



MINUTES

SOUTH CAROLINA AERONAUTICS COMMISSION MEETING

TUESDAY, MAY 16, 2024

Commission Members in Attendance

Delphin Gantt, Chairman
Anne Esposito District 1
Vacant, District 2
Skeets Cooper, District 3
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, Airport Dev. Director
David Smith, Project Manager
Austin Wagler, Engineer Associate
Ronnie Gantt, Pilot
John Hodge, SC Aeronautics Legal Counsel

Visitors

Judy Elder, Talbert, Bright & Ellington
Charles Taylor, Marion County Airport/MAO
Denise Bryan C.M., Fairfield County Airport/FDW
Steve Gould, Rock Hill-York County Airport/UZA
Randy Alexander, Fearless Edge Studios/SPA
Brett Watson, LCAA/True Course
Ken Nelson, David Griffin Aviation Foundation
Richard Maury, David Griffin Aviation Foundation
Carolyn Donelan, Challenger
Steve Crimm, SCAA
Zachery Thompson, GGMF
Carson Fox, Dallas Jet International
Judi Olmstead, Myrtle Beach/MYR
Ryan Hounshell, Holt Consulting

Melanie Friscoe, SCAA
Ken Holt, Holt Consulting
James Stephens, Greenville Downtown Airport/GMU
Lucas Funderburk, WK Dickson
Ryan Betcher, Horry County Airport/HYW
Kevin Howell, GSP/SCAA
Lori Wicker, CFF
Dean Crepes, CFF
Dan Culp, Challenger
Eric Douglas, SCLAC
Kelly Garin, GGMF
Bryce Metz, Rock Hill-York County Airport/UZA
Lisa Jones, Lake City/51J

Remote Attendance (*)

Bryan Salyers, Talbert, Bright & Ellington
Christopher "CJ" Will, LCAA
Connie Anderson, Florence Regional Airport/FLO
Brett Garrison, Anderson Regional Airport/AND
Robert Norton, Florence Regional Airport
Curry Wilson, The Children's Museum of the Upstate

Welcome & Call to Order

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

Invocation and Introductions

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

Chairman Gantt opened the meeting and welcomed everyone.

Presentations

True Course by Brett Watson, Pickens County

David Griffin Aviation Foundation by Ken Nelson

Guns Garin Memorial Foundation by Zachery Thompson

Approval of Minutes

Chairman Gantt presented the minutes of the March 19, 2024, meeting. He asked if anyone had any edits or corrections. Commissioner Cooper motioned to approve the minutes and Commissioner Bethea seconded. The minutes were approved as written with the one correction.

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 87% 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 \$5,098,555.00, 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 \$124,837,593.02.

After considering budgeted/committed items of \$85,675,654.74 the remaining \$17,661,938.28 was currently available for new grants.

Mr. Siegfried asked Chris Eversmann to present the Airport Development report.

Airport Development

Mr. Eversmann shared Austin Wagler would be leaving SC Aeronautics Commission to pursue his dream of becoming a commercial pilot. Mr. Eversmann stated Austin will definitely be missed. He shared a farewell celebration for Austin will be held here at SCAC on Tuesday, May 28, 2024 at 11:30am. Mr. Eversmann shared everyone is welcome to attend.

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

Mr. Eversmann presented the grants.

Grants for consideration (Commercial Service Entitlement)

1. Charleston County Aviation Authority (CCAA) / Commercial Service Entitlement / Commercial Terminal Expansion / Design

Associated AIP Grant: NA

The requested grant amount is \$490,833.

Note: This grant uses FY 24 and FY 25 entitlements. FY 25 entitlement is not available until July 1, 2024. Grant offer will not be made until July 1

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.

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

2. Pee Dee Regional Airport District / Commercial Service Entitlement / Tractor purchase / Equipment

Associated AIP Grant: NA

The requested grant amount is \$80,674.

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 Esposito. The motion was approved unanimously.

Grants for consideration (Special Allocation)

1. Greenville Spartanburg Airport (GSP) / Greenville Spartanburg Airport District / FBO Terminal Expansion / Construction

This request is for use of GSP's Special Allocation funding to be applied to their FBO Terminal Expansion. The balance of the project (\$10,758,587) is funded by the Airport Sponsor.

Associated AIP Grant: NA

The requested grant amount is \$2,933,537.

Status of safety inspection items: GSP 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.

2. Pee Dee Regional Airport District / Special Allocation / 10 hangars (two 80' X 80' Corporate and 8 T-Hangars)/ Construction

This request is for use of FLO's Special Allocation funding to be applied to their Hangar Development Project. The balance of the project (\$9,809,335) is funded by the FAA. Construction of this project is complete.

Associated AIP Grant: 3-45-0023-046-2022

The requested grant amount is \$447,736.

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 Cooper. The motion was approved unanimously.

Grants for consideration (Airport Development)

1. Anderson County Regional Airport (AND) / Anderson County / 75% / Pavement Repair / Construction

This request is for 75% State participation for a pavement repair maintenance project.

Associated AIP Grant: NA

The requested grant amount is \$19,555.

Status of safety inspection items: Up until recently, AND was a Part 139 Airport and inspected by the FAA. That Part 139 certificate has been removed and SCAC Staff will resume inspection visits next Fiscal Year.

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.

2. Lake City Airport (5J1) / City of Lake City / 80% / Tree Obstruction Removal / Construction

This request is to address the removal of multiple tree obstructions at Lake City Airport (5J1). Work will be performed under the Vegetation Management contract with Opterra Solutions.

Associated AIP Grant: NA

The requested grant amount is \$27,168.

Status of Safety Data Inspection items – The most recent airport safety inspection at 5J1 was conducted on June 6, 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 Commissioner Esposito and seconded by Commissioner Cooper. The motion was approved unanimously.

3. Lake City Airport (5J1) / City of Lake City / 80% / Perimeter Fence / Construction

This request is to address the installation of perimeter fencing at the Lake City Airport (5J1).

Associated AIP Grant: NA

The requested grant amount is \$68,400.

Status of Safety Data Inspection items – See Item 2 above. Additionally, fence damage was identified during the last inspection visit.

Development Staff recommends approval of this grant funding request.

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

Grants for consideration (Education)

1. The Children's Museum of the Upstate

This request is for an extension of Grant 22-042 until December 31, 2024. This grant expired on September 14, 2023. Education Grants are for a 12-month period.

The original grant amount was \$355,000. There is no change to this original grant amount. Balance of grant remaining is \$320,000.

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

2. Lowcountry Aerospace Academy

This request is for funds to:

- Cover the cost of ten LIFT Day Camps;
- Cover the cost of ten ACE Scholarships;
- Cover the cost of one-year of Administrative Support contract services.

The requested grant amount is \$57,745.

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

3. Fearless Edge Studios LLC

This request is for funds to assist in covering the production costs of a nine episode "Docu-Series" about aspiring pilots. Production and filming will be performed in South Carolina. Fearless Edge Studios is a for-profit entity.

The requested grant amount is \$175,000.

A motion was made by Commissioner Cooper to get this information of what the total of the \$175, 000 would be spent on to discuss at our next meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Barnes.

Commissioner Barnes, Mr. Randy Alexander and Chairman Gantt continued discussing different aspects of this project.

Chairman Gantt revisited the motion made by Commissioner Cooper earlier, which was seconded by Commissioner Barnes.

Commissioner Bethea, Commissioner Barnes, Counselor John Hodge and Chairman Gantt discussed reviewing grant policies, policy restrictions and legal policy procedures before making a final decision to approve this grant or not.

Flight Department

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

Mr. Gantt stated flight hours have exceeded last year. The 90 airplane is back up and flying. Mr. Gantt discussed the status of purchasing a new aircraft. A price could not be agreed upon to purchase the plane, which was the first choice in Sumter. The second choice is a 2018 350i priced at \$6.2 million in Ohio. The flight department will make a trip to Ohio on Thursday to look at the avionics. The third option in California has a complete bathroom. The airplane is nice, but the bathroom would add extra weight.

Mr. Siegfried offered an option to the plane subcommittee to travel along with the flight department on Thursday to Ohio.

Executive Director's Report

Mr. Siegfried presented the Director's Report. He spoke meetings with NASAO. Mr. Siegfried also spoke about presenting the FY25 budget to the Senate Finance Committee and discussed the handouts presented.

Mr. Siegfried explained about being invited to the Battery Symposium, which was an interesting event.

Mr. Siegfried discussed attending other meetings such as the SCAA Legislative Update and Coordination; ESF-1; Kimley-Horn -Statewide PCI update; FAA Southern Region State Director; CAE Master Plan Advisory Committee and many more. He also attended the final presentations of the Citadel Senior Capstone Project.

Mr. Siegfried spoke about USC leading research on Battery Development.

Mr. Siegfried explained the FAA Re-Authorization going to 95/5 for 2 years and this change will be starting next year.

New Business

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

District Reports

Chairman Gantt spoke about Commission seats being open. A Delegation meeting will be held on June 5, 2024 to decide on a Commissioner for District 2. Terry Connerton has been approved for District 4. Names are being discussed for District 7. With the new proviso, Commissioners can serve until a replacement is found.

District 1: Commissioner Esposito spoke about supporting the Golf Tournament. The Tournament went well. ARW is doing fine. Construction continues.

District 3: Commissioner Cooper-Not Available

District 5: Commissioner Barnes shared being away on Spring Break and missing out on the Breakfast Club in Rock Hill. Denise Bryan spoke about 1100 people showing up for Meals on Wheels on May 11, 2024. Lancaster terminal expansion going nicely.

District 6: Commissioner Cavazzoni -Not Available

District 7: Commissioner Bethea spoke about Darlington had a huge race week and sold lots of fuel. Marion County had a successful Aviation Week event. Connie Anderson is retiring. Rides Arrow, a new company has come in. New projects, charging stations are a possibility. Ribbon cutting in Conway has been shut down. Horry County has a terminal expansion and is breaking records up to 15%.

Judy Elder spoke about parking lot expansions in Horry County.

Charles Taylor thanked the SCAA for all they do. Charles spoke about 128 people coming to the Marion County airport. At least, 19 people passing the airport everyday and have never been to the airport. Marion County Airport has started 33 flights from Maine and New York. Breezy Flight School has 5-ready to sign up.

Judy thanked everyone with SCAC for those funds. Commissioner Emeritus Bud Coward spoke about District 2. The airports were slammed for Master's Week. We had a temporary control tower (FAA contract) went well. Pat Garin's son, Rock Garin not doing well. Please keep him your prayers.

Commissioner Emeritus Jim Hamilton shared being so happy to see the Commission, where it is today. The Commission and staff are doing a great job.

Executive Session

After the Commissioners completed their District reports, Chairman Gantt made a motion to go into Executive Session and Commissioner Barnes seconded the motion to discuss legal matters. The request was approved unanimously at 12:40 pm.

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

Chairman Barnes made a motion go out of Executive Session and Commissioner Esposito seconded. The request was approved unanimously.

No action was taken.

Next Meeting Date

The next regular Commission Meeting was set tentatively for July 16, 2024.

Adjournment

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



Delphin Gantt
Chairman



Kimmy Harris
Recording Secretary

8-20-2024

Date