

**COUNTY OF MARQUETTE, MICHIGAN**  
**Sawyer International Airport**  
**Airport Advisory Committee**  
**March 12, 2020 4:00 P.M.**  
**Meeting Minutes**

**Members Present:** Bob Muelle, Sr., Frank Rosado, Christopher Sholander, and Steve Rodgers

**Members Absent:** Walter Paegel, Karen Alholm

**Staff Present:** Duane DuRay, Director of Operations

**Guests Present:** Greg Durand

**1. Call to Order:**

Chairperson Rosado called the meeting to order at 4:00 pm.

**2. Approval of the Agenda:**

Member Bob Muelle supported by Member Steve Rodgers, made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

**3. Public Comment:**

Guest Greg Durand made a public comment/reminder proposing the possibility of the Marquette County Flying Club to move to Hangar 402 from the T-hangars. See attached Memo/proposed lease. He will discuss this in more detail later on in the meeting.

**4. Approval of Minutes:**

Member Rodgers, supported by Member Muelle, made a motion to approve the minutes of February 13<sup>th</sup>, 2020. Motion passed unanimously.

**5. Items of Discussion:**

A. Marquette County Flying Club Hangar 402 request - See attached memo/lease. Greg stated he has yet to receive the property tax amounts for the possible lease he requested. Duane DuRay noted he has put in a request for these amounts, but has yet to hear back due to waiting on an appraisal of the property values. The old assessment is not useable. Greg reiterated the great growth for general aviation that the MCFC has provided for SAW and would continue to provide. Duane DuRay will follow up at the next Advisory Committee meeting with the property tax amounts if the appraisal is completed, to be approved by the committee.

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

- A. MAAE Conference – Duane DuRay attended the Michigan Association of Airport Executive’s conference. He stated that at this conference, SAW was awarded a grant for approx. \$500,000 for the chemical storage building and pavement, markings, and crack sealing projects to begin approx. July 2020.
- B. Discover Sawyer Update- The new name will be Sawyer Fest named by the committee. The Sawyer Fest committee is largely being taken on by Boreal Aviation, SAW, and other tenants. The main events planned include a car show, skydivers, a pancake breakfast, food vending, etc. The event is planning on taking place in Hangar 662 this August.
- C. GM/MB Demo Visit- Chevrolet completed demo/test visits for their equipment on the airfield. Event was all in all a great success. MB also visited SAW to test their snow equipment. Due to large amounts of ice on the airfield, the tests were difficult to complete, but it was also a successful visit.

- D. MLI Update- Duane attended the announcement for the horizontal launch test site. Oscoda, MI was the winner in the end, but Duane stated the experience was positive. 45 days from this announcement will be the vertical launch site decision. Marquette County is planning on being a candidate for this launch site as well.
- E. Army Leaving for Season- Duane notified the committee that the Army is ending their test operations for the time being. Their equipment will stay in Hangar 663, including their office space. All Army staff will be departing shortly and are planning on returning next October. Hangar 663 will be winterized for the season.

**7. Late Additions:**

- A. Duane DuRay addressed the current COVID-19 situation and the airport's steps to eliminate/lessen the risks of the virus. This includes increased disinfecting sessions of the public terminal, at minimum once daily. Duane did notify the committee that one employee of the airport was tested for COVID-19 and the test came back negative. Discussions were made regarding the possibility of an employee contracting the virus and steps moving forward. Discussions to follow with all airport tenants and Marquette County, updates to come at the next meeting.

**8. Public Comment:** None.

**9. Staff and Committee Member Comment:**

- A. Duane stated he has been in touch with SAW's TSA inspector, a meeting will follow.
- B. Duane also stated that four interviews were completed for the Assistant Airport Manager position. An official offer should be made within the next few days.
- C. Comment regarding National Carbon product causing all roadways surrounding the building to have large amounts of black dust (powdered carbon). Concerns shared on possibility of this dust getting into the hangars. Duane will follow up on these concerns with National Carbon to keep the carbon off of the roadways and surrounding areas.
- D. Concern shared on concrete cracking at the T-hangars. Duane stated this will be addressed by a contractor come summer.
- E. Chairperson Rosado shared question for reasoning behind more security cameras needed at the terminal. Duane stated the increased amount of cameras will monitor all SIDA areas, Sterile areas, and controlled doors/entryways including the parking lots and rental car counters. These cameras will be connected to the airport's current security system as well. Bids will be opened March 26<sup>th</sup> with an approved amount from the county as \$6,000.

**10. Adjournment:** Member Rosado made a motion, supported by all members to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

Adjourned at 4:44pm.

Respectfully submitted by Megan Murray, Assistant Airport Manager