

COUNTY OF MARQUETTE, MICHIGAN

Marquette Sawyer Regional Airport Airport Advisory Committee Thursday, February 8, 2024

Minutes

Members Present: Bob Muelle, Karen Alholm, Scott Bolster, Sarah Skinner, Michael Roe
Staff Present: Bradley Wheeler, Assistant Airport Manager
Public Present: Greg Durand

Call to Order: 4:00 p.m.

1. **Approval of the Agenda:** The agenda was moved for approval by Karen Alholm with support from Scott Bolster. All members were in agreement.
2. **Public Comment:**
 - A. None
3. **Approval of Minutes:** The minutes from January were moved for approval by Karen Alholm with support from Michael Roe. All members were in agreement.
4. **Items of Discussion:**
 - A. Welcome newly appointed Fixed Base Operator Representative: Committee welcomed Sarah Skinner to the committee, assuming the role after Brianna Bauer's resignation.
 - B. Vision/Mission Statement: Assistant Airport Manager Bradley Wheeler introduced the idea that the committee, while advisory in capacity, should take the opportunity to set an expectation for the committee's function in the form of a Vision and Mission Statement. Light discussion broke out on some initial thoughts and all members agreed to bring three proposals of each statement to the March meeting.
 - C. Goal Setting: Assistant Airport Manager Bradley Wheeler also introduced the idea that the committee set a few SMART goals for the upcoming year, including action items the committee would like to see and to help drive the airport forward. Light discussion commenced and members agreed to bring three goals to the March meeting.
5. **Informational Items & Project Updates:**
 - A. Hangar 664: Engineers and staff are working together to complete the final items that experienced delays. Additionally, the new server for the airport access control and monitoring system was installed in early February. Expected project completion in summer 2024.
 - B. Building 608: This building functions as a support facility for the Envoy MRO. Through the use of a CARES Act grant, this building received new siding, windows, doors, among other upgrades. A team from Mead & Hunt recently completed a work inspection. They identified a few minor defects that will be remedied quickly. The project remains on schedule to be completed in March 2024.
 - C. Argonics Roof Drain Project: Recurring issue with roof drain system causing floor drains to overflow and flood the facility. This is a CARES Act project with United Contractors completing the work. The project is on schedule to be completed during in Spring 2024.
 - D. Building Demolition Project: MRD is working diligently to keep this project on schedule. Abatement is underway and demolition inspections are taking place. MRD is hoping to begin building tear down in February when equipment arrives. Steam vault removal is underway. MRD discovered additional abatement requirements in some structures which will likely incur additional costs this will be handled using contingency funding. There were a few issues with accurate locates that resulted in a water main, gas main, and phone connection being hit during steam vault removal. MRD has worked through these items diligently, and proper corrections were made. Upon completion, all building sites will be leveled off and hydro-seeded.
 - E. Terminal Reconfiguration Project: TSA and County staff met with the architect to finalize plans. A few minor adjustments are anticipated, which will be put in the final request for proposals. The plan is to send this out in a few weeks. Assistant Airport Manager Bradley Wheeler presented plans at this past meeting for member review and comment. Multiple updates are expected in the next month.

- F. PFOS/PFAS Apparatus Bay Floor Cleaning: Since the presence PFOS was detected on the floor due to the use of AFFF, the airport is looking into ways to seal the floors to keep that contaminant from reaching the drainage tank below the Apparatus bay floor. We have received consultations from multiple companies to clean the floor and then seal it, we are working through the bid process right now.
- G. Air Traffic Control Tower Items: Position #2 failed over the Thanksgiving weekend. The equipment is likely not repairable and will need a replacement system installed. Staff has worked with other county departments, engineering contractors, and outside companies to troubleshoot the issues, and begin the process for building a request for proposals including system specifications. The Airport is open to all phasing options to bring Position #2 back into operation. Since the failure of Position #2, Position #1 is experiencing an uptick in transmission issues, which is adding to the pressure needed to correct the problem. It is likely that the tower may pause operations if both positions fail, leaving only the backup radios operational. The airport has met with consultants including Mead & Hunt on this and is working to schedule a site visit to begin building a bid specification for radio replacement and equipment upgrades. Part of Mead & Hunt's involvement will also reflect the larger required upgrades to the tower, including the elevator, emergency egress systems, HVAC systems, and new windows with shades. A comprehensive site visit will allow all parties to gather the necessary information for applications for funding in the 2025 FAA fiscal year.
- H. Snow Discussion – Runway Deice/Anti-ice Chemicals: Assistant Airport Manager Bradley Wheeler inquired about snow removal questions, comments, or concerns thus far in the winter season. He informed the committee that the airport received board approval to purchase solid and liquid runway deicing compound. The airport has ordered 10,000 pounds of the solid compound to date. This should get the airport through the remainder of the winter season.
- I. Selfridge ANGB Refueling Wing Relocation: Selfridge ANGB informed the airport that they received approval to relocate 4-5 aircraft here this summer. Follow-up planning meetings will be scheduled to make sure the operation runs smoothly. The community should see a positive economic impact during this period. A site visit for evaluations by multiple stakeholders is scheduled for March 13, 2024, more details to follow in March meeting.

6. Late Addition:

- A. None

7. Public Comment:

- A. None

8. Staff and Committee Member Comment:

- A. Scott Bolster commented on the need to update the driver's training for the airport. A light discussion took place and Assistant Airport Manager Bradley Wheeler spoke on the plans to overhaul this particular training program in the coming year due to changes on and off the airfield that cause the test to be outdated. It was also mentioned that any training requires FAA approval, which will pose some time delays.
- B. Karen Alholm mentioned the Boards intentions on a Memorandum of Understanding between InvestUP, Lake Superior Community Partnership, and Marquette County to hire a consultant and review the airport's operations and develop a best in class operation. The costs will be split by the County and InvestUP. Some items for review will be the airport governance structure, the business park, and the transportation options of the region.

9. Adjournment: Motion by Karen Alholm with support by Scott Bolster. All members were in agreement. Meeting adjourned at 5:06 p.m.