

MINUTES
SOUTH CAROLINA AERONAUTICS COMMISSION
2553 Airport Blvd
West Columbia, South Carolina 29170
October 15, 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

Aeronautics Staff in Attendance

James Stephens, Executive Director
Ericka Thomas, Commission Secretary
Melody Mikell, Finance Director
Gary Siegfried, Program Manager
Tim Truemper, Chief Pilot
Chris Giles, Pilot

Absent Commission Members

District 1, Vacant
District 7, Vacant

Visitors

Bud Coward, Commissioner Emeritus
John Hodge, Attorney
Katie Koon, SCAA
Melanie Friscoe, SCAA
John Hutchinson – Williamsburg County

Rick Shideler
Jason Siedhom
Robert Carew
Carlos Salinas, Pickens County

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 Cooper gave the invocation. Chairman Gantt recognized SC Aviation Hall of Fame's Charles Bolden for his receipt of the 2020 Wright Brothers Memorial Trophy given by the National Aeronautic Association and stated how Major General Bolden had taken his first flight at CUB. Chairman Gantt also recognized attorney John Hodge for his service and recent retirement at American Airlines.

Due to COVID 19 restrictions there was a limited amount of people attending, and public access was available via Zoom.

Approval of Minutes

Chairman Gantt presented the minutes of the August 20, 2020 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

Mr. Stephens presented the financials of the Operating and State Aviation Fund as of September 30, 2020. The State Aviation Fund was reported to have a beginning balance of \$9,509,305.15. This balance along with fuel sales tax revenues of \$414,936.24 a general fund recurring appropriation of \$500,000, and a refund of prior year expense & insurance claims of \$22,785.67 brought total revenue to \$10,447,027.06. After considering budgeted/committed items of \$7,367,681.83, the remaining \$3,079,345.23 is available for new grants in the current fiscal year.

Mr. Stephens gave the Executive Director's Report which outlined the events that have taken place over the past several months. He stated that the budget presentations to the Executive Budget office had been made, and that the House and Senate would be in January or February. He went on to report that he had participated in meetings with the National Air Transportation Association, Horry Georgetown Technical College, and many others. Mr. Stephens also stated that he had been selected as the secretary for NASAO and will be part of that Executive team for the next four years. Stephens went on to discuss his participation in the GMU Runway Safety Action Team meeting which was held to discuss runway operations and incursions. Commissioner Kaufmann stated that runway safety ought to be something that we communicate to all airports as we are able.

Mr. Stephens then discussed Senate bill 1048 which was recently signed into law by the Governor, and that now Commissioners if elected would be allowed to serve a second consecutive term. Mr. Stephens encouraged the

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Commissioners whose terms will be ending in 2021, to begin having discussions with their legislative districts on the process.

Airport Development

Mr. Siegfried presented the Airport Development report and the Grant for Consideration to the Commission. The Airport Development team continues to provide safety inspections and UAS imagery services to requested airports. As Airport Development continues their services the redesign of the SCAC website has begun with meetings with the staff to determine the necessary information and design that will be essential as well as functional for the public to gain information.

Grants for Consideration

Pickens County Airport – Land Acquisition for Crossfield Apron/Taxiway Development (4.9 Acres)

The Pickens County Airport has acquired land across the airfield from the terminal building for the purpose of developing a new aircraft apron area. The FAA has issued a 90/10 reimbursement grant to assist with this land purchased. The Airport is requesting that SCAC issue a 5% grant providing State match to assist with the local share.

Amount of grant funding requested is \$45,177

Commissioner Barnes made a motion to approve the above grant as written, and Commissioner Cooper seconded, and after no discussion, the grant was approved.

Flight Department Report

Tim Truemper reported that flights are beginning to be scheduled and calls are starting to come in for information. 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 He and staff had attended an insurance webinar discussing possible increases in the upcoming year.

District Reports

Commissioner Anderson – Reported that he had visited with Mayor Shumpert of Pelion who was enthusiastic about the future of the airport. Announced that the Barnwell Regional Airport has a new interim airport manager, Brandon Chavis, and stated that Mr. Chavis is receiving good reviews from the people associated with the airport. Lastly, it was reported that the Aiken Regional Airport's lease has been executed by the Aiken County Council.

Commissioner Cooper – Reported that he had visited all the airports in District Three. The Oconee County Airport's new apron is underway, and the McCormick County Airport is installing additional lights for security. Announced that the Anderson Regional terminal building has been completed and is awaiting the Grand Opening. In addition, he stated that the Edgefield County Airport currently has 25 based aircraft with all 28 hangars being full. Commissioner Cooper requested that all keep the Garrison Family in their thoughts and prayers due to the passing of Mr. Reid Garrison in October 2020. Mr. Garrison was the father of Jeff and Brett Garrison, the airport managers of the Anderson Regional Airport and the Oconee County Airport.

Commissioner Kaufmann – Reported that the National Air Transportation Association visited the Greenville Downtown Airport. She also mentioned the LAANC (Low Altitude Authorization and Notification Capability) which was provided by the FAA for drone pilots to receive authorization of flights in certain airspace.

Vice- Chairman Barnes – Reported that a Lancaster development project which was previously thought to affect the airport, will not. He discussed how several airports in the district were not abiding by certain aspects of their inspections and asked if there could be a provision added to the grant approval process that provided for repercussions if airport inspection findings were not resolved within a determined period.

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Commissioner Cavazzoni – Reported that the LowCountry Regional Airport is still recovering from the tornado that hit the airport in April. There will be rebuilding of t-hangars, however, at this time there is not a plan to rebuild the WWII hangar.

Upcoming Events – Possible Next Meeting Date: December 17, 2020.

Executive Session


The Aeronautics Commission met in Executive Session to discuss legal matters.

Other Business

Chairman Gantt made a motion to approve the operations of a private airport within 3 nautical miles of the Pageland Airport and was seconded by Commissioner Cooper. No discussion was had, and a vote was called. All present voted “NO”, and the approval failed.

Adjournment

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



Delphin A. Gantt, Jr.
Commission Chairman



Doug Barnes
Commission Vice- Chairman



Ericka Thomas
Commission Secretary

1/21/21

Date