items:**

**Due to time constraints, it was decided by the Committee Members that the following items would be tabled for the March meeting.**

**A. Items for February 9, County Board Meeting –**

- I. Professional Services Agreement with Mead & Hunt for Snow Removal Equipment;
- II. Professional Services Agreement with Mead & Hunt for Phase II of the Taxiway Lighting Rehabilitation Project;
- III. Professional Services Agreement with Mead & Hunt for Phase IV of the Runway 1/19 Pavement Slab Rehabilitation Project;
- IV. Professional Services Agreement with Mead & Hunt for Airfield Pavement Markings and Replacement of Runway Concrete Pavement Joint Sealant; and,
- V. Notice of Award, Environmental Analysis, Former Airfield Lighting Vault.

**B. Crosswind Runway – Southend of Runway 1**

7. **Public Comment** None

**8. Staff and Committee Member Comment**

A. Mr. Kaspari provided comment to the Committee Members regarding the following:

- I. Staff was requested by the FAA to task Mead & Hunt with repacking the 2009 specifications to proceed with bidding exterior improvements to Buildings 608 (American Eagle) and 627 (located south of Hangar-665).
- II. Effective in early March, American Eagle will shift their schedule to accommodate their schedule of aircraft maintenance operations, whereby the non-stop flight will be suspended UFN.
- III. Beginning on April 6, Delta Airlines will shift their scheduled service from Saab-340 turboprop aircraft, to all Regional Jet operations, with a daily schedule of 2 trips to Detroit Metro, and 2 trips to Minneapolis – St. Paul. It also looks like Delta will add a third daily trip to Detroit for the months of July and August.
- IV. Representative Gabe Leland is proposing legislation in Lansing to provide for increased revenue for Michigan’s State Aviation Fund (SAF). Co-Sponsors of House Bill No: 5773 include: Representatives Lahti, Lindberg and Nerat.

**9. Adjournment**

A motion to adjourn was offered by Committee Member Benzie. The motion was seconded by Committee Member Sikkema.

Motion was approved.

Time of adjournment: 6:50