



MINUTES
SOUTH CAROLINA AERONAUTICS COMMISSION MEETING
TUESDAY, MARCH 19, 2024

Commission Members in Attendance

Delphin Gantt, Chairman
Vacant, District 2
Skeets Cooper, District 3
Lara Kaufmann, District 4 *
Doug Barnes, District 5
Marco Cavazzoni, District 6 *
Chris Bethea, District 7
Jim Hamilton, Commissioner Emeritus
Bud Coward, Commissioner Emeritus

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
John Hodge, SC Aeronautics Legal Counsel

Visitors

Judy Elder, Talbert, Bright & Ellington
Terry Connerton, Spartanburg Downtown Airport
James E. Clark
Evan McGalliard, City of Spartanburg
Charles Taylor, Marion County
Denise Bryan, Fairfield County
Steve Gould, Rock Hill-York County Airport
Randy Alexander, Fearless Edge Studios

Betty Baker, Orangeburg Airport Manager
James Stephens, Greenville Downtown Airport
Lucas Funderburk, WK Dickson
Christopher "CJ" Will, LCAA
Lonnie Ford, LCAA
Devin Parker, LCAA
Ryan Betcher, Horry County Airport
Robbie Albertson, Pickens County Career Center
Connie Anderson, Florence Regional

Remote Attendance (*)

Kevin, Morris, Holt Consulting
Melanie Friscoe, SCAA
Stephen Astemborski, SC Council of Competitiveness
Bryan Salyers, Talbert, Bright & Ellington

Welcome & Call to Order

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

Lowcountry Aerospace Academy Presentation

Colonel C.J. Will and Colonel Lonnie Ford with LCAA spoke in depth about the opportunities offered by the academy to their students. Colonel Will explained the LIFT program, which stands for Lowcountry Inspirational Flight Training. Devin Parker was a student at LCAA, who has completed the program. He explained his life before and after his journey at the academy in great detail. Both Colonels explained how the mentoring continues after the graduates received their license.

Denise Bryan, Fairfield County Airport Manager, James E. Clark, Self and Colonel Ford spoke about other opportunities with LCAA.

Flying High

Mr. Randy Alexander with Fearless Edge Studios spoke about a new reality television show series called "Flying High." The series will start by taking the viewer inside the program of Mr. Terry Connerton. The show will display what South Carolina is doing in aviation. The viewers will be able to see all of the airports in the state. He also shared an upcoming movie to put a spotlight on SC. The movie will portray a son of a Tuskegee Airman. Mr. Alexander stated we want the airports in South Carolina to be known and to be utilized.

Approval of Minutes

Chairman Gantt presented the minutes of the January 23, 2024, meeting. He asked if anyone had any edits or corrections. One correction to the minutes from Commissioner Barnes was to change the runway in Lancaster is dirty not Rock Hill. Commissioner Gantt motioned to approve the minutes and Commissioner Bethea seconded. The minutes were approved as written with the one correction.

Invocation and Introductions

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

Chairman Gantt opened the meeting and welcomed everyone. Chairman Gantt asked Gary Siegfried if he would present the Financial Report.

Financial & Budget Reports

Mr. Siegfried presented the financials. Operating Results are on track for the year with total expenses at 74% 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 \$4,051,721.80, airline property tax revenue of \$6,664,215.25, 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 \$123,790,759.82.

After considering budgeted/committed items of \$85,312,265.78 the remaining \$16,978,494.04 was currently available for new grants.

Airport Development

Mr. Eversmann provided updates concerning airport development deadlines, and projects.

Mr. Siegfried and Mr. Astemborski spoke about the SC Council of Competitiveness and the update to the commercial airport economic impact.

Mr. James Stephens spoke about the SC Aerospace Cluster and the Study of the Health of Aerospace in SC.

Mr. Eversmann presented the grants.

Grants for consideration (Commercial Service Entitlement)

1. SC Council on Competitiveness / Commercial Carrier Entitlement / Commercial Carrier Airport Economic Impact Study / Planning

Associated AIP Grant: NA

The requested grant amount is \$55,000 (CHS / CAE / GSP / FLO / HXD / MYR).

Status of safety inspection items: NA

Development Staff recommends approval of this grant funding request.

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

Grants for consideration (Airport Development)

1. Greenville Downtown Airport (GMU) / Greenville Airport Commission / 75% / Airfield Lumacurve Lighted Sign Panel Replacement / Maintenance – Material

This request is for 75% State participation in the purchase of Lumacurve brand lighted sign panels for the airfield at Greenville Downtown Airport (GMU). The 25% participation by the Airport Sponsor will be for account labor for the ordering, storage, installation, and disposal of unserviceable panels that are to be removed and replaced.

Associated AIP Grant: NA

The requested grant amount is \$50,205.

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

2. Greenville Downtown Airport (GMU) / Greenville Airport Commission / 5% / Taxiway 'B' Rehabilitation (Amendment) / Construction

This request is for 5% State participation in an amendment to SCAC Grant 19-020. The Staff of the FAA have approved an amendment of the corresponding Airport Improvement Program (AIP) Grant. All work on the project is complete.

Associated AIP Grant: 3-45-0026-029-2019

The requested grant amount is \$19,738.

Status of safety inspection items: Please see item 1 above.

Development Staff recommends approval of this grant funding request.

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

3. Spartanburg Downtown Memorial Airport (SPA) / City of Spartanburg / 60% / Hangar site development utility connection (water and sewer) (Amendment) / Construction

This request is to address a funding shortfall in the construction budget for the connection of a water and a sewer line to an area being developed for a new hangar complex. The original grant (SCAC 23-016) was issued based on estimated costs which were subsequently exceeded; this grant will address 60% of the shortfall.

Associated AIP Grant: NA

The requested grant amount is \$72,862.

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.

Development Staff recommends approval of this grant funding request.

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

4. Donaldson Center Airport (GYH) / Greenville City and County / 5% (AIP) / Rehabilitate Airfield Lighting (LED) / Design

This request is for 5% State participation in a design project to rehabilitate airfield lighting and including an upgrade to LED at Donaldson Center Airport (GYH).

Associated AIP Grant: 3-45-0031-030-2024

The requested grant amount is \$12,821.

Status of safety inspection items: GYH 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 Bethea. The motion was approved unanimously.

5. Rock Hill – York County Airport (UZA) / City of Rock Hill – York County / 60% / Localizer Replacement / Design

The airport sponsor has submitted a request for an SCAC 60% grant to cover design costs for the replacement of their localizer antenna. The localizer is owned and maintained by the airport sponsor.

Associated AIP Grant: NA

The requested grant amount is \$37,808.

Status of Safety Data Inspection items – The most recent airport safety inspection at UZA was conducted on September 24, 2021. Among the safety-related items noted were:

→ Part 77 Airspace tree penetrations.

Development Staff recommends approval of this grant funding request.

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

6. Orangeburg Municipal Airport (OGB) / City of Orangeburg / 5% (AIP) / Runway Rehabilitation / Design

This request is for 5% state participation in a design project to rehabilitate Runway 17 – 35 at Orangeburg Municipal Airport (OGB).

Associated AIP Grant: 3-45-0045-028-2023

The requested grant amount is \$14,765.

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

→ Part 77 Airspace tree penetrations.

→ Non-standard Runway pavement marking.

Development Staff recommends approval of this grant funding request.

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

7. Georgetown County Airport (GGE) / Georgetown County / 60% / Apron and Taxilane Paving / Construction

This request is for 60% state participation in a construction project to pave the Allison Hangar Apron and Taxilane at Georgetown County Airport (GGE).

The requested grant amount is \$155,355.

Status of safety inspection items: The most recent airport safety inspection at GGE was conducted on July 14, 2022. The following safety-related items were noted:

→ Part 77 Airspace tree penetrations.

Development Staff recommends approval of this grant funding request.

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

8. Florence Regional Airport (FLO) / Pee Dee Regional Airport District / Commercial Carrier Entitlement / Airfield Vegetation Maintenance / Operations & Maintenance

This request is for use of \$125,000 of the Commercial Carrier Entitlement funding for Florence Regional Airport (FLO) to help defray the cost of airfield vegetation maintenance.

The requested grant amount is \$125,000.

Status of safety inspection items: FLO 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 Bethea and seconded by Commissioner Barnes. The motion was approved unanimously.

9. Myrtle Beach International Airport (MYR) / Horry County / Special Allocation / T-Hangar Development / Design and Construction

This request is for use of \$2,942,120 of the Commercial Carrier Special Allocation funding for Myrtle Beach International Airport (MYR) to cover the cost of design and construction of up to two T-Hangar buildings.

The requested grant amount is \$2,942,120.

Status of safety inspection items: MYR 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 Bethea and seconded by Commissioner Cooper. The motion was approved unanimously.

Grants for consideration (Education)

1. Pickens County Career & Technology Center / Education / Flight Simulator purchase

This request is for funds to purchase a state-of-the-art flight simulator to support the aviation program at the Pickens County Career & Technology Center.

The requested grant amount is \$37,000.

Development Staff recommends approval of this grant funding request.

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

2. Pickens County Career & Technology Center / Education / Flight Simulator license purchase

This request is for funds to purchase the required (one time) license for the operation of the above referenced Flight Simulator to support the aviation program at the Pickens County Career & Technology Center.

The requested grant amount is \$25,000.

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

Flight Department

Mr. Siegfried presented the Flight Department report in the absence of Mr. Tim Truemper.

Gary stated people are flying again. The flight department is rebounding from the pandemic. Clemson is getting ready to ramp up again., which will cause us to exceed 200 hours of flying. Mr. Siegfried gave an update on the plan to upgrade the agency's aircraft. Tim was asked to get two appraisals for any aircraft that we make offers on. Tim and Melody have coordinated this, and we already have two appraisers lined up to use. Mr. Siegfried stated we have a draft letter of intent prepared and are ready to make an offer as soon as we can.

Commissioner Cooper asked about the current condition of our planes.

Gary explained our King Air 90 is still down due to maintenance issues. Both planes should be flying next week.

Executive Director's Report

Mr. Siegfried presented the Director's Report. He spoke about sending out compatible land use letters to each county. We have started receiving responses from county planning officials with some sending in their ordinances and others coordinating with David Smith for CLUE Tool training. Mr. Siegfried has also attended several meetings with airports, counties, and cities to discuss compatible land use in person.

Mr. Siegfried discussed the Budget request for FY 2025. He is requesting \$161M for the commercial airports and \$50M for the general aviation airports. He also requested an increase of \$400,000 of Recurring General Fund money for operating expenses and a onetime request of \$300,000 to replace the fuel truck. The Senate Finance Meeting is on Wednesday, March 20, 2024.

Mr. Siegfried explained his extended medical leave would begin on Thursday, March 21, 2024.

He went on to discuss the Children's Museum in the Upstate. He shared the Aviation display has expired. The Children's Museum grant will be coming up in the future.

New Business

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

District Reports

- District 3: Commissioner Cooper expressed District 3 is doing good. The airports are doing great. Airport Business is up and continues to grow.
- District 4: Commissioner Kaufmann-No Report.
- District 5: Commissioner Barnes stated he had attended Rock Hill's Annual City County Council and Airport Commission meeting.
- District 6: Commissioner Cavazzoni - No Report
- District 7: Commissioner Bethea stated he had recently attended the SC Breakfast Club meeting at Georgetown the other day and meeting with Jim Taylor. Charles Taylor in Marion County has created a promotional brochure to hand out to airport users and to send out in advance of Sun and Fun.

Executive Session

After the Commissioners completed their District reports, Chairman Gantt made a motion to go into brief Executive Session and Commissioner Bethea seconded the motion 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.

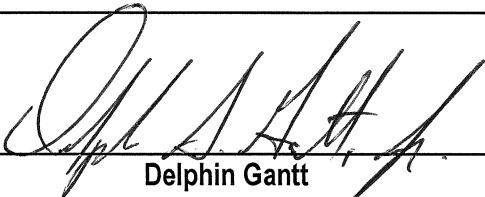
No action was taken.

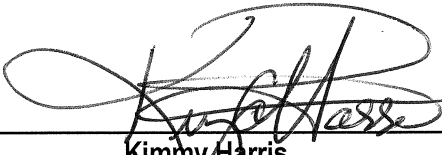
Next Meeting Date

The next regular Commission Meeting was set tentatively for May 21, 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

5/21/24
Date