

MINUTES

SOUTH CAROLINA AERONAUTICS COMMISSION

October 26, 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
Tim Truemper, Chief Pilot
Austin Wagler, Associate Engineer

Visitors

Bud Coward, Commissioner Emeritus
Nick Esposito
John Hodge, Hodge and Associates, LLC

Amanda Sheridan, McFarland Johnson
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 Anderson gave the invocation.

Approval of Minutes

Chairman Gantt presented the minutes of the August 17, 2021 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 operating and State Aviation Fund financials as of September 30, 2021. There was some explanation of the operational line items in the budget. The financials for the State Aviation Fund reported a beginning balance of \$12,114,143.17. This balance along with fuel sales tax revenues of \$1,224,442.84, 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 \$13,870,423.04. After considering budgeted/committed items of \$5,822,557 the remaining \$8,047,866.04 is available for new grants.

Mr. Stephens presented the Executive Director's report and highlighted the progress of the white paper being constructed by the SC Council of Competitiveness for Commercial Airport funding. The SC Council of Competitiveness has created an Aviation/Aerospace task force which has contacted Mr. Stephens for data that will be used for information in the whitepaper. Additionally, Mr. Stephens discussed the House Legislative Oversight Audit that was conducted two years ago. This audit provided recommendations for agency improvement. Stephens stated that an annual review of the responsiveness to the recommendations was being conducted.

Additionally, Mr. Stephens commented on airport noise complaints that are being relayed to commissioners. Mr. Stephens suggested that these complaints could be referred to Aeronautics. Mr. Stephens talked about the 2021 NASAO conference that was held in Colorado Springs, CO. While attending, the topic of strategic planning in airports was presented. This process would be a good process for Aeronautics to participate in and it would bring in an outside company to analyze the goals and objectives of the agency to see where improvements could take place. In conclusion, Mr. Stephens provided an update on the annual state budget process and his discussions with the Executive Budget Office.

Mr. Stephens recommended a need to increase the budget for Herbicide & Vegetation Control by adding an additional \$200,000. He also recommended the budget for Computer Support and Software be increase by \$250,000 to help pay for the web redesign of Aeronautics web site. A motion was made by Chairman Gantt and seconded by Commissioner Barnes. The increased budget was approved unanimously.

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Grants for Consideration

Mr. Siegfried presented the Airport Development Report and the Grants for Consideration to the Commission. Prior to presenting the grants for consideration, Mr. Siegfried discussed the new Commercial Services Entitlement Program. This program will provide South Carolina commercial service airports with up to \$250,000 per year grant funding that can be carried over for one year (maximum grant of \$500,000). The funds can be used in any way that is allowed by the FAA's 5190-6B Revenue Use Policy which defines the way that airports can use airport generated revenue. In addition, this program will allow more flexibility and diversity than the airport improvement program.

Mr. Siegfried also discussed the Land Use/Clue Tool and the requirements to update the land use maps every five years. This update will additionally review the projects around the airports from the city and county zoning departments.

Orangeburg Municipal Airport

Main Apron Expansion, Phase 1 (see Exhibit 1)

The Orangeburg Municipal Airport is requesting assistance to expand a portion of the main apron that the FAA has decided not to provide funding for. The portion of the apron not being funded by the FAA will provide more room for aircraft maneuvering and access to a future hangar. This work is eligible for SCAC funding. The total cost the of the unfunded portion is \$529,982 funded at 60% State/40% Local.

Amount of grant funding requested is \$317,989

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

Orangeburg Municipal Airport

Remodel Airport Terminal

The Orangeburg Municipal Airport is requesting assistance to do some minor renovations to the terminal building. These renovations include replacement of ceiling tiles, new carpet, new floor tiles and repainting. The total cost the of the renovations are \$55,930 funded at 60% State/40% Local.

Amount of grant funding requested is \$33,558

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

Pickens County Airport

Runway 23 End Crossfield Taxiway Apron Development – Design (see Exhibit 2)

The Pickens County Airport is requesting assistance to design a new apron and partial parallel taxiway at the east end of the airport, north of runway 23. The project will provide much needed apron space to alleviate congestion on the main ramp. The project will also provide access to a recently acquired building (purchased with an FAA supplemental grant in 2020) which will house a medevac company, providing the airport with another revenue source. The total cost the of the project is \$400,000 funded at 60% State/40% Local.

Amount of grant funding requested is \$240,000

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

Oconee County Airport

Runway 7/25 Emergency Runway Repairs, Phase 2

The Oconee County Airport is requesting assistance to perform an emergency repair on Runway 7/25, keeping it safe for users until the runway can be reconstructed in 2022. The airport has experienced a significant increase in large business jet traffic which is the primary cause of the damage. The total cost the of the emergency repair is \$12,500 funded at 75% State/25% Local.

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Amount of grant funding requested is \$9,375

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

Beaufort Executive Airport

Remodel Airport Terminal

The Beaufort Executive Airport is requesting assistance to do some minor renovations to the terminal lobby and conference room. These renovations primarily include removal and replacement of flooring and cabinetry in the lobby, kitchen and offices. Work also includes plumbing and electrical upgrades, new windows and repainting. The total cost of the renovations are \$131,095 funded at 60% State/40% Local.

Amount of grant funding requested is \$78,657.00

Commissioner Cooper made a motion to approve the above requests as written. Chairman Gantt seconded, and after no discussion, the grant was approved unanimously. Commissioner Esposito recused herself due to being on the Beaufort County Airport Board.

Greenville Downtown Airport

South Ramp Parking Lot Reconstruction (see Exhibit 3)

The Greenville Downtown Airport is requesting assistance to reconstruct a parking lot located near the South Ramp. The pavement is not eligible for FAA funding and has exceeded its useful life. The project includes removing the existing parking lot pavement, repairing any soft soils encountered and repaving with asphalt. The total cost is \$31,000 funded at 60% State/40% Local.

Amount of grant funding requested is \$18,600

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

Rock Hill-York County Airport

Airport Security Upgrades

The Rock Hill-York County Airport is requesting assistance to upgrade the airport security system. The project involves the upgrading of all automated vehicle gates and two pedestrian gates to use a new badge system. This will allow the airport to manage access to those gates. Fiber optic cable will be installed to the gates to support the badge access hardware. New pedestals and card readers will be installed as well as camera call boxes to allow access to authorized persons and to visually verify who is requesting access without certified credentials. In addition, three (3) security cameras will be installed on the east side of the airfield where there is currently zero monitoring coverage. With this system, the airport will have appropriate reporting tools for tracking who and when persons and vehicles have gained access to the Air Operations Area. The total cost is \$110,000 funded at 60% State/40% Local.

Amount of grant funding requested is \$66,000

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

Total amount requested for all new grants is \$764,179.00

Flight Report

Tim Truemper reported that flights are increasing and agencies are beginning to request information. Mr. Truemper congratulated Chuck Hyer on his completed of training and becoming one of the few Master King Air mechanics in the country. Additionally, annual recurrent training has been completed by him and Mr. Giles.

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District Reports

Commissioner Esposito – Is pleased to be a part of the Commission and to meet everyone in person. Has no further report at this time.

Commissioner Anderson – Is good to see a full Commission. Commented on the Barnwell Airport and stated that the construction has been completed. Mentioned several issues that occurred while construction was being completed and stated that they had been resolved. Also stated that he was notified that the runway lights were out at Barnwell and a notam has been issued.

Commissioner Cooper – Thanked Mr. Stephens, Commissioner Anderson, and Commissioner Bethea for attending the dedication of the new terminal building at the Anderson Regional Airport. Business and traffic continue to increase at the Anderson Regional Airport. Commissioner Cooper mentioned that the Greenwood County Airport and Laurens County Airport are both doing well, McCormick County airport is continuing their discussions on tree removals, and Edgefield County has been having military operations. The Oconee County Regional airport appreciates the grant consideration for pavement repairs due to the heavy traffic that continues at the airport. Additionally, the Pickens County airport has purchased land and has leased it to Prisma Health.

Commissioner Kaufmann – Reported that the Greenville Spartanburg airport is returning to approximately 75 – 80% of the pre COVID passenger levels and the international cargo is continuing to increase. Spartanburg Downtown airport is involved with land use issues on the end of the RWY 5 approach, and Greenville Downtown's traffic is increasing and is on target to have 70,000+ operations for 2022. In addition, the War Birds will be coming to the Greenville Downtown airport in November.

Vice-Chairman Barnes – Reported that he had conversations with all the district airports and attended the Fit 2 Fly 5K hosted by the Rock Hill/York County airport.

Commissioner Cavazzoni – Reported that the April 2020 tornado recovery at the LowCountry Regional Airport is progressing and will be completed soon.

Commissioner Bethea – Reported that he has talked to all the district airports. The Hartsville Regional Airport would like to upgrade their current beacon to an LED beacon and the Darlington County Airport has completed the grading for the RWY 5 approach. He further discussed the inability to receive fuel needed at MYR due to a shortage of delivery drivers.

Other Business

At this time, the 2022 Commission Meeting dates have not been finalized.


Executive Session

Chairman Gantt requested a motion to move into Executive Session for legal matters. Commissioner Bethea made the motion, and Commissioner Barnes seconded. After discussions, there was no action taken by the Commission. Commissioner Barnes moved to come out of executive session, Commissioner Cooper seconded, and the meeting returned to regular session.


Adjournment

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

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Delphin A. Gantt, Jr.
Commission Chairman



Doug Barnes
Commission Vice- Chairman



Ericka Thomas
Commission Secretary

1/25/22
Date