



## MINUTES

### SOUTH CAROLINA AERONAUTICS COMMISSION MEETING

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2023

#### Commission Members in Attendance

Delphin Gantt, Chairman  
Anne Esposito, District 1  
Vacant, District 2  
Skeets Cooper, District 3  
Lara Kaufmann, District 4  
Doug Barnes, District 5  
Chris Bethea, District 7

#### Visitors

Bud Coward, Commissioner Emeritus  
Jim Hamilton, Commissioner Emeritus  
Johnathan Bryan, Sumter County  
Ken Holt, Holt Consulting  
Paul Werts, Talbert, Bright & Ellington  
Judy Elder, Talbert, Bright & Ellington

#### Video conference

Marco Cavazzoni, District 6  
Wayne Corley, MaesAwyr  
Chris Birkmeyer, WK Dickson/Kershaw County  
Rob Wolfe, Cheraw Assistant Town Administrator  
Steve Parry, Beaufort Co. Airports Deputy Director  
Brett Garrison, Anderson Airport Manager  
Carlos Salinas, Pickens County  
Jack Mayfield, Holt Consulting  
Mark Warner, McCormick County  
Joseph Barkevich, WK Dickson  
Barry Avent, Marlboro County

#### Aeronautics Staff in Attendance

Gary Siegfried, Executive Director  
Melody Mikell, Finance Director  
Kimmy Harris, Office Manager  
Christopher Eversmann, Program Manager  
David Smith, Project Manager  
Austin Wagler, Engineer Associate  
Tim Truemper, Chief Pilot  
Ronnie Gantt, Pilot

John Hodge, SC Aeronautics Legal Counsel  
Charles Taylor, Marion County  
Denise Bryan, Fairfield County  
Jill Warren, Saluda County Airport  
Ben Mallone, Micheal Baker Intl.  
Andy Busbee, Micheal Baker Intl.  
Melanie Friscoe, SCAA  
Nick Watson, EMC Jet

Gerald, Blanchard, Kershaw County  
Ryan Hounshell, Holt Consulting  
Kevin Morris, Holt Consulting  
Danny Lucas, Jasper County  
Tim Shumpert, Lexington County  
James Stephens, Greenville Downtown Airport  
James Broderick, Dorchester/Walterboro County  
Terry Connerton, Spartanburg Downtown Airport  
Doris Sumpter, Marlboro County  
Kenneth Blakeney, Colleton County  
Vickie Williams, Clarendon County

## **Welcome & Call to Order**

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

## **Approval of Minutes**

Chairman Gantt presented the minutes of the August 15, 2023, meeting. He asked if anyone had any edits or corrections. Commissioner Gantt motioned to approve the minutes and Commissioner Cooper seconded. The minutes were approved as written with no corrections.

## **Invocation and Introductions**

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

Chairman Gantt opened the meeting and welcomed everyone. He extended a personal welcome to Chris as the new Program Manager to SC Aeronautics. Chairman Gantt 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 82% of budget for the year.

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 \$2,011,776.15, airline property tax revenue of \$690,111.01, a general fund recurring appropriation of \$500,000, and a refund of prior year expense & miscellaneous revenue of \$128,003.61 brought total available funds for airport projects to \$115,774,684.93.

After considering budgeted/committed items of \$81,493,796.58 the remaining \$12,780,888.35 was currently available for new grants. The budget available for new grants is currently in good shape, but this will come down substantially after Chris Eversmann presents grants under consideration during the meeting.

Mr. Siegfried discussed the status of open education grants as well as Special Legislative Allocations. Mr. Siegfried specifically mentioned that Melody has been doing a great job of documenting these special funds. Gary reviewed the remaining financials, other projects and discussed the maintenance status of SCAC current airplanes.

Gary Siegfried turned over the presentation to Chris Eversmann for the Airport Development report.

Chairman Gantt stated to everyone due to having twenty-three grant requests today, we will not be going over each grant one by one. All grants will be discussed and then approved as a single request unless there are any questions.

## **Airport Development**

Christopher Eversmann introduced himself as the new Program Manager for Aeronautics and stated how glad he was to be aboard. He stated we have 23-grants to discuss. Chris explained his power point and what the slide would include. Chris stated he would go over the details of the grant and then ask the representative from the airport and/or county to feel free to add any further information.

After the presentation of each grant, the representative was asked if they had anything to add. Then, Chairman Grant asked if there were any questions. If there were no questions, Chris moved to the next grant.

### **Grants for consideration (Education)**

#### **1. Challenger Learning Center (CLC) / CLC Foundation / Education / Programmable Drones / Equipment**

**The requested grant amount is \$20,000**

This request is for the purchase of Programmable Drones to be used in Aviation / Aerospace instruction at the Challenger Learning Center, Columbia, SC.

### **Grants for consideration (Airport Development)**

#### **2. Hilton Head Island Airport (HXD) / Beaufort County / Commercial Carrier Entitlement / Tree trimming and removal along fence line adjacent to Taxiway 'F' / Construction**

**The total project amount is \$5,450 / The requested grant amount is \$5,450**

Status of safety inspection items: HXD is a Part 139 Airport and, therefore, not inspected by SCAC Staff.

#### **3. Aiken Municipal Airport (AIK) / City of Aiken / 60% / Apron Expansion, Construction Change Order # 1**

Delays in construction beyond the control of the Contractor (Reeves Construction Company) have caused increases in project costs. This grant request is to address these increased costs associated with soil stabilization issues.

**The total project amount is \$87,153 / The requested grant amount is \$52,292**

Status of safety inspection items: The most recent airport safety inspection at AIK was conducted on July 13, 2023. Some of the following safety-related items were noted:

- Multiple Runway 7 – 25 edge lights inoperative.
- Part 77 Airspace tree penetrations.
- Five inoperative Runway 7 threshold lights.

**4. Aiken Municipal Airport (AIK) / City of Aiken / 5% / Runway Pavement Rehabilitation / Design**

This request is for 5% State matching fund participation in an FAA Airport Improvement Program (AIP) Grant Design Project. The current Pavement Condition Index (PCI) for the AIK Runway (07 – 25) is 63.

**The total project amount is \$500,315 / The requested grant amount is \$25,015**

Status of safety inspection items: See Item 2 above.

**5. Lexington County Airport (6J0) / Lexington County / 5% / Taxiway Pavement Rehabilitation / Construction**

This request is for 5% State matching fund participation in an FAA Airport Improvement Program (AIP) Grant Construction Project. The current Pavement Condition Index (PCI) for the 6J0 Taxiway 'A' ranges between 56 – 70.

**The total project amount is \$2,979,094 / The requested grant amount is \$148,955**

Status of safety inspection items: The most recent airport safety inspection at 6J0 was conducted on January 5, 2023. The following safety-related items were noted:

- Part 77 Airspace tree and utility pole penetrations.
- Multiple Taxiway edge lights inoperative.
- One PAPI bulb inoperable.

**6. Pickens County Airport (LQK) / Pickens County / 60% / Apron Expansion / Construction**

This request is for 60% State participation in a construction project to expand the aircraft parking capacity at the Pickens County Airport.

**The total project amount is \$373,073 / The requested grant amount is \$223,844**

Status of safety inspection items: The most recent airport safety inspection at LQK was conducted on June 24, 2021. The following safety-related items were noted:

- Parking of fuel trucks too close to permanent structures.

**7. Oconee County Regional Airport (CEU) / Oconee County / 5% / Taxiway Pavement Rehabilitation / Design**

This request is for 5% State participation in a design project to rehabilitate Taxiway Pavement at the Oconee County Airport.

**The total project amount is \$367,639 / The requested grant amount is \$18,382**

Status of safety inspection items: The most recent airport safety inspection at CEU was conducted on March 16, 2023. The following safety-related items were noted:

- Part 77 Airspace tree penetrations.
- Outdated fuel truck fire extinguisher inspections.

**8. McCormick County Airport (S19) / McCormick County / 80% / Site Development Coordination / Design**

This request is for 80% State participation in a project to coordinate South Carolina Army National Guard (SCArNG) participation in the Innovative Readiness Training (IRT) program for airfield grading and land disturbance at the McCormick County Airport in FY-2025. The scope of work also includes preparation of construction bid packages.

**The total project amount is \$116,883 / The requested grant amount is \$93,506**

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.

**9. Saluda County Airport (6J4) / Saluda County / 5% / Airfield Lighting Rehabilitation / Design**

This request is for 5% State participation in a design project to rehabilitate airfield lighting at the Saluda County Airport.

**The total project amount is \$125,470 / The requested grant amount is \$6,273**

Status of safety inspection items: The most recent airport safety inspection at 6J4 was conducted on July 6, 2022. The following safety-related items were noted:

- Part 77 Airspace tree and utility pole penetrations.

**10. Anderson County Airport (AND) / Anderson County / 5% / Taxiway Pavement Rehabilitation / Construction**

This request is for 5% State participation in a construction project to rehabilitate Taxiway pavement at the Anderson County Airport.

**The total project amount is \$7,405,887 / The requested grant amount is \$370,294**

Status of safety inspection items: Until recently and was a Part 139 Airport and inspected by the staff of the FAA. It has not yet been inspected by SCAC Staff.

**11. Anderson County Airport (AND) / Anderson County / 90% / Secondary Runway Pavement Rehabilitation / Design**

This request is for 90% State participation in a final (100%) design and bidding for the secondary runway pavement rehabilitation (17 – 35) at the Anderson County Airport.

**The total project amount is \$179,464 / The requested grant amount is \$161,518**

Status of safety inspection items: See Item 10 above.

**12. Donaldson Field (GYH) / County and City of Greenville / Other / Air Traffic Control Tower (ATCT) Equipment Replacement / Equipment**

This request is for State participation in a project to replace outdated equipment in the air traffic control tower (ATCT) at Donaldson Field. This project also used Bipartisan Infrastructure Legislation (BIL) Funds.

**The total project amount is \$354,703 / The requested grant amount is \$23,822**

Status of safety inspection items: GYH is a Part 139 Airport and, therefore, not inspected by SCAC Staff.

**13. Greenville Downtown Airport (GMU) / Greenville Airport Commission / 5% / Runway 1 – 19 Runway Safety Area (RSA) Improvements / Design**

This request is for 5% State participation in a design project to improve the RSA at Greenville Downtown Airport.

**The total project amount is \$1,785,556 / The requested grant amount is \$89,278**

Status of safety inspection items: The most recent airport safety inspection at GMU was conducted on April 13, 2022. The following safety-related items were noted:

- Part 77 Airspace tree and utility pole penetrations.
- Broken frangible light fixture on Runway 28 end light.

**14. Sumter County Airport (SMS) / Sumter County / 5% / Apron Reconstruction / Construction**

This request is for amendment of a previously issued Grant (SCAC 22-024) for the 5% State participation in a project to reconstruct the apron at Sumter County Airport. The additional construction costs were caused by extra effort to address soil instability. The FAA has approved their portion of the amendment request.

**The total project amendment amount is \$325,000 / The requested grant amendment amount is \$16,250**

Status of safety inspection items: The most recent airport safety inspection at SMS was conducted on August 23, 2022. The following safety-related items were noted:

- Part 77 Airspace tree and utility pole penetrations.
- Runway ODALS inoperative.

**15. Lancaster County Airport (LKR) / Lancaster County / 60% / Terminal Replacement Ancillary Site Work and Lighting Vault Replacement / Construction**

This request is for 60% State participation in a project to address escalating costs associated with ancillary site work for the airport terminal replacement project as well as the replacement of the airfield lighting vault at the Lancaster County Airport.

**The total project amount is \$1,199,782 / The requested grant amount is \$719,869**

Status of safety inspection items: The most recent airport safety inspection at LKR was conducted on August 10, 2021. The following safety-related items were noted:

- Part 77 Airspace tree penetrations.
- Runway 24 REILs inoperative.
- Multiple Runway edge lights inoperative.

**16. Woodward Field (CDN) / Kershaw County / 60% / Airfield Drainage Improvements (FAA ineligible) / Construction**

This request is for 60% State participation to cover construction work associated with the Woodward Field Drainage Improvement Project that the FAA has deemed to be ineligible for federal funds. This includes off-Airport drainage outfall improvements and additional costs incurred through the original low bidder quitting the project before construction commenced.

**The total project amount is \$236,744 / The requested grant amount is \$142,046**

Status of safety inspection items: The most recent airport safety inspection at CDN was conducted on February 8, 2023. The following safety-related items were noted:

- Part 77 Airspace tree and utility penetrations.
- Multiple taxiway lights inoperative.
- Faded pavement markings.

**17. Fairfield County Airport (FDW) / Fairfield County / 5% / Airfield Drainage Improvements / Design**

This request is for 5% State participation in a design project to improve Airfield drainage at the Fairfield County Airport.

**The total project amount is \$334,112 / The requested grant amount is \$16,706**

Status of safety inspection items: The most recent airport safety inspection at FDW was conducted on August 31, 2022. The following safety-related items were noted:

- Part 77 Airspace tree penetrations.
- Trees in Taxiway Object Free Area (TOFA)

**18. Santee Cooper Regional Airport (MNI) / Clarendon County / 5% / Taxiway Pavement Rehabilitation / Design**

This request is for 5% State participation in a design project to rehabilitate the Taxiway pavement at Santee Cooper Regional Airport. The 2016 PCI ratings were in the range of 64 – 68.

**The total project amount is \$289,450 / The requested grant amount is \$14,472**

Status of safety inspection items: The most recent airport safety inspection at MNI was conducted on January 26, 2023. The following safety-related items were noted:

- Part 77 Airspace tree penetrations.

**19. Lowcountry Regional Airport (RBW) / Walterboro – Colleton County / 5% / Runway Pavement Rehabilitation / Design**

This request is for 5% State participation in a design project to rehabilitate the pavement of Runway 5 – 23 at the Lowcountry Regional Airport. The 2016 PCI ratings were in the range 64– 68.

**The total project amount is \$325,500 / The requested grant amount is \$16,275**

Status of safety inspection items: The most recent airport safety inspection at RBW was conducted on April 17, 2023. The following safety-related items were noted:

- Part 77 Airspace tree penetrations.

**20. Lowcountry Regional Airport (RBW) / Walterboro – Colleton County / 60% / Perimeter Wildlife Fencing / Construction**

This request is for 60% State participation in a construction project to install wildlife perimeter fencing at the Lowcountry Regional Airport.

**The estimated total project amount is \$1,541,725 / The estimated requested grant amount is \$925,035\*\***

\*\* Note – Bids for this project are being opened on the afternoon before the SCAC meeting. If bids can be reviewed and certified in time for the meeting on Tuesday, November 14, 2023, this request will be considered by the Commission.

Status of safety inspection items: See item 19 above.

**21. Jim Hamilton – L.B. Owens Airport (CUB) / Richland County / 5% / Taxiway Pavement Rehabilitation / Design**

This request is for 5% State participation in a design project to rehabilitate the Taxiway pavement at the Jim Hamilton – LB Owens Airport.



**The total project amount is \$288,354 / The requested grant amount is \$14,418**

Status of safety inspection items: The most recent airport safety inspection at CUB was conducted on August 21, 2023. The following safety-related items were noted:

- Part 77 Airspace tree penetrations.
- Runway 13 REIL inoperative.

**22. Ridgeland – Claude Dean Airport (3J1) / Jasper County / 5% / Automated Weather Observation Station (AWOS) Installation / Construction**

This request is for 5% State participation in a project to install an AWOS at the Ridgeland – Claude Dean Airport.

**The total project amount is \$287,070 / The requested grant amount is \$14,353**

Status of safety inspection items: The most recent airport safety inspection at 3J1 was conducted on January 11, 2023. The following safety-related items were noted:

- Part 77 Airspace tree penetrations.
- Runway 36 REIL inoperative.

**23. Marlboro County Jetport (BBP) / Marlboro County / 5% / Taxiway Pavement Rehabilitation / Construction**

This request is for 5% State participation in a construction project to rehabilitate taxiway pavement at the Marlboro County Jetport.

**The total project amount is \$1,132,144 / The requested grant amount is \$56,607**

Status of safety inspection items: The most recent airport safety inspection at BBP was conducted on August 8, 2022. The following safety-related items were noted:

- Part 77 Airspace tree penetrations.
- Runway 7 PAPI inoperative.
- Multiple Airfield lights inoperative

After all of the grants were presented, Commissioner Cooper made a motion to approve all of the grant requests and Commissioner Barnes seconded.

The requests were approved unanimously.

Commissioner Kaufmann spoke about putting something together to say thank you to the Legislators for funds they were able to provide.

Commissioner Cooper stated that is the first thing I do.

## **Flight Department**

Mr. Tim Truemper presented the Flight Department report.

He began with the topic of the purchase of a plane. Tim stated the Airplane subcommittee met once. Tim expressed his idea of a late model 350, which will not be available for 2 ½ years. He stated a jet would be overkill because we do not travel enough for one and will burn a whole lot of fuel. Tim stated a 350 would be the best option. He explained the plan of performing scheduled upcoming maintenance, purchasing one new plane, selling the existing planes, and using those funds for purchase of one more. Tim stated when the committee meets again, we would like to have the aircrafts sold and have direction from the Department of Administration as far as the process of purchasing the plane.

After the breakdown of the details of airplanes, Chairman Gantt made a motion to move forward with purchasing the 350i and Commissioner Cooper seconded.

The request was approved unanimously.

Mr. Truemper explained November and December months are pretty slow. Clemson will keep us pretty busy.

Tim introduced Ronnie Gantt as the new pilot for Aeronautics. Mr. Gantt spoke about his extensive background in aviation as well as this actually being his return to Aeronautics. He explained how he had worked for Aeronautics years ago.

## **Director's Report**

Mr. Siegfried began stating how helpful it is to have Chris here to help out putting some of the reports together.

Chairman Gantt stated Chris did a great job for his first time presenting.

Gary presented the Director's Report, mentioned participating in USC Engineering Student Welcome Event (careers in education panel discussion) as well as being a part of the advisory board for Richland 1 School District aerospace education program (Blast program). Gary spoke about details about other events attended.

Mr. Siegfried stated the Airplane subcommittee was already discussed. He stated SLED will be temporarily storing their new helicopter in the hangar and renting a couple of our offices here at Aeronautics. Gary mentioned going over the details and discussing the commercial service funding in the Executive Session. He spoke about the project for and groundbreaking in Hilton Head. He asked everyone to review the AviCom updates on the last few pages of the Agenda package and mentioned certain details about AviCom. Gary spoke about the next meeting date, which was discussed amongst the Commission.

Commissioner Barnes asked about any staff being hired.

Mr. Siegfried mentioned wanting to hire a planner for compatible land use expert in the future.

Chairman Gantt asked Gary about the status of the Education grant committee.

Gary stated the committee put together a draft, but the policy was very restrictive. We are looking to reduce the requirements.

### **New Business**

Chairman Gantt opened the discussion of any new business. No new business.

### **District Reports**

District 1: Commissioner Esposito spoke about the groundbreaking in Hilton Head and being glad to see it come to fruition.

District 3: Commissioner Cooper explained Anderson County business is good and his appreciation for the grant for the new pavement. Laurens County is working on the new terminal building. McCormick in ongoing coordination with the National Guard for earth moving project. Oconee having to call around for jet fuel from other airports. The best fall fuel sales and traffic, they have ever had in Pickens County. Saluda fuel sales (the cheapest fuel in the area) are improving and appreciation for them being in attendance today. Everything going pretty well in Newberry. Unable to get in contact with Edgefield.

School kids are keeping Commissioner Cooper busy. Forty plus school kids in a home-schooling co-op and their parents at the airport. Hangar was full of children.

District 4: Commissioner Kaufmann spoke about Special Services losing a hangar to fire this week at Greenville Downtown Airport. Four aircrafts were damaged. Cause of fire is under investigation. Duke Energy has a project to increase the height of power poles next to Fairview Airport. David has been assisting the airport with sketches. Fairview is also looking to widen and repave their runway. Commissioner Kaufmann asked about discussion on Commercial Airport funding. She stated a representative for GSP is here today. Gary gave the GSP representative a copy of the Commercial Airport Funding spreadsheet for review.

District 5: Commissioner Barnes stated it is exciting to have active grants and making all the airports better.

District 6: The Tuskegee Chapter wanted to thank you for the unveiling of the Tuskegee monument. Lowcountry Regional starting up a project to install wildlife fencing. SC Aeronautics may need to check other airports for this issue with SC wildlife. Large animals going across in front of large aircraft is definitely an issue. Gary and Commissioner Cavazzoni are going to Hampton County this evening.

District 7: Commissioner Bethea spoke about his attendance as well as Gary and Doug at the NASAO conference in Rogers, Arkansas. The Commissioner did not make it to the Ribbon Cutting in Hartsville, but David Smith was able attend. Commissioner Bethea attended the event for Carroll Joy at the Orangeburg Municipal Airport. Gary, Kimmy, Commissioner Emeritus Coward, Commissioner Cavazzoni and Commissioner Cavazzoni attended the Tuskegee Airmen monument dedication. US Representative Jim Clyburn and South Carolina Senator Margie Bright Matthews were also in attendance. Commissioner Bethea also visited the Pickens County Career Center with Commissioner Cooper.

**Executive Session**

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

Before going into the Executive Session, Chairman Gantt thanked everyone for coming. Chairman Gantt also thanked everyone for their calls, emails, and texts. He invited all attendees to have lunch before leaving.

Chairman Gantt made a motion to go into Executive Session and Commissioner Barnes seconded at 12:21pm.

The request was approved unanimously.

Chairman Gantt made a motion go out of Executive Session and Commissioner Bethea seconded at 2:44pm.

The request was approved unanimously.

**Commercial Funding**

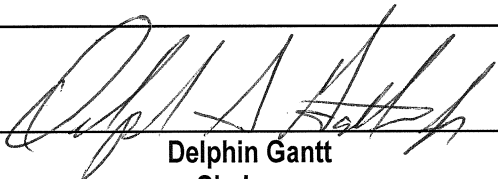
Gary presented a plan for distribution of \$20M allocated through this years state budget. Gary explained that \$10M was earmarked by legislature for Charleston International. The remaining \$10M was allocated based upon the same model used last year with a minimum of \$1M allocation. Chairman Gantt made a motion to approve the Commercial Funding and Commissioner Bethea seconded.

**Next Meeting Date**

The next regular Commission Meeting was set tentatively for January 23, 2024.

**Adjournment**

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

  
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**Delphin Gantt**  
Chairman

  
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**Kimmy Harris**  
Recording Secretary

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**January 23, 2024**  
Date