

COUNTY OF MARQUETTE, MICHIGAN
Sawyer International Airport
Airport Advisory Committee
Thursday March 12, 2015 4:00 P.M.
Meeting Minutes

Members Present: Scott Schulz, Donald Kristola, Steve Rodgers, John LaCourt, Stephen Adamini and Frank Rosado.

Members Absent: County Commissioner Karen Alholm

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

Staff Absent: None

Guests Present: None

1. Call to Order:

Chairperson Schulz called the meeting to order at 4:04 PM.

2. Approval of the Agenda:

Member Rosado requested an addition to the agenda be added to provide the new members an airfield tour so they may be more familiar with the overall operations. Chairperson Schulz asked for the item to be placed under Staff or Committee Member comments. A motion was made by Member LaCourt, supported by Member Rodgers to approve the agenda as amended. Motion passed unanimously.

3. Public Comment:

A. None noted

4. Approval of Minutes:

Member Rosado made a motion, supported by Member Kristola, to approve the February 2015 minutes. Motion passed unanimously.

5. Items of Discussion:

- A. County Run 100 LL- Airport Manager DuRay opened discussion about researching the possibility of having Marquette County d.b.a. Sawyer International operate a 100LL self-serve fuel farm. This was initiated from discussions with a local group of tenants that voiced a growing concern with the cost of 100 LL fuel at Sawyer. DuRay provided the pros and cons of a County run fuel farm and the estimated time to recover the total cost of the system.

Chairperson Schulz provided documentation on the measures Boreal Aviation goes through to compare their fuel prices with surrounding airports and to ensure they remain competitive.

Discussion took place on the likelihood of the County taking over the service. Member La Court made a motion, supported by Member Rosado to discontinue the pursuit of Marquette County d.b.a. Sawyer International operating a 100 LL self-serve operation in competition with Boreal Aviation. Motion passed unanimously. Chairman Schulz sustained from the vote due to the conflict of interest with the subject.

- B. Trillion Air Service Study – DuRay discussed the potential of working with Trillion Aviation to provide a comprehensive air service study for Marquette County and Sawyer International Airport. Trillion provided three (3) different proposals with the costs of \$17,500, \$24,000, and \$36,000 respectively. DuRay stressed the need to have accurate and current statistics to present to air carriers when requesting new or enhanced service. DuRay outlined recent community outreach (the development of a Task Force and potential support for funding. Member Rosado asked if staff was looking at other air carriers besides American and Delta and what else the staff could be doing. Discussion took place regarding the current levels of service, larger aircraft options and whether the airport is prepared for larger aircraft. Member Rosado asked for references from Trillion aviation, DuRay will request references from Trillion for Committee review. Member Rodger made a motion, supported by Member La Court to support the pursuit of the most comprehensive air service study at the cost \$36,000. Motion passed unanimously.

6. Informational Items & Project Updates:

- A. LEO – Airport Terminal - DuRay provided a description of the Law Enforcement Officer position and a recent challenge Sawyer International Airport is facing. Captain Lemire from the Marquette County Sheriff's office has contacted airport staff and informed them of a possible shortage of officers to provide LEO coverages due to officers leaving the department for other employment. Director Schenden informed the Committee of a future scheduled meeting with Captain Lemire, Forsyth Chief of Police, Gordon Warchock, and staff to discuss collaborative efforts with Marquette County Sheriff and Forsyth Police to provide the LEO coverage for the outbound air carrier flights.
- B. Discover Sawyer Days – Advertising – Sponsors – DuRay summarized the current progress with the planning for this year's Discover Sawyer Day.
- C. 2014 Year-End Numbers – DuRay provided information and data sheets outlining passenger, cargo, and airfield movements. Discussion took place.
- D. EAS Article/Video and Newsletter Editorial- The Committee reviewed an EAS article with an internet link to a video and the editorial newsletter, discussion took place.
- E. Capital Improvement – Lavatory Services - DuRay informed the committee of a request to research the possibility of developing a lavatory dump station at the commercial terminal in the future. Discussion took place.

7. **Late Additions:** None
8. **Public Comment:** None
9. **Staff and Committee Member Comment:** Member Rosado asked if any of the new Committee members could be provided a tour of the airfield to familiarize them with the total operation. Staff agreed and will accommodate any members desiring an airfield tour.

Member Kristola requested a list of airport definitions to assist in his understanding of the operation. Staff will provide a list of airport definitions to any member requesting the information.

Member Adamini voiced his pleasure with serving on the Committee and his past history with this group at the Negaunee airport. Member Adamini also commented on the subject matter discussed today and the similarity of subjects from the past.

Member Rodgers commented on a concern with Michigan Renewable Carbon and the product they manufacture. The concern is related to the presence of carbon dust on 4th street. Director Schenden informed the Committee of prior discussions with Michigan Renewable Carbon and the safeguards that are being implemented to mitigate the issues. Director Schenden said he would communicate these concerns to all parties involved and will also look into getting the street cleaned by either Airport staff or the Road Commission.

DuRay briefed the committee on an upcoming forestry project taking place at and around the Airport proper and the current status of the Minimum Standards.

Adjournment: At 5:25 p.m., a motion was made by Member LaCourt, supported by Member Rodgers to adjourn. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted by Duane DuRay, Airport Manager