

COUNTY OF MARQUETTE, MICHIGAN

Marquette Sawyer Regional Airport Airport Advisory Committee Thursday, June 13, 2024

Minutes

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

Call to Order: 4:03 p.m.

1. **Approval of the Agenda:** The agenda was moved for approval by Karen Alholm with support from Christopher Sholander. All members were in agreement.
2. **Public Comment:**
 - A. None
3. **Approval of Minutes:** The minutes from May were moved for approval by Christopher Sholander with support from Karen Alholm. All members were in agreement.
4. **Items of Discussion:**
 - A. None
5. **Informational Items & Project Updates:**
 - A. Hangar 664: Engineers and airport staff are working together to complete the closeout of the project. The project came in under budget, and staff is confident that all possible avenues to use the remaining Military Airport Program (MAP) funds were explored.
 - B. Building 608: The construction is complete and the airport received the final invoice for this project. This is a CARES Act project and it came in approximately \$102,000 under budget. Staff is working with the FAA to transfer these funds into the Operations and Maintenance category of the CARES Act funding and will use the funds to pay operating costs incurred before the May 26, 2024 deadline. This will zero-out the grant.
 - C. 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. The project is expected to come in about \$60,000 over the original \$250,000 budget. However, arrangements with Argonics are in place for them to pay any overages, and be reimbursed through abatements for the next 12-months. At present, Argonics has not experienced any issues with the roof, like they experienced before the project.
 - D. Building Demolition Project: The demolition is complete, all sites have been restored and planted with grass. The project has eliminated many areas of blight, making the airport far more visually appealing. This project is approximately \$151,000 over budget, however given the challenges encountered and overcome during the project, it could have totaled far higher. In total, 14 buildings were removed by MRD and the project was successful in its goals.
 - E. Air Traffic Control Tower Radio – Transmitter Challenges: Two new voice-switch positions were installed by Frequentis Canada with the assistance of County Information Systems and Airport Maintenance. This is a high-quality upgrade to the airport's tower. However, the replacement of the voice-switches did not solve the transmission problems that the tower is experiencing. To remedy this, the airport purchased a used radio. Once it arrives, staff will work with the tower to install the new unit, and send the old unit to a radio specialist in Waukesha, Wisconsin for overhaul. The used radio came from an active operation in Texas and will have a 90-day warranty. Total cost is approximately \$2,500. The airport will continue pursuing funds from the FAA in the next cycle. The application period should open between August and September.
 - F. Terminal Reconfiguration Project: As stated in previous meetings, the lead times of the metal storefronts and other components for the project have shifted the project timeline. The anticipated construction start date will be mid-late August. At the next board meeting, the airport will seek approval of the bid to relocate and calibrate the TSA Screening equipment. Once approved there is a plan to hold another pre-construction

meeting in July to put together a final phasing plan with all parties so that this project will have minimal impacts on airport operations. This project will be funded through airport reserves.

- G. Taxiway Rehabilitation Project: The project is ongoing. Currently work is taking place adjacent to Taxiway Delta between the Nose Dock Hangars and Taxiways Alpha and Bravo. The portion of Delta should be complete by the end of the week. The work at Taxiway Delta includes new ramps into each hangar and shoulders with improved drainage. Payne & Dolan is the contractor for the project and they are on schedule. All work is anticipated to be completed around the end of August, pending weather. One item of note is that the airport received the results of the PFAS sampling of the taxiway pavement. These pavements did come back with a positive result. The airport is in communication with the Air Force and EGLE regarding options to deal with the contaminate, and what options are available for disposal or use.
- H. Selfridge ANGB Refueling Wing Relocation: Airport Staff and Selfridge representatives continue to work on finalizing the necessary details for the Wing's arrival. At present the relocation is on schedule for the operation to land the week of July 9-15. An environmental baseline study was completed this week by an Air Force representative.
- I. 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 should hear back on this grant before the next advisory committee meeting.
- J. Hangar Occupancy Update: This will be a monthly update of the available hangar space at the Marquette Sawyer Regional Airport moving forward.
 - a) T-Hangars: Full Capacity
 - b) 661: Hitachi Energy (1,000 sqft.), until 7/15/2024
 - 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. None

7. Public Comment:

- A. Bruce Finn: Regarding 402, Mr. Finn requested the plan for the facility. Assistant Airport Manager Wheeler stated that facility will be returned to the county by Kubick Aviation to be part of the airports efforts to establish a helicopter base at the airport with the National Forest Service. The Forest Service would like to be under contract for the facility by September. He extended his thanks for the hangar inspections by airport staff. He would like a formal decision regarding hangar improvements such as LED lights in the T-hangars, which airport staff are currently pursuing. They will have an update soon. As for alternate facilities, this research is ongoing. The Young Eagles Rally is on June 15, 2024 and there are currently 57 kids registered. The July Young Eagles Rally will be held at Hanley Field.
- B. Greg Durand: Inquired about use of the airport lift equipment. As long as this is in cooperation with the staff, Airport Manager DuRay approved the measure. He stated that the county is prohibited from loaning out equipment for this use, but pending staff availability, the airport would make efforts to assist in this matter. Made an inquiry of future plans of T-hangar or other hangar facilities. Are there plans of terminating leases in accordance with FAA use guidelines, especially for T-hangars that are not housing aircraft. This is something the airport will work to enforce as necessary. One alternative thought would be to use the available bay in Hangar 400 to house 2-4 aircraft and make T-hangars available, although the cost would need to match that of the current T-hangar rates. Airport staff will review this and see the feasibility of it. The Flying Club membership is working hard and have 25 members in a ground school at present.

8. Staff and Committee Member Comment:

- A. Christopher Sholander: Congratulated airport staff on their hard work closing out the major projects.
- B. Scott Bolster: The tower has a new controller. She is completing her on-the-job training with tower staff over the next few weeks. The tower staff are pleased with her abilities so far. There is a pothole near Kubick, airport staff will investigate. Also a question about the airport staff covering the TSA checkpoint, this is part of an airport addressing point of entry monitoring.
- C. Bob Muelle: Requests airport staff begin researching funding for enhancing airport NAVAIDs.

- 9. Adjournment:** Motion by Scott Bolster with support by Christopher Sholander. All members were in agreement. Meeting adjourned at 5:02 p.m.