

MINUTES
SOUTH CAROLINA AERONAUTICS COMMISSION
Virtual Meeting
January 21, 2021

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

Absent Commission Members

District 1, Vacant

Visitors

Bud Coward, Commissioner Emeritus
John Hodge, Attorney

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. Due to COVID 19 restrictions this meeting was held via Zoom.

Financial, Budget, & Executive Director's Reports

Mr. Stephens presented the financials of the Operating and State Aviation Fund as of December 31, 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 \$1,279,378.52, a deposit of \$2,011,256.96 from airline property taxes, 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 \$13,322,726.30. After considering budgeted/committed items of \$7,391,661.67, the remaining \$5,931,064.63 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 since the last Commission meeting. Mr. Stephens presented the 2021-2022 budget request to the House Ways & Means on January 19, 2021. In addition, Mr. Stephens has been involved with NASAO's Board of Director's meeting and participated in the Columbia City Council meeting supporting land use around the Jim Hamilton - L.B Owens Airport.

During Mr. Stephens report, information was given on the new FOD Razor that is being used at the Greenville Downtown Airport (GMU). Mr. Stephens attended a demonstration at GMU and recommended the FOD Razor be included in the grant program. Mr. Stephens then stated that the new program could offer each publicly owned, public use airport a grant up to \$4,000 each for general aviation airports and \$8,000 each for commercial service airports that would assist with each airport's purchase of a FOD sweeper. After discussion among the Commission, Commissioner Kauffman made a motion to approve the program with the understanding that staff would develop guidelines in which each airport could request funding for the FOD sweeper. The motion also stated that staff would develop a method to evaluate the use of the product after the fact and that if unused, the equipment could be taken back by the Commission for placement at another airport. Commissioner Barnes seconded the motion, and all approved.

Airport Development

Mr. Siegfried presented the Airport Development report and the Grants for Consideration to the Commission. The Airport Development team continues to work on maintenance programs (i.e. electrical, pavement, and vegetation management programs), AWOS management, GIS programs with the CLUE Tool, and review and coordination of the 2021 aeronautical charts and airport directories for printing.

Grants for Consideration

Saluda County Airport – Terminal Building Upgrades

The Saluda County Airport is planning to remodel a portion of their existing terminal facilities to convert storage space into a conference room. This will give the airport space to conduct meetings, which they do not currently

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have. The project includes a 14' x 20' conference room, ADA access, window, cabinets and countertops, HVAC modifications, and fits and finishes. The Airport is requesting that SCAC issue an 80/20 State/Local grant to assist with this task.

Amount of grant funding requested is \$8,000

Marlboro County Airport – Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan Update

The Marlboro County Airport seeks to update their Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan as required by South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control. The Airport is requesting that SCAC issue a 60/40 State/Local grant to assist with this task.

Amount of grant funding requested is \$6,342

Oconee County Regional – Emergency Asphalt Repair

The main runway (07/25) needs an emergency repair to the asphalt. The repair will consist of patches at both ends of the runway just beyond the 1,000' mark as well as a third patch at the intersection of A4. The areas to be repaired are approximately 2,100 square feet in total. This repair is needed due to weather deterioration and heavy aircraft use.

Amount of grant funding requested is \$18,900

Commissioner Cooper made a motion to approve the above requests as written. Commissioner Barnes seconded, and after no discussion, the grants were approved unanimously.

Flight Department Report

Mr. Stephens gave the flight department report stating that COVID measures are still in effect. Over the past several weeks scheduling has begun to increase with over four flights in the past week.

District Reports

Commissioner Anderson – Reported that he has met with Mayor Shumpert of Pelion and plans to continuously improve the Lexington County Airport are in the works by the County. Commissioner Anderson has also attended the Aiken Airport Commission meeting which unfortunately did not have a quorum and could not vote on any business. In conclusion, all were invited to Perry International Airport (Perry, SC) during the Region 5 Glider contest in April.

Commissioner Cooper – Reported that all the airports in District Three are doing well and moving forward with operations, although some still have restrictions on public access to terminals. Has been working with his delegation on the introduction of multiple pieces of legislation for the State Aviation Fund.

Commissioner Kaufmann – Reported that GSP is beginning to add flights back into air travel, and that they have reported rising cargo activity over the last year.

Vice- Chairman Barnes – Reported that the Lancaster Airport Commission is currently meeting with airports on new general aviation terminal options.

Commissioner Cavazzoni – Reported that the Lowcountry Regional Airport is researching what the length of the main runway would need to be for cargo aircraft.


Commissioner Bethea - Thanked everyone for welcoming him back on the Commission and stated that he is looking forward to getting back into the Commission involvement on promoting general aviation in the state.

Upcoming Events – SCAA Annual Conference, February 24 – 26, 2021
Next Meeting Date: March 18, 2021

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Adjournment

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



Doug Barnes
Commission Vice-Chairman



Ericka Thomas
Commission Secretary

March 18, 2021
Date