

# COUNTY OF MARQUETTE, MICHIGAN

## Marquette Sawyer Regional Airport Airport Advisory Committee Thursday, December 12, 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 McCollough

**Call to Order:** 4:07 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. **Approval of the Minutes:** The minutes from August and November were moved for approval by Christopher Sholander with support from Michael Roe. All members were in agreement
3. **Public Comment:**
  - A. None
4. **Items of Discussion:**
  - A. Marquette Sawyer Regional Airport Board of Advisors: A lively discussion took place regarding the formal dissolution of the Airport Advisory Board under its current format and board appointments. The Board will be renamed as the Airport Board of Advisors and the configuration is still being worked out. Airport Manager DuRay and Assistant Airport Manager Wheeler expressed their regret that there was no prior notice to this announcement. Staff will keep the committee updated regarding future meetings.
5. **Informational Items & Project Updates:**
  - A. Terminal Reconfiguration Project: The project is moving forward. Closner Construction and Sales, Inc. and Northern Design Works are working on this project. At this stage the new exit lane doors are in place, County IT is working on the access control piece of these doors. Construction crews have completed the windows and some paint on the new drywall. The contractors will be ready to proceed with the scheduled move of the TSA screening equipment on January 7th and the project complete by February 2025. The project remains on schedule.
  - B. Passenger Boarding Ramp Funding: At the November 19<sup>th</sup> County Board Meeting, the airport was awarded up to \$100,000 for the purchase of a passenger boarding bridge. This piece of equipment will promote safety and will be a marketing tool for the airport. Staff is currently drafting a request for proposals (RFP) as part of this acquisition.
  - C. FDA Potable Water: With the anticipation of expanded Delta Air Lines service, including a RON flight, the airport and its partners successfully certified the airport terminal's watering point. The airport watering point will be added to the FDA web database during the next update.
  - D. 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 County Board approved the scope and funding award. The project timeline will run into mid-2025.
  - E. AIP Tower Funding Award: The airport was awarded \$1.5 million for tower repairs through the Federal Control Tower program. Staff and consultants will work to prioritize the most urgent repairs. However, staff will continue to lobby and apply for additional funding until all upgrades and repairs are completed.
  - F. Hangar Occupancy Update: The monthly update of the available hangar space at the Marquette Sawyer Regional Airport. A Waitlist procedure is in effect for the T-Hangars.
    - a. T-Hangars: Full Capacity
    - b. 661: Available
    - c. 663: Army Ice-Testing, until May 2025
    - d. 400 series: 2 bays available
    - e. Kubick (423 E/W, 424, 425): Space available, contact FBO staff for details.

**6. Late Addition:**

A. None

**7. Public Comment:**

A. None

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

A. Staff and Committee exchanged wishes for a safe and happy holiday!

**9. Adjournment:** Motion by Karen Alholm with support by Scott Bolster. All members were in agreement. Meeting adjourned at 4:51 p.m.