

**MINUTES**  
**SOUTH CAROLINA AERONAUTICS COMMISSION**  
**March 18, 2021**

**Commission Members in Attendance**

Delphin A. Gantt, Jr., Chairman  
Skeets Cooper, District 3  
Lara Kaufmann, District 4  
Doug Barnes, District 5  
Marco Cavazzoni, District 6  
Chris Bethea, District 7

**Visitors**

Amanda Hill, MaesAwyrr, LLC  
Bud Coward, Commissioner Emeritus  
Dobie Hiers, Hampton County Airport Manager  
Katie Koon, SC Aviation Association  
Rose Dobson Elliott, Hampton County Administrator  
Terry Connorton, SCAA President/Spartanburg Downtown Airport  
Olha Karikh, CM, MaesAwyrr, LLC  
Wayne Corley, PE, MaesAwyrr, LLC

**Welcome & Call to Order**

Vice Chairman Barnes called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m., welcomed everyone, announced a quorum in attendance, and Commissioner Bethea gave the invocation. Due to COVID 19 restrictions this meeting was held via Zoom.

**Approval of Minutes**

Vice Chairman Barnes presented the minutes of the January 21, 2021. 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 February 28, 2021. 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 \$1,725,495.91, a deposit of \$2,877,321.66 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 \$14,634,908.39. After considering budgeted/committed items of \$7,668,989.81, the remaining \$6,965,918.58 is available for new grants.

Mr. Stephens noted that a large reason that the State Aviation Fund balance is as high as it is was due to CARES Act funding last year which provided 100 percent Federal Grants meaning that no State match was required from the Aviation Fund. Mr. Stephens further noted that Congress just passed another stimulus bill which will once again provide 100 percent Federal Grants for the current federal fiscal year and stated that this should provide the State Aviation Fund with stability as we move into the upcoming fiscal year.

Mr. Stephens gave further details on the remaining uncommitted funds presented above, and the capital investing of 60/40 or 80/20. Mr. Stephens commended the Hampton County airport on receiving one of the largest grants that the Commission has given, and the county has shown that they are locally committed to the project. With the future in mind, and what is the best investment on all levels that are positive to aviation.

At this point, the State Aviation Fund is cash positive. Considering the current financial standing and considering the two State Bills that are currently working through the legislative process, it is important for the Aeronautics Commission to give consideration to what types of projects State funds are being committed and which airports are receiving funding. As we move forward it will be important to also provide some type of funding program to the commercial service airports.

**Aeronautics Staff in Attendance**

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

**Absent Commission Members**

District 1, Vacant  
David Anderson, District 2

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In regards to the ongoing efforts to encourage support of the two bills, Mr. Stephens noted that there has been hesitancy among some of the commercial service airports to provide funding for this effort without a commitment from the State that commercial service airports would receive future funding. Mr. Stephens then requested that he be allowed to write a letter of intent to the commercial airports stating that, although the funding levels are not known at this time, the Aeronautics Commission intends to develop a funding program that will allow commercial airports to obtain assistance from the State Aviation Fund. After discussions, the Commission approved unanimously to proceed with the letter.

Mr. Stephens presented the March Director's Report with information on the ongoing budget request and the discussion of H.3706 and S.360. The two bills have been discussed by the legislature, and now, a new bill (S.675) adds verbiage that includes funding for airports to counties without airports who have a desire to develop an airport.

In addition to these two bills, two sponsors have introduced S.0647 which states that owning aircraft is not the core function of the state.

Mr. Stephens presented a request from the South Carolina Aviation Association for their annual grant for \$54,550 to include quarterly newsletters, safety committee, Hall of Fame, Aviation Week, and a promotional video. Commissioner Cooper made a motion to approve the above requests. Commissioner Kaufman, seconded, and after no discussion, the grants were approved unanimously.

**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, AWOS management, and GIS programs with the CLUE Tool. During recent meeting concerning the CLUE Tool and the possibility of migrating the tool over to the ArcGIS platform it was discovered that for the public to access the information a specific login would be needed. At this time the ArcGIS platform is unable to accommodate this move, therefore, the CLUE Tool will remain on its own server.

**Grants for Consideration**

**Berkeley County Airport – Replace Beacon**

The beacon at the Berkeley County Airport requires maintenance and due to its age, replacement is the recommended option. The airport is requesting that SCAC issue a 60/40 capital grant to assist with the beacon replacement and a 75/25 maintenance grant to assist with repainting the tower.

Cost breakdown is:

Replace beacon - \$17,950 (\$10,770 SCAC/\$7,180 Local)

Repaint beacon tower - \$18,150 (\$13,613 SCAC/\$4,537 Local)

Amount of grant funding requested is \$24,383

**Hartsville Regional Airport**

The Hartsville Regional Airport is in the midst of a new terminal building project. Due to budget constraints at the time of bidding, the project did not include parking, fencing, landscaping and security cameras. The airport is now ready to move forward with these items and is requesting a 60/40 capital grant to help with the costs.

Amount of grant funding requested is \$56,573

**Rock Hill-York County Airport**

The Rock Hill-York County Airport is requesting assistance with the replacement of the airport's remote transmitter receiver (RTR). The current RTR is inoperable because of defective telecommunication interface components that are no longer available or repairable. The airport will replace the RTR with a ground communications outlet (GCO) which will serve the same purpose as the RTR but costs much less to purchase.

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Amount of grant funding requested is \$6,477

**Allendale County Airport – Grant Amendment**

The Allendale County Airport has an ongoing project to perform drainage improvements. The airport has received a grant amendment from the FAA to cover construction costs and is requesting an amendment to the SCAC grant to match the FAA amendment.

Amount of additional grant funding requested is \$1,838

**Hampton County Airport – Grant Amendment**

The Hampton County Airport has an ongoing project to construct a parallel taxiway and hangar sites. The airport is requesting a grant amendment to assist with project cost overruns. The cost overruns are summarized below.

- Earthwork – Higher than anticipated shrinkage combined with unsuitable soils caused earthwork quantities to be higher than anticipated.
- Water main – alignment of the existing water main required that a portion of it be reconstructed where it crosses beneath the taxiway
- Silt fence – The designer inadvertently omitted some silt fence from the project quantities.

Amount of additional grant funding requested is \$74,408

**Total amount requested for all new grants and grant amendments is \$163,679.**

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

**Flight Department Report**

Mr. Truemper gave the flight department report stating that flight numbers are improving.

**District Reports**

*Commissioner Cooper* – Reported that the Anderson Regional Airport is preparing for their new terminal open house and that fuel sales are rising from 2020. In addition, he stated that he continues to have talks with his legislative delegation about the State Aviation Fund bills (H.3706, S.360, and S.675).

*Commissioner Kaufmann* – Reported on several possible funding needs of the airports. The first being a federal bill (TIA 1558) which involves fueling systems compliance to NFPA standards. TIA 1558 requires changes to automatic shut-off on fuel systems and would be a costly expense to the airports. Secondly, the move to upgrade the lighting systems to LED is a costly expense to airports.

*Vice- Chairman Barnes* – Reported that he has been reappointed by District Five to serve a second term.

*Commissioner Cavazzoni* – No Report.

*Commissioner Bethea* – Reported on the Georgetown Airport and the large economic impact that will be taking place at the airport. Over the next several years, it is reported that a new technology company will be constructing two 30,000 sq' hangars, employing over 40 specialized employees, and will be doubling fuel sales. Secondly, the Florence Regional Airport received CARES Act funds that they are using to make upgrades to the airport. Thirdly, a meeting will be taking place with the new Dillion County Administrator, Clay Young, to discuss the future of the Dillion County Airport.

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**Upcoming Events** – Senate Finance Budget Presentation  
Next Meeting Date: May 20, 2021

**Adjournment**

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

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**Doug Barnes**  
**Commission Vice-Chairman**



**Ericka Thomas**  
**Commission Secretary**

May 20, 2021  
Date