

COUNTY OF MARQUETTE, MICHIGAN

Marquette Sawyer Regional Airport Airport Advisory Committee Thursday, May 9, 2024

Minutes

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

Call to Order: 4:00 p.m.

1. **Approval of the Agenda:** The agenda was moved for approval by Christopher Sholander with support from Scott Bolster. All members were in agreement.
2. **Public Comment:**
 - A. None
3. **Approval of Minutes:** The minutes from March were moved for approval by Scott Bolster with support from Karen Alholm. All members were in agreement.
4. **Items of Discussion:**
 - A. **Jet Bridge Discussion:** This item was placed on the agenda at the request of Scott Bolster, to better understand the airport's plan for the replacement of the aging jet bridges at the terminal. A recent string of failures of the American Airlines jet bridge overheard on maintenance frequencies and a post on a local Facebook group, prompted the concern. Manager DuRay explained how this item is planned for the terminal expansion. The delays from the pandemic played a role in pushing back the terminal timeline. It is evident that this issue will not be going away and will need addressing in the next few years. It is likely that the airport will have to shift around an upcoming project to replace these two bridges. An additional concern with the current reality of a jet bridge failure is the potential cause for injury using the air stairs and the fact that they are not ADA-compliant. In the short term, the airport is working on better contingency planning for if a jet bridge fails. Including the use of the other working jet bridge, if flight times allow for that option. Assistant Airport Manager Wheeler, showed a passenger boarding ramp that is ADA compliant, and could be positioned to the aircraft in similar fashion to air stairs. This item would help fill a void in contingency planning as well. This ramp is produced by Keith Consolidated Industries, Inc. and would be a new purchase for the airport. The prices range from \$75,000 to \$130,000, depending on requested features, freight, and on-site assembly. Staff will explore options to assist with acquiring this unit or something similar.
5. **Informational Items & Project Updates:**
 - A. **Hangar 664:** Engineers and staff are working together to complete the final items that experienced delays. Expected project completion in summer 2024. Project is at substantial completion.
 - B. **Building 608:** This building functions as a support facility for the Envoy MRO. This project is at substantial completion, it identified a few minor defects that will be remedied in the coming weeks as weather improves. This project will come in under budget, staff is awaiting FAA approval to amend the grant and transfer the surplus to the building demolition project.
 - C. **Argonics Roof Drain Project:** The project is on the touch up phase. The project is anticipated to be complete by the end of the month.
 - D. **Building Demolition Project:** MRD continues to complete demolition of the final sites. Upon completion, all building sites will be leveled off and hydro-seeded. The permanent fencing at 600 and 426 is finished. This project remains on schedule for the May deadline. However, the project is approximately \$151, 000 over budget. Final costs are expected by May 23, 2024 at the latest.
 - E. **Terminal Reconfiguration Project:** The pre-construction meeting took place in mid-April. Due to lead times of the metal storefronts and other components required for work to proceed, the construction timeline has shifted. Anticipated construction start date will be mid-late August. The plan is for this project to have minimal impacts on airport operations. This project will be funded through airport reserves.

- F. Air Traffic Control Tower: Installation for the project initiated on May 8, 2024. The Frequentis Canada representative received the equipment, and with the assistance of County Information Systems and Airport Maintenance they moved the equipment into place. The installation team is running cable between the many floors of the tower. The vendor representative will be onsite through May 17, 2024. The plan is to maintain service, and not have to close the tower for any period of time. In a separate item, the airport took to the board a planning request for the tower renovations and updates. The hope is this advanced planning will assist in the competitive bid process, and better position the airport in receiving this competitive grant. Included in that grant would be a comprehensive update to the tower, including communications technology, elevator replacement, emergency egress equipment, HVAC, etc. If awarded this project would take place in 2025.
- G. Taxiway Rehabilitation Project: The project began on May 6, 2024. Currently work is taking place adjacent to Taxiway Delta between the Nose Dock Hangars. These shoulders are getting new drainage work and once complete, will be paved over with asphalt. From there the contractors will begin milling the main body of Taxiway Delta. The contractors, airport staff, and Envoy MRO are working together to keep the MRO operational during the construction around their facility. Also starting is the section of Taxiway Alpha between Taxiways Charlie and Bravo, and Taxiway Bravo between Alpha and Runway 19. The project is on schedule, with all work anticipated to be completed around the end of August, pending weather. All of this work is planned to better accommodate the arrival of the Refueling Wing in the first couple weeks of July.
- 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.

6. Late Addition:

- A. None

7. Public Comment:

- A. Bruce Finn: Installation of a turnstile or other gate mechanisms to allow for better transit of non-badged individuals. Currently working with TSA to find a solution that would meet security requirements and the needs of the airport. Revisiting the Ice Hazard on the T-hangars, there is no update at this time. Hangar space availability concerns remain and questions of the plans to create a new hangar or gathering spaces? Assistant Airport Manager Wheeler stated that he reached out to some contacts to begin researching the ability to install alternate structures, and the capital required to move forward with a development. All parties understand the need for building space for the general aviation clubs, specifically EAA and the Young Eagles is a concern that continues to grow. On May 18, the Young Eagles Rally will be taking place on the GA Apron between 9:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m., as of this meeting there are approximately 30 kids signed up for the event. The question of the return of Sawyer Days or a similar event was put to rest as the event is not feasible this summers with the ongoing construction projects and military exercises. The hope is to reinstitute this public event at a later date.
- B. Greg Durand: The triennial exercise is coming up, was curious why the limited knowledge of the event. Due to the airport's constraints this year with the taxiway construction projects, the exercise was scaled down to meet needs of the FAA requirements, while balancing the airport's space needs. Returning to hangar availability, is there a way to have a monthly tally of available hangars or hangar space like 402 and the 400 series? This is possible to attach to future meeting agendas. Question of approach lighting capabilities on Runway 19. What goes into this, is it possible to put in place? In the past the airport has spoken with the FAA to relocate the localizer to better meet the standards of the shortened runway. The approach lighting is required in coordination with an ILS system, so it would require further discussion with the FAA to see about putting in a second ILS approach system. There are some navigational aids on the Runway 19 approach including PAPIs and REILs.

8. Staff and Committee Member Comment:

- A. Christopher Sholander: Glad to be back and caught up on the airport's developments.
- B. Scott Bolster: The question of airfield driving requirements, what do these vehicles require, specifically with a Vehicle Beacon. The vehicle had a beacon, but it was not working. So is it possible for the airport to purchase loaner beacon lighting? This would be provided and returned to the airport, when a vehicle left the airfield. Staff will research this item, and report back.

- 9. Adjournment:** Motion by Scott Bolster with support by Christopher Sholander. All members were in agreement. Meeting adjourned at 4:50 p.m.