



MINUTES

SOUTH CAROLINA AERONAUTICS COMMISSION MEETING

TUESDAY, JANUARY 23, 2024

Commission Members in Attendance

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

Aeronautics Staff in Attendance

Gary Siegfried, Executive Director
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

Visitors

Bud Coward, Commissioner Emeritus
Jim Hamilton, Commissioner Emeritus
Ken Holt, Holt Consulting
Paul Werts, Talbert, Bright & Ellington
Judy Elder, Talbert, Bright & Ellington
Chris Birkmeyer, WK Dickson/Kershaw County
Steve Parry, Beaufort Co. Airports Deputy Director

Terry Connerton, Spartanburg Downtown Airport
James E. Clark, Self
John Hodge, SC Aeronautics Legal Counsel
Charles Taylor, Marion County
Denise Bryan, Fairfield County
Melanie Friscoe, SCAA
Hernan Peña, Charleston Int

Video conference

Anne Esposito, District 1
Marco Cavazzoni, District 6
C.J. Will, Lowcountry Aviation
James Stephens, Greenville Downtown Airport

Welcome & Call to Order

Chairman Gantt called the meeting to order at 10:07 a.m., welcomed everyone, announced a quorum in attendance.

Approval of Minutes

Chairman Gantt presented the minutes of the November 14, 2023, meeting. He asked if anyone had any edits or corrections. Commissioner Gantt motioned to approve the minutes and Commissioner Bethea seconded. The minutes were approved as written with no corrections.

Invocation and Introductions

The invocation was given by Chairman Gantt. Following the invocation, all attendees introduced themselves.

Chairman Gantt explained the photograph taken with commissioners prior to the meeting began. Everyone in the meeting had a product (tie, socks, coffee cup, shirts) made by Chart It All. Chart It all is a company started by Trevor Simoneau that uses aeronautical charts as the theme for the products that they sell. Trevor started this business to earn money so that he could pursue his dream of attending Embry-Riddle University. Trevor has completed his undergrad and is now in grad school.

Commissioner Emeritus Jim Hamilton gave great details about this young man.

Chairman Gantt opened the meeting and welcomed everyone. 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 85% 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 \$3,162,930.50, airline property tax revenue of \$5,574,625.86, a general fund recurring appropriation of \$500,000, and a refund of prior year expense & miscellaneous revenue of \$130,028.61 brought total available funds for airport projects to \$121,812,379.13.

After considering budgeted/committed items of \$84,842,278.58 the remaining \$15,470,100.55 was currently available for new grants. The budget available for new grants is currently in good shape.

Mr. Siegfried asked if there were any questions.

Commissioner Kaufmann praised all staff for doing a good job organizing all the financial information.

Mr. Siegfried said the praise belongs to Melody. She is a blessing and very detailed oriented.

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

Airport Development

Christopher Eversmann began by stating we do not have 23-grants to discuss today, which should make this presentation brief and a lot more manageable. Mr. Eversmann provided updates concerning airport development deadlines, projects and the progress of SC Aeronautics website.

Grants for consideration (Commercial Service Entitlement)

- 1. Hilton Head Island Airport (HXD) / Beaufort County / Commercial Carrier Entitlement / Replacement Sign Panels / Construction**

Associated AIP Grant: NA

The requested grant amount is \$29,440.

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

Development Staff recommends approval of this grant funding request.

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

Grants for consideration (Airport Development)

- 1. Spartanburg Downtown Memorial Airport (SPA) / City of Spartanburg / 5% (AIG / BIL) / Rehabilitate Taxiway 'A' / Construction**

The Airport Sponsor has submitted two SCAC 5% grant requests for the construction phase of Taxiway 'A' rehabilitation – one for the AIG / BIL funding portion of the project funding and another for the AIP funding portion.

Associated AIG / BIL Grant: 3-45-0051-031-2023

The requested grant amount is \$22,318.

Development Staff recommends approval of this grant funding request.

- 2. Spartanburg Downtown Memorial Airport (SPA) / City of Spartanburg / 5% (AIP) / Rehabilitate Taxiway 'A' / Construction**

The Airport Sponsor has submitted two SCAC 5% grant requests for the construction phase of Taxiway 'A' rehabilitation – one for the AIG / BIL funding portion of the project funding and another for the AIP funding portion. These track with the two FAA Grants issued.

Associated AIP Grant: 3-45-0051-030-2023

The requested grant amount is \$375,782.

Development Staff recommends approval of this grant funding request.

3. Spartanburg Downtown Memorial Airport (SPA) / City of Spartanburg / 60% / Rehabilitate Taxiway 'A' / Design (reimbursement)

The Airport Sponsor has submitted a request for an SCAC 60% grant request to cover some project costs that are not eligible for FAA AIP funding. These additional professional services were to re-evaluate the Airport's Modifications of Standards (MOS) as they impact the project to Rehabilitate Taxiway 'A' and to update the aircraft fleet mix.

Associated AIP Grant: NA

The requested grant amount is \$7,699.

Development Staff recommends approval of this grant funding request.

Status of Safety Data Inspection items – The most recent airport safety inspection at SPA was conducted on August 31, 2023. Among the safety-related items noted were:

- Part 77 Airspace tree penetrations;
- Trees within Taxiway 'A' Object Free Area (OFA).

The three (3) grants for SPA were considered together.

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

4. Greenville Downtown Airport (GMU) / Greenville Airport Commission / 60% / Runway 1 – 19 Runway Safety Area (RSA) improvements / Design

This request is for 60% State participation in a planning project to re-evaluate an Environmental Assessment (EA) previously prepared as part of the Runway 1 – 19 Runway Safety Area (RSA) Improvement Project. This re-evaluation is required due to changes in the project scope identified during the design phase.

Associated AIP Grant: NA

The requested grant amount is \$65,988.

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.

Development Staff recommends approval of this grant funding request.

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

5. Charleston International Airport (CHS) / Charleston County Aviation Authority / Special Allocation / East Remain Overnight (RON) Apron / Design and Construction

This request is for use of the \$10M Special Allocation for the Charleston International Airport (CHS) for design and construction of the East Remain Overnight (RON) Apron.

The requested grant amount is \$10,000,000.

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

Development Staff recommends approval of this grant funding request.

Note: The Airport Sponsor has also requested that \$10.46M previously authorized for the West RON Apron project (SCAC 23-007) be re-allocated to this project. The Airport Sponsor acknowledges that, unless there is a future special allocation of funds in the State budget, future re-funding of the West RON Apron project will be limited to Commercial Service Entitlement funding (not to exceed \$500,000).

Development Staff recommends approval of this re-allocation request.

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

Grants for consideration (Administration)

1. South Carolina Aviation Association (SCAA) / Administration / Aviation related support services

This request is for funds to support the following SCAA programs:

- *Palmetto Aviation* quarterly newsletter
- SC Aviation Safety Committee
- SC Aviation Week
- Airport promotion video

The requested grant amount is \$54,000.

Development Staff recommends approval of this grant funding request.

A motion was made by Chairman Gantt and seconded Commissioner Bethea. The motion was approved unanimously.

Grants for consideration (Education)

1. Lowcountry Aviation Association (LCAA) / Education / Amendment (extension)

The Grant recipient has requested to extend the duration of SCAA 22-006 until December 31, 2024. The unexpended balance of the grant is \$26,872.87. This extension has been requested due to staff turnover and other transition issues in this volunteer organization.

Development Staff recommends approval of this grant extension request.

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

Flight Department

Mr. Tim Truemper presented the Flight Department report.

Mr. Truemper discussed the status of the airplanes. The King Air 350 has new engines and flights are starting to schedule again, but it is a bit slow right now. Tim discussed working with the Department of Administration for the last 6-months on the aircraft procurement process. The first approval step is tomorrow at the Joint Bond Review Committee meeting. Tim shared the fleet upgrade plan has not changed. We are still hoping to purchase a 2017-2020 era 350i with about 500 hours. We will then sell our current planes and combine those funds with any money left from the \$10M allocation. This money will be used to purchase the second plane. Tim explained the subcommittee will meet again to discuss ideas for the second plane after we know how much money we will have to work with.

Tim next discussed the status of the King Air 90. Getting the left engine repaired has taken much longer than expected, but we are hoping to be operational in about 3-weeks.

Director's Report

Mr. Siegfried presented the Director's Report. Mr. Siegfried spoke about visiting the Career Center in Pickens County.

Mr. Siegfried discussed coordination with the Council on Competitiveness for an upcoming opportunity. The Council is working on an economic impact study for advanced air mobility at commercial airports. Gary was asked if Aeronautics would like to join the study and add some funding to include an update to the general economic impact of the commercial airports. Mr. Siegfried stated the last study was done in 2018, which means the numbers are mostly likely are much higher than what is being reported now. Gary said that he will report to Commission when those costs for this study have been developed.

Mr. Siegfried went on to discuss that compatible land use issues are consuming a lot of his time and effort right now. Gary met with John Hodge, Jim Taylor, Tally Casey, Chris Eversmann and David Smith to discuss residential development in approach to runway 23 at Georgetown County Airport (GGE). Gary stated the property was originally zoned for light industrial and general commercial but was rezoned two years ago to high density residential. This rezoning occurred without the input of Aeronautics or the airport. Gary stated there is new Planning Director in place, who seems willing to implement new city zoning ordinances to include the airport. Gary mentioned that Lowcountry

Airport is having the same issue with the same developer. Gary stated he would be attending the Lowcountry Board Meeting to talk about of this issue.

Mr. Siegfried noted that budgeting for FY 2025 is underway. Gary reminded everyone the meeting with Ways and Means is this afternoon.

Gary went on to discuss a few of the items requested as part of next year's budget including:

- \$400K general fund increase.
- \$300K for new fuel truck (we are currently leasing a fuel truck for about \$2,000 per month).
- \$60K for facility needs assessment.

Mr. Siegfried, Chairman Gantt, Commissioner Kaufmann, Commissioner Cavazzoni, Commissioner Emeritus Coward and Mr. Paul Werts discussed the ownership of South Carolina Aeronautics Commission building as well as other information about the leasing agreement for the land with Columbia Metropolitan Airport, the cost and maintenance for SCAC building.

New Business

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

District Reports

District 1: Commissioner Esposito shared Hilton Head is doing well. The terminal building project is underway and airport commission is working the Heritage to promote the airport.

District 3: Commissioner Cooper discussed the importance of the secondary runway at Anderson because it provides backup when the primary runway is down for maintenance. Greenwood having internal issue (political). Laurens County is working on their new terminal building. McCormick County is coordinating with the National Guard for the grading project. Oconee County is having issues with edge lights. Pickens County had their best year ever in fuel sales. Saluda County has more than 30 people on their hangar waitlist. Business is slow at Newberry County Airport.

District 4: Commissioner Kaufmann shared that Triple Tree will be hosting the Chilly Chili event coming up in February and also working on upgrades to simulators used to support the summer camps. GMU is working on repairs to the hangar lost to fire and a 5.5 acre hangar area. Also working on bidding the EMAS project. Spartanburg is working on pavement repairs around their fuel farm and new box hangars.

District 5: Commissioner Barnes mentioned that the runway in Lancaster is dirty and needs to be cleaned. Mr. Siegfried stated to contact Austin and Chris to take care of this issue. Mrs. Denise Bryan, Fairfield County Airport Manager spoke about Fairfield completing a \$1.9M drainage project. The project was 100% federally funded. The terminal building project in Lancaster is underway.

District 6: Commissioner Cavazzoni expressed an issue with wildlife during hunting season and fences being needed. Commissioner Cavazzoni spoke about getting the message out about a lot of wildlife fencing and safety issues.

District 7: Commissioner Bethea shared that Conway Airport was closed for 90-days for runway and taxiway work. He also mentioned the issues that airports are having with zoning issues. Mr. Charles Taylor from Marion County thanked the agency and everyone for coming out for the Ribbon Cutting. Mr. Taylor thanked Ms. Judy Elder and Mr. Paul Werts for everything they both have done.

Executive Session

After the Commissioners completed their District reports, Chairman Barnes made a motion to go into Executive Session and Chairman Gantt seconded to discuss legal matters.

The request was approved unanimously.

Before going into the Executive Session, Chairman Gantt thanked everyone for coming.

Chairman Bethea made a motion go out of Executive Session and Commissioner Cooper seconded .

The request was approved unanimously.

Next Meeting Date

The next regular Commission Meeting was set tentatively for March 19, 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.

Delphin Gantt
Chairman

Kimmy Harris
Recording Secretary

March 19, 2024
Date