

# COUNTY OF MARQUETTE, MICHIGAN

## Marquette Sawyer Regional Airport Airport Advisory Committee Thursday, October 10, 2024

### Minutes

**Members Present:** Bob Muelle, Scott Bolster, Michael Roe  
**Staff Present:** Bradley Wheeler, Assistant Airport Manager  
**Public Present:** Greg Durand, Bruce McCollough, Myron Hillock

**Call to Order:** 4:04 p.m.

1. **Approval of the Agenda:** The agenda was moved for approval by Scott Bolster with support from Michael Roe. All members were in agreement.
2. **Public Comment:**
  - A. None
3. **Items of Discussion:**
  - A. None
4. **Informational Items & Project Updates:**
  - A. Air Traffic Control Tower – Lightning Protection System Evaluation: At the request of Scott Bolster, staff added the Airport Lightning Protection System to the agenda. Upon review, the Lightning Protection System is not part of the planned tower renovations. The airport submitted applications for the FAA Contract Tower (FCT) Competitive Grant Program under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and FAA Discretionary Funding for the 2025 fiscal year. The notice of award for both funding opportunities should be before the end of the 2024 calendar year.
  - B. Terminal Reconfiguration Project: The project is moving forward. Closner Construction and Sales, Inc. was awarded the contract and will complete the work. In addition, Northern Design Works has provided the architecture and design needs. The contractors are in the badging process with anticipated start date at the end of the month. The project has an anticipated completion date of January 2025.
  - C. Taxiway Rehabilitation Project: The bulk of the project is complete. There are a few remaining punch-list items for Payne & Dolan to complete, however these are already underway. Additionally, applying full-rate paint in some phases may have to wait until 2025 due to weather. The project went well, and the airport is pleased to have the new taxiway surfaces in use.
  - D. Selfridge ANGB Refueling Wing Relocation – Ending October 18<sup>th</sup>: Unfortunately, the Air National Guard's time at the airport is coming to an end. The KC-135's will depart on October 16<sup>th</sup>, while the remaining ground support equipment and personnel will leave on October 18<sup>th</sup>. This deployment was a success, and airport staff will work to get the unit to relocate here again in 2026, when another round of airfield work is scheduled at Selfridge ANGB. Airmen were able to expand skills and get practical cross-training experience, while the region's offerings contributed to a high morale amongst those stationed here.
  - E. Army Ice-Testing Group – Moving at Present: Once again, the airport is excited to host the Army Ice-Testing Group. They are anticipating the arrival of Army aircraft in Late-October. They are beginning to position ground support equipment here and are co-habituating in Hangar 663 with the Air National Guard. The Army will take full occupancy of the hangar when the Air National Guard departs. The Army will remain in Hangar 663 until April 2025.
  - F. 2023 FAA Supplementary Discretionary Funding ZEV Application Award: Back in May, 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 and the necessary charging stations. The airport received the notice of award in September that our project will receive \$201,094 in FAA funding. The project timeline will run into mid-2025.

- G. Megadoor Fabric Replacement 663 – Complete: Using CARES Act funding the airport replaced the fabric on Hangar 663 that had reached its end of life. The new fabric was meant to be translucent in color, however the contractor ordered a replacement blue. The airport opted to take this color option in exchange for an improved warranty of five-years on workmanship and ten-years on the fabric.
- H. Hangar Occupancy Update: The monthly update of the available hangar space at the Marquette Sawyer Regional Airport. Also the airport announced a new Waitlist procedure is in effect for the T-Hangars. This new policy will be sent out to all present T-Hangar tenants in a future letter.
  - a. T-Hangars: Full Capacity
  - b. 661: Available
  - c. 663: USAF until mid-October, Army Ice-Testing taking over mid-October
  - d. 400 series: 2 bays available
  - e. Kubick (423 E/W, 424, 425): Space available, contact FBO staff for details.

**5. Late Addition:**

- A. None

**6. Public Comment:**

- A. Greg Durand: Asked about Kubick's control of Hangar 425, and who to contact regarding usage of that space. The Flying Club will not be able to use Hangar 400 as an option going forward. He asked how the Waitlist will be implemented and publicized, and offered suggestions for airport staff. He also asked about future T-hangar construction, if that was considered. Assistant Airport Manager Wheeler stated that the location is the only item that has received consideration to date. The general aviation ramp rehabilitation will be a determining factor in the future locations. Assistant Airport Manager Wheeler also explained that this type of construction is revenue generating and not eligible for FAA funding. Greg also asked about some possible spots for aircraft run-ups. Assistant Airport Manager Wheeler agreed to look into future construction options, but offered the use of taxiways for the time being. Mr. Durand also mentioned the club will cap at 75 members until a newly acquired plane is reassembled and certified.
- B. Bruce McCollough: Asked about the lifespan of the pavement applied during the Taxiway Rehabilitation Project. Assistant Airport Manager Wheeler explained that it will last for at least fifteen years. However, since this was a mill and overlay project, most of the cracks in the underlying pavement layers will likely reappear within the first two years, but will be managed through pavement maintenance and routine crack sealing.

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

- A. None

- 8. Adjournment:** Motion by Scott Bolster with support by Michael Roe. All members were in agreement. Meeting adjourned at 4:31 p.m.