

MINUTES

SOUTH CAROLINA AERONAUTICS COMMISSION

May 20, 2021

Commission Members in Attendance

Delphin A. Gantt, Jr., Chairman
Anne Esposito, District 1
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
Gary Siegfried, Program Manager
Melody Mikell, Finance Director
Tim Truemper, Chief Pilot

Absent Commission Members

David Anderson, District 2

Visitors

Amanda Hill, MaesAwyr, LLC
Bud Coward, Commissioner Emeritus
Terry Connorton, SCAA President/Spartanburg Downtown Airport
James Taylor
Katie Koon, SC Aviation Association
Olha Karikh, CM, MaesAwyr, LLC
Wayne Corley, PE, MaesAwyr, 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 Cooper gave the invocation.

Approval of Minutes

Vice Chairman Barnes presented the minutes of the March 18, 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 April 30, 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 \$2,470,625.12, 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 \$15,380,037.60. After considering budgeted/committed items of \$7,828,286.44 the remaining \$7,551,751.16 is available for new commitments.

Mr. Stephens presented the May Director's Report which included information on the recent passing of S.675 (State Aviation Fund) and S.647 (State Owned Aircraft). Stephens reported that S.675 had been signed into law by the Governor, and that S.647 resulted in the Governor requesting an aircraft study to be completed by the Department of Administration with help from Aeronautics. He also reported that during recent months, he has met with Commissioner Bethea, Airport Development staff, and staff at Dillon County to discuss next steps related to their airport improvement needs. Along with Dillon County, Director Stephens also reported that he had met with Cherokee County leaders to discuss their desires for an airport to be developed in their county. Stephens reported that there would be more to come from these discussions.

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, GIS programs, and the PCI (Pavement Condition Index) program. In addition, along with the programs being carried out by Airport Development, Siegfried discussed the new statewide FOD sweeper program. Mr. Siegfried also communicated his involvement with assisting Dr. Dan Nale, Professor of Civil & Environmental Engineering at The Citadel, with the Senior Capstone Project on base mapping for airports.

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Grants for Consideration

Georgetown County Airport – Hangar Taxilane Improvements and Hangar Sitework, T-Hangar Taxilane Improvements and T-Hangar Sitework – Design

This grant request is composed of two different work elements. Work element one includes site work for two corporate hangar sites. One hangar site will accommodate an 80' x 80' hangar (Attachment 1), while the other site will accommodate two, 30,000 square foot hangars to be constructed on area adjacent to the closed runway. Work also includes pavement rehabilitation and taxiway lighting.

Work element two includes site work for a 10-unit T-hangar located north of existing T-hangars. The project includes design of the hangar site and associated taxilane access. The T-hangar structure is not for SCAC grants and will be designed and funded by the lessee. *Amount of grant funding requested is \$176,495.*

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

Sumter County Airport – Sumter County Airport is requesting assistance with two improvements in the terminal area. One is the repair of a brick retaining wall on the airside of the terminal building. The retaining wall will be modified to include two step/terraces that will allow access on two sides of the porch. The project will also reinforce the wall.

The other improvement is the replacement of cabinets in the public use kitchen area in the terminal.

Funding for the project will be at 60% State/40% Local. *Amount of grant funding requested is \$24,000.*

Commissioner Cooper made a motion to approve the above request as written. Commissioner Kaufmann seconded, and after some discussion, the grant was approved unanimously.

Beaufort Executive Airport – Beaufort Executive Airport is requesting assistance with installation of an electrical generator and three connection points to provide emergency power to fuel pumps, airfield lighting and a hangar.

Funding for the project will be at 60% State/40% Local. *Amount of grant funding requested is \$58,987.*

Commissioner Kaufmann made a motion to approve the above request as written. Commissioner Bethea seconded. The grant was approved with one abstention from Commissioner Esposito.

Total amount requested for all new grants is \$259,482.

Flight Department Report

Mr. Truemper gave the flight department report stating that flight numbers continue to improve as we come out of COVID, and that the maintenance department would be starting an inspection on N2SC in June. He also mentioned his work on the Flight Department report that Aeronautics is completing with the Department of Administration.

District Reports

Commissioner Esposito – Vice Chairman welcomed Commissioner Esposito to the Commission.

Commissioner Cooper – Thanked Katie Koon and Terry Connorton of SCAA for all the tremendous work on legislation and reported that he has visited numerous airports in his district since the last meeting. During his visits he received the following reports. Anderson Regional Airport reported that fuel sales are up by 3-4 thousand gallons per month over 2019 and airport operations are appearing to be good for 2021. The Laurens County Airport reported that the lighting project had been completed and that they are looking at future terminal improvements. Oconee County Airport reported that their construction project is progressing slowly. McCormick County is currently going through the budget process and is planning to talk with the Savannah Lakes community about promoting the airport. Edgefield County Airport also provided a favorable report.

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Commissioner Kaufmann – Reported that the Donaldson Center is the home of the only F-16 Global Center of Excellence due to Lockheed Martin, that the Greenville Spartanburg International Airport (GSP) has agreed to loan fire trucks to the Greenville and Spartanburg Downtown Airports. In addition, Commissioner Kaufmann reported that GSP's cargo activity is increasing, and the airport will be needing to expand the cargo apron once again.

Vice- Chairman Barnes – Reported that the Lancaster Airport Commission is currently contemplating projects based on research being organized.

Commissioner Cavazzoni – Reported that an incident occurred at the Ridgeland Airport which is currently being investigated.

Commissioner Bethea – Reported that he had talked with the Georgetown County Airport and the Horry County Department of Airports about the construction of additional T-Hangars, and he reported that discussions have also been taking place with Dillion County on the future of the Dillion County Airport.

Other Business

Katie Koon, Executive Director of the South Carolina Aviation Association (SCAA), reported the enthusiasm of the new legislation passed for the financial grant potential in South Carolina's general aviation. Mrs. Koon additionally talked about Aviation Week which is planned for August 15-21, 2021. This year SCAA is requesting that all the general aviation airports in South Carolina participate in the celebration of Aviation Week, but that the association is focusing on a few key events throughout the week.

Terry Connorton, President of the SCAA, presented information on a special event that will be taking place in memorial of 20th anniversary of 9/11. With this memorial, Mr. Connorton will be flying around South Carolina interviewing airport managers on the past, present, and future of aviation, and as these interviews are being held, a team will be creating a documentary for release at the 2022 SCAA Annual Conference. The flight will begin at the Spartanburg Downtown Airport and will conclude at the Greenville Spartanburg International Airport.

Upcoming Events – Next Meeting Date: June 17, 2021

Adjournment

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



Doug Barnes
Commission Vice-Chairman



Ericka Thomas
Commission Secretary

8/17/21

Date