



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

**Members Present:** Joseph Derocha, Bruce McCollough, Marty Munger,  
**Members Present Virtually:** Karen Kovacs  
**Members Not Present:** Fred Benzie, Christopher Germain, Charles Holsworth, Bradley Stoddard  
**Staff Present:** David Erhart, Airport Manager; Anania Tekurio, Assistant Airport Manager  
**Public Present:** Natalie Chmiko, Myron Hillock, Evan Wendzel  
**Public Present Virtually:**

1. **Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order by Derocha at 4:05 PM. There was discussion regarding not having enough members for a quorum; Derocha made decision the meeting should proceed as an informational meeting with no motions/support votes. Hillock led the pledge of allegiance. Tekurio took roll call. Motion by McCollough. Support by Kovacs. Motion carried (4-0).
2. **Approval of Agenda:** Motion by McCollough. Support by Kovacs. Motion carried (4-0).
3. **Approval of Minutes:** Munger suggested this be done next meeting due to not enough board members present.
4. **Public comment:** Chmiko thanked the board and the role

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

July Objectives:

Final Discussion about Funding Items before Application to State

6. **Action Items**

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

- A. State Funding Application Update – Erhart explained that the county administrator changed the plan a bit from last month's taking into account information that was given at last month's

meeting. The memo was taken to the board last Tuesday, July 7, 2026. Still have airport equipment, pavement infrastructure and facilities improvement in the plan. The plan was approved by the Board. Will be working with Chmiko from LSCP to further execute the process.

- B. FAA Periodic Inspection Conducted 6/23/26 – Erhart discussed how the annual FAA part 139 inspection was completed and that the airport did well. He informed the board that the FAA can conduct random inspections with notification or not; and that we had one done in February, they were making sure that the transition from DuRay's departure as Airport Manager and Erhart's role as the now Airport Manager was going well documentation-wise and regulations being adhered to.
- C. ATCT Project Update – Erhart explained that we are in Phase II – the construction part and its part of the \$1.5M funding we had. High rise escape system has been delivered and looking to be installed next. Everything going to plan timewise. We are out to bid right now for Phase III – the \$3.8M that will address the windows, elevator, roof, and generator; bid opening on 7/24/26. Looks like we should have some good competitive bids.
- D. American Airlines Additional Turn in August – Erhart updated board that American Airlines will be adding an additional route starting from 8/5/26 until 9/8/26.
- E. Delta MSP Service Update – Erhart updated board on SkyWest Airlines/Delta pulling their MSP route this Fall due to fuel price increases; with full-intention to return Spring '27. He also mentioned visiting with SkyWest Airlines this Winter at their HQ to maintain good relations and also ensure a Spring '27 MSP route return. Kovacs asked if anything the board could do to maybe help keep the MSP route if we (airport mgmt.) felt strongly that the loss of the route for this winter would be detrimental.

Hillock raised his hand and Derocha allowed Hillock to speak. Hillock commented on how he is a frequent flier and having this MSP route taken away is a shame and that he understands why Delta came to that conclusion because its embarrassing how many empty seats are on that flight. However, with 2M+ miles with Delta, he doesn't fly any other airlines and that he is very loyal to Delta. The early flight to Detroit in the morning is nice for business but coming home on a Friday night on that late flight at 10pm, and if there is any delay on that flight he's getting back later, it ruins his weekend, cutting it short. The MSP flight was very convenient.

Derocha replied that the money, \$750K, that was to subsidize that route, that it was used in four months and yet they still stayed with the route for over a year and that this loss of the MSP route has nothing to do with the county and airport.

Erhart chimed in noting also that this money was distributed in January during the winter which isn't even the most economically advantageous. But that in the summer that route filled up really well.

- F. United Airlines Service Update – Erhart updated board about United Airlines initial delay to launch Oct. 25 has now moved back further to Nov. 5 launch date; due to gate restrictions at Chicago O'Hare (ORD) airport along with arrival and departure parameters.

G. Hangar Occupancy Update – Full capacity with a waiting list of 15.

- a. T-Hangars: Full Capacity, 15 on waiting list, FAA Hangar being vacated.
- b. 661: Available
- c. 663: Available
- d. 400 series: 1 bay available
- e. Kubick (423 E/W, 424, 425): Space available, contact FBO staff for details.

Discussion took place regarding why we don't have plans for more T-Hangars and why can't we just more. Erhart explained that we have discussed potential for more T-Hangars to be built and that the quote for 10 additional ones was about \$3M +. And that we are continually looking for avenues to add more T-Hangars.

H. Manager's Report – Erhart delivered the manager's report detailing current flight schedule and statistical information from the last month's flight numbers as well as the numbers today compared to last years and several years ago.

8. **Late Additions:**

9. **Public Comment:** Chmiko thanked the advisory committee and the county board for the support and recognizing LSCP's contribution. She also added that LSCP's are committed to advocating for the airport and increasing air service and reliability for the area. She continued to say that she looks forward to continuing to work with the team and thank you.

Hillock said Thank You for letting him speak earlier.

**Staff and Committee Member Comment:**

Tekurio – No comment. Nothing to add.

Erhart – No comment. Nothing to add.

Munger – No comment.

Kovacs – No comment.

McCollough – No comment.

Derocha – Said he appreciated everybody's commitment and all the time everyone has put in to help everyone. He said it's important to have good quality people and the good work we do. He said Thank you for what everyone does.

10. **Adjournment:** Derocha adjourned the meeting at 4:43 pm.