

# MINUTES

## SOUTH CAROLINA AERONAUTICS COMMISSION

Teleconference

June 18, 2020

### Commission Members in Attendance

Delphin A. Gantt, Jr., Chairman  
David Anderson, District 2  
Skeets Cooper, District 3  
Lara Kaufmann, 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  
David Smith, Airport Planner  
Tim Truemper, Chief Pilot

### Absent Commission Members

District 1, Vacant

### Visitors

Bud Coward, Commissioner of Emeritus  
Terry Connorton, Spartanburg Dwtm Airport/Simpson Field  
Steve Gould, Rock Hill/York Co. Airport  
John Hodge, Attorney

Ken Holt, Holt Consulting  
Ret. General Mitch Mitchel  
Jordan Seidhom  
Rick Shideler

### Welcome & Call to Order

Chairman Gantt called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m., welcomed everyone, announced a quorum in attendance, and Commissioner Cavazzoni gave the invocation. This meeting was held via Zoom due to COVID 19 restrictions.

### Approval of Minutes

Chairman Gantt presented the minutes of the April 23, 2020. Commission meetings 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

Mr. Stephens presented the Operating and State Aviation Fund financials as of May 31, 2020 and reported that the operational expenses and income were tracking normally toward the fiscal year end. He also reported that the State Aviation Fund's beginning balance of FY19-20 was \$6,876,093.19 and had received \$2,651,263.99 to date from aircraft fuel sales taxes and \$2,621,363.08 from airline property taxes. These amounts along with the \$500,000 general fund recurring appropriation, a refund of prior year expense/insurance claims of \$94,786.29, and \$1,000,000 allocation for projects brought the year to date total for the State Aviation Fund revenue to \$13,743,506.55. Stephens also reported that after all commitments and encumbrances were considered, \$3,620,682.73 remained uncommitted and would set the airport development programs going into the new fiscal year.

Mr. Stephens presented the proposed State Aviation Fund budget for FY 2020-2021. The State Aviation Fund will have an anticipated \$10,269,549.84 beginning balance with projected revenues of \$1,800,000 from fuel taxes, a general fund recurring appropriation of \$500,000, and an estimated airline property tax of \$2,200,000. The prior year commitments of -\$5,539,147.84 with the projected revenues, leaves a projected \$9,230,402 for state grant and aid programs. Stephens then presented the proposed Maintenance Program of \$1,250,000 and Support Program level of \$1,050,000. Commissioner Barnes made the Motion to approve the proposed FY 2020-2021 budget as presented, Commissioner Bethea seconded, and after discussions, all approved.

Mr. Stephens gave the Executive Director's Report that outlined the events that have taken place since the April 23<sup>rd</sup> Commission Meeting. Mr. Stephens has continued to participate in the CARES Act airport teleconferences hosted by the South Carolina Aviation Association and with Commissioner Kaufmann participated in the NATA teleconference which discussed the funding needs for the GA airports. Both teleconferences will be topics for the upcoming NASAO virtual conference. In addition, during the past several months, meetings have taken place with the Columbia Metropolitan Airport on the SCAC lease, and also with Lexington County with regards to the status of the Whiteplains airport. Mr. Stephens stated that the budget process will begin again in September for the upcoming fiscal year, and that starting July 1, 2020, the state will be operating under a continuing resolution.

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#### Airport Development

Mr. Siegfried presented the Airport Development report to the Commission stating that airport safety inspections have resumed in the past several months and have taken place in Holly Hill, Williamsburg Regional, and Greenwood. Maintenance projects are ongoing in Chester-Catawba, Hampton, and Florence, and upcoming projects in Jasper County. In addition, Airport Development is continuing to use the CLUE Tool to analyze cases for the purpose of land use.

#### Grants for Consideration

##### **Rock Hill-York County Airport (UZA) – Terminal Building Expansion**

The Rock Hill-York County Airport has opened bids to expand their terminal building. The expansion will add approximately 1,211 square feet on two separate levels. One level will provide additional seating for airport users, and the other level will add a flight planning room and director's office.

Amount requested is \$175,844

##### **Barnwell County Airport (BNL) – Taxilane Apron Rehabilitation**

The Barnwell County Airport is reconstructing taxilanes around existing hangars south of the terminal building. The FAA has determined that a portion of the rehabilitation is not eligible for FAA funding because it is in an area that aircraft will not be taxiing. The ineligible portion still provides value to airport users because it provides automobile access and supports drainage in the hangar area. The airport has requested SCAC support using the 60/40 program.

Amount requested is \$68,017

##### **Greenville Downtown Airport (GMU) – Security Cameras and Slope Repair**

At our last meeting the Greenville Downtown Airport requested funding assistance to install nine (9) security cameras at all electronic gates to enhance airport security. After that time, the airport had a security issue where a delivery driver obtained access to the airfield. GMU is requesting a grant amendment to the Security Cameras project (60/40 program) to relocate a portion of perimeter fence and electronic gate which prevent future access by unauthorized individuals.

Amount requested is \$8,781

**Total amount of all grants requested is \$252,642**

Mr. Siegfried presented the Commission with information on the grants for Commission approval. Commissioner Kaufmann abstained on the Greenville Downtown Airport vote, however, the majority vote prevailed. Commissioner Cavazzoni made a motion to approve the above decisions for the airport projects, and Commissioner Barnes seconded, and after discussion, all were approved.

#### Flight Department Report

Tim Truemper reported that due to COVID-19, only two flights had been made since March other than a Maintenance flight and an Airport Development flight. He went on to report that he had created cleaning/disinfecting procedures that had been emailed out to agencies that normally utilize the aircrafts for travel. He also reported that the Flight Department pilots were working on the creation of a Safety Management System (SMS) for flight the development of additional safety decision making related to future flights.

#### District Reports

*Commissioner Anderson* – Reported that on May 15<sup>th</sup> he attended the Barnwell Airport Commission meeting and met Mr. Don Harper, County Councilman, then proceeded to state that Mr. Harper is a great advocate for the airport. Throughout the meeting, there was optimism that general aviation would return post COVID 19.

*Commissioner Cooper* – Reported that the Anderson Regional Airport has a new Airport Manager, Brett Garrison. The Anderson Regional Airport is in the process of rejuvenating, and striping their secondary RWY, however, the RWY will be changing from 150' wide to 100' wide. The McCormick County airport is still in the process of removing trees and has had an entity contact them for a possible business to locate at the airport. The Oconee County airport has begun construction on moving a road and extending the apron.

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*Commissioner Kaufmann* – Reported that she had attended the Pilots Association meeting at the Spartanburg Downtown Airport, and that the Greenville Downtown Airport will be refurbishing their EMAS and putting in a new EMAS on the opposite end which is being funded by the CARES Act. In addition, the Greenville Downtown Airport participated in a wind study and may possibly be receiving FAA funding for their secondary runway repairs.

*Vice- Chairman Barnes* – Reported that the Lancaster Airport has undergone changes from an Airport Commission to an Airport Advisory Committee. It was also reported that the Chester County Airport sadly had a skydiving fatality over the past month. Lastly, Steve Gould thanked the Commission on the grant approval for the Rock Hill/York County Airport terminal expansion.

*Commissioner Cavazzoni* – Reported that the Allendale County Airport is compiling information together on improvements that need to be accomplished. Their priority is the installation of a generator at the Airport which would allow the airport to continue service during power outages. It was also reported that the LowCountry Regional Airport is slowly undergoing reconstruction from the tornado that came through several months ago.

*Commissioner Bethea* – Welcomed the attendance of Ret. General Mitchell to the Commission meeting. It was reported that the Dillon County Airport has received continuous promotion through county political election notices. In addition, due to COVID 19 there has been concern of people coming through Myrtle Beach International who were not tested. Through information obtained from DHEC, there were guidelines set for these issues.

**Upcoming Events**

- Aviation Week – August 15-22, 2020
- Next Meeting Date – August 20, 2020. Location to be announced.

**Executive Session**

The Aeronautics Commission met in Executive Session to discuss legal matters. Upon their return to the open meeting, a motion was made by Commissioner Gantt to have the Executive Director draft a letter indicating the private airport near the Pageland Airport is not compliance with state law, and that until further research and coordination with Pageland airport sponsor and county can be conducted for safety purposes, a final decision cannot be made. His motion was seconded by Commissioner Bethea. After no further discussion, all approved.

**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

August 20, 2020  
Date