

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

Wednesday, March 5, 2009, 4:30 P.M.  
Meeting Minutes

Second Floor Conference Room  
Airport Services Center  
Gwinn, MI 49841

**Members Present:** Chairman Bob Struck and Committee Members Frank Rosado, Scott Schulz, Fred Benzie, Andy Sikkema and John LaCourt

**Members Absent:** Steve Rodgers

**Staff Present:** Keith Kaspari

**Staff Absent:** Scott Erbisch

**Guests Present:** None

**1. Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 4:48 p.m. by Chairman Struck.

**2. Approval of Minutes: (February, 2009)**

A motion to approve the minutes was placed by Fred Benzie, with a second by Frank Rosado. Those present approved the motion. Motion passed.

**3. Approval of the Agenda:**

Staff requested a revision to the agenda, to add to Section 5, Informational Items, the following items 5-D and 5-E, and Committee Member Andy Sikkema requested to add to the agenda, 5-F.

- 5-D Staff agenda items to the County Board of Commissioners for their March 10, 2009 meeting of the Committee of the Whole;
- 5-E Lansing Service Update
- 5-F Road Projects Update with Stimulus Funding;

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

**4. Public Comment:** None

**5. Informational Items:**

- A.** Staff provided an update and copy of correspondence from AAAE to the Committee with regard to a legislative update regarding the following: Upcoming FAA Reauthorization Bill; a proposed increase to \$7.00 or \$7.50 of the FAA's Passenger Facility Charge program; and, a proposal by the International Association of Fire Fighters.
- B.** Staff provided an update to the Committee with regard to the five (5) projects submitted to the FAA Detroit office for consideration with federal Stimulus funds. The projects are as follows:

  - 1. Phase II (Construction), of airfield lighting improvements including the construction of an on-airfield lighting vault, and improvements to the taxiway lighting system, with an estimated project cost of \$3.4M;
  - 2. Phases II and III for reconstructive pavement repairs to Sawyer's Runway 1/19, and taxiways Alpha, Charlie and Delta, with an estimated project cost at \$1.6M;
  - 3. Phase I (Design) and Phase II (Construction) for improvement associated with the rehabilitation of Sawyer's runway shoulders and improvements to the runway edge lighting, with an estimated project cost as \$2.22M;
  - 4. Purchase of replacement snow removal equipment, snowblower, etc. with a total anticipated project cost to approximately \$1.5M; and,
  - 5. Phase I (Design) and Phase II (Construction) for the replacement of concrete joint sealant replacement and asphalt pavement crack seal material, with an estimated project cost at \$750,000.
- C.** Committee Member Scott Schulz provided an update to the Committee with a review of air traffic operations at regional airports with operational air traffic towers.
- D.** Staff provided an update to the Committee regarding a number of agenda items that Staff will be taking to the Marquette County Board of Commissioners at their March 10, 2009 meeting of the Committee of the Whole. List as follows:

  - 1. MDOT Contract Agreement 2009-0179 regarding the projects funded under FAA Grant Agreement No: 2809;
  - 2. Professional Services Agreement with Mead & Hunt for Construction Administration and Inspection (CA&I) services associated with Phase IV of Parking Access and Revenue Control System (PARCS) of the overall parking lot project;
  - 3. Notice of Award to Premeau Construction of Marquette for construction and installation of the Parking Lot PARCS project;
  - 4. Professional Services Agreement with Mead & Hunt for CA&I services associated with the Emergency Alarm system project; and,

5. Notice of Award to Rapid Electric of Escanaba for construction and installation of the Emergency Alarm System project.

E. Staff provided an update to the Committee regarding potential for scheduled service to Lansing.

F. Committee Member Andy Sikkema provided the Committee an update with regard to road improvements in Marquette County with federal stimulus funds.

The list of road improvements are as follows:

- US-41 East from Wal-Mart to Washington Street and the Washington Street Access  
(Asphalt Overlay)
- US-41 from Genesse Street to Carp River  
(Concrete Pavement Repairs)
- US-41 from M-28 to the Welcome Center  
(Concrete Pavement Repairs)
- US-41 and M-28 Intersection  
(Concrete Pavement Replacement, Intersection Improvements and Signal Replacement)
- US-41 from M-28 to Big Creek Road  
(Pavement Repairs)
- M-553 to CR-480  
(Asphalt Overlay)

## 6. Old Business

A. Staff provided a handout of a power point presentation to the Committee regarding a look at the improvements and maintenance of Sawyer as a public transportation asset.

B. Staff provided a brief update, via memorandum from Scott Erbisch, regarding an update of the Marquette County and Sawyer, Telkite Technology Park and Explorer Solutions project.

C. Staff provided an update to the Committee on the next steps with regard to the Airport Master Plan project.

D. Staff provided an update, with the handout of a letter submitted from Staff (Scott Erbisch) to the FAA regarding the WAAS project at Sawyer.

It was decided that staff would continue to provide monthly updates to the Committee.

**7. New Business**

- 7-A Staff provided a copy of a memorandum via Scott Erbis, and a page of contact information from John LaCourt regarding Sawyer Airport Braking action.

A great deal of discussion ensued whereby staff and members of the Committee discussed winter operations, a new FAA Advisory Circular, removal and control of snow and ice during the winter season, Airfield Condition Reports, Snow Removal Operations at Chicago O'Hare, Tapley Braking Action/s, etc.

Discussion continued and it was decided that Staff would add this to the next agenda for continued discussion during the April Committee meeting.

- 7-B Staff provided the Committee members a handout regarding a Brief or White Paper from the Michigan Association of Airport Executives, and memorandum from airport staff, regarding the proposal from the International Association of Fire Fighters.

The IAFF proposal would require a significant increase in ARFF manning (fire fighters) from the current FAA mandate for the minimum operation of one (1) fire-fighter per shift with an ARFF Index of A, to six (6) fire-fighters per shift.

Once Sawyer sees a return of the two American Eagle Regional Jets, and if Mesaba Airlines increases service by replacing two scheduled Saab flights per day with 50-Seat regional jets, this new IAFF proposal would then again increase our manning from six (6) fire fighters per shift, to nine (9) fire fighters per shift.

The IAFF proposal, however, does not provide any discussions or comment at the national level to include how airport operators would provide funding to comply with their new requirements for:

- Additional personnel as described above;
- Compliance with the new time limitations to respond to the end of the furthest runway within a 2-minute limit, in contrast with the current 3-minute time limit to the mid-point of the furthest runway.
- Training in aircraft fire fighting;
- Training in structural fire fighting;
- EMS Certification; and,
- Training and certification in Hazardous Materials.

**8. Public Comment**      None

## 9. Staff and Committee Member Comment

- Committee member John LaCourt made an inquiry to the airport staff from a member of the local EAA community, regarding a landing site in a yet to be determined location (possibly between Taxiway Alpha and the grass area west of Hangars 423, 424 & 425) for the takeoff and landing of ultra-light (sport) aircraft.

Staff requested a formal letter from the local EAA Chapter President (Ted Kirkpatrick), of which, Committee member Benzie commented that he would discuss this request with Mr. Kirkpatrick.

- Chairman Struck commented to staff and the committee members regarding the following:
  - The physical layout of the conference room table for future advisory committee meetings;
  - Asset management, of which, he would like to add to the April agenda; and,
  - His thanks, as Chairman of the Committee, regarding the spirited discussion that the Committee and Staff has had over the last number of months, regarding a wide range of issues surrounding the operation and maintenance of the airport.
- Committee Member Sikkema provided comment to the committee regarding repairs to the overpass west of the airport environs on Hwy-553.

This project is set to be designed and bid during 2009, with construction improvements scheduled for the summer construction season of 2010.

## 10. Adjournment

A motion for adjournment was provided by Andy Sikkema, with support from Rosado.

The motion passed with the members adjourning at 6:48 p.m.