



MINUTES
SOUTH CAROLINA AERONAUTICS COMMISSION MEETING
TUESDAY, MARCH 21, 2023

Commission Members in Attendance

Delphin Gantt, Commission Chairman
Anne Esposito, District 1
David Anderson, District 2
Skeets Cooper, District 3
Doug Barnes, Vice Chairman/District 5
Marco Cavazzoni, District 6 (online via Zoom)
Chris Bethea, District 7

Aeronautics Staff in Attendance

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

Visitors

Bud Coward, Commissioner Emeritus
Melanie Friscoe, SC Aviation Association
Brandon Brown, City of Hartsville
Carlos Salinas, Pickens County
Judy Elder, Talbert, Bright & Ellington
Wayne Corley, MaesAwyr
Terry Connorton, City of Spartanburg
Mark Warner, McCormick County
John Hodge, SC Aeronautics Legal Counsel

Video conference

Marco Cavazzoni, District 6
Chavis Watford, Marion County Interim Administrator
Stacy Thomas, Berkeley County
Jill Warren, Saluda County
Steve Gould, Rock Hill-York County Airport
Edward Kinney, City of Greenville
Michael Frixen, Greenville Principal Development Planner

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 January 17, 2023, meeting. He asked if anyone had any edits or corrections. Charmain Gantt motioned to approve the minutes and Commission Bethea seconded. The minutes were approved with no corrections. Chairman Gantt added Commissioner Kaufman did not attend the meeting today due to sickness. She did not want to come and share it.

Invocation and Introductions

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

Chairman Gantt spoke in depth about the service of Commissioner Anderson to SC Aeronautics Commission. He spoke briefly about his retirement from SCAC. Chairman Gantt asked Commissioner Anderson to come up front. Commissioner Anderson was presented with a gift from SCAC. He gave a speech about his journey with SCAC. Many of the attendees addressed Commissioner Anderson to include; Mr. Siegfried, Commissioner Cavazzoni, Commissioner Cooper, John Hodge, Commissioner Barnes and Commissioner Emeritus Coward.

Financial, Budget, & Executive Director's Reports

Operating Results are on track for the year with the total expenses at 66.7% of budget for the year. Mr. Siegfried presented the financials for the State Aviation Fund, reporting a beginning balance of \$18,721,023.37. This balance along with fuel sales tax revenues of \$4,458,135.44, airline property tax revenue of \$6,473,620.44, a general fund recurring appropriation of \$500,000, and a refund of prior year expense & miscellaneous revenue of \$43,212.08 brought total available funds for airport projects to \$95,195,991.33. After considering budgeted/committed items of \$81,754,116.42 the remaining \$13,441,874.91 is available for new grants. Fuel sales tax is looking very good and is up 26.85% from last year at this time. At this point in the year, we expect that Aeronautics has received all Airline Property Tax for the year.

Commissioner Anderson asked for the reason as to the crossing out of the Citadel and the grant amount to the Citadel on the Aviation Education Grants document within the Agenda Package.

Mr. Siegfried explained we are all done with this grant.

Airport Development

Mr. Siegfried then presented the Airport Development Report. He noted his attendance at the open house at South Carolina Historic Aviation Foundation at Owens Field here in Columbia, which was a lot of fun. While in attendance, at the event, Mr. Siegfried discussed potential education grants with members of the foundation. Mr. Siegfried stated ongoing weekly progress meetings, ongoing coordination with DTO to gain vendor access to web server, distribution of surveys to external stakeholders for new web design as the updates on Website Redevelopment.

Mr. Siegfried asked if there were any questions about the information presented. No questions or concerns were discussed.

Grants for Consideration

- **Berkeley County Airport – Install 3-phase emergency generator (Attachment A)**

The total cost of the project is \$56,704 funded at 60% State/40% Local.

Amount of grant funding requested is \$34,022

Status of safety inspection items: Berkeley County does not have any outstanding safety inspection issues.

Stacy Thomas spoke about looking to install a 3-phase generator to provide uninterrupted fueling in the event of an extended power loss due to a natural disaster. Berkeley County has been utilized for recovery efforts in the past for hurricanes, tropical storms, etc. They want to be prepared to do so if needed in the future.

Chairman Gantt asked if there were questions for Stacy.

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

- **Hartsville Regional Airport – Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan**

The total cost of the project is \$39,367 funded at 60% State/40% Local.

Amount of grant funding requested is \$23,620

Status of safety inspection items: The last safety inspection was conducted on June 18, 2021.
Hartsville has some safety issues that need to be addressed from the latest inspection including:

- Pavement repairs on taxiway
- 3-inch drop-off at end of runway
- Edge lights that are inoperative
- One close in obstruction to be removed.

Brandon Brown spoke about failing the DHEC inspection in March miserably. The current SWPP was last completed in 1995. A new SWPP will help to get the airport into compliance with DHEC regulations.

Chairman Gantt asked if there are any questions.

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

- **Marion County Airport – Airport Layout Plan and 18B Survey**

The total cost of the project is \$342,318 and will be funded at 90% FAA/5% State/5% Local.

Amount of grant funding requested is \$17,116

Status of safety inspection items: The last safety inspection was conducted in April, 2021 which listed numerous safety issues related to the condition of the runway and drainage system. Both of these items are being addressed as part of the ongoing runway rehabilitation project.

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

- **McCormick County Airport – Airport Grading Coordination and Environmental Services**

The total cost of the project is \$109,797 funded at 80% State/20% Local.

Amount of grant funding requested is \$87,838

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

Mark Warner spoke from McCormick County, mentioning that the County Council approved an \$8.5 million airport improvement plan. Mark said that the grading project is estimated to be \$4 million. All efforts to make a better airport will be approved by the County Council.

Chairman Gannt asked if there were any questions for Mark.

No questions or concerns were discussed.

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

- **Pickens County Airport – Crossfield Apron Expansion Design (Attachment B)**

The total cost of the project is \$56,900 funded at 60% State/40% Local.

Amount of grant funding requested is \$34,140

Status of safety inspection items: The last safety inspection was conducted on June 28, 2021. Pickens County has no safety issues that need to be addressed from the latest inspection.

Carlos Salina spoke on behalf of Pickens County noting the record level fuel sales for FY 2021, probably everyone else can say the same. In FY 2022, they doubled those numbers from \$500,000 to \$1 million in fuel sales. As they try to adjust for the increased traffic, they have had to park big airplanes on parallel taxiways. This project will allow Pickens County Airport to position themselves for future growth.

Carlos asked if there were any questions.

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

- **Rock Hill-York County Airport – Automated Gate Repair**

The total cost of the project is \$13,193 funded at 75% State/25% Local.

Amount of grant funding requested is \$9,895

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.

Steve Gould spoke about a gate replacement stating that the gate has needed ongoing repairs and it is now nearly impossible to keep the gate operating, frequently getting left wide open.

A motion made by Chairman Gantt and seconded by Commissioner Barnes. The request was approved.

- **Saluda County Airport – Exterior paint on terminal building and quonset hut**

The total cost of the project is \$24,150 funded at 75% State/25% Local.

Amount of grant funding requested is \$18,113

Status of safety inspection items: The last safety inspection was conducted on July 8, 2022. The Airport has no safety issues that need to be addressed from the latest inspection.

Jill Warren spoke on behalf of Saluda County airport, mentioning that the last time these facilities were painted was in the 1980's. Doing this work will help to extend the life of the buildings.

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

- **Spartanburg Downtown Memorial Airport – Utility installation to support new hangar area (Attachment C).**

The total cost of the project is \$201,914 funded at 60% State/40% Local.

Amount of grant funding requested is \$121,148

Status of safety inspection items: The last safety inspection was conducted on July 13, 2021. The only safety issue that needs to be resolved is the erosion repairs in the runway 23 approach end. This is under grant and should be underway soon.

Terry Connorton spoke about the need for hangars at SPA. This work will run new sewer, electric service and water from Kensington Road which will help prepare the airport for construction of up to 6 new hangars.

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

- **South Carolina Aviation Association – Aviation related support services within the State of South Carolina**

1. Palmetto Aviation Quarterly	\$18,845
2. SC Aviation Safety Committee	\$11,000
3. Aviation Week	\$22,000
4. Airport Promotion Video	\$11,000
5. SC Aviation Hall of Fame	\$5,000
6. SC Airports Task Force Research	\$5,000

Amount of grant funding requested is \$72,845

Melanie Friscoe began by thanking SCAC for their continued partnership. The grant amount is a bit higher this year for a number of reasons. This year includes the SC Aviation Hall of Fame inductions, which is an every other year event. There are also higher costs for the Publication of Palmetto Aviation Quarterly, and support for the SC Airports Task Force Research. Melanie also mentioned that Aviation Week has moved to April to allow students better opportunities to participate.

Commissioner Emeritus Coward: The Conference, this year was excellent and over the top. Well worth it to approve this grant!

Chairman Gantt: What we do with the number of people on staff is really something! Any Questions.

Mr. Siegfried: Mentioned a Food and Wine Week event at Columbia Metropolitan Airport that will occur during Aviation Week. It is called the Concert on the Runway and it is on April 22, 2023.

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

Chairman Gantt: Representation at Commission meetings for grants are a must! If there was no representation today, we were not going to go over those grants. A representative must attend meetings for grant request(s), please spread the word.

Flight Department

Mr. Truemper presented the Flight Department report, noting that his report is pretty standard this month. The Governor is flying more. Legislators are not flying like they had in the past, but Clemson plans on using the aircraft a lot in the spring for recruiting trips.

Mr. Truemper also noted that the airplanes had some maintenance issues last year but are currently working well with no additional problems. We are hopeful that this will continue.

Director's Report

Mr. Siegfried presented at the House Transportation and Regulatory Subcommittee Budget Hearing as well as the following:

- Attended coordination meeting with John Hodge for the House Regulations and Administrative Procedures committee to discuss new Aeronautics regulations
- Met with City of Greenville planning staff to discuss new Aeronautics regulations
- Presented budget to Senate Finance Transportation & Regulatory Subcommittee

Mr. Siegfried discussed that the NASAO meeting will be in Rogers, Arkansas this year. Those dates will be sent out to commissioners.

Commissioner Barnes noted his interest in attending and also thought that the new District 2 commissioner would benefit from attending.

Chairman Gantt listed the subcommittee members for upcoming initiatives.

- Airport Policy and Procedures for Special Legislative Allocations - Esposito, Barnes, Bethea, Cavazzoni and Siegfried
- Airplane Replacement Study Subcommittee - Cavazzoni, Coward, Anderson (if available), Siegfried, Truemper and Hyer
- Education Grants Subcommittee - Cooper, Bethea, Barnes and Siegfried

District Reports

District 1:

Aviation week at ARW. On March 29, 2023, TSA pre-check event at HXD.

District 2:

Going to Wagner with charts for the Soaring Event at Perry International. Thank you that is all.

District 3:

Traffic up at all airports. Thank you for grants at 3 of District 3 airports. Great event at McCormick. Saluda County busy. Pickens County is busting at the seams. Big aircraft coming in on regular basis.

District 4:

No Report

District 5:

South Carolina Breakfast club met with faculty advisor of Carolina. Flying Club spoke with a number of airports at SCAA Conference. Spoke to faculty advisor.

District 6:

We are working on a couple of issues with Hampton and Ridgeland, which will be discussed in more detail in the Executive Session.

District 7:

Thank HVS for progress made. Thanks MAO. Mr. Brown thank you for coming. Please come back when you need things. Thanks SCAA, the events are worth every penny. SCAA keep coming back to us.

Chairman Gantt: Reach out to airports to send over their Commission meeting minutes is a good idea. Any more updates? To our guests, you are welcome to stay for lunch after the Executive Session. Anyone on the phone with anything to say? No other questions or concerns were discussed.

Executive Session

After the Commissioners completed their District reports, Chairman Gantt noted that an Executive Session would be required to bring the Commissioners up to date on legal matters.

Commissioner Anderson made a motion to go into executive session and Commissioner Bethea seconded.

The executive session ended with no action required.

New Business

None.

Next Meeting Date

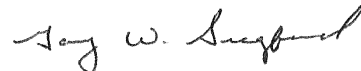
The next regular Commission Meeting will be held on May 16, 2023.

Adjournment

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



Delphin Gantt
Chairman



Gary Siegfried
Executive Director

May 16, 2023

Date