



## MINUTES

### SOUTH CAROLINA AERONAUTICS COMMISSION MEETING

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2025

#### Commission Members in Attendance

Delphin A. Gantt, Jr., Chairman  
Vacant, District 1  
Skeets Cooper, District 3  
Terry Connerton, District 4  
Chad McGowan, Esq., District 5 (via zoom)  
Marco Cavazzoni, District 6  
Jim Hamilton, Commissioner Emeritus  
Bud Coward, Commissioner Emeritus

#### Visitors

Charles Taylor, Marion County  
Andy Busbee, Michael Baker Intl.  
Ben Malone, Michael Baker Intl.  
John Rembold, Hilton Head / Beaufort Executive  
Betty Baker, Orangeburg Municipal  
Kent Bontrager, Greenville Spartanburg  
International SP Planning & Development  
Ryan Betcher, Horry County Dept. of Airports  
Brad Beadles, Florence Regional  
Keith Roach, Chester-Catawba Regional

#### Remote Attendance (\*)

Mark Warner, McCormick County  
Carlos Salinas, Pickens County  
Danny Moyd, SC-TAC  
James Taylor, Georgetown County  
James Stephens, Greenville Downtown

#### Welcome & Call to Order

Chairman Gantt called the meeting to order at approximately 10:00 AM and welcomed everyone. Director Siegfried introduced Mr. David L. Gray, Jr. new Airport Planner for SC Aeronautics. Mr. Siegfried noted that Mr. Gray came to us from SC Department of Transportation Intermodal Division, making him a very good addition to our staff. Aeronautics is excited to have Mr. Gray as a part of our SCAC team.

#### Aeronautics Staff in Attendance

Gary Siegfried, Executive Director  
Dale Estrada, Finance Director  
Christopher Eversmann, Airport Development  
David L. Gray, Jr., Airport Planner  
Rekik Maselli, Airport Engineer (EIT)  
David Smith, Project Manager  
John Hodge, SCAC Attorney

Bruce Landsberg, Mount Pleasant  
Michael Molony, Mount Pleasant  
Jeffrey Crave, Dorchester County Airports  
Steve Parry, Hilton Head / Beaufort Executive  
Judy Elder, TBE  
Ken Holt, Holt Consulting  
Lucas Funderburk, Ardurra Group  
Jack Mayfield, Goodwyn Mills Cawood  
David Epting, City of Orangeburg  
Paul Werts, SCAC Education Policy

Steven Gould, Rock Hill/York County  
Bedford Wooten, Holt Consulting  
Chris Birkmeyer, WK Dickson

### **Invocation and Introductions**

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

### **Presentation**

Mr. Robb Williams, of Triple Tree Aerodrome gave a prerecorded presentation on the status of AviComm, South Carolina's high school aviation competition.

### **Approval of Minutes**

Chairman Gant presented the minutes of the September 16, 2025, meeting. He asked if anyone had any edits or corrections. Hearing none, the minutes were approved unanimously as written.

### **Financial & Budget Reports**

Mr. Siegfried presented the financial report. He started by noting that income is well ahead of projections with total income at 167% of projected annual. He pointed out that this is due to sale of Aeronautics King Air. Projected expenses are currently at 40%, running a bit above projections, but Mr. Siegfried expects that these will come into balance as the year progresses.

FY26 started with a State Aviation Fund beginning balance of \$30,964,195.61. This balance along with fuel sales tax revenues of \$2,130,547.68, airline property tax revenue of \$1,726,591.42, a general fund recurring appropriation of \$500,000, and a refund of prior year expense & miscellaneous revenue of \$71,362.33 brought total available funds for airport projects to \$35,392,697.04.

After considering budgeted/committed items of \$29,084,450.03 this left a balance of \$6,308,247.01 available for new grants.

Chairman Gant ask if there were any other concerns and/or questions for Mr. Siegfried about the Financial Report.

Hearing none, Chairman Gant moved on to the Education Policy.

### **Education Policy**

Chairman Gant noted the policy has been reviewed and revised by the Education Grant Committee, and sent to Commissioners for review. He discussed revisions made that addressed discussion from the previous meeting such as:

- An organization may request a maximum of \$100,000 per fiscal year. Should budgeted funds remain at year end organizations with unmet needs may be reviewed for supplemental funding. Chairman stated we want to spread the wealth across the state.
- The Education Grant committee will receive grant applications 14-days prior commission meetings for review, evaluation and scoring. The committee will make a recommendation to commission to consider these grants for approval.

- Section 5-Grant Awarding and Disbursement should be closer to the beginning of the policy for those submitting the grant requests to evaluate if they are eligible for the grant award. Section 5 should be moved to Section 3.

Commissioner Cooper made a motion to accept the Education Policy with the changes as you described as written and Commissioner Cavazzoni seconded the motion.

The minutes were approved unanimously as written

Chairman Gantt asked if there were any other changes at this time. He thanked everyone for their input.

Hearing none, Chairman Gantt stated let us move on to department updates.

### **Airport Development**

Mr. Eversmann started his presentation by noting that his report reflects grant requests submitted as of Wednesday, November 12, 2025 and that he will be asking all Airport Sponsors/Representatives to comment on the status of airport safety data and inspection items at your airport(s).

Chairman Gantt asked if status of airport safety items could be added to the grant application, making the presentation process a little easier for Mr. Eversmann. Mr. Eversmann stated we can make that change very easily.

Mr. Chris Eversmann then presented the Airport Development report by providing brief updates concerning Airport Development deadlines, upcoming airport inspections and ongoing Aeronautics projects. Mr. Eversmann stated the 20-inspections for FY26 have been completed and have been listed on our website. Since our last meeting, 3-inspections were completed, Santee Cooper, Pageland and Woodward Field.

Mr. Eversmann shared that, due to software changes, the CLUE Tool required upgrading. Due to the process, he also stated the upgrades to this building has been very challenging. We are sorting through budgets, which were not necessarily accurate for the work that needs to be done.

Mr. Eversmann presented a new helipad for consideration and approval. This helipad, which is proposed for the South Strand Medical Center needs commission action because it is within three nautical miles of the Myrtle Beach International Airport. The Horry County Department of Airports has provided comment and they have no reservations.

Commissioner Cooper made a motion and seconded by Commissioner Cavazzoni. The motion was approved unanimously.

Mr. Eversmann then presented grant for consideration.

## **Grants for consideration (Airport Development)**

### **District 1**

1. Beaufort County / Beaufort Executive Airport (ARW) / AIP State Match Grant (2.5%) / Develop Partial Parallel Taxiway / Design / Project Cost - \$257,075

Associated AIP Grant: 3-45-0008-021-2025

The requested Grant amount is \$6,427.

ASDI items (March 28, 2023): Inoperative / unsecure vehicle access gate; Rwy 25 REIL inoperative; Unsecure pedestrian gate; Part 77 Airspace penetrations.

2. Beaufort County / Hilton Head Island Airport (HXD) / FY-26 Commercial Service Entitlement Grant (100%) / Installation of uAvionix ATCT Equipment / Construction / Project Cost - \$50,000

Associated AIP Grant: None

The requested Grant amount is \$50,000.

ASDI items: Hilton Head Island Airport (HXD) is a Part 139 Airport and therefore not inspected by SCAC Staff.

3. Beaufort County / Hilton Head Island Airport (HXD) / FY-26 Commercial Service Entitlement Grant (100%) / Remove trees / trim canopy / Maintenance / Project Cost - \$18,455

Associated AIP Grant: None

The requested Grant amount is \$18,455.

ASDI items: Hilton Head Island Airport (HXD) is a Part 139 Airport and therefore not inspected by SCAC Staff.

4. Dorchester County / Summerville Airport (DYB) / State – Local Airport Development Grant (60%) / Perform PAPI Flight Check / Planning / Project Cost - \$22,000

Associated AIP Grant: None

The requested Grant amount is \$13,200.

ASDI items (May 23, 2023): Fencing located within the Runway OFA; Unserviceable windsock; Rwy 24 (2) inoperable threshold lights; Part 77 Airspace penetrations.

5. Berkeley County - CRAA / Moncks Corner Airport (MKS) / State – Local Airport Maintenance Grant (75%) / Remove Runway Airspace Tree Obstructions / Maintenance / Project cost – \$452,498

Associated AIP Grant: None

The requested grant amount is \$339,374.

ASDI items (Apr 6, 2023): Cracked apron pavement; Multiple inoperable airfield lights; Stained pavement markings; erosion affecting the segmented circle; Part 77 Airspace penetrations.

6. Berkeley County - CRAA / Moncks Corner Airport (MKS) / AIP State Match Grant (2.5%) / Remove Runway Airspace Tree Obstructions / Construction / Project cost – \$333,860

Associated AIP Grant(s): 3-45-0041-031-2025 / 3-45-0041-032-2025

The requested grant amount is \$8,347.

ASDI items (Apr 6, 2023): Cracked apron pavement; Multiple inoperable airfield lights; Stained pavement markings; erosion affecting the segmented circle; Part 77 Airspace penetrations.

**Commissioner Cavazzoni made a motion to approve all District 1 grants and Commissioner Cooper seconded.**

**The motion was approved unanimously.**

**District 2** – There were no grants submitted for District 2 airports at this meeting

**District 3**

7. Oconee County / Oconee County Airport (CEU) / AIP State Match Grant (2.5%) / Rehabilitate Taxiway 'A' / Construction / Project cost – \$6,004,052

Associated AIP Grant(s): 3-45-0016-037-2025 / 3-45-0016-038-2025

The requested grant amount is \$150,101.

ASDI items (Mar 16, 2023): Gaps beneath fencing and gates; Outdated fuel truck fire extinguisher inspections; Part 77 Airspace penetrations.

8. Newberry County / Newberry County Airport (EOE) / AIP State Match Grant (2.5%) / Improve Terminal Auto Parking Lot / Design / Project cost – \$134,640

Associated AIP Grant: 3-45-0066-017-2025

The requested grant amount is \$3,366.

ASDI items (Jun 6, 2023): Cracked airfield pavement with weeds growing through; Multiple airfield lights inoperative; Grass growing over Twy pavement edge; Part 77 Airspace penetrations.

**Commissioner Cavazzoni made a motion to approve all District 3 grants and Commissioner Cooper seconded.**

**The motion was approved unanimously.**

#### **District 4**

9. City & County of Greenville / Donaldson Field Airport (GYH) / State – Local Airport Maintenance Grant (75%) / Rehabilitate Taxiway B3 / Maintenance / Project Cost – \$141,127

Associated AIP Grant: None

The requested grant amount is \$105,101.

ASDI items: Donaldson Field Airport (GYH) is a Part 139 Airport and therefore not inspected by SCAC Staff.

10. City & County of Greenville / Donaldson Field Airport (GYH) / AIP State Match Grant (2.5%) / Rehabilitate Taxiway B & Airfield Lighting / Construction / Project Cost – \$11,968,499

Associated AIP Grant(s): 3-45-0031-034-2025 / 3-45-0031-032-2025 / 3-45-0031-033-2025

The requested grant amount is \$299,212.

ASDI items: Donaldson Field Airport (GYH) is a Part 139 Airport and therefore not inspected by SCAC Staff.

**Chairman Gant made a motion to approve all District 4 grants and Commissioner Cavazzoni seconded.**

**The motion was approved unanimously**

#### **District 5**

11. Kershaw County / Woodward Field Airport (CDN) / State – Local Airport Maintenance Grant (75%) / Apply Crack Sealing to Apron / Maintenance / Project cost – \$106,890

Associated AIP Grant: None

The requested grant amount is \$80,168.

ASDI items (Oct 29, 2025): Part 77 Airspace penetrations; Grass growing through cracks in airfield pavement; Apron pavement cracking; Faded pavement markings and segmented circle; Faded / unserviceable lighted airfield signage; Taxiway edge lights are inoperative; Non-standard / inconsistent threshold light fixture height; Inoperative PAPI Lights; Numerous inoperative airfield lights.

12. Kershaw County / Woodward Field Airport (CDN) / AIP State Match Grant (2.5%) / Rehabilitate Airfield Lighting / Construction / Project cost – \$2,080,568

Associated AIP Grant(s): 3-45-0011-034-2025 / 3-45-0011-035-2025

The requested grant amount is \$52,014.

ASDI items (Oct 29, 2025): Part 77 Airspace penetrations; Grass growing through cracks in airfield pavement; Apron pavement cracking; Faded pavement markings and segmented circle; Faded / unserviceable lighted airfield signage; Taxiway edge lights are inoperative; Non-standard / inconsistent threshold light fixture height; Inoperative PAPI Lights; Numerous inoperative airfield lights.

**Commissioner Cavazzoni made a motion to approve all District 5 grants and Commissioner Connerton seconded.**

**The motion was approved unanimously.**

#### **District 6**

13. Chester County / Chester Catawba Regional Airport (DCM) / AIP State Match Grant (2.5%) / Rehabilitate Airfield Lighting / Construction / Project cost – \$237,520

Associated AIP Grant(s): 3-45-0015-020-2025 / 3-45-0015-021-2025

The requested grant amount is \$5,938.

ASDI items (Jan 14, 2025): Part 77 Airspace penetrations; Cracked Rwy pavement with grass growing through; Faded airfield signage; Faded fuel farm emergency shutoff sign; Multiple airfield lights inoperative.

14. Richland County / Jim Hamilton – LB Owens Airport (CUB) / AIP State Match Grant (2.5%) / Rehabilitate Taxilanes / Construction / Project Cost - \$2,608,249

Associated AIP Grant: 3-45-0017-031-2025

The requested Grant amount is \$65,206.

ASDI items (Aug 21, 2023): Part 77 Airspace penetrations; Dirty airfield pavement marking; Potholes on the edge of Taxilane fillets; Grass growing through cracks in pavement.

15. City of Orangeburg / Orangeburg Municipal Airport (OGB) / AIP State Match Grant (2.5%) / Rehabilitate Runway 17-35 / Construction / Project cost – \$5,618,043

Associated AIP Grant(s): 3-45-0045-030-2025 / 3-45-0045-031-2025

The requested grant amount is \$140,451.

ASDI items (Feb 29, 2024): Part 77 Airspace penetrations; Inoperative ODALs; Fuel Farm emergency shutoff sign is insufficiently visible; Faded and Non-standard airfield signage; Inoperative airfield pavement edge lights; Inoperative REILs; Non-standard Runway 17-35 pavement marking (threshold bars).

16. Walterboro – Colleton County Airport Commission / Lowcountry Regional Airport (RBW) / State – Local Airport Development Grant (60%) / Update Stormwater Plans / Planning / Project cost – \$28,389

Associated AIP Grant: None

The requested grant amount is \$17,033.

ASDI items (Apr 17, 2023): Part 77 Airspace penetrations identified; Faded Rwy pavement markings on 5 – 23; Rwy 35 Hold Bar is faded.

**Commissioner Cooper made a motion to approve all District 6 grants and Chairman Gantt seconded.**

**The motion was approved unanimously.**

#### **District 7**

17. Marion County / Marion County Airport (MAO) / AIP State Match Grant (2.5%) / Prepare Phase I Environmental Documents / Planning / Project cost – \$260,617

- 18.

Associated AIP Grant: 3-45-0039-011-2025

The requested grant amount is \$6,515.

ASDI items (Jun 1, 2023): Part 77 Airspace penetrations; Expired fire extinguishers; Overgrown segmented circle.

19. Georgetown County / Andrews Airport (PHH) / AIP State Match Grant (2.5%) / Rehabilitate Airfield Lighting / Construction / Project cost – \$584,187

Associated AIP Grant: 3-45-0005-010-2025

The requested grant amount is \$14,605.

ASDI items (Apr 1, 2025): Part 77 Airspace penetrations; Inoperable ODAL; Dimly lit threshold lights.

**Commissioner Connorton made a motion to approve all District 7 grants and Commissioner Cooper seconded.**

**The motion was approved unanimously.**

#### **Grants for consideration (Education)**

**Note: No Education Grant applications will be considered pending passage of a comprehensive Education Grant Policy.**

#### **Flight Department**

Mr. Tim Truemper presented the flight department report. Mr. Truemper shared the flight department is just about where were last year at 60% overall from year to date. The new airplane is still functioning good. The C90 is listed for sale through Surplus. We have not had any bids on the 90 as of today. Surplus has a weird bidding process. We have a lot of people looking at the plane.

If we get no bids for the C90, Mr. Hyer, Mr. Siegfried and Mr. Truemper plan to sit down to review the price. We may need to get an updated appraisal to verify current market price. Mr. Truemper explained the 90 has not received many upgrades except for work on the engine, which was needed. The plane has been well maintained.

Mr. Truemper pulled a report; he found to be interesting. For the last 3-years from July 1 through the end of October, we flew in 2023 86-hours, in 2024 70.6 hours and this year 70.4 hours. We increased the number of trips from previous years, but legs are shorter.

Mr. Truemper noted that the 350 will get a Wi-Fi upgrade in December. It will be a bit pricey, but we will get a \$25,000 rebate by getting this upgrade done before the end of the year.

Chairman Gant asked if there were any questions for Mr. Truemper.

Hearing none, Chairman Gant asked Mr. Siegfried to present the Executive Director's Report.

Prior to the Executive Director's Report, Mr. Charles Taylor asked Chairman Gant if could provide and update on the status of the aviation education initiative in Marion County.

Chairman Gant gave Mr. Taylor the go ahead to provide his update.

Mr. Taylor shared that all aircraft simulators have been ordered and will be installed upon arrival. On November 10, 2025 the instructor position was posted. December 17<sup>th</sup> -21<sup>st</sup>, there will be a survey for all students. Mr. Taylor and Mr. Stone will be going around to all 7-high schools to go over the survey. The interviews for an instructor are set for Monday, December 8, 2025 through Thursday, December 11, 2025. Mr. Taylor spoke about the meeting with the Department of Education as well as the selection of the students.

After the update from Mr. Taylor, Mr. Siegfried presented his Executive Director Report.

### **Executive Director's Report**

Mr. Siegfried presented the Director's Report. He shared a few highlights on his list. Mr. Siegfried stated if you should have any questions please ask them. He spoke about the budget cycle starting again, noting that the Executive Budget Office hearing has already been completed.

Mr. Siegfried stated Mr. Chris Eversmann has reengaged the consultants and completed additional investigation for the painting, windows and roofing projects. Through these studies we have found that additional funding is needed.

Mr. Siegfried spoke about a new initiative going on within the FAA known as the eIPPP. This is a pilot program to conduct electric vertical takeoff and landing operations. Aeronautics has been approached by SC Council of Competitiveness to take the lead because they want a state agency to be involved. SCAC is working with SC-TAC to prepare a proposal.

Mr. Siegfried spoke the other big thing being regulations. The regulations have been submitted to the Regulations Committee. He spoke about only having one comment from the city of Greenville, SC. Mr. Siegfried asked the gentleman if they would like to comment. Mr. John Hodge spoke on this topic briefly due to the upcoming discussion in the Executive Session.

Mr. Siegfried spoke about the update on the plane given by Mr. Truemper earlier. He shared the bid on the plane for sale closes on Saturday, December 20, 2025. Mr. Siegfried shared he and Mr. Truemper discussed possibly reducing the price once the bid has closed.

Mr. Siegfried completed his report and open the discussion of the next meeting.

Chairman Gant spoke about January being a good option.

Chairman Gantt asked if there were any questions. He stated we will go into District Reports briefly due to the Executive Session today.

### **District Reports**

Chairman Gantt began by thanking Mr. Paul Werts for his hard work with the Education Policy. He asked Mr. Werts to pass along thanks to everyone involved. Chairman Gantt spoke with excitement and in great detail about Mr. Jim Hamilton having his last official flight, which was on the news. Chairman Gantt shared our thoughts and prayers for all the families impacted by the UPS Flight 2976 crash in Louisville, KY.

**District 3:** Commissioner Cooper reported that Anderson County has completed their secondary runway reconstruction, and they expect to reopen next week. Greenwood has some tree issues off airport property. Laurens are enjoying their new terminal. McCormick is finishing up repairs to their ramp area and anticipating reopening the airport in December. Oconee County is getting through their football season. Pickens County is looking at quite a bit more ramp area and taxiway. Saluda County is addressing terminal repairs from damage caused by Hurricane Helene. Saluda County is doing great things and will have golf event in a few weeks. Everything is quite in Newberry. Edgefield had issues with damage to hangar doors caused by Hurricane Helene.

**District 4:** Commissioner Connorton reported that GSP is about to finish up its parking garage. GSP will also be shutting down their runways over the weekends and through the holidays. Spartanburg hoping to finish the taxiway project soon. Commissioner Connorton is collaborating with Mr. Danny Moyd at GYH (Donaldson Field) set up an Avionix radar system for airports such as GYH, Donaldson Field and others.

**District 5:** Commissioner McGowan reported that the new taxiway near the terminal at Rock Hill is coming along long expeditiously. Commissioner McGowan also visited the Lancaster terminal, which he noted is beautiful. Sumter Airport is addressing taxiways and turn radius issues that larger jets are having trouble with.

**District 6:** Commissioner Cavazzoni reported that Marlboro County fencing and wildlife is still an issue. He would like to look into getting a program started next year to take care of these issues from a safety perspective. Then narrow down airports in need of help dealing with this type of safety issue.

After the report from Commissioner Cavazzoni, the Commission had an open discussion about this topic safety issues concerning funding and other details.

Chairman Gantt explained the Commission would be going into a brief Executive Session to discuss with legal counsel items pertaining to the regulations brought up earlier today. He shared if anyone needs to leave, you may do so.

### **Executive Session**

Chairman Gantt made a motion to go into an Executive Session and seconded by Commissioner Cavazzoni at 12:00 p.m.

The motion was approved unanimously

After returning from Executive Session, Chairman Gantt stated that there was no action taken as a result of discussions conducted during the session.

### **Next Meeting Date**

The next regular Commission Meeting is tentatively set for Tuesday, January 20, 2026.

### **Adjournment**

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



Delphin Gantt  
Chairman

Kimmy Harris  
Recording Secretary

January 27, 2026  
Date