

# COUNTY OF MARQUETTE, MICHIGAN

## Marquette Sawyer Regional Airport Airport Advisory Committee Thursday, July 11, 2024

### Minutes

**Members Present:** Bob Muelle, Karen Alholm, Christopher Sholander, Scott Bolster, Michael Roe  
**Staff Present:** Duane DuRay, Airport Manager; Bradley Wheeler, Assistant Airport Manager  
**Public Present:** Bruce Finn, Bruce McCollough

**Call to Order:** 3:59 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 June were moved for approval by Karen Alholm with support from Christopher Sholander. All members were in agreement.
4. **Items of Discussion:**
  - A. None
5. **Informational Items & Project Updates:**
  - A. Argonics Roof Drain Project: The project is complete and a final walkthrough will take place soon. The airport is waiting for the first and final invoice from the contractor.
  - B. Air Traffic Control Tower Radio – Transmitter Challenges: The airport purchased a used radio and installed the unit on July 3rd. Staff removed and sent the old unit to a radio specialist in Waukesha, Wisconsin for overhaul. The airport will continue pursuing funds from the FAA in the next cycle. The application period should open between August and September.
  - C. Terminal Reconfiguration Project: As stated in previous meetings, the lead times of materials and contractor scheduling has shifted the timeline. The anticipated construction start date will be mid-late September. A meeting for the final phasing plan with all parties should take place in the coming weeks to ensure that this project will have minimal impacts on airport operations. This project will be funded through airport reserves.
  - D. Taxiway Rehabilitation Project: The project is ongoing. Currently work is taking place on Phase 2. This phase includes the movement of Taxiway C between the North Commercial Ramp and Taxiway Alpha, resurfacing Taxiway Alpha between Taxiways Bravo and Delta, and the newly renamed Taxiway Alpha-2. Payne & Dolan is the contractor for the project and they are on schedule, despite some weather delays.
  - E. Selfridge ANGB Refueling Wing Relocation: Airport staff welcomed the first round of KC-135's and Air National Guard personnel. Both entities are looking forward to a fun summer at the airport.
  - F. 2023 FAA Supplementary Discretionary Funding ZEV Application: The airport applied for grant funding under the FY 2023 Airport Improvement Program Supplemental Discretionary Grant program. The funding is in pursuit of purchasing an electric SUV and electric UTV. These vehicles would assist in bolstering the airport's vehicle fleet, while also assisting the airport to take the first step in a green initiative. The application is for two vehicles and the necessary charging stations. Total project costs if awarded are not to exceed \$223,438. The airport hasn't heard a result yet and is hoping to have another update in August.
  - G. Flying Club | EAA Chapter 850 | Civil Air Patrol: The airport would like to start a new dialogue with these entities to find a solution to the lack of a centralized home. Airport staff thought that a common home for these three organizations, which share the same membership pools, may be well suited to have a joint space. The initial thoughts are the possibility of moving out of some T-hangars and into the open bay in Hangar 400. Airport staff would like to meet with leadership of these three organizations in the coming weeks and months to find a solution. A discussion amongst the committee members and general aviation public members ensued and all parties were receptive to new ideas.
  - H. Hangar Occupancy Update: The monthly update of the available hangar space at the Marquette Sawyer Regional Airport.

- a) T-Hangars: Full Capacity
- b) 661: Available
- c) 663: USAF starting July 1
- d) 400 series: 1 bay available
- e) Kubick (423 E/W, 424, 425): Space available, contact FBO staff for details.

**6. Late Addition:**

- A. Assistant Airport Manager Bradley Wheeler mentioned the airport study presentation by Steven Baldwin Associates, LLC. Commissioner Karen Alholm was not impressed by the results, which is a feeling felt by the Assistant Airport Manager as well. The study was very light regarding recommendations. A copy will be made available for committee members to review.

**7. Public Comment:**

- A. Bruce Finn: What will be the results of the T-hangars? Bradley Wheeler explained that the airport will issue a blanket letter to all tenants to clarify findings and plans for correcting items that were out of compliance. Additionally, the airport will work with tenants to move them in the right direction. The final report will be available to all tenants once it has been compiled. Bruce also mentioned the T-hangars that are not housing airplanes, and the shortage of T-hangars could be resolved by opening up some that are used for storage only. The T-hangar inspections would be an annual item moving forward.
- B. Bruce McCollough: He stated that he was not familiar to the requirement of a fire extinguisher. Assistant Airport Manager Wheeler stated that the blanket letter would clarify many of these items.

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

- A. None

- 9. Adjournment:** Motion by Karen Alholm with support by Christopher Sholander. All members were in agreement. Meeting adjourned at 4:46 p.m.