

MINUTES

SOUTH CAROLINA AERONAUTICS COMMISSION

March 15, 2022

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, Vice Chairman/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
Austin Wagler, Airport Engineer
Tim Truemper, Chief Pilot
Chris Giles, Pilot

Visitors

Bud Coward, Commissioner Emeritus
John Hodge, Hodge & Associates, LLC
Wayne Corley, MaesAwyr
Ryan Hounshell – Holt Consulting Company, LLC

Nick Esposito
Doug Adomatis – Greenville Technical Charter HS
Hernan Peña – Charleston County Aviation Authority

Welcome & Call to Order

Chairman Gantt called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m., welcomed everyone, announced a quorum in attendance, and Vice Chairman Barnes gave the invocation.

Approval of Minutes

Chairman Gantt presented the minutes of the January 25, 2022 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 February 28, 2022. Mr. Stephens explained the items above 100% of the budget were all related to the increased amount of flight hours. Flight hours are up, therefore passenger revenue, fuel consumption, and travel expenses are higher than projected. Detailed information was presented on the financials for the State Aviation Fund. Stephens reported a beginning balance of \$12,114,143.17. This balance along with fuel sales tax revenues of \$3,514,551.23, airline property tax revenues of \$3,377,276.23, a general fund recurring appropriation of \$500,000, and a refund of prior year expense & miscellaneous revenue of \$32,284.03 brought total available funds for airport projects to \$19,538,254.66. After considering budgeted/committed items of \$7,499,158.19 the remaining \$12,039,096.47 is available for new grants.

Greenville Technical Charter High School Grant – Requested \$32,340 to be used for instructor and classroom resources, videography, curriculum development and consulting, event planning consulting, online course development, and an online forum for students to participate in with the questions, and comments. Commissioner Kaufmann made a motion to approve the grant as written. Commissioner Barnes seconded, and after no discussion, the grant was approved unanimously.

Lowcountry Aviation Association Grant – Requested \$44,199.48 to be used for mobile virtual reality flight simulators and instructional flight training day camps. Commissioner Cooper made a motion to approve the grant as written. Commissioner Bethea seconded, and after no discussion, the grant was approved with Vice Chairman Barnes abstaining.

Mr. Stephens continued with the Executive Director's report by discussing the budget presentation to the Senate Finance Transportation subcommittee where the request had been made for \$65 million. Stephens went on to say that \$50 million would be for commercial service airports with the other \$15 million to be used for other infrastructure and aircraft needs. He reported that he had given feedback to the Council of Competitiveness on their Commercial Airport funding white paper. Additionally, he reported that there had been meetings held with the Ridgeland Airport and Jasper County to discuss specific airport issues and the position that the Commission would have to take in response.

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Airport Development

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 ongoing maintenance programs, and that the position description was being finalized for a vacant Airport Development position that would be advertised soon. Mr. Siegfried announced that the Statewide Exhibit A Update Project had been awarded to Michael Baker International, and that thirty-eight airports have or will soon have FOD sweepers, leaving fifteen airports not yet participating in the program.

Grants for Consideration

Hampton County Airport – Design Runway 11-29 Overlay

The Hampton County Airport is requesting assistance to design a runway asphalt overlay project. The airport has recently constructed a parallel taxiway and hangar development that is resulting in an increase in activity. The runway is showing significant raveling causing the runway to be very abrasive. The pavement condition index 47 (lower than 70 indicates that improvements are warranted). The total cost the of the project is \$65,090 funded at 90% State/10% Local.

Amount of grant funding requested is \$58,581

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

Mount Pleasant Regional – T-Hangar Development Area Construction

The Mount Pleasant Regional Airport is requesting assistance with sitework for a new hangar development and associated asphalt taxilanes. The total cost of the sitework is \$2,184,880 funded at 60% State/40% Local.

Amount of grant funding requested is \$1,310,928

After presenting the request, Commissioner Bethea made a motion to to approve the project and Commissioner Cooper made the second. After a lot of discussion, a motion to amend the initial proposal was made by Commissioner Kaufmann and seconded by Commissioner Barnes to approve with a contingency that staff review the plans (or that plans be adjusted) to ensure object free areas are appropriate for the type of aircraft that will be using the aircraft parking apron. Commissioner Cavazzoni abstained. Apart from the abstention, all others voted unanimously.

Greenville Downtown Airport – New Airport Entrance Sign

The Greenville Downtown Airport is requesting assistance to demolish and replace the existing airport entrance sign. The total cost the of the project is \$27,744 funded at 60% State/40% Local.

Amount of grant funding requested is \$16,646

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

Total amount requested for all new grants is \$1,386,155

Flight Report

Chief Pilot Tim Truemper presented the flight reports, and stated that he had been attending virtual on NBAA's Safety Management Systems program. He also reported that Fore Flight is currently being upgraded in order for all SCAC pilots to have access, and he reported that flights are increasing and utilization appears to be recovering from the impacts of COVID.

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District Reports

Commissioner Esposito – Reported that Beaufort Executive has been extremely busy, and the terminal renovation is approximately 90% complete with a tentative grand opening of mid-April. Beaufort Executive will also be holding their Flying Frog 5K race on October 22, 2022.

Commissioner Esposito reported that the Hilton Head Airport would be taking delivery of their ARFF truck in July 2022, and that the airport is in the process of rebranding. She also shared that the airport is beginning preparations for the annual Heritage golf tournament.

Commissioner Anderson – Reported that he had attended the Aiken Airport Commission meeting and they are preparing for a busy Masters Week coming up in April 2022. Aiken is also planning for new hangars soon. Commissioner Anderson also visited the Barnwell airport and stated they are discussing submittal of a grant for improvements to the secondary runway.

Commissioner Cooper – Reported that all the airports in his district are doing well, and that the Laurens County airport has plans for a new terminal building.

Commissioner Kaufmann – Reported that Triple Tree will be having the Uncle John's Fly -In, April 1 – 3, 2022, Greenville Spartanburg International is doing good, and the Greenville Downtown airport's sign has been approved.

Vice Chairman Barnes – Reported that he had visited the Union County Airport Commission meeting.

Commissioner Cavazzoni – Reported that he attended meetings with Director Stephens, the Ridgeland airport, and a Jasper County Council member.

Commissioner Bethea – Reported that he had attended the Legislative Luncheon held at the State House and that it was extremely productive. Additionally, Commissioner Bethea met with Georgetown Airport to discuss the upcoming project to construct a taxiway to a new privately owned hangar.

New Business

John Hodge reported on the Spartanburg County land use decision stating that it was determined that Spartanburg County was not in compliance with Title 55 and the developer had added a clause in the property deed that stated the property was in a flight path to the Spartanburg Downtown Airport.

Mr. Stephens reopened the 60/40 Revenue Generating grant program discussion with a new proposal presented by Commissioners Cooper and Bethea. Mr. Stephens presented a financial analysis of the revenue from the past 9 years and the typical budget for a year to show how much of these funds are currently being utilized. It was proposed by Commissioner Barnes that Mr. Stephens and Attorney John Hodge review the proposal to make sure it follows current regulations, and that after they study the proposal, they develop a new draft to send to the commissioners for review. Commissioner Esposito seconded the motion. After much discussion by the Commission, the proposal was tabled until the next meeting so that discussion can continue later. No vote was taken.

Next Meeting Date

The next Commission Meeting will be held on May 17, 2022.

Executive Session

Chairman Gantt made a motion that the Commission enter into Executive Session to discuss personnel issues. Vice Chairman Barnes seconded and all approved. Following the Executive Session, Executive Director James Stephens announced that he will be leaving the Aeronautics Commission at the end of September 2022.

Adjournment

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

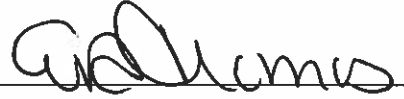
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Doug Barnes
Commission Vice Chairman



Ericka D. Thomas
Commission Secretary

5/17/22

Date