



MINUTES
SOUTH CAROLINA AERONAUTICS COMMISSION MEETING
TUESDAY, AUGUST 15, 2023

Commission Members in Attendance

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

Aeronautics Staff in Attendance

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

Visitors

Bud Coward, Commissioner Emeritus
Judy Elder, TBE
Wayne Corley, MaesAwyr
Amanda J. Hill, MaesAwyr
Jack Lovelady, CFF
Paul Werts, CFF
Missy Robbins, CFF
Ken Holt, Holt Consulting
Ryan Hounshell, Holt Consulting
John Hodge, SC Aeronautics Legal Counsel
Kevin Howell, GSP/SCAA
Mary Balbach, SCHAF
Ron Skipper, SCHAF

Kelly Garin, GGMF
Joseph Atherton, GGMF
Chris Eversmann, Jim Hamilton-LB Owens Field (CUB)
Andy Howard, Laurens County Airport (LUX)
Ben Irwin, Laurens County
Mark Warner, McCormick County Airport (S19)
James Stephens, Greenville Downtown Airport (GMU)
Andy Busbee, Michael Baker International
Ben Malone, Michael Baker International
Brandon Chavis, Barnwell Regional Airport (BNL)
Johnathan Bryan, Sumter County
Ken Berry, SCHAF
Hernan Pena, CCAA

Video conference

Lara Kaufmann, District 4
Marco Cavazzoni, District 6
Melanie Friscoe, SCAA
Steve Gould, Rock Hill/York County Airport (UZA)

Welcome & Call to Order

Vice Chairman Doug Barnes called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m., welcomed everyone, announced a quorum in attendance.

Approval of Minutes

Vice Chairman Barnes presented the minutes of the June 20, 2023, meeting. He asked if anyone had any edits or corrections. Commissioner Cooper motioned to approve the minutes and Commission Bethea seconded. The minutes were approved with no corrections.

Invocation and Introductions

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

Vice Chairman Barnes opened the meeting and welcomed everyone. He asked Gary Siegfried if he would present the budget.

Financial, Budget, & Executive Director's Reports

Mr. Siegfried presented the financials. Operating Results are on track for the year with the total expenses at 6% of budget for the year. We were a little bit under projected for our expenses.

Mr. Siegfried stated the State Aviation Fund showed a beginning balance of \$25,944,794.16. This balance along with fuel sales tax revenues of \$465,632.59, a general fund recurring appropriation of \$500,000, and a refund of prior year expense & miscellaneous revenue of \$127,149.71 brought total available funds for airport projects to \$92,037,576.46.

After considering budgeted/committed items of \$78,943,412.35 the remaining \$13,094,164.11 was currently available for new grants.

Mr. Siegfried noted that fuel sales tax revenue is down approximately 25% from this time last year, but still higher than the previous year. This trend of dropping fuel revenue started in March and is something we will need to keep an eye on.

Airport Development

Mr. Siegfried presented the Airport Development Report. Mr. Siegfried discussed having an ADS-B receiver on the roof of SC Aeronautics. We can see all of SC (mountains, etc.). We were given the equipment by FlightRadar24 and SCAC was responsible for installation. This comes with a business license which allows us to see just the aircraft being monitored from our antenna. Our coverage area covers the entire state of South Carolina, extending from the North Carolina mountains to about 70 mile offshore from Savannah, GA.

Grants for consideration

- **Barnwell Regional Airport (BNL) – Amendment to SCAC Grant 23-021 – Taxiway Lighting and Signage Rehab**

The FAA has provided additional funding which will allow the airport to complete additional schedules of work. BNL is requesting an amendment to SCAC Grant 23-021 to provide state matching funds for this additional FAA funding.

Amount of grant amendment requested is \$23,424 (total grant would become \$78,254)

Status of safety inspection items: The last inspection at BNL was June 9, 2022. Items noted on the safety inspection included:

- o Jet A pump needs emergency fuel shutoff (in progress).
- o Rwy 5-23 has numerous large cracks.

A motion was made by Commissioner Bethea and Commissioner Cooper seconded the motion.

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

The total cost of the project is \$37,122 funded at 75% SCAC, 25% Sponsor.

Amount of grant funding requested is \$27,842.

Greenville Downtown Airport(GMU) – Grant 21-017 Amendment

Greenville Downtown Airport is requesting an amendment to 21-017 (West Ramp Reconstruction). The amendment request is for additional tie-downs and associated pavement markings along with construction cost overruns. The amendment request is \$24,649, bringing the SCAC share to \$283,851.

Amount of grant amendment requested is \$24,649.

Status of safety inspection items: The last inspection at GMU was April, 2022. There are no unresolved issues from this safety inspection.

A motion was made by Commissioner Cooper and Commissioner Bethea seconded the motion.

- **Laurens County Airport (LUX) – New Terminal Building Phase 1, Site Prep**

The Laurens County Airport (LUX) is constructing a new 3,000 SF terminal building on the site of the existing terminal which will be demolished as part of this project. The total cost of the project is \$2,605,373. LUX is requesting SCAC assistance through the terminal building program. Proposed funding is:

FAA	\$1,344,000
Sponsor	\$761,373
SCAC	\$500,000

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

Status of safety inspection items: The last inspection at LUX was July 6, 2023. Items noted on the safety inspection included:

- o Runway 8 PAPI inoperative

A motion was made by Commissioner Cooper and Vice Chairman/Commissioner Barnes seconded.

- **McCormick County Airport (S19) – Grant 23-012 Amendment**

Grant 23-012 is for Airport Grading Coordination and Environmental Services associated with the overall airport development project. The South Carolina Guard has requested that the airport conduct an environmental assessment for the project. This is a substantial increase in scope, and County is requesting an grant amendment to help cover these costs. The total cost of the project is \$109,797 funded at 80% State/20% Local.

Amount of grant amendment requested is \$83,206.

Status of safety inspection items: The last safety inspection was conducted on April 7, 2022. McCormick County Airport has safety issues that need to be addressed, from the latest inspection including:

- Pavement repairs
- Pavement markings
- Grading

A motion was made by Commissioner Cooper and Commissioner Esposito seconded.

- **Rock Hill-York County Airport – Glide Slope Replacement**

The total cost of the project is \$386,141 funded at 60% State/40% Local.

Amount of grant funding requested is \$231,685.

Status of safety inspection items: The last safety inspection was conducted in September, 2021. The Airport has no safety issues that need to be addressed from the latest inspection.

A motion was made by Vice Chairman/Commissioner Barnes and Commissioner Cooper seconded.

- **Union County Airport – Two (2 grant requests)
Rwy 5-23 Pavement and Lighting Rehab (Design)**

The total cost of the project is \$346,887 funded at 90%FAA/5% State/5% Local.

Amount of grant funding requested is \$17,344.

Apron and Taxi lanes Rehabilitation (Design, Bid and Construction); Entrance Parking Lot Overlay (Construction)

The total cost of the project is \$1,946,802 funded at 90%FAA/5% State/5% Local.

Amount of grant funding requested is \$88,766.

Status of safety inspection items: The last safety inspection was conducted in June, 2022. There are no unresolved issues from the last inspection.

A motion was made by Commissioner Esposito and Vice Chairman/Commissioner Barnes seconded.

- **Sumter County Airport-Fence Repair Project**

Amount of grant funding requested is \$96,000.

The total cost of the project is \$128,000 funded at 75% SCAC, 25% Sponsor.

A motion was made by Vice Chairman/Commissioner Barnes and Commissioner Esposito seconded.

- **South Carolina Historic Aviation Foundation Education Grant - Preserving the Past to Inspire the Future**

The South Carolina Historic Aviation Foundation (SCHAF) is requesting \$27,770 to assist with funding their education outreach program.

The foundation is a completely volunteer run organization and staff is not compensated for their work. The requested funding would be used for marketing materials to increase outreach to local children and to help the foundation offset facility costs.

Amount of grant funding requested is \$27,770.

A motion was made by Commissioner Bethea and Commissioner Esposito seconded.

- **Jim Hamilton – L.B. Owens Field (CUB) Education Grant – Airport Informational Signage Project**

The Jim Hamilton – L.B. Owens Field (CUB) is requesting \$69,255 to assist with funding their Airport Informational Signage Project.

The project will install signs at strategic locations throughout the airport that will highlight different aspects of the airport environment. See attached for additional information about the areas that will be featured at the airport.

Amount of grant funding requested is \$69,255.

A motion was made by Commissioner Cooper and Commissioner Esposito seconded.

- **Guns Garin Memorial Foundation**

The Guns Garin Memorial Foundation is requesting \$135,000 to assist with funding their Aviation Education Program.

Amount of grant funding requested is \$135,000.

A motion was made by Commissioner Esposito and Commissioner Bethea seconded.

- **Celebrate Freedom Foundation**

The Celebrate Freedom Foundation is requesting \$103,350 to assist with funding their Aviation Education Program.

Amount of grant funding requested is \$103,350.

A motion was made by Commissioner Cooper and Commissioner Bethea seconded.

Flight Department

Tim Truemper presented the Flight Department report. He stated we flew 18-31 days this month. Tim thanked Commissioner Bethea and Commissioner Coward for coming to see the new plane. The air conditioner had to be turned down because of how well it worked. The subcommittee will have to come together to come up with the best plan. We are set for the fall with our new pilot starting.

Director's Report

Mr. Siegfried presented the Director's Report, mentioning that he attended the Southern States Aviation Directors meeting. Three candidates were interviewed for the Program Manager II position. One candidate stood out above the rest. He discussed talking to this person.

Mr. Siegfried discussed the date of October 17th being the next Commission meeting here at SCAC. However, this date conflicts with the FAA Southern Region Conference.

New Business

Vice Chairman Barnes stated his one item is the Passport Program continuation.

District Reports

- District 1: Commissioner Esposito stated from her understanding on September 11, 2023, the County Council will approve everything for the New General building in Hilton Head.
- District 2: Emeritus Commissioner Coward presented the Master list of the area airports for District 2.
- Arrival numbers are up and down slightly in District 2 at the four airports in Aiken/CSR area.
- Vice Chairman/Commissioner Barnes asked, "You still live in that district?"
- Emeritus Commissioner Coward said, "As of this morning, I was still in the district!"
- Vice Chairman/Commissioner Barnes said, "Crank up the heat and let us get us a Commissioner!"
- Emeritus Commissioner Coward said, "Mr. Chairman, we are working on it! Thank you."
- District 3: Commissioner Cooper spoke about the upstate getting ready for football season. Oconee and Pickens will be happy to have the football enthusiasts come back to their airports. Since, they had to go to Anderson last year. He stated his appreciation for McCormick and Laurens County for coming out. Commissioner Cooper encourages everyone to keep up the good work.
- District 4: Commissioner Kaufmann stated she is not seeking reappointment when her term is up next. She mentioned Terry Connerton putting his name in the hat. If anyone knows anyone who is interested in Spartanburg County, they would just need to get the information Gary sent to Terry. She just wanted everyone to know this information.
- District 5: Commissioner Barnes stated a few of my airports have been represented with grants. He was out of the state for most of the summer and has not seen his airports as well as it being too hot.
- District 6: The audio for Commissioner Cavazzoni was not muted. Commissioner Cavazzoni still could not be heard.
- District 7: Commissioner Bethea spoke about Myrtle Beach having a lot going on with construction at a few of the facilities. The beach is growing every day. There is a new flight school in the area, which has about 10-airplanes. Paul Werts spoke about the progress on the project in Marion County.

Executive Session

After the Commissioners completed their District reports, Vice Chairman/Commissioner Barnes noted an Executive Session will be held after a little break to discuss legal matters.

Commissioner Cooper made a motion to go into Executive Session and Commissioner Bethea seconded at 11:45am. The request was approved unanimously.

At the conclusion of Executive Session, Vice Chairman/Commissioner Barnes stated that the purpose of the Executive Session was to receive legal advice from Counsel. No action was taken during this Executive session.

The executive session ended at 1:31 pm.

Next Meeting Date

Due to schedule conflicts, the next meeting cannot be held on the initial date of October 17, 2023. The next regular Commission Meeting date and time is to-be-determined.

Adjournment

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



Doug Barnes
Vice Chairman/District 5



Kimmy Harris
Recording Secretary

11-14-2023

Date