



MINUTES
SOUTH CAROLINA AERONAUTICS COMMISSION MEETING
TUESDAY, JUNE 20, 2023

Commission Members in Attendance

Doug Barnes, Vice Chairman/District 5
Anne Esposito, District 1
Vacant, District 2
Skeets Cooper, District 3
Marco Cavazzoni, District 6
Chris Bethea, District 7

Aeronautics Staff in Attendance

Gary Siegfried, Interim Executive Director
Melody Mikell, Finance Director
Kimmy Harris, Office Manager
Austin Wagler, Associate Engineer
David Smith, State Airport Planner

Visitors

Bud Coward, Commissioner Emeritus
Steve Parry, Beaufort County Airports Deputy Director
Chris Birkmeyer, WK Dickson
Judy Elder, Talbert, Bright & Ellington
Wayne Corley, MaesAwyr
Paul Werts, Talbert, Bright & Ellington
John Hodge, SC Aeronautics Legal Counsel

Video conference

Rob Wolfe, Cheraw County Assistant Town Administrator

Welcome & Call to Order

Vice Chairman Doug Barnes called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m., welcomed everyone and announced a quorum in attendance.

Invocation and Introductions

The invocation was given by Commissioner Chris Bethea. Following the invocation, all attendees introduced themselves.

Approval of Minutes

Vice Chairman Barnes presented the minutes of the May 16, 2023, meeting. He asked if anyone had any edits or corrections. Commissioner Cooper motioned to approve the minutes and Commission Esposito seconded.

The minutes were approved with no corrections.

Financial, Budget, & Executive Director's Reports

Mr. Siegfried presented the financials. Operating Results are on track for the year with the total expenses at 83% of budget for the year.

Mr. Siegfried stated the State Aviation Fund showed a beginning balance of \$18,721,023.37. This balance along with fuel sales tax revenues of \$5,995,804.49, airline property tax revenue of \$6,474,558.21, a general fund recurring appropriation of \$500,000, and a refund of prior year expense & miscellaneous revenue of \$43,212.08 brought total available funds for airport projects to \$96,734,598.15.

After considering budgeted/committed items of \$82,127,849.37 the remaining \$14,606,748.78 was currently available for new grants.

Mr. Siegfried presented the fuel sales tax revenue details. The fuel sales tax revenue is still looking good overall and is up by 29% from last year at this time. May and June are historically good months for fuel revenue, so he expects that we are still on track for a record year. The Airline Property Tax Revenue is at a yearly total of \$6,474,558.21.

Airport Development

Mr. Siegfried presented the Airport Development Report. Mr. Siegfried mentioned going to Pickens County for Student Day. He discussed the ongoing apron expansion project on the northeast side of the airport. This is an impressive project. The airport also renovated an existing hangar that is located on this new hangar.

After completing the presentation of the Airport Development Report, Gary asked everyone to jump over to C-2, Grants for Consideration.

Grants for consideration

- **Hilton Head Island Airport (HXD) – 36 Hunter Road Land Acquisition**

The total cost of the project is \$95,304 and will be funded with a portion of HXD's FY23 entitlements (FY23 balance will be \$26,652).

Amount of grant funding requested is \$95,304

Status of safety inspection items: Hilton Head Island is a Part 139 airport and is inspected by the FAA.

Steve Parry was in attendance to represent Hilton Head Island and give details for this project. A motion was made by Commissioner Esposito to approve the funding and seconded by Commissioner Cavazzoni.

The request was approved unanimously.

- **Cheraw Municipal Airport (CQW) – Runway Rehabilitation (construction)**

The total cost of the project is \$6,066,496 funded at 90% FAA, 5% Sponsor, 5% SCAC.

Amount of grant funding requested is \$303,325

Status of safety inspection items: The last inspection at CQW was March 22, 2023. Items noted on the safety inspection included:

- Taxiway markings faded.
- 100LL filter needs replacement.
- 100LL static line clip needs replacement.
- Rwy 8 has on inoperative threshold light.
- Rwy 26 has 3 inoperative threshold lights.

Rob Wolfe was in attendance via zoom and spoke in depth about the importance of this airport to the community.

A motion was made by Commissioner Cavazzoni to approve the funding and seconded by Commissioner Cooper.

The request was approved unanimously.

- **Greenville Downtown Airport (GMU)**

- **East Ramp T-hangar Pavement Emergency Repair (maintenance)**
- **Greenville Downtown Airport(GMU) – Grant 21-017 amendment**

James Stephens, had an overlapping meeting and was not able to join to discuss the airport's grant requests. These grants will be carried over to the next Commission meeting.

- **Woodward Field Airport (CDC) – Runway 6/24 Rehabilitation (construction)**

The Woodward Field Airport had a project to rehabilitate Runway 6/24 in 2021 that was constructed under a 100% FAA grant. The project had cost overruns that were funded under a separate FAA grant which was funded at the traditional 90% FAA/5% SCAC/5% Sponsor. The airport is requesting a grant from SCAC to provide State matching funds to this FAA grant.

The total cost of the overrun was \$980,709 funded at 90% FAA, 5% Sponsor, 5% SCAC.

Amount of grant funding requested is \$49,035

Chris Birkmeyer from WK Dickson was in attendance to represent Kershaw County and explain this project.

A motion was made by Commissioner Bethea to approve the funding and seconded by Commissioner Cavazzoni.

The request was approved unanimously.

Education grants were carried over to the next meeting pending future policy changes.

Flight Department

Tim Truemper presented the Flight Department report. He stated a few trips were scheduled for next week. The planes will be undergoing routine scheduled maintenance next month. Chris Giles (second pilot) officially resigned as of May 31, 2023. Aeronautics has advertised for a replacement, and we expect to have resumes on June 26, 2023.

It is time to think about getting the airplane subcommittee together to starting looking into replacement aircraft. Mr. Siegfried stated we will look to Tim and the subcommittee for recommendations on the appropriate replacement.

Director's Report

Mr. Siegfried presented the Director's Report, mentioning his visit to the SC Aerospace event at the Clemson Composite Center (<https://clemsoncomposites.com/>) and gave details about his attendance at other events.

Mr. Siegfried reminded everyone about the NASAO meeting being held in Rogers, Arkansas in September 2023.

Vice Chairman Barnes said, "Gary and I will be attending." Vice Chairman Barnes mentioned up to three individuals could attend the event.

Mr. Siegfried mentioned that he would be on vacation and out of the country from July 1st -8th of this year.

Proposed FY 2023-2024 State Aviation Fund Budget

Mr. Siegfried presented the proposed Aeronautics budget for the next fiscal year. Mr. Siegfried drew specific attention to a couple line items:

- A line was added to show the 2023 special legislative allocation of \$2.4M. This money is available for use on general aviation airports and wasn't shown in the previous budget.
- Pavement maintenance is being increased to \$1.5M. This budget item was down over the last two years, but discussion with airport sponsors indicate that we may do more work this year with our state maintenance contract.

- AWOS maintenance is being increased to \$450K. This line item has been lower in recent years due to an AWOS upgrades project, but we are starting see costs go up.
- State sponsored federal match is being increased to \$150K to take into account ongoing projects with FAA grants.
- Aeronautical charts and directories are being increased to \$55K to account for anticipated inflation.

Commissioner Bethea suggested that projected revenue from aviation fuel tax be reduced to account for recent trends in fuel tax receipts. After discussion, projected aviation fuel tax revenue was reduced to \$5.5 million.

A motion was made by Commissioner Cavazzoni to approve the budget as amended and seconded by Commissioner Cooper.

The motion was approved unanimously.

New Business

Commissioner Barnes mentioned an incident he had at Hamilton-Owens Field where an aircraft landed in opposite direction from what other traffic was using.

He went on to express concerns about possible encounters with other aircrafts due to frequent landing and taking off during the same times. These events could have easily turned into a dangerous situation. He was concerned about proper and effective radio communications. There was a discussion on whether there was a method of recording CTAF radio that might help in case there were an accident.

Commissioner Cavazzoni, Commissioner Emeritus Coward, John Hodge and Commissioner Cooper all discussed the safety of our airports and their experiences pertaining to airport safety.

District Reports

District 1: Commissioner Esposito had no reports. She has been out of the country.

District 3: Commissioner Cooper stated everything is going well. An Ultralight landed at Pickens County Airport. McCormick school event was cancelled due to weather.

District 4: Commissioner Kaufman was not available.

District 5: Commissioner Barnes spoke about Sumter getting minutes from their meetings now, which at one point they were not receiving. He and his family participated in a 5-K Run in Greenville and flew over to the Poker Run. Lancaster Airport is making progress with their new.

District 6: Commissioner Cavazzoni stated he attended the Safety Review meeting in Walterboro with David Smith. Lake City has an upcoming safety inspection.

District 7: Commissioner Bethea spoke about Horry County project for 6-gates and a T-hangar. Hangar designs are finished. They are deciding on contractors. Loris Airport has a lot of issues including through the fence operations. He had a discussion with Judi Olmstead regarding sale of the Loris airport. Commissioner Bethea is not in favor of sale to private individuals and would like to see Horry County retain ownership.

The Commission had an in-depth discussion about the issues at Loris Airport. The question came up of whether SC Aeronautics could possibly purchase the airport.

Vice Chairman Barnes stated he would like Commissioner Bethea to put together a committee for this topic.

Executive Session

After the Commissioners completed their District reports, Vice Chairman Barnes noted an Executive Session will be held at this time to discuss legal issues.

Commissioner Bethea made a motion to go into Executive Session and Commissioner Cavazzoni seconded.

The request was approved unanimously.

Commissioner Cavazzoni made a motion come out of Executive Session and seconded by Commissioner Cooper seconded.

The request was approved unanimously.

The executive session ended at 12:55 pm.

Next Meeting Date

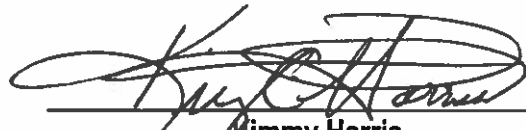
The next regular Commission Meeting will be held on August 15, 2023.

Adjournment

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



Doug Barnes
Vice Chairman/District 5



Kimmy Harris
Recording Secretary

8-15-2023

Date