

**COUNTY OF MARQUETTE, MICHIGAN**  
**Sawyer International Airport**  
**Airport Advisory Committee**  
**Thursday December 14, 2017 4:00 P.M.**  
**Meeting Minutes**

**Members Present:** Ed Glasgow, Bob Muelle, John LaCourt and Frank Rosado

**Members Absent:** County Commissioner Adamini, County Commissioner Alholm and Steve Rodgers

**Staff Present:** Duane DuRay, Airport Manager, Steve Schenden, Director of Operations

**Staff Absent:** None

**Guests Present:** Great lakes Radio (Todd Noordyk and Gerald Spruitenberg)

**1. Call to Order:**

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Rosado at 4:05 pm.

**2. Approval of the Agenda:**

Motion was made by Member La Court supported by Member Muelle to approve the agenda. Motion passed unanimously.

**3. Public Comment:** Mr. Noordyk and Mr. Spruitenburg provided a marketing proposal for the CY2018 from Great Lakes Radio. They provided several opportunities available for marketing with their organization. Light discussion took place.

**4. Approval of Minutes November 2017:**

Motion was made by, Member LaCourt, supported by Member Muelle, to approve the Minutes. Motion passed unanimously.

**5. Items of Discussion:**

A. Snow Dump Issues – Manager DuRay informed the Committee on an issue relating three specific areas normally closed during the winter season to be used as a snow dump. Sawyer staff historically designated these areas and provided notification to the tenant base. This season staff was notified by Envoy maintenance staff and the FAA on issues with the snow dump areas and how they were physically marked with safety cones. Staff have spoken with the FAA and established a plan to mitigate the issues with several steps of correction. Member Rosado asked if Envoy was willing to participate in the expense to mitigate the issue. Discussion took place. This item was moved to the next meeting for further discussion because Mr. Rodgers was not at the meeting.

**6. Informational Items & Project Updates:**

A. Sawyer MAP Application – Manager DuRay updated the Committee on the plan to resubmit another Military Airport Program Grant. After discussion with the Detroit FAA office and a review of the costs related to the project, staff is looking to apply for funding to expand hangar 665. Discussion took place.

B. Sawyer SCASD Grant Application – Sawyer staff submitted a Small Community Airservice Development grant with the Department of Transportation for \$225,000. If successful, this money

will provide a funding source for the Air Service Consulting firm, Trillion, air carrier visits, and marketing trips and general marketing of the air service with our current air carriers. DuRay estimated the selection process to be completed after the New Year and will keep the Committee updated. Discussion took place.

- C. Army Icing Test Update – DuRay briefed the Committee on the winter operations, both the Army and South Koreans have been working well with the winter testing with only minor operational challenges. Discussion took place.
- D. Airport Lighting Pole Update – DuRay provided an update of the current light poles that have experiencing cracking due to fatigue. The airport has submitted an insurance claim for all of the poles that have cracked. After review, the County insurance is going to provide funding for three of the eight poles that have cracked, the remaining poles will need to be replaced through the airport because the cracks could not claimed to a specific event, but rather cracked over time. UP Engineering is going to provide a specification for future light poles to avoid this problem in the future.
- E. Aerospace Industry Meeting – DuRay briefed the Committee on a presentation given by Mr. Tony Vernaci, from Aerospace Industry Association of Michigan (AIAM), this organization is focused on Michigan based aerospace businesses. Mr. Vernaci inquired about the Airport’s desire to join AIAM and support aerospace growth within Michigan. DuRay felt the AIAM is best suited for aerospace companies and not an airport. Discussion took place. At this time Sawyer International Airport will not become a member of this group.

**7. Late Additions:** Committee Member Glasgow spoke on the possible need to address and change our current landing fees. Glasgow feels this should be looked at and adjusted to better reflect current charges. DuRay stated, any change in the landing fee structure would need to be presented to the Marquette County Board for approval. Discussion took place. DuRay will place this on next month’s agenda and Glasgow will compile surrounding airport fees to compare to the current fee structure at Sawyer.

**8. Public Comment:** None

**9. Staff and Committee Member Comment:** Director Schenden informed the Committee that Ms. Jody Lindberg will be out of the office for the next 30 days.

**10. Adjournment:** Committee Member LaCourt made a motion, supported by Committee Member Muelle to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

Adjourned At 5:26 pm

Respectfully submitted by Duane R. DuRay Airport Manager