

MINUTES
SOUTH CAROLINA AERONAUTICS COMMISSION
March 28, 2013
10:00 a.m., Columbia, South Carolina

Commission Members in Attendance

Delphin A. Gantt, Jr., Chairman At-large
Gerald E. Harmon, M. D., District 1
Frank W. Young, M. D. District 2
John R. Hunt, M. D., District 3
Matthew J. Kappel, Esq., District 4
Barry G. Avent, Secretary & District 5
Dennis L. Dabney, CPA, Vice-Chairman & District 6

Aeronautics Staff in Attendance

Paul G. Werts, Executive Director
James Stephens, Program Manager
Revé Richardson, Recording Secretary
Melody Mikell, Finance & Grants Manager

Visitors:

Bud Coward, Aiken County
Don Purcell, SCAA
John Hodge, Esq., Hodge & Associates

Visitors (Cont'd)

Bill New, SCAA
Ken Holt, Baker, Inc. & Jasper County

Welcome & Call to Order

Chairman Gantt called the meeting to order and announced a quorum in attendance. He welcomed everyone and requested *Commission Kappel* give the invocation. *Chairman Gantt* asked Mr. Werts to introduce our guests. He introduced Ms. Mikell the new Finance & Grants Manager for SCAC. Mr. Werts then requested each visitor to introduce themselves. *Chairman Gantt* introduced our newest Commissioner from District 3, Commissioner Hunt and welcomed him to the Commission.

Approval of Minutes

Chairman Gantt presented the minutes of the January 10, 2013 Commission meeting for approval. *Vice-Chairman Dabney* made a Motion the minutes be approved as written and presented, *Secretary Avent* seconded, and all approved.

Financial, Budget, Executive Director's Reports & Aeronautics Update

Aviation Fuel Sales Report and Flight Operations Report were accepted as presented.

Chairman Gantt requested Mr. Werts present the financial reports and the Legislative update. Mr. Werts stated our Budget was out of the House. Our Budget was well received by the Senate Sub-committee but do not know when the full Senate will have the Budget. We are still trying to fund the rehabilitation of our ramp – possibly will be using Aviation Funds. We are following two Bills currently: UAS Activity Bill and Landfill Zoning Bill.

Mr. Werts discussed the Aviation Fund revenues, which were down considerably in February. He expects that they will be down approximately 15 percent for the year. He projects we will end the year at \$170,000 in the black.

Projects for Consideration

Robert F. Swinnie Airport

Mr. Stephens presented a state and federal capital improvement project for Robert F. Swinnie Airport to construct a taxiway to the hangar area (design and bid only). The state portion of the project is \$2,854.75 and the total project amount is \$57,095.00. The SCAC staff recommends approval of this project. *Vice-Chairman Dabney* made a Motion the project be approved as presented, seconded by *Secretary Avent*, and after discussion, all approved.

Georgetown County Airport

Mr. Stephens presented a state and federal capital improvement project for Georgetown County Airport for hangar taxilane extension, land acquisition, DBE plan update and a small business participation plan. The state portion of the project is \$7,230.53 and the total project amount is \$144,610.40. The SCAC staff recommends approval of this project. *Vice-Chairman Dabney* made a Motion the project be approved as presented, seconded by *Secretary Avent*, and after discussion, all approved.

Hartsville Regional Airport

Mr. Stephens presented a 75/25 percent State Aviation Fund project for Hartsville Regional Airport for a rotating beacon replacement. The state portion of the project is \$10,129.00 and the total project amount is \$13,505.00. The SCAC staff recommends approval of this project. *Commissioner Harmon* made a Motion the project be approved as presented, seconded by *Secretary Avent*, and after discussion, all approved.

Ridgeland Airport

Mr. Stephens presented a 60/40 percent State Aviation Fund project for Ridgeland Airport for property option acquisitions. The state portion of the project is \$43,620.45 and the total project amount is \$72,700.75. The SCAC staff recommends approval of this project. *Vice-Chairman Dabney* made a Motion the project be approved as presented, seconded by *Commissioner Kappel*, and after discussion, all approved.

Lancaster County Airport

Mr. Stephens presented a state and federal capital improvement project for Lancaster County Airport for the 2011 taxilane rehabilitation project. The SCAC staff worked with Lancaster County Airport staff on this project in 2011; however, due to lack of administrative oversight by Lancaster County and personnel changes at that time the paperwork for this grant even though the

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project application for a state grant was completed, it was never mailed to SCAC. The error was just discovered by Lancaster County's Grant Administrator in the last couple of weeks. Therefore, Lancaster County has now submitted this grant asking for consideration of approval due to these unique and special circumstances and since SCAC did work on this project with Lancaster County while it was underway. The state portion of this project is \$8,183.00 and the total project amount was \$327,322.00 and the SCAC staff recommends approval of this project. *Secretary Avent* made a **Motion** the Commission approve this project based on the unique and special circumstances outlined as to why this project failed to be submitted in a timely manner; *Vice-Chairman Dabney* seconded, and after discussion, all approved.

Presentation by SCAA

Mr. Werts called on Mr. New and Mr. Purcell of the SCAA to update the Commission on the new Passport Program for pilots. The Passport Pilot Program has three levels giving recognition and awards when pilots visit 25, 40 and 59 airports in South Carolina. This program will kick-off in the next 60 to 90 days. SCAA is working on posters, flyers, and other advertising methods to notify pilots throughout the state about this exciting new program.

Mr. Werts presented a director approved grant issued from State Aviation Funds in the amount of \$4,000 to SCAA for the Passport Pilot Program.

Mr. Werts introduced Mr. Hodge who updated the Commission concerning a letter received from the IRS requesting an audit on flights taken in 2012. He will keep the Commission informed as this audit moves forward. Other issues Mr. Hodge is addressing for SCAC are Land Use and Specifications on pavement rejuvenators.

Mr. Werts announced that Mr. Donahoo is at AOPA Headquarters for TV and magazine interviews. He and Mr. Stephens will be meeting with the FAA on April 25th in Atlanta to discuss 2014 funding; FAA has agreed to funding Greenwood and Pickens fencing projects; three contract towers in South Carolina closed due to sequester (Hilton Head, Donaldson and Grand Strand); and Hilton Head is considering building a subdivision on runway approach.

District Reports

District 1 – Commissioner Harmon – Updated the Commission on the Myrtle Beach International Airport Grand Opening that he and Mr. Werts attended. He showed pictures of the event and gave out commemorative pins to each Commissioner. He stated that parking is and would be a problem now and in the future. The terminal is a very beautiful and attractive facility. However, traffic volume is down ten to fifteen percent from last year with only USAirways/American, Spirit and Delta now servicing Myrtle Beach.

District 2 – Commissioner Young – No report.

District 3 – Commissioner Hunt – Stated he had not had an opportunity to visit all ten of his airports, but he had visited Clemson. He is aware of Mr. Werts' letter concerning the As-Builts. Mr. Short stated that the contractor says he has provided them but Oconee County says they have not received – seems we are at a standstill but SCAC must have As-Builts to close grant.

District 4 – Commissioner Kappel – Stated he is concerned about the closing of the Donaldson Tower. He met with Mr. Massey, Greenville Downtown Tower Chief to discuss the issue. Mr. Massey is not really concerned but does feel it will slow things down.

District 5 – Commissioner Avent – Stated he appreciated the Commission's decision on Lancaster's grant application due to their unique circumstances at the time of the project. All other projects in his district are on time and going well.

District 6 – Commissioner Dabney – Reported that Jim Hamilton/L. B. Owens Airport's Curtiss Wright Hangar rehabilitation into a restaurant is going well. Reported that Mr. Purcell is now the Chair of the Richland County Airport Commission and thanked Mr. Coward for all of his help to Mr. Werts during the Legislative presentations.

New/Other /business

The next Commission meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 24, 2013 at SCAC.

Executive Session

Mr. Werts requested the Commission go into executive session to discuss a personnel issue.

Secretary Avent made a **Motion** for the Commission to go into Executive Session to discuss a personnel issue. *Vice-Chairman Dabney* seconded and all approved.

Following the Executive Session, the Commission returned to open session and announced that Mr. Werts intends to step down as Executive Director of the Division of Aeronautics effective 60 days from the date of this meeting. With the approval of the Commission, he requests a continuing position with the Division of Aeronautics/SCAC. In his new position, he would continue to assist the Commission with the mission of providing safe reliable air transportation to both the statewide airport infrastructure network and to the flying public.

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Adjournment

There being no further business, *Secretary Avent* moved the meeting be adjourned, *Vice-Chairman Dabney* seconded, and all approved.


Barry G. Avent
Commission Secretary


Delphin A. Gantt, Jr.
Commission Chairman


Revé M. Richardson
Commission Recording Secretary


Dennis L. Dabney, CPA
Commission Vice-Chairman

4/24/13 Date

4/22/2013 10:24:29 AM

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