

**County of Marquette, Michigan**  
**Marquette Sawyer Regional Airport**  
**Airport Board of Advisors**  
**Thursday, April 9, 2026 @ 4:00 PM**  
**Minutes/Regular Meeting**

**Members Present:** Joe Derocha, Christopher Germain  
**Members Present Virtually:** Fred Benzie, Charles Holsworth, Bradley Stoddard  
**Members Not Present:** Karen Kovacs, Bruce McCollough, Marty Munger  
**Staff Present:** David Erhart, Airport Manager; Anania Tekurio, Assistant Airport Manager  
**Public Present:** Greg Durand, Myron Hillock, Evan Wendzel  
**Public Present Virtually:** Matt Bloch, Brian Rochan

1. **Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order by Derocha at 4:02 PM. Wendzel led the Pledge of Allegiance. Tekurio took Roll call.
2. **Approval of Agenda:** Derocha presented agenda to Board for approval. Motion by Benzie to approve the agenda. Support by Germain. Motion carried (5-0).
3. **Approval of Minutes:** Minutes of the March 12, 2026 meeting approved. Motion by Holsworth. Support by Benzie. Motion carried (4-0). Abstain: Derocha
4. **Public comment:** Matt Bloch – highlighted data regarding how Sawyer is used by General Aviation; shared comparison from commercial airlines and general aviation at Sawyer. Noted that it is essential that we continue to support a high level of service at the FBO. Also noted status of pilot training and status at Sawyer in that regard; awesome stuff happening at Sawyer.

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

6. **Action Items**

Erhart provided information of possible funding items – first was T-hangars; he provided information and diagram from Mead & Hunt for a proposed concept for a 10 T-hangar design. Showed a breakdown of costs for the concept; \$220K/unit so a 10 unit would be \$2.2M. Derocha asked about the rent for T-hangars currently at Sawyer and asked what the average rent for a T-hangar is at other airports in the U.P. Derocha asked staff to provide that information.

Second Erhart revisited the RVR request explaining in more detail the pros and cons for the installation and the impact/lack thereof it would have at our airport in relation to the cost.

Myron Hillock asked a question – he wanted to know why not use rwy 1 that does have ILS and Erhart explained that this RVR request is in regard to rwy 19 when the winds come out from the south and rwy 19 being a non-precision approach and aircraft not being able to come in and land.

Germain asked Erhart of any other issues he is researching. Erhart discussed the heavy equipment needed for our operations and that our staff and crew is currently collecting necessary information to assess those needs and potential breakdowns. Stoddard chimed in asking if we have inventory data and how are we, airport management, tracking our inventory and the value and depreciation over years of said inventory. Derocha explained that there isn't or hasn't been an inventory records tracked.

Motion by Stoddard. Support by Benzie. Motion carried (5-0).

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

- A. United Airlines Launch Date – Erhart updated that United Airlines has delayed their launch to June 1 due to awaiting FAA's decision of departure issue at O'Hare.
- B. Hangar Occupancy Update – Full capacity with a waiting list of 13.
  - a. T-Hangars: Full Capacity
  - b. 661: Available
  - c. 663: Army RTC/Bell Helicopter – Army has started the process of vacating; Bell still here but due to leave in May. Expect to see them next year.
  - d. 400 series: 2 bays available
  - e. Kubick (423 E/W, 424, 425): Space available, contact FBO staff for details.
- C. Manager's Report – Erhart delivered the manager's report.

Germain asked if there is a value to comparing cancellations and diversions so we can understand these deviations; see data every year. Germain also pointed out that the year end numbers have not been reported to MDOT for the last two months – said he pointed out to Stacey and that numbers haven't been updated, it shows zero.

Motion by: Stoddard. Support by: Benzie. Motion carried (4-0). Derocha left meeting early.

## 8. **Late Additions:** None.

## 9. **Public Comment:**

Hillock – Thanked Matt Bloch for his attendance and participation in the meeting considering his busy schedule as a commercial pilot. Hillock volunteered providing GA data for the airport on a monthly basis.

Greg Durand – asked about the T-Hangars and assumed how much the airport is making on the hangars and he wants to know where is that money going? He assumes the money is not going back into the T-hangars. He wants to know how much the 400 series hangars rent is and wants to see advertisements for those. He wants to know who is in hangar 420 and what the contract is? He wants to know if we have hired FBO employees? Durand wants to know all the information about how the airport is going to take over the FBO from how the credit card system is going to work to what forms people will need to fill out and he wants to mail out how the fuel changes to all the pilots will be here. He thinks the county should be able to handle the cheapest costs of fuel in the whole U.P. He wants to know if an aircraft gets a flat tire on the runway, how are we going to get the aircraft off? He assumes because no one answered, due to public comments not being allowed to be answered, that it means the airport/county has no way of dealing with that. He said there is no dolly for that equipment here. He wants to know where can he dump oil waste because now it is

gone. No aircraft jack on this airport according to him. He wants to know if we have nitrogen, oxygen, hydraulic fluid. He says he doesn't even know if we have made a list or not and that we will need all this stuff by April 27.

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

Erhart – Nothing to add.

Tekurio – Nothing to add.

Stoddard – Apologized for not being present in person.

Holsworth – Said he will be at the meeting in person next month. Also mentioned accountability for the standard of service for the FBO changeover – that we have a way to keep that record.

Benzie – Asked about equipment, specifically brooms. Asked if we still have a broom and that we should have one for ice removal. Erhart answered him that we have two; a front and tow behind.

Benzie also mentioned how we need to hear feedback from the GA community; if we need nitrogen lets get nitrogen tank on wheels; stating its not a big thing to do. Said we need communication to make this go.

Germain – explained how he is leaving soon. Also said to expedite the signing of the ldsi grant. (?)

**11. Adjournment:** Germain adjourned the meeting at 4:49 pm. Motion by: Stoddard. Support by Benzie. Motion carried (4-0)



## Manager's Report

### Airline Activity Summary

1. Current Flight Schedule (May)
  - a. American, provides three round trip flight to Chicago six days per week
    - i. Departures
      1. Chicago 6:52 AM (This aircraft comes in the night before and stays at the airport for this departure)
      2. Chicago 2:39 PM (Does not fly on Tuesday)
      3. Chicago 6:55 PM (Does not fly on Tuesday) this flight comes in at 4:25 PM starting the 21<sup>st</sup>.
    - ii. Arrivals
      1. Chicago 2:07 PM (Does not fly on Tuesday)
      2. Chicago 6:20 PM this flight changes to 4:25 PM on the 21<sup>st</sup>.
      3. Chicago 9:16 PM this flight changes to 9:41 pm on the 21<sup>st</sup>.
  - b. Delta, provides two round trip flights, one to Minneapolis and one to Detroit
    - i. Departures:
      1. Minneapolis 4:39 PM Every day.
      2. Detroit 7:30 PM Every day.
    - ii. Arrivals
      1. Minneapolis 4:37 PM
      2. Detroit 10:51 PM
  - c. United Airlines still on track to start service on May 21, 2026
2. January passenger numbers are included below. We are still waiting on February numbers from all airlines.
  - 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.
  - d. January Figures
    - i. January 2026 passenger count is 7,636
    - ii. January 2025 passenger count was 5,610
    - iii. January 2019 passenger count was 7,184
    - iv. 2026 YTD numbers are a 26.5% increase from 2025 figures and a 5.9% increase over 2019 figures

- e. With additional service coming from United and increasing service from American this month and in April, this year is likely to be the return to or exceeding of historic levels of service.

<b>Total Passengers</b>	
CY 2026 YTD	7636
CY 2025	112076
CY 2024	88456
CY 2023	84059
CY2022	83776
CY 2021	101991
CY 2020	53262
CY 2019	116856
CY 2018	105525

