

COUNTY OF MARQUETTE, MICHIGAN

Sawyer International Airport Airport Advisory Committee Thursday, August 10th, 2023

Minutes

Members Present: Steve Rodgers, Karen Alholm, Chris Sholander
Staff Present: Bradley Wheeler, Assistant Airport Manager and Duane DuRay, Director of Operations
Public Present: Bruce Finn, Brianna Bauer

Call to Order: 4:30pm

1. **Approval of the Agenda:** The agenda was moved for approval by Karen Alholm with support from Chris Sholander.
2. **Approval of Minutes:** The minutes from July were moved for approval by Karen Alholm with approval from Chris Sholander. All members were in agreement.
3. **Items of Discussion:**
 - A. Air Service Consultant Research: Likely consultant is Mead&Hunt. The Lake Superior Community Partnership and the airport are working to raise \$36,000 to be used to fund the air service study. There is \$20,000 available in the airport marketing budget. No further discussion.
 - B. Transportation Task Force: Revived in the past few months to restore and promote air service. A few meetings have taken place, including discussions about hiring an air service development consultant. Michigan Aeronautics Commission announced during their meeting at Marquette Sawyer Regional Airport that the State Legislature increased the state air service development grant fund from \$50,000 to \$5 Million. No further discussion.
4. **Informational Items:**
 - A. Hangar 664: This project is a MAP project that is continuing smoothly, awaiting final submittals for items such as door, gates, fencing, and some pavement. Expected completion coming soon.
 - B. Building 608: This building functions as a support facility for the Envoy MRO. Through the use of a CARES Act grant, that is still awaiting award, however this project is moving forward. This building will receive updates to electrical system, roof, siding, windows, and doors. The project is progressing on schedule to be completed by May 2024.
 - C. Kubick Aviation: The transition to Kubick Aviation on July 31, 2023 went smoothly. Some minor issues related to fuel availability took place, but were resolved quickly. Airport and Kubick staffs continue to work together to move the transition forward, specifically the survey of former Boreal equipment purchased by the airport for lease and use in Kubick's operations.
 - D. Argonics Roof Drain Project: Recurring issue with roof drain system causing floor drains to overflow and flood the facility. CARES Act project, slightly over budget, however overages will be paid by Argonics with reimbursement accomplished through rent abatements. United Contractors is moving along quickly and this project is expected to end in calendar year 2023.
 - E. Discover Sawyer: With FBO transition, and Airport turnover, all parties agreed that this is not an event that should move forward this year. The event will be revived for calendar year 2024.
 - F. Yooper Looper: Moving forward, with airport and FBO cooperation. Event scheduled for September 8-11th. Roger Bentlage has been the primary coordinator for this event.
 - G. Group FOD Inspections Coordination Discussion: The Airport continues to make foreign object debris (FOD) collection a priority, especially on the NW GA Apron, where pavement conditions continue to deteriorate. Materials are on order to make initial repairs, however, they have not arrived yet. Plans for repair are on hold at this time.
 - H. Position Vacancy: Candidates for replacing Vito Carello have been approached to send applications to the county clerk. FBO seat will also need to complete the application to be formally recognized. Additional vacancies for, higher education, mining, medical manufacturing, and hospitality remain unfilled. Those with

contacts in these fields are encouraged to have interested individuals submit an application to the county clerk for consideration.

5. Late Addition:

A. None

6. Public Comment:

A. Bruce Finn asked about any vacancy applications submitted to the board. He also asked about the process when applications are brought forward. Mr. Finn also addressed the upcoming Young Eagle Rally, having 75 kids registered with 6 on a waiting list. In future, the flying club would like to have airport administration attend and assist the event. For flight training, there are 11 new pilots with 15 expected by year end. Would like to see the airport “help, not hurt” these efforts.

7. Staff and Committee Member Comment:

A. None

8. Adjournment: 5:05pm