

**MINUTES**  
**SOUTH CAROLINA AERONAUTICS COMMISSION**  
**2553 Airport Blvd**  
**West Columbia, South Carolina 29170**  
**June 21, 2018**

**Commission Members in Attendance**

Delphin Gantt, Jr., Chairman  
Devon A "Al" Frances, District 1  
Ira E. "Bud" Coward, Vice-Chairman, District 2  
Skeets Cooper, District 3  
Darwin Simpson, District 4  
Doug Barnes, District 5  
Marco Cavazzoni, District 6  
Chris Bethea, District 7

**Aeronautics Staff in Attendance**

James Stephens, Executive Director  
Ericka Thomas, Commission Secretary  
Melody Mikell, Finance Director  
Gary Siegfried, Program Manager  
Eric Denham, Chief Pilot

**Visitors**

Demetrius Pyburn, SC Bar  
Don Purcell  
Leigh Wickersham, SCAA  
Hayle Geddings, SCAA  
Wayne Corley, MaeSwyer  
Brian Johnson

Neil Baker, FAA  
James Dangerfield, FAA  
James Cline, FAA  
Jim Hamilton  
Karen Wooten  
Walt and Janet Johnson

**Welcome & Call to Order**

*Chairman Gantt* called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. and announced a quorum in attendance. He welcomed everyone and *Commissioner Bethea* gave the invocation.

**Approval of Minutes**

*Chairman Gantt* presented the minutes of the June 21, 2018 Commission meeting and asked if anyone had any edits or corrections. Since none were forthcoming, the minutes were approved as written.

**Federal Aviation Administration Special Presentation**

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), Aviation Safety Team, presented the 2018 Master Pilot Award to former South Carolina Aeronautics Commission pilot, Walter I. Johnson. Mr. James Cline (FAA), presented the award to Mr. Johnson along with a presentation of the accomplishments that Mr. Johnson has received over the years as a pilot. Mr. Johnson was accompanied by his wife, Mrs. Janet Johnson, daughter, Mrs. Karen Wooten, and son Brian Johnson.

**Financial, Budget, & Executive Director's Reports**

Mr. Stephens presented the year end financials as of May 31, 2018. The State Aviation Fund received an additional \$491,092.62 from aircraft fuel sales, bringing the annual State Aviation Fund FY17-18 fuel sales tax revenue to \$2,085,500.44. This amount along with the \$500,000 general fund recurring appropriation and \$2,317,212.51 Airline Property Tax revenue, plus a refund of prior year expense/insurance claims of \$273,268.68 brought the total State Aviation Fund annual revenue to \$5,175,981.64. These revenues brought the available cash balance for the year to \$10,250,216.83, and after considering remaining budget line items and prior expenditures, left \$995,269.57 available for grants and projects.

Mr. Stephens then presented the FY 2018-2019 financials as of June, 2018, showing an estimated beginning balance of the State Aviation Fund of \$5, 8000,000, estimated fuel sales tax of \$2,000,000, the general recurring appropriation of \$500,000, and an Airline Property Tax of \$2,200,000 thus showing a total estimated revenue of \$10,500,000 minus prior year commitments of \$5,100,000, leaving an anticipated budget of \$5,400,000. With estimated project cost of \$2,080,000, \$3,320,000 is estimated to be available for approved grants.

Mr. Stephens gave the Executive Director's Report which outlined the events that he had attended through the past several months. In addition informed the Commission that the agency will be undergoing a Senate Oversight report

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that will be presented to the Senate Transportation Committee upon completion. Mr. Stephens reported that he has attended meetings for the upcoming 2018 Aviation Week (August 19-25).

**Airport Development**

Mr. Siegfried presented the Airport Development report that showed the Aeronautics ramp rehabilitation was nearly complete. In addition, Mr. Siegfried has been working on the SC Fire Academy ARFF grant application along with several CIP programs. Airport Development continues to oversee maintenance programs for airports across South Carolina.

**District Reports**

**Commissioner Francis** – Gave a brief introduction and reported that he will be out visiting the airports in his district in the upcoming months.

**Commissioner Coward** – No Report.

**Commissioner Cooper** – Gave a report on the Anderson Air Show in May. Attendance was down due to the inclement weather. Continues to work with officials on the McCormick County airport.

**Commissioner Simpson** – No Report.

**Commissioner Barnes** – Visited Fairfield, Chester and Lee county airports.

**Commissioner Cavazzoni** – Gave a brief introduction and looks forward to serving the Commission.


**Commissioner Bethea** – Gave a report of the Myrtle Beach Airshow in May. Had great attendance and participation.

**New/Other Business**

**Chairman Gantt** welcomed two new Commissioners to the Aeronautics Commission. Mr. Devon A. “Al” Frances of District 1 and Mr. Marco Cavazzoni of District 6.

**Adjournment**

There being no further business; **Chairman Gantt** moved the meeting be adjourned, **Commissioner Cooper** seconded, and all approved.

  
Dolphin A. Gantt, Jr.  
Commission Chairman

  
Ericka D. Thomas  
Commission Secretary

  
Ira E. Coward  
Commission Vice-Chairman

8/24/2018 Date

*Aeronautics Seal*