MICHIGAN AERONAUTICS COMMISSION
Minutes of Meeting
Lansing, Michigan
January 28, 2009

Pursuant to Section 31 of Act 327 of the Public Acts of 1945, the Commissioners of the Michigan Aeronautics Commission (MAC), created by said act, met in the Aeronautics Building, 2700 Port Lansing Road, Lansing, Michigan 48906 on Wednesday, January 28, 2009, commencing at the hour of approximately 10:00 a.m.

Members Present
Sidney Adams, Jr., Chair
Terry Everman, Vice Chair
James Collins, Commissioner
J. William Prochazka, Commissioner
Russ Kavalhuna, Commissioner
Robert Johnston, Designee - DMVA
Leon Hank, Designee – MDOT
Daniel Atkinson, Designee – MSP
David Brickey, Legal Counsel
Rob Abent, MAC Director

Members Absent
Dennis Fedewa, Designee - MDNR

Staff Present
Lorraine White, Assistant to MAC
LeAnne Hengesbach, Aviation Services
Kelly Badra, Aviation Services
Rick Hammond, Airports Division
Gerry Edwards, Aviation Services
Pauline Misjak, Aviation Services
Matt Brinker, Aviation Services
Mark Noel, Airports Division
Dave Baker, Airports Division
Jennifer Forbes, Aviation Services
Lisa Simmer, Aviation Services
Shelly Rathbun, Airports Division
Randy Coller, Airports Division
Tom Krashen, Aviation Services

Also Present
Lee Sherwitz, Manager, Southwest Michigan Regional Airport
Larry Bowron, Manager, W. K. Kellogg Airport
John Strehl, Manager, Antrim County Airport
Jon Bayless, Manager, Abrams Municipal Airport
Jim Winstanley, Abrams Municipal Airport
Bill Blake, AOPA

A list of all others present is attached to the official minutes.

I. OPENING REMARKS

The January 28, 2009, Aeronautics Commission meeting was called to order by the Chair, Sidney Adams, Jr., at 10:05 a.m. He commented on the conditions of the roads this morning due to the weather.

The Chair introduced Mr. Russ Kavalhuna, a new Commissioner recently appointed by Governor Granholm, to succeed Joyce Woods.

Commissioner Kavalhuna gave a brief overview of his background and experience.

Roll call was taken, Commissioner Fedewa was absent.

The Chair recognized some airport managers in attendance; they introduced themselves. Present were Lee Sherwitz, Manager, Southwest Michigan Regional Airport, Larry Bowron, Manager, W. K. Kellogg Airport, John Strehl, Manager, Antrim County Airport, Jon Bayless, Manager, Abrams Municipal Airport, and Jim Winstanley, pilot for Abrams Municipal Airport.

II. COMMISSION BUSINESS

A. Minutes of the November 28, 2008 Meeting

The Chair entertained a motion to approve Exhibit A, the minutes of the MAC meeting held November 28, 2008, pending any corrections or change. Moved by Commissioner Everman and supported by Commissioner Hank to approve the minutes as written. By a unanimous voice vote the motion carried.

B. Federal/State Local Projects

The chair called Dave Baker, Airports Division, to present the airport grants.

Mr. Baker discussed the 38 projects for funding approval.

1. Lenawee County Airport, Adrian
2. Alpena County Regional Airport, Alpena
3. W. K. Kellogg Airport, Battle Creek
4. W. K. Kellogg Airport, Battle Creek
5. Roben-Hood Airport, Big Rapids
6. Charlevoix Municipal Airport, Charlevoix
7. Fitch H. Beach Municipal Airport, Charlotte
8. Cheboygan County Airport, Cheboygan
9. Clare Municipal Airport, Clare

10. Detroit Metropolitan Wayne County Airport, Detroit
11. Evart Municipal Airport, Evart
12. Bishop International Airport, Flint
13. Gerald R. Ford International Airport, Grand Rapids
14. Greenville Municipal Airport, Greenville
15. Houghton County Memorial Airport, Hancock
16. Houghton County Memorial Airport, Hancock
17. Roscommon County Airport, Houghton Lake
18. Ionia County Airport, Ionia
19. Kalamazoo/Battle Creek International Airport, Kalamazoo
20. Lakeview – Griffith Field Airport, Lakeview
21. Capital Region International Airport, Lansing
22. Dupont Lapeer Airport, Lapeer
23. Schoolcraft County Airport, Manistique
24. Sawyer International Airport, Marquette
25. Sawyer International Airport, Marquette
26. Twin County Airport, Menominee
27. Muskegon County Airport, Muskegon
28. Oakland Southwest Airport, New Hudson
29. Owosso Community Airport, Owosso
30. Pellston Regional Airport of Emmet County, Pellston
31. St. Clair County International Airport, Port Huron
32. Presque Isle County Airport, Rogers
33. MBS International Airport, Saginaw
34. Mackinac County Airport, St. Ignace
35. Sandusky City Airport, Sandusky
36. Chippewa County International Airport, Sault Ste. Marie
37. Chippewa County International Airport, Sault Ste. Marie
38. West Branch Community Airport, West Branch

Commissioner Everman questioned the project at the Pellston Regional Airport; asking if the funding was only for the design. Mr. Baker confirmed. Commissioner Collins also asked about the status of the plans at the Charlotte airport. Per Mr. Baker, they will not be pursuing new construction. Mr. Mark Noel questioned the absence of a project Delta County Airport in Escanaba. Per Director Abent, that was not part of today's package and was not on the agenda. Mr. Abent asked to revisit the Pellston Regional Airport; he clarified the design of the facility is estimated at $711,000. Director Abent thanked Mr. Baker for his presentation.

As no other questions were raised, the Chair entertained a motion for approval of the 38 projects presented by Mr. Baker. Moved by Commissioner Collins and supported by Commissioner Prochazka to approve the 38 projects. By a unanimous voice vote, the motion carried.

Mr. Baker discussed the two supplemental transfers, Ann Arbor Municipal Airport, in Ann Arbor and the Antrim County Airport in Bellaire.

C. Tall Structure Fee Proposal

The Chair called on Rick Hammond, Airports Division Administrator, to present the Tall Structure Fee Proposal. Mr. Hammond stated that we have a request for approval of the fee structure for the application permits required under the Michigan Tall Structures Act. He gave a brief history of the procedure and gave information as to our current practices and suggested proposal. The language in the appropriations bill authorizes the Department to establish a fee structure for the permits they issue. That fee structure is designed to recover the cost of program administration. The proposal is to adopt the fee as presented.

Director Abent asked Mr. Hammond to define the role of the FAA on tall structures. Mr. Hammond gave a brief overview.

Commissioner Kavalhuna asked Mr. Hammond to define a tall structures fee. Mr. Hammond answered saying a structure 200 feet or greater, or a structure that would obstruct a public runway is defined as a tall structure. Commissioner Kavalhuna also asked about the caps for the group of applications for tall structures, citing an example of a subdivision. Mr. Hammond responded that he will check into the exact specifics for him.

Mr. Lee Scherwitz asked about an exemption fee for airports. Mr. Hammond responded saying he believed they were exempt, but would verify that.

Mr. Larry Bowron questioned on possible field enforcement for the issue. Mr. Hammond stated it was currently being enforced.

Commissioner Hank asked about a minimum height requirement. Mr. Hammond reiterated the guidelines.

Chair Adams entertained a motion to approve the Tall Structure Fee Proposal as presented. Moved by Vice Chair Everman and supported by Commissioner Collins to approve the plan. By a unanimous voice vote the motion carried.

III. PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Lee Scherwitz, Southwest Michigan Regional Airport in Benton Harbor, reported that they are building, all on local funds, a 10 unit T hanger facility. He is happy to report that they are moving forward with the project.

There was no further public comment.

IV. REPORTS

A. MAC Director's Report.

Commission Director Abent was called to the podium to give his director's report. He welcomed everyone for coming and welcomed Commissioner Kavalhuna.

Director Abent also thanked Bill Blake, AOPA, for working with us on funding issues. He gave a brief background on Mr. Blake's experience.

Director Abent also wanted to publicly acknowledge Lee Scherwitz for speaking, and congratulate him on being named president of the Michigan Association of Airport Executives, also mentioning the beautiful facility in Benton Harbor.

Director Abent noted the items that were at each Commissioner's seat. One item is an artist's rendition of the new North Terminal at the Detroit Metro Wayne County International Airport, provided by Suzy Heintz-Avery. Another item was a copy of the Michigan Airport System Plan (MASP); Rick Hammond and the Airports Division were instrumental in completing this document, along with others from the airports and aviation constituency.

Director Abent gave a budget review. He addressed the revenue for FY08 and 09. He also gave information on the 1st quarter of FY09 and aviation fuel tax revenue, actual vs. estimated. For comparison purposes, Mr. Abent spoke of the FY09 vs. five year average of aviation fuel tax, revenues are down almost 35%.

Mr. Abent then discussed the Federal Reauthorization, including a time line of events from 2003 to the present. Hearings are scheduled in the House for February, 2009, to provide legislation to adopt reauthorization for the national aviation infrastructure, for authorization that expired in 2007.

Mr. Abent next spoke of the Federal Recovery/Stimulus Package. He mentioned that Commissioner Hank has been deeply involved in this effort. Mr. Abent gave an overview of the package.

Mr. Abent mentioned that he is scheduled to attend the NASAO conference in March. Other upcoming events included, the GLIAC conference in Novi scheduled for January 30-31. He gave an overview of the conference; Commissioner Hank will be assisting with MDOT's booth. Director Abent thanked him for doing so.

Another upcoming event is the Michigan Airport Conference, scheduled for February 4-5 in East Lansing. Both Divisions of the Bureau will be on hand to assist with the conference.

Mr. Abent repeated his attendance at the upcoming NASAO Conference in Washington DC. He also mentioned our King Air which is being refurbished, is expected to be returned in March.

The former Michigan Aviation printed publication is now e-Michigan Aviation. This publication will be available on line soon. The Commissioners were given a hard copy at the meeting. The change to an electronic version was mainly done as a cost savings effort. Mr. Abent recognized Mr. Tom Krashen, who serves as editor. He is also our in-house aviation safety expert and a pilot.

Mr. Krashen briefly spoke of the publication, adding that Mr. Matt Brinker of our staff, and Mr. Randy Debler from MDOT Graphic Design, were instrumental with the layout.

The Chair mentioned the next meeting will be the joint meeting with the State Transportation Commission, scheduled for Thursday, March 26, in Lansing. We will have the joint meeting then adjourn for separate meetings. Director Abent gave a short overview of the schedule for that day.

The January 28, 2009 meeting of the Michigan Aeronautics Commission concluded at approximately 11:05 a.m.

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Director Chairman

Dated: _____