

MINUTES

SOUTH CAROLINA AERONAUTICS COMMISSION

August 17, 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

Visitors

Bud Coward, Commissioner Emeritus
Terry Connorton, SCAA President
Katie Koon, South Carolina Aviation Association
Melanie Frisco, South Carolina Aviation Association
Lori Wicker, Celebrate Freedom Foundation
Ken Holt, Holt Consulting

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 Bethea gave the invocation.

Approval of Minutes

Chairman Gantt presented the minutes of the May 20, 2021 and June 17, 2021 of the Commission meetings 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 year end financials for the Operations of the Agency and reported that total income was 84% of what had been budgeted, and the expenses were 89% of what had been budgeted. He also reported that the closing cash balance of general fund operations was \$185,171.44. He then stated that the operating revenue balance at year end was \$136,950.87, and that both the general funds and operating revenue funds had carried over into the current fiscal year.

After presenting the operations budget report, Mr. Stephens presented the year end financials of the State Aviation Fund as of June 30, 2021 and reported a beginning balance of \$9,509,305.15. This balance along with fuel sales tax revenues of \$3,494,194.95, a deposit of \$2,877,150.04 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 \$16,403,435.81. After considering all budgeted/committed items of \$8,270,758.72 the remaining \$8,132,677.09 was available for new grants.

Following the yearend report for the State Aviation Fund, Stephens presented the State Aviation Fund budget for FY 2021-2022 as of July 31, 2021 and reported a beginning balance of \$12,114,143.17. This balance along with fuel sales tax revenues of \$410,234.34, a general fund recurring appropriation of \$500,000, and a refund of prior year expense & miscellaneous revenue of \$31,837.03 brought total revenue to \$13,056,214.54. After considering budgeted/committed items of \$5,583,616.69 the remaining \$7,472,597.85 is available for new grants.

Mr. Stephens then presented the Executive Director's report. Thanked Robert Sumwalt for attending the meeting and is looking forward to the future relationship in the promotion of aviation in South Carolina. Since the last meeting Mr. Stephens, along with Commissioner Cavazzoni, and Ken Holt, Holt Consulting, attended a County Council meeting with Allendale County on the land-use planning for the airport. In addition, the conversation with the Department of Administration on the aircraft usage continues and reports have been submitted as requested by the Department of Administration.

Aeronautics Staff in Attendance

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

Absent Commission Members

David Anderson, District 2

Brian Souchet, South Florence High School
Cameron Shepard, South Florence High School
Robert Sumwalt, Retired NTSB
Phillip Taylor, Walterboro County Council

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Airport Development Report

Mr. Siegfried presented the Airport Development Report and the Grants for Consideration to the Commission. On the presentation of the Airport Development Report, Mr. Siegfried discussed the 2020 FAA enplanement report which was just made public and stated that we can now see the impacts of the COVID pandemic. The impact on passenger enplanements for the top 50 airports in the United States was down to 60.8% of the previous year. South Carolina's commercial service airports were also in line with this number (excluding Hilton Head which just added jet service) for an average of 60.9% of the previous year. Siegfried stated that the FOD Sweeper program was underway with the first two FOD Sweepers delivered to the Hartsville and Fairfield airports today, and that four other sweepers would be delivered to airports within the week. He then stated that the remaining FOD Sweepers would be delivered to Aeronautics around the end of September. In addition, the request to update the Airport Development Policy and Procedure Manual had been completed with the addition of the LED lighting under the Maintenance Program, and the reorganization of the Funding section with the addition of commercial airports and construction of secondary runways. Siegfried also made the Commission aware of the Federal grant that the division would be receiving a grant for a statewide update of the Exhibit A (property) information of Airport Layout Plans. During the airport development report, there was some discussion about the Holly Hill airport and the state requirement for Airport Layout Plans to be on file with the division prior to the offering any funding from the State Aviation Fund.

Grants for Consideration

Greenville Downtown Airport

The Greenville Downtown Airport is requesting assistance to reconstruct pavement in the West Ramp area. The pavement is not eligible for FAA funding and has exceeded its useful life (over 40 years old). The project will be constructed in conjunction with the Taxiways C & D Rehabilitation (FAA AIP FY 2021). Cost includes design, bidding, and construction. The total cost is \$432,003 funded at 60% State/40% Local.

Amount of grant funding requested is \$259,202

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

Spartanburg Downtown Memorial Airport

The Spartanburg Downtown Memorial Airport is requesting assistance with the repair of two holes in the perimeter fence. The repair will improve airport safety by hindering wildlife and people from entering the airport property. The total cost is \$985 funded at 75% State/25% Local.

Amount of grant funding requested is \$739

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

Barnwell County Airport

The Barnwell County Airport is requesting a contract amendment for the reconstruction of the hangar apron area. Soft soils were encountered during the project which required removal and replacement with geogrid and gravel. The total cost of the amendment is \$26,973 funded at 60% State/40% Local.

Amount of grant funding requested is \$16,184

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

The Citadel

The Citadel is requesting an education grant to purchase airport design software (AviPlan) and associated licensing to be used for the next three years on their Senior Capstone Projects. This years Senior Capstone Project is focusing on the rapidly developing technology associated with Advanced Air Mobility (AAM). The project will use the Rock Hill/York County Airport as its site and students will design the infrastructure for an EVTOL facility which will support AAM operations. The total cost of the software and licensing is \$17,968.20 funded at 100% State.

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Amount of grant funding requested is \$17,968.20

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

The Celebrate Freedom Foundation

The Celebrate Freedom Foundation is requesting an education grant to assist with their STEM Aviation Outreach Program for the FY22 school year. This program is planned for 29 schools. Staff recommendation is to pay \$1,600 per school visits up to 25 schools for a \$40,000 total. The total amount requested is \$40,000.00 funded at 100% State.

Amount of grant funding requested is \$40,000

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

Total Amount Requested for all New Grants is \$334,093.20

Flight Report

Tim Truemper reported that flights are beginning to be scheduled and calls are starting to come in for information. Mr Truemper is continuously promoting the flight department through state agencies.

District Reports

Commissioner Esposito – Reported that United will start year-round service out of the Hilton Head Airport. Passenger numbers are increasing, and the Hilton Head Airport ramp rebuilding will begin in the near future.

Commissioner Cooper – Reported that he had visited all the airports in the district. To mention a few: the Anderson terminal is completed and will be hosting an Open House, September 25th; the Greenwood Airport has completed a ramp patching project; McCormick County is continuing to look at tree removal around the airport; the Oconee County Airport's ramp project is completed and reported that 30,000 gallons of fuel has been sold; Pickens County is starting a helipad for Prisma Health; Saluda County has completed their ramp project and the conference room project will be completed in the near future; Newberry County's pavement rejuvenation project has been completed; and currently the Edgefield County Airport has one hangar vacant.

Commissioner Kaufmann – Reported that she had attended the GSP Commission meeting and the discussion of having an on-site full-service hotel project remains a topic, and they are coordinating with SCDOT for new interstate signage. In addition, she attended the SCTAC/Lockheed Martin/SC Aerospace meeting at the Greenville Drive.

Vice- Chairman Barnes – Reported that he will be visiting Sumter and attending the Beaufort Aviation Week events during SC Aviation Week.

Commissioner Cavazzoni – Reported that he attended the Allendale County Council meeting with Mr. Stephens. He introduced his guest, Mr. Phillip Taylor who is on the Walterboro County Council and is spearheading a project with the Lowcountry Regional Airport.

Commissioner Bethea – Reported that Dillion County continues to discuss moving forward with airport improvements. Thanked Brian Souchet and Cameron Sheppard for attending the Commission meeting and presenting their desires for the upcoming aviation education in Florence County. In conclusion, he reported that the Georgetown County airport is contracted to construct two 30,000 sqft box hangars with another two pending, and that fuel sales are increasing.

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Other Business

Ms. Lori Wicker of the Celebrate Freedom Foundation (CFF) presented information to the South Carolina Aeronautics Commission regarding the programs offered, the number of schools that they are anticipating attending in the 2021-2022 school year, and the information obtained from the schools on number of children in which will be impacted by CFF's visits.

Brian Souchet and Cameron Sheppard from the South Florence High School presented information on a new Aviation Education Program that is being started in the Florence school system. This program is currently CTE Board approved with the expectations on becoming CTE certified by the state educational system. The program is built on an AOPA curriculum and has been matched with an FAA grant to support the program.

Katie Koon with the South Carolina Aviation Association gave an update on the events surrounding the success of Aviation Week.


Upcoming Events – Next Meeting Date: October 26, 2021


Executive Session

Chairman Gantt moved that the meeting go into Executive Session, Commissioner Bethea seconded. The Commissioner all approved to go into executive session to discuss legal matters. No action was taken during the executive session which began at 11:48 am and concluded at 12:15 pm.

Adjournment

There being no further business, Chairman Gantt 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

10/26/21
Date