

# COUNTY OF MARQUETTE, MICHIGAN

## Marquette Sawyer Regional Airport Airport Advisory Committee Thursday, March 14, 2024

### Minutes

**Members Present:** Bob Muelle, Karen Alholm, Scott Bolster, Sarah Skinner, Michael Roe  
**Staff Present:** Duane DuRay, Airport Manager  
**Public Present:** Wayne Theurer

**Call to Order:** 4:00 p.m.

1. **Approval of the Agenda:** The agenda was moved for approval by Scott Bolster with support from Karen Alholm. 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 Scott Bolster. All members were in agreement.
4. **Items of Discussion:**
  - A. Vision/Mission Statement: Revisiting this item from the last meeting, members and staff discussed some ideas and read a few prepared versions. The committee agreed to bring additional statement proposals to the April meeting.
  - B. Goal Setting: Revisiting this item from the last meeting, members and staff discussed some preliminary ideas. Bob Muelle proposed a focus on the viability of an RVR system that could enhance airport operations in inclement weather. The committee agreed to bring additional goal ideas to the April meeting.
  - C. MQT Identifier Discussion: Due to the absence of Assistant Airport Manager Bradley Wheeler, this item will be revisited at the April meeting. In the interim, the committee discussed this item and the hope to provide clarity on this issue.
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 before the May 27, 2024 deadline.
  - 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. Conversations led to a larger discussion related to CARES Act funding and a discussion on final breakdowns to specific airport projects took place. Finally, FBO Representative Sarah Skinner brought up the condition of the FBO concrete stair cases. They are in need of repair and this is something that staff would follow-up on and report back.
  - D. Building Demolition Project: MRD is working diligently to keep this project on schedule. Abatement is complete and building tear down is underway. Steam vault removal is underway. MRD is seeing increased costs with mobilization due to Michigan road restrictions. Upon completion, all building sites will be leveled off and hydro-seeded.
  - E. Terminal Reconfiguration Project: As part of Alternate 1 in the bid scope, the Northern Gate will be transitioned from a landside to an airside offering. A meeting between the airport and Northern Michigan took place on 3/14/2024 to discuss the transition. Additionally, a pre-bid meeting took place in the weeks prior, and county staff feels confident that there will be at least three viable bidders.

- F. Air Traffic Control Tower Items: The airport has in the past and continues to pursue grant funding to provide a comprehensive update to the tower, including communications technology, elevator replacement, emergency egress equipment, HVAC, etc. However, due to voice switch equipment failures, the airport is fast-tracking a solution with its consultants and a potential vendor may be able to meet the airport's needs quickly. Additional information will be provided in the April meeting. This component of the project could total around \$300,000. This is not reimbursable funding, but will expedite the timeline for completion to where there would be minimal impacts on Summer operations.
- G. Selfridge ANGB Refueling Wing Relocation: Selfridge ANGB conducted a site visit on 3/13/2024. Representatives for multiple agencies reviewed facilities, ARFF capabilities, security, fueling items, among numerous other aspects of the airport and its operation. Overall, the site visit was productive and there will be more to follow.

**6. Late Addition:**

- A. None

**7. Public Comment:**

- A. None

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

- A. Karen Alholm: She asked about the RVR discussion and having a presentation for the committee, per Bob Muelle, this will be pursued once additional information becomes available.
- B. Scott Bolster requested what the timeline may be with the tower radio installation, and if any downtime will occur. Airport Manager Duane DuRay will have additional information at the April meeting after additional meeting in the coming weeks.

**9. Adjournment:** Motion by Karen Alholm with support by Scott Bolster. All members were in agreement. Meeting adjourned at 5:03 p.m.