

County of Marquette, Michigan
Marquette Sawyer Regional Airport
Airport Board of Advisors
Thursday, December 11, 2025 @ 4:00 PM
Minutes/Regular Meeting

Members Present:	Joseph Derocha, Marty Munger, Charles Holsworth, Robert Muelle
Members Present Virtually:	Karen Kovacs, Christopher Germain, Bradley Stoddard
Members Not Present:	None
Staff Present:	David Erhart, Airport Manager;
Public Present:	Adam Cowan, Lynn Hanks, Greg Durand, Myron Hillock, Bruce McCollough

1. **Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order by Derocha at 4:04 PM. Hillock led the Pledge of Allegiance. Derocha took Roll call.
2. **Approval of Agenda:** Derocha presented agenda to Board for approval. Muelle moved to approve the agenda. Second by Holsworth. Motion carried (6-0).
3. **Approval of Minutes:** Holsworth moved to approve the minutes of the November 13, 2025 meeting. Second by Muelle. Motion carried (6-0)
4. **Public comment:**
Greg Durand – Discussed t-hanger issues, brought up a binding door, untwisting cables
5. **Goals and Objectives:**

Review of agreed upon main goals:

- Strive for economic sustainability
- Enhance airport services in Marquette County
- Best in class experience - strive to offer competitive fares

Review of November Objectives:

- Continued conversation on Finance Board asset recommendations
- Continued conversation on plan for allocation of state budget funds

Grmain updated board on process on allocation of funds. Those awarded haven't heard from the state yet. Germain hopes process and application will be announced in January. Action in Lansing yesterday will not affect 2026 funds according to Derocha. Particular items will be discussed at next board meeting. Muelle discussed items of high importance being approach lighting systems and RVR system. Munger mentioned need for new fueling equipment. Derocha explained that additional funding mechanisms are available.

6. **Action Items**

7. **Informational Items and Project Updates:**

- A. Myron Hillock provided a presentation regarding changes from FAA that change the standards for Light Sport Aircraft licensing requirements. This change will allow more pilots to qualify due to reduced medical requirements and more aircraft to fall under the new definition of a Light Sport Aircraft. Hillock explained this would increase demand for airport services and T Hangars. Hillock then addressed Board and public questions.

Brad Stoddard joined the meeting virtual and apologized for being late.

- B. Alert Center Tenant Contract Update – Derocha explained that MJ Van Damme has signed a contract and is vacating the Alert Center property and being moved to an alternative property on the airfield.
- C. Hangar Occupancy Update
 - a. T-Hangars: full capacity. There is a waiting list currently.
 - b. Hangar 661 – Available
 - c. Hangar 663 – Army RTC/Bell Helicopter – Testing until May
 - d. Building 400: 2 bays available.
 - e. 400 series hangars - Kubick (423 E/W, 424, 425): Space available, contact FBO Staff for details.
- D. Manager's Report - Erhart provided and reviewed the Manager's Report, which is attached to these minutes, and addressed questions.

Germain asked about colors on ACIP, DuRay explained color change is more associated with different projects. Germain also asked Erhart about search for Assistant Airport Manager. Erhart explained interviews have been conducted and process of offering to a candidate is going forward.

Derocha asked for a motion to accept Informational Items A-G. Motion by Germain. Support by Holsworth. Motion carried (5-0)

8. **Late Additions:** None

9. **Public Comment:**

Durand – Extending the runway back to 12,400 ft would help the approach lighting system issue as lighting infrastructure is on the far end of the old pavement. May save money in the long run. Would like to know if hangars 666 and 667 will be converted back to aviation assets when the Aymium contract is up.

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

Erhart – Nothing additional

DuRay – Appreciates the hard work the Board has done to date. Looking forward to working with the Board and community at large in the future.

Stoddard – Nothing additional, but apologies for being late.

Germain - Nothing additional

Kovacs – Nothing additional, hopes to attend in person next time.

Munger – Nothing additional

Holsworth - Nothing additional, but thanked Hillock for his presentation

Muelle – Asked when runway was shortened and asked what be different today compared to the justification used to shorten it at the time.

Derocha – Thanked everyone online for attending, wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year, and confirmed next meeting on January 8, 2026. Thanked general public for attending, and Hillock for his presentation

11. **Adjournment:** Derocha adjourned the meeting at 4:56 PM.



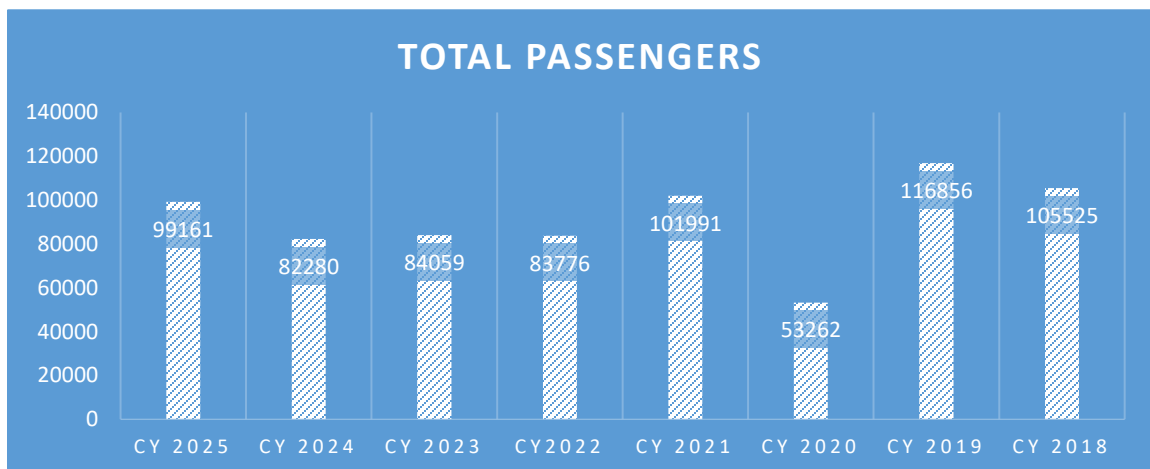
Manager's Report

Airline Activity Summary

1. Current Flight Schedule (December)
 - a. American, two round trip flights to Chicago seven days per week
 - i. Departures
 1. Chicago 7:31 AM
 2. Chicago 6:37 PM
 - ii. Arrivals
 1. Chicago 6:06 PM
 2. Chicago 10:03 PM
 - b. Delta, provides two round trip flights to Minneapolis and Detroit
 - i. Departures:
 1. Minneapolis 7:31 AM
 2. Detroit 1:25 PM
 - ii. Arrivals
 1. Minneapolis 12:38 PM
 2. Detroit 9:54 PM
 - c. Early 2026 flight schedule shows a reduction of flights to Chicago through American. Appears to be the standard winter schedule with a decline in passenger traffic.
2. Passenger numbers continue to see recovery from post Covid numbers
 - a. 2019 passenger count 116,856, through November was 108,131.
 - b. 2025 passenger count 99,161 through November.
 - c. 9.2% down from pre-Covid. Increase in deficit compared to 2019 levels from last month likely caused by cancellations and delays from Thanksgiving blizzard.
 - d. Last month's claim of 6% increase in passengers was an error. Actually 5.2% down from 2019 levels.



Total Passengers	
CY 2025 (YTD)	99161
CY 2024	82280
CY 2023	84059
CY2022	83776
CY 2021	101991
CY 2020	53262
CY 2019	116856
CY 2018	105525



3. Marketing Grant


- a. MDOT marketing Grant of \$325,000

Marquette Sawyer Regional Airport		
	Pd Advertising	In- Kind
TV 6		
Digital	\$ 100,000.00	
tv Ads	\$ 50,000.00	
Digital		\$ 100,000.00
Broadcast match		\$ 150,000.00
Media Brew		
	\$10,000	
		\$ 4,400.00
Eagle Radio		
	\$ 10,000.00	
		\$5,000
Travel Marquette		
Search Engine Marketing	\$ 9,900.00	
Targeted Displays	\$ 23,808.00	
Sponsored Content Article with Promotion	\$ 3,500.00	
Spotify	\$ 12,000.00	
Remessaging	\$ 595.20	
Radio Advertising		\$ 17,500.00
Event flight Promotion		\$ 2,500.00
Destination		\$ 6,000.00
		\$ 4,000.00
RRN		
Local Radio	\$ 10,000.00	
		\$ 8,785.33
LaDolce		
Website/Video Production/Branding	\$30,000	
		\$ 15,000.00
LSCP		
	\$ 25,000.00	
		\$ 3,000.00
Administration		
Marketing Materials	\$ 15,196.80	
Air Service Development Consulting		
Passenger Dmand Analysis		
Airline Headquarter Meetings		
Air Service Conferences		
Community Meetings		
Performance Monitoring		
	\$ 25,000.00	
Local fundraising for \$40,000		
	Grant Amount	Local Investment
Total Amounts	\$ 325,000.00	\$ 316,185.33

4. Airport Capital Improvement Program (ACIP)
 - a. Current Funding Sources
 - i. Airport Entitlements (AIP) \$1.3 mil
 - ii. Bipartisan Infrastructure Legislation (BIL) Airport Infrastructure Grant (AIG) \$1 mil
 - iii. Pursuing ATP/FCT funds for ATCT upgrades
 - iv. Considering pursuit of MAP funds as well

AIRPORT CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (ACIP)

FY-2026 to FY-2032 (Page 2 of 2)

Airport Name: Marquette Sawyer Regional Airport Airport Identifier: SAW		<div>MARQUETTE SAWYER REGIONAL AIRPORT</div>					Date prepared: 10-01-2025	
Associated City: Gwinn, Michigan		Prepared By: Mead & Hunt, Inc., dan.kehoe@meadhunt.com						
Sponsor: Marquette County		Sponsor email & phone: David Erhart derhart@mqtco.org 906-346-3308 Ext. 3131						
Development Year	Project Description	AIP Federal Entitlements	IIJA-AIG Entitlements	Discretionary AIP	State	Local	Total	Remarks/Item Justification
	Estimated FY-28 Carryover:	\$0						
2029	Reconstruct / Rehabilitate Terminal Apron Ph 2/2 (Construct)	\$1,300,000		\$3,677,000	\$278,500	\$278,500	\$5,530,000	Reconstruct PCC (18,100 SYD), Asphalt Overlay (60,200 SYD)
2029	Expand Terminal Building Ph 2/2 (Construct)			\$8,776,528	\$487,529	\$1,387,205	\$10,650,262	
2029	Rehabilitate Terminal Building Ph 2/2 (Construct)			\$16,162,871	\$897,942	\$5,484,178	\$22,545,091	
	FY-29 Totals:	\$1,300,000		\$28,615,499	\$1,661,971	\$7,147,883	\$38,725,353	
	Estimated FY-29 Carryover:	\$0						
2030	Reconstruct GA Apron Phase II - Ph 1/2 (Design)	\$144,000			\$8,000	\$8,000	\$160,000	Reconstruct PCC (6,000 SYD), Seal Pavement Joints (25,000 SYD)
2030	Recon/Rehab Hangar Taxiways - Ph 1/2 (Design)	\$113,400			\$6,300	\$80,300	\$200,000	Reconstruct Taxiway (600' x 25'), Rehabilitate Taxiways (1,200' x 25'), Rehabilitate Local T-Hangar Aprons (11,300 SYD)
2030	Rehabilitate Runway Lighting and Signage (Design and Construct)	\$630,000			\$36,000	\$36,000	\$700,000	Replace quartz HIRL acquired in 2018 with LED fixtures, replace halogen guidance signs acquired in 2012 with LED signage, replace RGL acquired in 2015.
2030	Reseal Runway Pavement (RWY 1-19)	\$126,000			\$7,000	\$7,000	\$140,000	
2030	Reseal Taxiway Pavement (TWY A, A1, A2, A3, B, C, D, E, F, G)	\$79,200			\$4,400	\$4,400	\$88,000	
	FY-30 Totals:	\$1,092,600			\$60,700	\$134,700	\$1,288,000	
	Estimated FY-30 Carryover:	\$207,400						
2031	Reconstruct GA Apron Phase II - Ph 2/2 (Construct)			\$1,980,000	\$110,000	\$110,000	\$2,200,000	Reconstruct PCC (6,000 SYD), Seal Pavement Joints (25,000 SYD)
2031	Recon/Rehab Hangar Taxiways - Ph 2/2 (Construct)	\$1,086,200		\$424,360	\$84,420	\$1,500,380	\$2,680,000	Reconstruct Taxiway (600' x 25'), Rehabilitate Taxiways (1,200' x 25'), Rehabilitate Local T-Hangar Aprons (11,300 SYD)
2031	Rehabilitate Runway Markings (RWY 1-19)	\$290,700			\$18,150	\$18,150	\$323,000	
2031	Rehabilitate Taxiway Markings (TWY A, A1, A2, A3, B, C, D, E, F, G)	\$121,500			\$6,750	\$6,750	\$135,000	
	FY-31 Totals:	\$1,507,400		\$2,404,360	\$217,320	\$1,633,280	\$5,338,000	
	Estimated FY-31 Carryover:	\$0						
2032	Reconstruct SRE (TBD pending fleet analysis)	\$1,300,000			\$72,222	\$72,222	\$1,444,444	Replacement of SRE vehicles that have reached the end of their service life.
	FY-32 Totals:	\$1,300,000			\$72,222	\$72,222	\$1,444,444	