

MINUTES

SOUTH CAROLINA AERONAUTICS COMMISSION

June 17, 2021

Commission Members in Attendance

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

Visitors

Amanda Hill, MaesAwyr, LLC
Betty Baker, Orangeburg Municipal Airport
Brenna Hancock, Hampton County, Grants Coordinator
Bud Coward, Commissioner Emeritus
Terry Connorton, SCAA President/Spartanburg Downtown Airport

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 Barnes gave the invocation.

Financial, Budget, & Executive Director's Reports

Mr. Stephens presented the financials of the State Aviation Fund as of May 31, 2021 and reported a beginning balance of \$9,509,305.15. This balance along with fuel sales tax revenues of \$3,028,270.01, 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 \$15,937,682.49. After considering budgeted/committed items of \$8,087,768.44 the remaining \$7,849,914.05 is available for new grants.

Mr. Stephens presented the proposed State Aviation Fund budget for FY 2021-2022. The State Aviation Fund will have an anticipated \$12,303,568.70 beginning balance with projected revenues of \$2,800,000 from fuel taxes, a general fund recurring appropriation of \$500,000, and an estimated airline property tax of \$1,750,000. The prior year commitments of \$3,174,311.72 with the projected revenues, leaves a total of uncommitted funds of \$14,179,256.98. Stephens then presented the proposed Maintenance Program of \$1,300,000, Support Programs of \$1,306,000, and Commercial Airport Entitlement Programs of \$1,500,000. Commissioner Kauffman made the Motion to approve the proposed FY 2021-2022 budget as presented, Commissioner Cooper seconded, and after discussions, all approved.

Grants for Consideration

Mr. Siegfried presented the Grants for Consideration to the Commission.

Sumter County Airport - Land Acquisition

The Sumter County Airport is requesting a reimbursement grant to assist with acquisition of 22.68 acres of land located adjacent to the west side of the airport. The land is shown on the airport layout plan and is designated for acquisition.

The cost of acquisition including land, closing costs and administrative costs was \$161,959.61. The County purchased this property at a cost of \$7,000 per acre. The County has provided recent comparable land sales in the vicinity of the airport which sold for \$9,900 per acre to \$12,777 per acre. Assistance for land acquisition is at 60% State/40% Local.

Amount of grant funding requested is \$97,176

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Chester-Catawba Regional Airport

The Chester-Catawba Regional Airport is requesting assistance with clearing approximately 20 acres of land in the approaches to Runways 17 and 35.

The cost of this clearing project is estimated at \$75,000. Funding for the project will be at 75% State/25% Local.

Amount of grant funding requested is \$56,000

Ridgeland-Claude Dean Airport

The Ridgeland-Claude Dean Airport is requesting assistance with the repainting of their beacon tower (monopole, tilt-down).

The total cost of this project is \$6,900. Funding for the project will be at 75% State/25% Local.

Amount of grant funding requested is \$5,175

Orangeburg Municipal Airport

The Orangeburg Municipal Airport is requesting assistance with the repainting of their beacon tower (four-leg, fixed).

The total cost of this project is \$19,000. Funding for the project will be at 75% State/25% Local.

Amount of grant funding requested is \$14,000

Hampton County Airport

The Hampton County Airport is requesting assistance with an aeronautical survey (FAA AC 150/5300-18B, General Guidance and Specifications for Submission of Aeronautical Surveys to NGS: Field Data Collection and Geographic Information System).

This information will be used for airspace analysis in support of the ongoing Master Plan and to support development of future instrument approaches.

The cost of this project is estimated to \$62,415. Funding for the project will be at 80% State/20% Local.

Amount of grant funding requested is \$49,932

Celebrate Freedom Foundation

The Celebrate Freedom Foundation is requesting an Education Grant to assist with STEM educational visits at 10 schools throughout South Carolina. The educational visits include their AH-1 Cobra helicopter, drones, careers in aerospace STEM displays and other STEM training aides.

The requested amount of this Education Grant is \$40,000. Funding for the project will be at 100% State.

Amount of grant funding requested is \$40,000

Total amount requested for all new grants is \$262,283

After much discussion on each presented grant, Commissioner Cooper made the motion to exclude the Hampton County Airport and the Celebrate Freedom Foundation grants from the primary approval, Commissioner Barnes seconded, and the remaining grants totaling \$172,351 were approved as written.

The Commission further discussed the Hampton County Airport grant as presented above. After a lengthy discussion, Chairman Gantt made a motion to approve the grant as presented, Commissioner Bethea seconded, and all approved.

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The Commission further discussed the Celebrate Freedom Foundation grant as presented above. After a lengthy discussion, the Commissioner Cooper made the motion to request further clarification and details of how the grant will be used in the promotion of aviation in the state along with the student numbers and geographical locations of the schools, Commissioner Barnes seconded, all approved to postpone the approval until such information is received and discussed.

Airport Development Policies and Procedures

Mr. Siegfried presented the revised Airport Development Policy and Procedures to the Commission. These policies and procedures will be a guideline of how new programs and grants will be reviewed. Gary described the significant policy and procedure changes to the Commission, and lengthy discussions took place. Commissioner Kauffman asked that LED light fixtures be included in eligible maintenance items.

Commissioner Kauffman made the motion to approve the revised Policies and Procedures, which was seconded by Commissioner Cavazzoni. Following additional discussions by the Commission, Commissioner Kauffman amended her original motion to include the approval with the following changes and the exception of funding sequencing within the original document, Commissioner Cavazzoni seconded, all approved with the conditional changes.

These changes will appear in Section 3.3 SCAC Grant Programs and will include a reordering of subsections within the main section, verbiage changes to include State Legislative Guidelines, State Priority Ranking Systems, and the availability of funding. The changes will also specify changes to the commercial service airports and the funding requests which will allow them to receive up to \$250,000 per year. These grants may be used on any eligible project or need that falls in-line with the FAA's revenue use policy and depending upon availability of funding may be carried over one year for a maximum grant of \$500,000.

District Reports

Commissioner Esposito – Reported that she had a meeting with the state TSA Director concerning the shortage of TSA inspectors at the Hilton Head Island Airport. Currently there is one line for TSA inspections and one line for TSA precheck. With the growing number of passengers this has limited the time in which passengers have to complete the process. The Hilton Head Airport is also in the process of a remodel plan for the terminal building which would allow adequate space for passengers to wait prior and post boarding.

Commissioner Anderson – Visited the Perry International Glider Event in April and commented that the event sponsors were extremely appreciative of the Aeronautics Charts and Directories supplied to them. Reported on the Barnwell Regional Airport ramp reconstruction. The progress is going well, and completion is near.

Commissioner Cooper – Reported that since the last Commission Meeting, he has visited numerous airports in the district. All airports are reporting that business is good and increasing. The Pickens County Airport specifically reported that the business this year has exceeded the numbers in prior years. In addition to visiting the airports, Commissioner Cooper has begun visiting schools in the promotion of general aviation.

Commissioner Kaufmann – No report.

Vice- Chairman Barnes – No report

Commissioner Cavazzoni – Reported that he and Director Stephens will be meeting with Allendale County Airport and the Allendale County Council this evening. Commissioner Cavazzoni will be meeting with the Holly Hill Airport concerning a new public facility building and additional RWY lights. In addition, it was reported that the Lowcountry Regional Airport is in the completion stage of rebuilding after the tornado destruction of 2020.

Commissioner Bethea – Reported that Dillion County will be announcing the consultants for the upcoming airport improvements on June 23, 2021. In addition, reported that an incident occurred at MYR, which is currently being investigated.

Other Business

Commissioner Cooper expressed his disapproval of a recent notification from the Ethics Commission on late penalties from past Statement of Economic Interests filings. He shared that more attempts should be made to notify Commissioners of the annual requirement to complete the Statement of Economic Interest filing.

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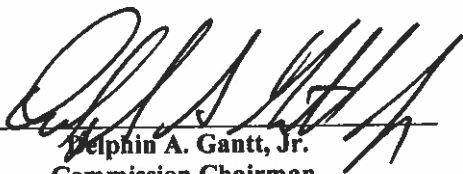
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Mr. Stephens discussed the proper use of NOTAMS with regards to skydiving operations in South Carolina. NOTAMS are to be filed due to abnormal operations at the airport and if the airport holds these operations on a regular basis, a NOTAM does not have to be filed. Skydiving operations are listed on the Aeronautics Charts.

Upcoming Events – Next Meeting Date: August 17, 2021

Adjournment

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


Delphin A. Gantt, Jr.
Commission Chairman


Doug Barnes
Commission Vice- Chairman


Ericka Thomas
Commission Secretary

8/17/21
Date