



MINUTES
SOUTH CAROLINA AERONAUTICS COMMISSION MEETING
TUESDAY, MAY 16, 2023

Commission Members in Attendance

Delphin Gantt, Commission Chairman
Anne Esposito, District 1
Vacant, District 2
Skeets Cooper, District 3
Lara Kaufmann, District 4
Doug Barnes, Vice Chairman/District 5
Marco Cavazzoni, District 6
Chris Bethea, District 7

Visitors

Bud Coward, Commissioner Emeritus
Mark Warner, McCormick County
William Thompson, FAA
L. Ray
Jack Woodward, Hampton County
Buddy O'Quinn, Hampton County
Buddy Bullard, Hampton County
Dr. John R. Hunt
Mary Hunt Little
Linda Wilson
James L. Cline, FAA
George E. Roberts, Lee County Airport

Video conference

Keith Roach, Chester-Catawba Regional
Dave Edwards, Greenville – Spartanburg International
Kevin Howell, Greenville – Spartanburg International
Heather Jones, Hampton County
Melanie Frisco, SCAA
Connie Anderson, Florence Regional
Alan Watkins, Lee County
Judi Olmstead, Myrtle Beach International

Welcome & Call to Order

Chairman Gantt called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m., welcomed everyone, announced a quorum in attendance.

Aeronautics Staff in Attendance

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

Kevin Short, Friend of Dr. Hunt
Zack Thompson, Guns Garin Memorial Foundation
Kelly Garin, Guns Garin Memorial Foundation
Brandon Chavis, Barnwell Regional Airport
Jon Rembold, Beaufort County
Hernan Pena, Charleston International
John Hodge, SC Aeronautics Legal Counsel
Judy Elder, Talbert, Bright & Ellington
Amanda J. Hill, MaesAwyr
Britton Corbin, MRB Group
Lind Butler

Approval of Minutes

Chairman Gantt presented the minutes of the March 21, 2023, meeting. He asked if anyone had any edits or corrections. Charmain Gantt had one correction; the title for Gary Siegfried should be Interim Executive Director.

The minutes were approved as written conditional to the edits or corrections being completed.

Invocation and Introductions

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

James "Lanny" Cline, FAA presented the Wright Brothers Master Pilot Award (MPA) and plaque for 50-years or more of aircraft flights to Dr. John R. Hunt with his family in attendance including Linda Wilson, his fiancé, Mary Little, his daughter and J.P. Little, his grandson. Dr. Hunt said a few words talking about his career and thanking the FAA for the award.

Chairman Gantt opened the meeting and welcomed representatives from the Guns Garin Memorial Foundation (GGMF) to give an update presentation on their work and how the SCAC grant is helping them with their mission.

Financial, Budget, & Executive Director's Reports

Mr. Siegfried presented the financials. Operating Results are on track for the year with the total expenses at 78% of budget for the year.

Mr. Siegfried stated the State Aviation Fund showed a beginning balance of \$18,721,023.37. This balance along with fuel sales tax revenues of \$5,350,295.85, airline property tax revenue of \$6,474,558.21, 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 \$96,089,089.51.

After considering budgeted/committed items of \$81,988,428.22 the remaining \$14,100,661.29 was currently available for new grants.

Mr. Siegfried noted that fuel sales tax revenue was down the last two months by significant amounts. Despite these slow months, fuel sales tax revenue is still looking good overall and is up by 12.14% from last year at this time. May and June are historically good months for fuel revenue, so he expects that we are still on track for a record year. There was a small deposit in the amount of \$937.77 from airline property tax revenue bringing the yearly total to \$6,474,588.21.

Gary then asked everyone to turn over to page B-5. This is a new page in the package that summarizes how the special legislative allocation was distributed amongst the different eligible airports and what projects they are using the money on.

Airport Development

Gary Siegfried presented the Airport Development Report. Gary mentioned that the FAA has decided to fund the Phase 3 PCI Program. We had been previously informed that the FAA wasn't going to provide a grant for this project, but they must have found available money. A grant application has been completed and sent to FAA.

After completing the presentation of the report, Gary asked everyone to jump over to C-2, Grants for Consideration.

Grants for Consideration

- **Barnwell County Airport (BNL) – Taxiway Lighting and Signage (construction)**

The total cost of the project is \$1,096,613 funded at 90% FAA, 5% Sponsor, 5% SCAC.

Amount of grant funding requested is \$54,830

Status of safety inspection items: The last inspection at BNL was June 9, 2022. Items noted on the safety inspection included:

- Jet A pump needs emergency fuel shutoff (in progress).
- Rwy 5-23 has numerous large cracks (this will be completed under the secondary runway program).

Brandon Chavis explained the purpose of the lighting project and the desire to upgrade to LED lights.

A motion was made by Commissioner Cavazzoni and Chairman Gantt seconded.

- **Chester-Catawba Regional (DCM) – Airfield Lighting Rehabilitation (design/bidding)**

The total cost of the project is \$137,670 funded at 90% FAA, 5% Sponsor, 5% SCAC.

Amount of grant funding requested is \$6,883

Status of safety inspection items: The last inspection at DCM was June 23, 2022. There are no unresolved safety items from that inspection.

Keith Chester with DCM spoke about the reasoning for this grant request, mentioning that this will be a two-part project with design this year and construction coming up in a following year.

A motion was made by Commissioner Barnes and Commissioner Cooper seconded.

- **Greenville-Spartanburg International Airport (GSP) – FBO Terminal Expansion and Improvements (construction)**

The total cost of the project is \$14,300,000 and will be funded with GSP's FY22 and FY23 entitlements.

Amount of grant funding requested is \$500,000

Status of safety inspection items: Greenville-Spartanburg International is a Part 139 airport and is inspected by the FAA.

A motion was made by Commissioner Kaufman and Commissioner Cooper seconded.

- **Florence Regional Airport (FLO) – Rehabilitate Taxiways B, B-3, B-4 and D (construction)**

The total cost of the project is \$4,213,606 and will be funded with FLO's FY22 and FY23 entitlements.

Amount of grant funding requested is \$500,000

Status of safety inspection items: Florence Regional is a Part 139 airport and is inspected by the FAA.

A motion was made by Commissioner Bethea and Commissioner Esposito seconded.

- **Hampton County Airport (3J0) – Grant 22-032 amendment**

Hampton County is requesting an amendment to 22-032 (Tree Removal in Rwy 29 Approach) to add scope of work and services. Amendment request is \$13,427, bringing the SCAC share to \$24,307.

Amount of grant amendment requested is \$13,427

Status of safety inspection items: The last inspection at 3J0 was July 24, 2019. The only items noted on the safety inspection involved trees in the Part 77 surfaces which this project is addressing.

Britton Corbin with MRB Group represented Hampton County and explained that the amendment is to add more clearing and consultant services to help the with project. This is an 80% SCAC/20% Hampton County grant.

A motion was made by Commissioner Kaufman and Commissioner Cavazzoni seconded.

- **Hilton Head Island Airport (HXD) – Taxiway F Strengthening (construction), Exec Air Land Acquisition**

The total cost of the project is \$3,371,879 and will be funded with HXD's FY22 entitlements and a portion of FY23 entitlements.

Amount of grant funding requested is \$378,044

- **Hilton Head Island Airport (HXD) – Terminal Building Expansion (construction)**

Project bid opening is scheduled for June 2023. This portion of the project will be funded with FY23 special legislative allocation in the amount of \$12,000,000.

Amount of grant funding requested is \$12,000,000

Status of safety inspection items: Hilton Head Island is a Part 139 airport and is inspected by the FAA.

A motion was made by Commissioner Esposito and Commissioner Cooper seconded.

- **Myrtle Beach International Airport (MYR) – Terminal Building Expansion**

The total cost of the project is estimated at \$110,000,000. This grant will be funded with MYR's FY22 and FY23 entitlements.

Amount of grant funding requested is \$500,000

Status of safety inspection items: Myrtle Beach International is a Part 139 airport and is inspected by the FAA.

A motion was made by Commissioner Bethea and Commissioner Cavazzoni seconded.

- **Lee County – Butter's Field (52J) – Wildlife Perimeter Fence, (design, bidding, environmental documentation, DBE plan, construction)**

The total cost of the project is \$533,895 funded at 90% FAA, 5% Sponsor, 5% SCAC.

Amount of grant funding requested is \$26,694

Status of safety inspection items: The last inspection at 52J was August 8, 2022. Items noted on the safety inspection included:

- Eleven inoperative threshold/runway lights
- Trees in ditch 90 feet right of runway 24 extended centerline

George Roberts mentioned that the airport does not have any wildlife fence at this time and has abundant deer on the airport.

A motion was made by Commissioner Barnes and Commissioner Cavazzoni seconded.

- **McCormick County Airport (S19) – Obstruction Removal (design)**

The total cost of the project is \$66,533 funded at 20% Sponsor, 80% SCAC.

Amount of grant funding requested is \$53,226

- **McCormick County Airport (S19) – Grant 22-034 amendment**

McCormick County is requesting an amendment to 22-034 (Airport Planning Services) to add scope of work and services. Amendment request is \$22,339 bringing the total SCAC share to \$118,380.

Amount of grant amendment requested is \$22,339

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 with McCormick County discussed obstruction removal and said that this was an ongoing work in progress and they looking forward to not seeing this issue on the safety inspection report. Mark mentioned that this amendment was for a public hearing which was not included in the original scope of the work on the airport zoning ordinance. He thanked David Smith for flying over to be a part of the public hearing.

A motion was made by Commissioner Cooper and Commissioner Bethea seconded.

Flight Department

Gary Siegfried presented the Flight Department Report. Clemson is using us quite frequently. Commissioner Barnes asked is there was any way to track hours not flown due to maintenance.

Gary stated he tracked the time the total down prior to the last budget cycle, which came to about 3-months out of service. The King Air 350 will be down in July for routine scheduled maintenance. Gary did not have any information about trips turned down due to aircraft out of service, but thought that Tim Truemper might be able to find that information.

Melody Mikell mentioned Commerce and Legislators have not been flying as often as they use to since Covid.

Marco Cavazzoni added said that Commerce has a new Director, so their use may be down due to that change.

Director's Report

Mr. Siegfried presented the Director's Report, mentioning that he got the opportunity to assist with the Citadel's Senior Capstone project and that is now done for the year.

Mr. Siegfried reminded everyone about the NASAO meeting being held in Rogers, Arkansas in September 2023.

Commissioner Barnes mentioned he still had interest in attending this event. Commissioner Cavazzoni stated he would like to go as well.

Chairman Gantt asked those who are interested in attending the NASAO meeting to let us know. We have discussed in the past having two Commissioners attend.

Gary shared mentioned that we had an Employee Appreciation lunch for SCAC staff as part of South Carolina Employee Appreciation Week.

Chairman Gantt asked for updates and a status report of the following Subcommittees:

- Airport Policy and Procedures for Special Legislative Allocations - Esposito, Barnes, Bethea, Cavazzoni and Siegfried –

Gary Siegfried explained they have met and discussed methodology for allocations. The percentages were changed a bit from what was done last year. There was a discussion on what would happen if we did not get 50 million. Will have to run the equation and decide what to do at that point.

Chairman Gantt stated when the subcommittees iron everything out it will come to the before the commission for us to vote.

- Airplane Replacement Study Subcommittee -. Cavazzoni, Coward, Anderson (if available), Siegfried, Truemper and Hyer

Gary said that until there is a final budget and we know that we are getting the funding, there is no reason to meet for this committee yet.

- Education Grants Subcommittee -. Cooper, Bethea, Barnes and Siegfried

Commissioner Cooper stated these grants do not pay for any salaries or anything like that. If we can help, it would be great. He also mentioned that there was discussion of working with SCAA to assist with flight training.

There was a discussion amongst the commissioners about looking into 501-c3 and checking on the amount of money they use on salaries. Commissioner Gantt discussed the group operating out of Rock Hill and talked about different ways we may be able to assist organizations like this.

District Reports

District 1: Commissioner Esposito said that Jon Rembold with HXD gave her report. An excellent report!

District 3: Commissioner Cooper spoke about construction in Pickens going well. McCormick County having another student event in June. Commissioner Cooper will be participating in a student event at Pickens County on Friday morning and expects to 27 high school students to be at the airport. Saluda County having a work day to clean up the airport on Thursday.

District 4: Commissioner Kaufman had nothing new to report.

District 5: Commissioner Barnes said that the terminal project is close to getting underway at Lancaster. He mentioned that the City is trying to annex the airport to provide water service, but hopefully, they work around that situation. Attended a Breakfast Club meeting at Butter's Field.

District 6: Commissioner Cavazzoni stated that Lowcountry Regional voted to start decommissioning the 3rd Runway.

District 7: Commissioner Bethea stated he attended a Ribbon Cutting at CAE and spoke about all of his travels during Aviation Week. Attended a State House meeting and a Press conference in Myrtle Beach. Visited Cheraw, Florence, Conway and Marion as well. Attended the Citadel legislative barbeque event in Columbia. Spoke with Jim Taylor in Georgetown.

Executive Session

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

Chairman Grant made a motion to go into Executive Session and Commissioner Barnes seconded.

The executive session ended at 1:35pm.

New Business

Melody Mikell mentioned that we typically ask Commission to approve the next FY budget at a June meeting.

Gary stated that the budget shouldn't be significantly different from this year except that we may want to add additional budget for AWOS maintenance. Melody Mikell said that AWOS expenditures have been down for the last couple years due to a statewide maintenance project, but costs are trending back up.

Commissioner Cavazzoni asked if we needed to approve the budget today. Melody said we could operate under last year's budget until July at which time we could adjust the budget if necessary.

A motion was made to operate under last year's budget by Commissioner Cavazzoni and seconded by Commissioner Barnes.

After checking his calendar, Commissioner Barnes noted that he has a conflict with the date for the July meeting. Commissioner Esposito also has a conflict with the July meeting. After discussion, all agreed to move the next meeting to June 20, 2023 and the budget will be considered for approval at that meeting.

Next Meeting Date

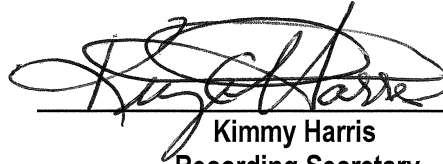
The next regular Commission Meeting will be held on June 20, 2023.

Adjournment

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



**Delphin Gantt
Chairman**



**Kimmy Harris
Recording Secretary**

June 20, 2023

Date