

COUNTY OF MARQUETTE, MICHIGAN
Sawyer International Airport
Airport Advisory Committee
Thursday August 9, 2018 4:00 P.M.
Meeting Minutes

Members Present: Ed Glasgow, John LaCourt, Steve Rodgers, County Commissioner Adamini, and County Commissioner Alholm

Members Absent: Bob Muelle and Frank Rosado

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

Staff Absent: None

Guests Present: Chad Kubick, Mike McNeil, and Kevin Leitz

1. Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order by Vice Chairman LaCourt at 4:02 pm.

2. Approval of the Agenda:

Motion was made by County Commissioner Alholm supported by Committee member Rodgers to approve the agenda. Motion passed unanimously.

3. Public Comment: Mr. Michael McNeil, the Director of Operations for Boreal Aviation, thanked all of the people on the Advisory Board and Airport staff who attended the 20th year anniversary gathering for Boreal Aviation, the event was a great gathering and provided a chance for Boreal Aviation to say “thank you” for the last 20 years at Sawyer.

4. Approval of Minutes July 12, 2018:

A motion was made by County Commissioner Alholm, supported by County Commissioner Adamini, to approve the minutes for July 12, 2018, as written. Motion passed unanimously.

5. Items of Discussion:

- A. Runway Construction – DuRay briefed the Committee on the progress on the runway construction, the airport is now open with 9,001 feet of runway surface. The three (3) day runway closure went as planned and the airport reopened as planned. DuRay also updated the committee on the remaining Phases for the project.
- B. FBO RFQ: DuRay provided a draft document to the Advisory Committee for review as a foundation for the RFQ process. Discussion took place with several changes addressed. A motion was made by County Commissioner Alholm, supported by Committee Member Glasgow to table the RFQ review until the next Advisory meeting. Potential meeting date of August 16th.
- C. T- Hangar Lease Rates- Tabled item until September meeting.

6. Informational Items & Project Updates:

- A. Mining Journal – K.I. Sawyer Insert: DuRay presented the Mining Journal article highlighting Sawyer International Airport, very good article on the airport and the surrounding businesses. Discussion took place.
- B. Meeting with SkyWest – DuRay briefed the Committee on the visit with SkyWest on July 22nd. Items of discussion revolved around group bookings, passenger loads, and flight schedules. Discussion took place.
- C. Senator Casperson / Sara Cambensy Meeting – Director Schenden updated on conversations with our State Representatives pertaining to assistance in garnering support from the State of Michigan for matching funds to support the MAP application. Schenden also informed the Committee of a potential visit to Washington D.C. to meet with Federal Representatives. Discussion took place.
- D. Boreal Aviation Ribbon Cutting – Refer to Mike McNeil’s public comment provided earlier.
- E. Additional Office Support – DuRay updated the Committee on the addition of a part time office staff member to assist with the security program. The individual hired for the position is Kursten Mottes; she will be on staff in a part time, temporary position to provide additional support. Discussion took place.
- F. FAA Inspection – DuRay stated the FAA inspection was abbreviated due to the runway construction and the FAA plans on returning at a later date to complete the inspection.

7. Late Additions: None

8. Public Comment:

Chad Kubick, President of Kubick Aviation, thanked the Committee for their hard work on the future RFQ.

Michael McNeil, General Manager Boreal Aviation, voiced concern about the potential of a sole provider with the RFQ process, his concerns revolve around risks with FAA Grant assurances and he also stressed concerns with current contract Boreal Aviation has with both the DOT and Envoy.

9. Staff and Committee Member Comment:

A. Director Schenden briefed the Committee on Discover Sawyer days and provided thanks for everyone who participated in the event, also he commented on DuRay’s persistence with pursuing addition snow removal equipment and that the airport is looking at a pilot test on runway deicing agent for this coming season.

Member Glasgow informed the Committee on several military operations that operated in and out of Sawyer, these operations were linked to a military training exercise taking place in the region, and also, next week there may be more operations with continued military exercises taking place.

Manager DuRay wanted to pass on credit to Mr. Schenden for all of his assistance in getting the new snow removal equipment as well; Schenden was instrumental in keeping the subject in front of Mr. Erbisch.

DuRay also said the Security program is still in the works and are waiting on TSA to help complete the final stages of the program.

County Commissioner Alholm requested an update on the ATC Tower air conditioning unit. Director Schenden provided an update.

10. Adjournment: Member Glasgow made a motion, supported by member Rodgers to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

Adjourned At 6:18 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Duane R. DuRay, Airport Manager