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Airport Services Center, 125 G Ave.
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County of Marquette, Michigan

Marquette Sawyer Regional Airport

Airport Board of Advisors

Thursday, Aug 13, 2026 @ 4:00 PM

Minutes/Regular Meeting

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

1. **Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order by Derocha at 4:09 PM. Tekurio led the pledge of allegiance. Erhart took roll call.
2. **Approval of Agenda:** Motion by Munger. Support by McCollough. Motion carried (6-0).
3. **Approval of Minutes:**
 - a. June 11, 2026 Minutes: Motion: Benzie. Support by Munger. Motion carried (6-0).
 - b. July 9, 2026 Minutes: Motion: Munger. Support by Stoddard. Motion carried (6-0).
4. **Public comment:** Chmiko updated the board on the state grant; it has been submitted to LEO (Labor and Economic Opportunity). Came back with a couple changes, just administrative. They want to understand the relationship with LSCP and the county and how that was going to work. Verbally they said they were good with the changes. It is now in the process to move forward with getting a contract in place for Sept. 15, which is their deadline. Then next step will be getting a contract with the county and LSCP – just to make sure that relationship and how it will work is in writing.
5. **Goals and Objectives:**
 - Strive for economic sustainability
 - Enhance airport services in Marquette County
 - Best in class experience - strive to offer competitive fares

August Objectives:

Informational updates on ongoing projects.

6. Action Items

7. Informational Items and Project Updates:

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- A. State Funding Application Update – Erhart reiterated what Chmiko updated everyone – that the application has been submitted, not approved yet but pending.
- B. TSA Inspection Update: Erhart informed the board that the airport got a visit from TSI last month when they conducted a pop-up inspection. He explained how these inspections are administered, what they look for, where they inspect and their purpose. He let the board know that the airport did well and passed the inspection but there were just a few little items regarding the ASP (Airport Security Plan) that needed updating.
- C. United Airlines Service Update: Erhart presented a press release that was recently sent out to the media and public explaining the updated United Airlines postponement of their operation here at Marquette Sawyer. As of now, United is on hold until end of Oct. 2027 due to FAA's recent ruling to cut back on the number of departures leaving O'Hare.
- D. ATCT Project Update: Erhart updated the board on this project; its moving along well. He informed the board that the radio work is to be accomplished starting next week and take up to two weeks. He let the board know that the HVAC was installed and operational about week and half ago. And he mentioned that the last thing would be the high-rise escape system that's supposed to be installed before Sept. 1.
- E. 6726 Grant Information: Erhart explained that this is the federal contract tower program; phase 3 of the ATCT updates; the remaining work to be done. Bid opening was on the 24th of July. Received single bidder, Cross Engineering, at \$1,464,900, was well within the grant money allocation and included all project items needed. Work on the ground will start next year.
- F. 6526 Grant Information: Erhart informed the board that this one is for the remarking and resealing of the GA ramp – the portion of the GA apron not covered by the reconstruction. This is split by AIP and IAJA funding. This will take place this year. Covers entire airfield and that GA apron portion between sign and 425. Whole grant is \$1,237,197.05.
- G. 6426 Grant Information: Erhart updated board that this grant is for the reconstruction portion. This one we have already received the grant and have it signed. Total project cost between the three funding sources is \$3.9M, a little bit over that. Construction will go forward next year.

Erhart also mentioned that the jet bridges are set to be delivered in Q2 2027.

- H. EGLE Grant Updates: Erhart explained that these grants have been submitted, signed and sent back to the state. Starting next week, we'll be working at the former Marquette County Airport, Negaunee site to do core sampling and measurements. Samples will be evaluated and the remediation plan will come from the results of that over the course of the next year. We're still working to get within the allocated money for the fire truck cleanout, we have \$150,000 allocated to us.
- I. Lease Updates – Army RTC, Car Rentals: Erhart updated board on the current leases that have been in the works and signed. Army RTC signed a lease for the 2027 or 2026 into 2027 winter

testing season. They're planning on coming back up and still going to be working with Bell this coming year. We've had a good working relationship with them. This would be the 11th year, and we're looking forward to having them back.

For the car rental concessions, that lease also went to the board at the last board meeting, and those have been signed and turned around, but those are just a continuation of the relationship we have with both the Avis representative company there and the Enterprise company. They will be continuing to function as normal in the terminal and they are signed on for another 5 years.

We limited their scope of longevity; putting in safeguards for the county should they not support with additional cars.

J. Hangar Occupancy Update:

- a. T-Hangars: Full Capacity, 15 on waiting list.
- 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.

K. 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.

Items A – K: Motion by: McCollough, Support by: Munger. Motion carried (6-0)

8. **Late Additions:**

9. **Public Comment:** Durand commented on T-hangar issues saying: "I'd like to talk about hangars. It's been an item for a long, long, long time. We've had hangar inspections, multiple inspections. In a year, the airport makes over \$60,000 a year just on hangar rents, probably more than that, just from the hangar rents. And how much of that income actually gets returned into improving the hangars, or maintaining the hangars, is where I'm going. I don't know if they were given to us by the Air Force, it's part of, uh, over the process, the hangars have been free since that point in time. I don't know the demographics of the financials and all that. In the last 10 years, most of the hangars have been full, so we've made over half a \$1,000,000 or more, just on hangars, alone. And we've asked to have the hangar seals replaced. We've talked about having cables replaced. Yes, we have some structural issues on the end. But I see no action. There's no proactiveness in going out there and actually looking at them, even sending a survey to every hangar member and say, What is wrong with your hangar? Help us out. And then from there, we can create a path to actually start doing some maintenance on. Door seals are atrocious when I have to open the hangar and shovel three feet of snow out from the inside of my hangar just to get my airplane out. That's not an exaggeration. Yeah, so... All I'm asking is if we could take some proactiveness this year before winter comes, at least to replace door seals, and maybe take a look at the cables, find out which ones are divorced, and get some movement on that. It should be a small team of people. The supplies are inexpensive. Thanks for everything, you can make it happen."

Staff and Committee Member Comment:

Tekurio – Nothing to add, gave kudos to Erhart thanking him for his hard work.

Erhart – No comment. Nothing to add.

Stoddard – Thanked Airport staff for hard work and reminded staff that he is always here to help us in any capacity.

Holsworth – Dropped offline.

Munger – No comment.

Benzie – No comment.

McCollough – No comment.

Derocha – “I want to let everybody know, the Marquette County Board approved and adjusted a new lease structure for a dollar a year for the Northern Flight Group, medical flights for their storage of the hangar storage base for the plane that they use. There was a structured lease with the KBIC, it put 2% money to take care of the annual rent for 2020, 6 in the 27, and the budget cycle is coming for October, and I just felt that we needed to support those pilots that certainly are volunteering, and all of the people that volunteered to make that a real reality. It's significant that we need to support that and we have to keep a lease agreement in play. That's where the one dollar comes in and the board unanimously passed that. So I'm happy to see that. And addressing Greg's hangar issues, let's find out, David, for our next meeting. What the hangar income is? And maybe this board should look at making a recommendation to allocate a percentage of the hangar income to go to ongoing maintenance specific to hangars, and develop a survey to be sent out to those clients as to what would they like to see, or at least prepare it in their hangar, right? And we can add that to our agenda next. Anybody have any other thoughts on agenda items that they'd like to talk about? That was one question about your contract with the Northwest Air Lifeline? No, I thought is it North Woods? North Woods Airline, yeah. Oh, okay. So just one of the T- hangers up there. And I always, I want to end, I won't stretch this on any longer, but I want to, uh, end the meeting, as I normally, I start a meeting this way, but I want to thank everybody for all they do for others, because without everybody's collective effort, we wouldn't get a better product at the end of the day. You know, and again, some days, we have major issues that we have to talk through, but ultimately, we end up with a better work product when we get done at the end of the cycle. So thank you for all you do.”

10. **Adjournment:** Derocha adjourned the meeting at 4:47pm. Motion by Benzie. Supported by Munger. Motion carried (6-0).