

County of Marquette, Michigan

Marquette Sawyer Regional Airport

Airport Board of Advisors

Thursday, January 8, 2026 @ 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: Evan Wendzel, Jordanne Schwandt, Greg Durand, Myron Hillock, Bruce McCollough

1. **Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order by Derocha at 4:05 PM. Hillock led the Pledge of Allegiance. Erhart took roll call.
2. **Board Nominations:** Chair – Stoddard nominated Derocha, second by Holsworth. 7-0 approve. Vice Chair – Holsworth nominated Stoddard, Second by Germaine. 7-0 approve. Secretary – Derocha nominates Munger, Munger declines, nominates Germaine, Germaine declines, nominates Kovacs, Second by Derocha. 7-0 approve.
3. **Board Year Terms:**
3 – year term: Chair and Vice Chair (Derocha and Stoddard)
2 – year term: (Germaine and Kovacs)
1 – year term: (McCollough, Munger and Muelle)
Motion by Holsworth, Second by Germaine. 7-0 approved.
Question asked by Stoddard, what happens if someone on board steps down; Derocha explains that county posts statute for open position and people apply, county board approves. New person to fulfill remaining term for person they replaced.
4. **Approval of Agenda:** Derocha presented agenda to Board for approval. Motion to approve item 3. Holsworth approves, Second by Munger.
5. **Approval of Minutes:** Derocha moved to approve the minutes of the December 11, 2025 meeting. Motion by Stoddard, Support by Germaine. Minutes approved.
6. **Public comment:**
Greg Durand – comment on by-laws, he said last one was done in 2006 and revised in 2011, revised on Feb. 21, 2023 and then revised in Dec. 2023. He said whatever was discussed during this meeting should be a motion and then included as an amendment to the current by-laws that is for the Airport Board of Advisors.

Derocha asked if these are clerk generated by-laws, David said he thought it was Duane that did them. Derocha said they should be done through the clerk office.
7. **Goals and Objectives:** Derocha asked where we are with the \$3M grant; Germaine responds – still asking a lot of questions, contact with Rep. Bohnak’s office, trying to find out the application process to access the funds, funds are safe but waiting for details on the process. Derocha said Evan is in attendance at this meeting.
8. **Action Items:** No action items.
9. **Informational Items and Project Updates:**
 - A. Erhart - United Airlines plan to visit to see terminal space; due to wx, only one UA rep made it so another visit planned when all can come and see the terminal.

- B. Erhart – Hangar updates: t-hangars at full capacity with a waiting list, 661 available, 663 has Army RTC and bell helicopter doing testing throughout the season, 2 bays available in hangar 400, 420 hangars managed by Kubick – space available, contact them for details.
 - C. Erhart – 107K enplanements/deplanements this year, up 18% from last year, 22% growth over last 4 years, anticipate another increase with addition of new airline (UA). Lost AA afternoon turn on the 6th but that is standard and will return sooner than typical, coming back in February.
10. **Late Additions:** None; but Derocha wanted to direct staff that at next meeting we have a list about airport costs – short window to execute the \$3M, we want to make sure we are spending it on making a good difference. Germaine can review and move forward with plans. Need hard numbers so Germaine can put together what he needs to give to Bohnak staff, etc. to move forward.

11. **Public Comment:**

Bruce Finn – inquired about t-hangar waitlist, Erhart told him 13 on list, some want south facing so they get skipped b/c they want specific hangar and the one available isn't what they want; Fein also asked about t-hangar maintenance – seals, doors falling, screens – Erhart responded that cannot do much during winter season but we are looking at door seals. Fein asked if necessary cabling supplies are ordered and here and just waiting for installation; Erhart responded, looking into it and will pick up where it left off. Fein wants to make sure airport succeeds and thrives.

Greg Durand – wants clear guidance on property taxes and rent amount on 400 hangars. Ways to pay heat and electric as part of flying club.

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

Erhart – Nothing additional

Bruce – crosswind runway would be a good addition to the airport. 3,000' all that would be needed.

Holsworth – good job; good rumblings in the community.

Munger – good job to David with snow removal ops. Wanted to know about plans for the \$3M – thought this meeting was going to be about it.

Germain – great job to David; wants more details on FBO; true costs, risks assessment, pros and cons in costs. Encouraged other members to do research.

Kovacs – hope to be at the next meeting in person.

Stoddard – how we can bring more SMEs in to help advisory board; give instruction/guidance on this operation. Suggests David reach out to SMEs so we know best way to approach and lead this transition and takeover of FBO ops.

Derocha – agrees with Greg about EAA support and t-hangars; wants hard numbers so we can be more proactive. Lighting at the airport; we need better signage. Doesn't seem like you're driving to an airport when you are coming here. We need to do a better job and get numbers on. Next meeting hoping David will have more numbers on that.

13. **Adjournment:** Derocha adjourned the meeting at 4:47 PM. Motion to adjourn by Munger.



Manager's Report

Airline Activity Summary

1. Current Flight Schedule (January)
 - a. American, one round trip flight to Chicago seven days per week
 - i. Departures
 1. Chicago 7:31 AM
 - ii. Arrivals
 1. Chicago 9:53 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 12:36 PM
 2. Detroit 9:57 PM
 - c. The midday American turn flight from and to Chicago ended on January 6th, but the flight returns sooner than anticipated, with service returning February 12th.
2. Passenger numbers continue to see recovery from post Covid numbers
 - a. 2019 passenger count 116,856.
 - b. 2025 passenger count 112,076.
 - c. 4.1% down from pre-COVID. Winter weather around holidays negatively affected our numbers at the end of the year, but passenger traffic is still up 21.1% year over year and has grown each year since CY2022, growing overall by 25.3% from CY 2022 numbers.

Total Passengers	
CY 2025	112076
CY 2024	88456
CY 2023	84059
CY2022	83776
CY 2021	101991
CY 2020	53262
CY 2019	116856
CY 2018	105525

