

# COUNTY OF MARQUETTE, MICHIGAN

## Marquette Sawyer Regional Airport Airport Advisory Committee Thursday, October 12<sup>th</sup>, 2023

### Minutes

**Members Present:** Karen Alholm, Christopher Sholander, Brianna Bauer, Bob Muelle  
**Staff Present:** Duane DuRay, Airport Manager; Bradley Wheeler, Assistant Airport Manager  
**Public Present:** Bruce Finn, Chad Kubick

**Call to Order:** 4:02pm

- 1. Approval of the Agenda:** The agenda was moved for approval by Karen Alholm with support from Bob Muelle. All members were in agreement.
- 2. Public Comment:**
  - A. None
- 3. Approval of Minutes:** The minutes from September were moved for approval by Chris Sholander with approval from Bob Muelle. All members were in agreement.
- 4. Items of Discussion:**
  - A. Northwoods AirLifeline, a nonprofit organization that provides mercy flights to residents of Marquette County and beyond, is requesting a T-hangar space be donated by the county to house the aircraft. This would allow for smoother operations for these types of flights that are usually under strict time constraints and all hours. The organization is seeking the Committee's support in the request. Motion made by Chris Sholander and supported by Karen Alholm for staff to research available hangar space and report back at the November meeting. All members were in agreement.
- 5. Informational Items:**
  - A. Hangar 664: This project is a MAP project for fire suppression 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 remains on schedule to be completed by May 2024.
  - C. Argonics Roof Drain Project: Recurring issue with roof drain system causing floor drains to overflow and flood the facility. CARES Act project with United Contractors completing the work. This project is ahead of schedule and is expected to end in calendar year 2023.
  - D. Crack Sealing and Pavement Marking Project – Completed/Taxiway Rehab Project: This project is a requirement of the last FAA inspection and needed to be completed before winter. The project is part of the larger Taxiway Rehab Project that will start in the 2024 construction season. The work for this phase is complete.
  - E. Kubick Aviation: Airport and Kubick staffs continue to work together to continue the smooth transition. Negotiations to finalize the lease agreement for full five-year term will commence and parties from both entities plan to have an agreement by the new year. To accommodate the timeline for negotiation, the current terms will be extended another 90 days until January 31, 2024.
  - F. Kubick Aviation Front Entry/Exit: The fire alarm covert exit for the front entry of Kubick will be replaced. An emergency exit push button will be installed when parts arrive and county information systems department can complete the installation. Staff will continue to investigate the security regulations associated with this door.
  - G. Building Demolition Project: The County Board awarded the demolition bid for the 14 buildings to MDR Construction at a price for approximately \$2.6 Million. These buildings are in disrepair and are posing a

hazard. The County hopes to proceed with this project quickly. The FAA has yet to release funding and the County is awaiting that funding to begin.

- H. EAA Chapter 850 Relocation: With the Demolition of Building 600 in the near future, the Committee discussed potential options to relocate the chapter. Unfortunately, there are no available spaces on the airport at this time. And meetings are held at a few locations including the FBO and the Heritage Museum. Staff also offered the large conference room at the services center for meetings. The EAA Chapter, FBO and staff will continue to navigate this concern and try to find a more permanent solution.
- I. Air Traffic Control Tower: Staff is working for 2025 federal grant funding to facilitate the needed repairs and renovations for the Air Traffic Control Tower. Other items such as an engineering costs and repairs were also discussed on how they may impact the grant application.
- J. Selfridge ANGB Refueling Wing Relocation: Due to a complete runway rehabilitation project at both Selfridge ANGB and Alpena CRTC, the refueling wing needs to relocate to a facility that meets their ramp space and runway requirements. Planning staff for the wing reached out to us to see if the Airport could accommodate their needs. The relocation will have a total of four tails and a fifth transient aircraft that will go between Detroit Metro and Marquette. The County still waits for the final answer, however continued federal budget uncertainty is keeping the Department of Defense from providing final approval.
- K. GA Ramp Repair Plan: Staff provided a priority worksheet for ramp repairs, and will continue researching the solutions for pavement preservation.
- L. Revisit Proposed Language for the Bylaws: Staff and presented the revisions to the Bylaws related to basic name changes and the quorum question for review. A motion to adopt the new language was made by Karen Alholm and supported by Bob Muelle. All members were in agreement

**6. Late Addition:**

- A. None

**7. Public Comment:**

- A. Bruce Finn mentioned that the FOD issue on the airfield is something to continue to strive towards improving. He stated that he looks forward to continue to work with Bradley Wheeler on this issue.

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

- A. Karen Alholm discussed a Land Bank meeting where a proposal is being discussed to demolish the old Tailwinds restaurant building and attached structures as part of a blight removal plan. The proposal is still in the talking stages.

**9. Adjournment:** Motion by Karen Alholm, supported by Brianna Bauer. Meeting adjourned at 5:00pm