

## MINUTES

### SOUTH CAROLINA AERONAUTICS COMMISSION

2553 Airport Blvd.

West Columbia, South Carolina 29170

January 23, 2020

#### Commission Members in Attendance

Delphin A. Gantt, Jr., Chairman

David Anderson, District 2

Skeets Cooper, District 3

Doug Barnes, District 5

Chris Bethea, District 7

#### Aeronautics Staff in Attendance

James Stephens, Executive Director

Ericka Thomas, Commission Secretary

Melody Mikell, Finance Director

Gary Siegfried, Program Manager

#### Visitors

Bud Coward, Commissioner of Emeritus

Tawni Major, Allendale County Airport

Betty Baker, Allendale County Airport

Lara Kaufmann, Greenville Downtown Airport

John Hodge, John Adams Hodge & Associates, LLC

#### Absent Commission Members

District 1, Vacant

District 4, Vacant

District 6, Marco Cavazzoni

#### Welcome & Call to Order

Chairman Gantt called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m., welcomed everyone, announced a quorum in attendance, and Commissioner Barnes gave the invocation.

#### Approval of Minutes

Chairman Gantt presented the minutes of the October 17, 2019 Commission meeting and asked if anyone had any edits or corrections. Since none were forthcoming, the minutes were approved as written.

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

Director Stephens presented the Operating and State Aviation Fund financials as of December 31, 2019 and reported that the State Aviation Fund's beginning balance of FY19-20 was \$6,876,093.19 and had received \$1,640,733.98 to date from aircraft fuel sales taxes. This amount along with the \$500,000 general fund recurring appropriation, a refund of prior year expense/insurance claims of \$94,786.29, \$1,000,000 allocated for projects, and \$2,333,484.50 brought the year to date total for the State Aviation Fund revenue to \$12,445,097.96. Stephens also reported that after all Commitments were considered, \$3,357,858.19 remained available for new grants.

Mr. Stephens gave the Executive Director's Report that outlined the events that have taken place over the past month. A summary of these items includes attending the Horry Georgetown Technical College advisory board meeting, meetings with Senate staff to discuss the supplemental appropriation, and meetings with the House Ways and Means for upcoming budget request.

In addition to Mr. Stephens report, he presented the Commission with the following grant request.

- A SCAC budget amendment for aviation education. It was proposed to move \$100,000 from uncommitted funds to the aviation education fund making the total budget available for educational grants to \$250,000.
- South Carolina Aviation Association (SCAA). This grant is for (A) Palmetto Aviation Quarterly Newsletter, (B) SC Aviation Safety Council, (C) SC Aviation Hall of Fame, (D) Aviation Week, (E) Airport Promotion Video, and (F) NASAO. Amount Requested is \$82,550.
- Lowcountry Aviation Association. This grant is for mobile virtual reality flight simulators and an instructional flight training days provided by the organization. Amount Requested is \$27,886.

With the information on the above grants being submitted for Commission approval. Commissioner Cooper made a Motion to approve the funding and Commissioner Bethea seconded, and after discussion, all were approved.

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#### Airport Development

Mr. Siegfried presented the Airport Development report to the Commission that included meetings with the Anderson Regional Airport on the progress of the new terminal, the Part 139 Airport Directors, and the Lexington County Planning staff regarding the White Plains airport. He reported that the UAV team has performed flights and at the Holly Hill and the Lancaster airports, and has supported FAA UAS research with a “leaf off” survey at the McCormick County Airport.

Mr. Siegfried also presented to the Commission the draft of the new SCAC Airport Development Policies and Procedures Guide. This will guide airports on the specifics for funding, maintenance, capital improvements and associated SCAC procedures. After discussions with the Commission, there were several additions. After further discussion, Commissioner Barnes moved to approve the document, and was seconded by Commissioner Cooper. After final discussions, the document was approved unanimously.

#### *Grants for Consideration*

*Allendale County Airport (AQX)* – Security Cameras for Hangar Areas. The south side of the hangar area has limited visibility and no camera coverage from other security cameras. Adding security cameras in this area will allow airport management to monitor activities. Amount requested is \$7,600

*Darlington County Airport (UDG)* – Terminal Parking Lot Rehabilitation. The terminal parking lot is in poor condition and is showing age and load related distress. During the runway reconstruction project, the parking lot received additional damage from construction vehicles. The FAA will not participate because they do not allow discretionary funds to be used on public parking lots. Darlington County is requesting SCAC assistance with a 60/40 capital improvement grant. Amount requested is \$18,000.

*Dillon County Airport (DLC)* – Terminal Building Dillon County intends to purchase a pre-fab building to be used as a terminal at the Dillon County Airport. The Airport is expected to receive a USDA grant to provide 55% of the cost and is requesting SCAC to participate in the remaining cost at 80/20. Amount requested is \$28,800.

*Jim Hamilton – L.B. Owens Airport (CUB)* – Paint apron lighting poles. Richland County is requesting a 75/25 maintenance grant to assist with the painting of elevated apron lighting poles at the Jim Hamilton – L.B. Owens Airport. Painting these lights will extend their life. Amount requested is \$22,350.

Total amount of all grants requested is \$76,750

Mr. Siegfried presented the Commission with information on the grants for Commission approval. The Commission approved the Allendale County, Darlington County, and the Jim Hamilton/L.B. Owens grants as written for the amount of \$47,950. The Commission did not approve the grant requested by the Dillon County Airport in the amount of \$28,800. Commissioner Cooper made a motion to approve the above decisions for the airport projects, and Commissioner Barnes seconded, and after discussion, all were approved.

#### District Reports

*Commissioner Anderson* – No Report.

*Commissioner Cooper* – Reported that the new Anderson terminal building is slowly being completed due to contractor situations. The McCormick County airport is in the process of considering the purchase of additional property around the airport and is continuously making improvements, and the new Newberry terminal is a tremendous asset to the airport.

*Commissioner Barnes* – Reported that the LKR Airport is making some changes in the structure of the Airport Commission, and that oversight in the future will most likely come from a County Council Committee.

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*Commissioner Bethea* – Attended the December 18, 2019 ribbon cutting at the Darlington County Airport opening the new runway and expressed his concern for the Dillion County Airport and their lack of direction related to planned improvements.


**New and Other Business**

The Commission welcomed John Hodge of John Adams Hodge & Associates, LLC to the meeting. Mr. Hodge discussed land use section of Title 55 and the process needed for the creation of regulation for airport development grant and land-use programs. With this discussion, Mr. Hodge went through the process and time it will take for these regulations to be made.


**Adjournment**

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


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Delphin Gantt, Jr.  
Commission Chairman



Doug Barnes  
Commission Vice-Chairman



Ericka Thomas  
Commission Secretary

April 9, 2020  
Date