



**Commission Members in Attendance**

Delphin Gantt, Commission 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**

Gary Siegfried, Executive Director  
Melody Mikell, Finance Director  
Austin Wagler, Associate Engineer  
David Smith, State Airport Planner

**Visitors**

Bud Coward, Commissioner Emeritus  
Frank Murray, Columbia Metropolitan Airport  
Paul Werts, Talbert, Bright & Ellington  
Judy Elder, Talbert, Bright & Ellington  
Wayne Corley, MaesAwyer  
Hernan Pena, CCAA  
Tim Harper, Marion County  
Terry Connorton, City of Spartanburg  
Donna Anderson  
Mark Warner, McCormick County

Jim Hamilton, Commissioner Emeritus  
John Hodge, SC Aeronautics Legal Counsel  
Neil Baker, FAA  
Randy DeBerry, FAA  
Steven Petrossian, FAA  
William Thompson, FAA  
Lanny Cline, FAA  
Gary Pendleton, FAA  
Dr. James Clark  
Kimmy Harris

**Video conference**

Melanie Friscoe, SCAA  
Harriston Holmes, Altitude Academy

**Welcome & Call to Order**

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

Following the invocation by Commissioner Cooper, all attendees introduced themselves. Kimmy Harris was then introduced as the new office manager for Aeronautics. She will officially begin working on January 23<sup>rd</sup>.

**Wright Brothers Master Pilot Award**

Lanny Cline with the FAA did a presentation for the Wright Brothers Master Pilot Award to Commissioner David Anderson. Numerous FAA representatives were present and spoke of the outstanding work Commissioner Anderson has done over the years. Bud Coward nominated Commissioner Anderson for over 50 years of safe flying. A power point presentation was done highlighting the many accomplishments of Mr. Anderson.

## **Approval of Minutes**

Chairman Gantt presented the minutes of the November 15, 2022, meeting and the special meeting on December 16<sup>th</sup>. He asked if anyone had any edits or corrections. Commissioner Barnes had two corrections: page A-2 should be "A lengthy discussion" instead of discuss and on Page A-6 Hernan Pena was misspelled at the bottom of the page. Commission Barnes made a motion to approve the minutes and Commissioner Bethea seconded. The minutes were approved as written with the two corrections.

## **Financial, Budget, & Executive Director's Reports**

Operating Results are on track for the year with the total expenses at 51% of budget for the year. Mr. Siegfried presented the financials for the State Aviation Fund, reporting a beginning balance of \$18,721,023.37. This balance along with fuel sales tax revenues of \$3,405,428.97, airline property tax revenue of \$5,523,076.19, a general fund recurring appropriation of \$500,000, and a refund of prior year expense & miscellaneous revenue of \$40,472.08 brought total available funds for airport projects to \$28,190,000.61. After considering budgeted/committed items of \$17,962,955.42 the remaining \$10,227,045.19 is available for new grants. Fuel sales tax is looking very good and is up 27.55% from last year at this time. Aeronautics has received the majority of Airline Property Tax for the year but should see some additional funds with the projected amount being just over \$6M for the year.

## **Airport Development**

Mr. Siegfried then presented the Airport Development Report. He noted that the grant for the Pavement Condition Index Program, Phase II is under way by Kimley Horn. The goal is for this study to be complete by the February SCAA Conference.

## **Grants for Consideration**

### **Columbia Metropolitan Airport – Commercial Service Entitlement**

The Columbia Metropolitan Airport is requesting a grant for two years of the Commercial Service Entitlement (FY 2022 and FY 2023) to use for their Security Checkpoint Modernization Project.

The TSA is getting ready to install new screening equipment which has a larger footprint.

Unless the screening area is redesigned and reconfigured to accommodate this new equipment, CAE will lose a screening lane. This project is needed to maintain passenger processing capacity as the TSA installs the new equipment.

Amount of amended grant funding requested is \$500,000

A motion was made by Commissioner Cavazzoni and seconded by Commissioner Cooper. The request was approved unanimously.

## **Spartanburg Downtown Memorial Airport – Two Requests**

### **1. Hangar Site Improvements**

The Airport is requesting assistance with the design of hangar site improvements. Site improvement include grading, drainage and utilities.

The total cost of the project is \$50,000 funded at 60% State/40% Local.

Amount of grant funding requested is \$30,000

### **2. Runway End 23 Erosion Repairs – Construction**

The Airport is requesting assistance to repair an erosion issue at the end of the runway 23 safety area. The erosion occurred following the construction of the runway 23 rehabilitation and extension when the airport had difficulty establishing vegetation at the end of the safety area.

The total cost of the project is \$530,000 funded as a maintenance grant at 75% State/25% Local.

Amount of grant funding requested is \$397,500

Total amount of both grant requests is \$427,500

A motion was made by Commissioner Cooper and seconded by Commissioner Bethea. The request was approved unanimously.

## **Marion County Airport - Completion of Runway 04/22 Rehab**

Completion of Runway 04/22 Rehabilitation (25 feet not approved by FAA) and Paving of 500-foot Overrun (future runway extension).

The Marion County Airport is requesting assistance to rehabilitate 25 feet of runway width (not eligible for FAA funding) which would keep the runway width at 100 feet. The project also includes construction of a 500-foot overrun which would become part of a future runway extension. The county has local funding available now from a \$0.01 Capital Sales Tax referendum and would like to complete this project while the program and money is available.

The total cost of the project is \$1,272,769.00 and will be funded at 60% State/40% Local.

Amount of grant funding requested is \$763,661

A motion was made by Commissioner Barnes and seconded by Commissioner Bethea. The request was approved unanimously.

### **Celebrate Freedom Foundation – Education Grant**

The Celebrate Freedom Foundation is requesting assistance to fund their ongoing STEM Aviation Outreach Program. This request is for the current school year and concludes in May 2023.

Amount of grant funding requested is \$55,000

A motion was made by Commissioner Bethea and seconded by Commissioner Anderson. The request was approved unanimously.

### **Altitude Academy – Education Grant**

The Altitude Academy is a 501c(3) charitable organization dedicated to educating and exposing youth to all aspects and opportunities regarding careers in aerospace and aviation. The organization strives to reach grades K-12 and ages 7 through 17 in the Beaufort County area. They are requesting assistance to fund their outreach program.

Amount of grant funding requested is \$60,000

A motion was made by Commissioner Esposito and seconded by Commissioner Cavazzoni. The request was approved unanimously.

### **Flight Department**

Mr. Siegfried gave the Flight Department report. Flights are down from last year at the same time. The King Air 350 has been down for service for various issues and therefore flights were limited during the past couple of months.

### **Director's Report**

Mr. Siegfried did a presentation at the South Carolina Aerial Applicators Conference which was also attended by Commissioners Cooper and Bethea. Mr. Siegfried gave an updated copy to the commissioners of the additions to the Airport Development Policies and Procedures Guide that included draft language on the Special Allocation Grant Program. This draft policy was modeled off the allocation that was previously approved for the commercial airports. He also announced the House Budget Presentation will be January 25<sup>th</sup>. He will send out detailed information in an email on the budget hearing.

### **New Business**

John Hodge discussed the requested updates to Title 55 that have been submitted in November for legislative review and hopefully their approval. They have 120 days to act on these. These have been published in the state register and so far, there have been no comments received. He urged the commissioners to communicate with their legislators.

**District Reports**

District 1:  
Beaufort Airport is working on their landscaping

District 2:  
No report

District 3:  
Commission Cooper noted that the airports at Pickens and Oconee are now back open with the runways completed. Anderson Airport is breathing a sigh of relief from all the additional activity the past several months. At McCormick Airport, things are going well

District 4:  
No Report

District 5:  
No Report

District 6:  
No Report

District 7:  
Reminder to use your checklist.


**Next Meeting Date**


The next regular Commission Meeting will be held on March 21, 2023.

**Adjournment**

There being no further business, a motion was made by Commissioner Cavazzoni and seconded by Commissioner Bethea to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned.

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Delphin Gantt  
Chairman

  
Gary Siegfried  
Interim Executive Director

3 - 21 - 2023  
Date