



Commission Members in Attendance

Delphin A. Gantt, Jr., Chairman
Vacant, District 1
Denise Bryan, C.M., District 2
Skeets Cooper, District 3
Terry Connorton, District 4
Chad McGowan, Esq., District 5
Marco Cavazzoni, District 6
Chris Bethea, District 7
Jim Hamilton, Commissioner Emeritus
Bud Coward, Commissioner Emeritus

Visitors

Charles Taylor, Marion County
Ben Malone, Michael Baker Intl.
Melanie Friscoe, SCAA
Judi Olmstead, MYR
Ken Holt, Holt Consulting
Steve Parry, HXD & ARW
Joseph Barkevich, Ardurra Group
Jack Lovelady, Celebrate Freedom
Jonathan Bryan, Sumter County

Remote Attendance (*)

Mark Warner, McCormick County
Carlos Salinas, Pickens County
James Taylor, Georgetown County
James Stephens, Greenville Downtown
Jim Taylor, PHH
Jeffrey Craven, Dorchester County Airports
Gerald, Blanchard, Kershaw County
Kent Bontrager, GSP Planning & Development

Aeronautics Staff in Attendance

Gary Siegfried, Executive Director
Kimmy Harris, Office Manager
Dale Estrada, Finance Director
Christopher Eversmann, Airport Development Director
David L. Gray, Jr., Airport Planner
David Smith, Project Manager

Bruce Landsberg, KLRO
Lucas Funderburk, Ardurra Group
Brad Beadles, FLO
Judy Elder, TBE
Paul Werts, SCAC Education Committee
Jack Mayfield, Goodwyn Mills Cawood
Lori Brady, Celebrate Freedom
Melissa Robbins, Celebrate Freedom
Chris White, CAE

Steven Gould, Rock Hill
Bedford Wooten, Holt Consulting
Chris Birkmeyer, Ardurra
Bedford Wooten, Holt Consulting
John Hodge, SCAC Attorney
Brian Rogers, Town of Cheraw
Steve Swygert, Michael Baker Int.

Welcome & Call to Order

Chairman Gantt called the meeting to order at approximately 10:05 AM and welcomed everyone.

Invocation and Introductions

The invocation was given by Chairman Gantt. Following the invocation, all attendees introduced themselves.

Approval of Minutes

Chairman Gantt presented the minutes of the November 18, 2025, meeting. He stated there was one change needed within the Education Grant Policy. The Education Grant Committee should present the education grants to the Commission not to the Education Grant Committee 14 days prior to the next Commission meeting, which would provide the Commission with enough time to review these grants. Chairman Gantt asked if there were any other changes, and if none, made a motion to approve the minutes. Commissioner Cavazzoni seconded the motion and the minutes were approved.

Chairman Gantt asked Mr. Siegfried to present the Financial Report.

Financial & Budget Reports

Mr. Siegfried stated that we are halfway through the fiscal year and that we are starting to see the expenses come back into balance (currently at 53% of budget).

Mr. Siegfried then spent a few minutes reviewing the special allocations from recent years and what projects they have been allocated to. Mr. Siegfried noted that there may still be some funds that have not yet been encumbered under a grant, and if so, we will find good projects to spend them on.

FY26 started with a State Aviation Fund beginning balance of \$30,964,195.61. This balance along with fuel sales tax revenues of \$3,283,566.54, airline property tax revenue of \$5,863,421.85, 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 \$40,893,171.21.

After considering budgeted/committed items of \$34,329,805.88 this left a balance of \$6,563,365.33 available for new grants.

Fuel Sales Tax revenue in December was \$572,923.46, up almost 10% from last year, which is a good spot and right where we want to be.

Airline Property Tax Revenue has had a good year, with deposits coming much earlier this year (we do not typically see deposits until January). Last month, we received \$4,136,830.00, giving us deposits off almost \$5.9 million.

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

Airport Development

Mr. Eversmann presented the Airport Development report, noting that Airport Inspections are ongoing. Inspections tend to be fewer at this time of year, because of weather and also other priorities of the airport inspection team. Mr. Eversmann discussed the Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for the terminal expansion in Myrtle Beach.

He also discussed coordinating with the Airport Sponsors to talk about the upcoming grants in the next cycle and to review capital improvement plans. The ADO/Sponsors are including Aeronautics in those discussions. This allows and provides David Gray, our new Airport Planner, with a great opportunity to get immersed in the grant process.

Mr. Eversmann noted that the Statewide System Plan selection is ongoing. Mr. Siegfried and Mr. Eversmann visited the Anderson Regional Airport for a final inspection of the secondary runway project. Mr. Eversmann commended David Gray for reaching out to our counterparts in neighboring states talking about everything from drone employment to environmental policies. This has been a good opportunity and the initiative is appreciated.

Seven Clue Tool cases were completed since the last meeting. David Gray has taken the lead in this area. The Clue Tool software was recently upgraded and is performing well. In the near future, we will be updating the airport safety maps within the Clue Tool.

The Vegetation Management Statewide contract is coming to the end of its 5-year term. We will be re-advertising and working with Materials Management Office (MMO) to reestablish this contract. Aeronautics received five statements of qualifications for the Statewide Airport System Plan and Airport Economic Impact Study. Staff reviewed and ranked the five submittals and have selected a short list of the top three for interview. We look forward to conducting interviews in mid-February.

The Airport Aerial Imagery contract has expired and must be renewed. Vegetation maintenance and chemicals have slowed down and there is not much activity in this area this time of year. Grant management is progressing well as are requests for grant reimbursement. Mr. Eversmann expressed appreciation to Mr. Smith for taking the lead on the new charts and directories.

Mr. Eversmann then presented grants for consideration.

Grants for consideration (Airport Development)

District 1

1. Beaufort County / Hilton Head Island Airport (HXD) / FY-26 Commercial Service Entitlement Grant (100%) / Improve Auto Parking Lot / Design / Project Cost - \$31,000

Associated AIP Grant: None

The requested Grant amount is \$31,000.

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

2. Beaufort County / Hilton Head Island Airport (HXD) / FY-26 Commercial Service Entitlement Grant (100%) / Remove and trim trees / Maintenance / Project Cost - \$42,625

Associated AIP Grant: None

The requested Grant amount is \$42,625.

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

3. Beaufort County / Beaufort Executive Airport (ARW) / State – Local Airport Development Grant (60%) / Relocate AWOS / Design / Project Cost - \$77,959

Associated AIP Grant: None

The requested Grant amount is \$46,775.

ASDI items (March 28, 2023): Part 77 Airspace penetrations (09) are ongoing. All other discrepancies have been corrected.

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

The motion was approved unanimously.

District 2

District 3

4. Greenwood County / Greenwood County Airport (GRD) / Secondary Runway Rehabilitation Grant (90%) / Reconstruct Secondary Runway 5 – 23 / Design / Project cost – \$297,684

Associated AIP Grant: None

The requested grant amount is \$267,916.

ASDI items (Mar 18, 2025): Erosion gaps beneath fencing. Part 77 Airspace penetrations (14) are ongoing. All other discrepancies have been corrected.

5. Greenwood County / Greenwood County Airport (GRD) / State – Local Development Airport Grant (60%) / Update Stormwater Plans / Planning / Project cost – \$19,601

Associated AIP Grant: None

The requested grant amount is \$11,761.

ASDI items (Mar 18, 2025): Erosion gaps beneath fencing. Part 77 Airspace penetrations (14) are ongoing. All other discrepancies have been corrected.

6. Pickens County / Pickens County Airport (LQK) / State – Local Airport Development Grant (60%) / Study Commerce Park Development / Planning / Project cost – \$116,000

Associated AIP Grant: None

The requested grant amount is \$69,600.

ASDI items (Mar 20, 2024): Part 77 Airspace penetrations (01) ongoing. Other items included on ACIP for correction. Walker & Whiteside providing price quote for beacon tower repainting.

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

The motion was approved unanimously.

District 4

7. Greenville Airport Commission / Greenville Downtown Airport (GMU) / State – Local Airport Development Grant (60%) / Bury Electrical Power Line / Construction / Project Cost – \$40,000

Associated AIP Grant: None

The requested grant amount is \$24,000.

ASDI items: Part 77 Airspace penetrations (13) ongoing: Two evaluated / mitigated, Three removed. All other items have been corrected or are included in an upcoming project for correction.

8. Greenville Airport Commission / Greenville Downtown Airport (GMU) / State – Local Airport Development Grant (60%) / Perform Erosion Repair / Construction / Project Cost – \$344,028

Associated AIP Grant: None

The requested grant amount is \$206,417.

ASDI items: Part 77 Airspace penetrations (13) ongoing: Two evaluated / mitigated, Three removed. All other items have been corrected or are included in an upcoming project for correction.

9. Greenville Spartanburg Airport Commission / GSP International Airport (GSP) / FY-26 Commercial Service Entitlement Grant (100%) / Expand GA Apron Taxiway / Construction / Project Cost - \$250,000

Associated AIP Grant: None

The requested Grant amount is \$250,000.

ASDI items: GSP International Airport (GSP) is a Part 139 Airport and therefore not inspected by SCAC Staff.

Commissioner Cavazzoni made a motion to approve all District 4 grants and Commissioner Cooper seconded.

The motion was approved unanimously.

District 5

10. Sumter County / Sumter Airport (SMS) / State – Local Airport Development Grant (60%) / Expand Hangar Development Area / Design / Project cost – \$459,781

Associated AIP Grant: None

The requested grant amount is \$275,869.

ASDI items (May 23, 2025): Part 77 Airspace penetrations (18) ongoing; All other items have been resolved.

11. Kershaw County / Woodward Field Airport (CDN) / Secondary Runway Rehabilitation Grant (90%) / Reconstruct Secondary Runway 14 – 32 / Design / Project cost – \$275,065

Associated AIP Grant: None

The requested grant amount is \$247,559.

ASDI items (Oct 29, 2025): Part 77 Airspace penetrations (08) ongoing; All other items have been resolved (either temporarily or will be permanently with upcoming projects).

Commissioner McGowan made a motion to approve all District 5 grants and Commissioner Cooper seconded.

The motion was approved unanimously.

District 7

12. Georgetown County / Andrews Airport (PHH) / AIP State Match Grant (2.5%) / Conduct 18B Aeronautical Study / Planning / Project cost – \$66,730

Associated AIP Grant: None

The requested grant amount is \$1,668.

ASDI items (Apr 26, 2023): Part 77 Airspace penetrations (05) ongoing; Windsock pending replacement; All other items have been resolved.

Commissioner Bethea made a motion to approve the grant for District 7 and Commissioner Cooper seconded.

The motion was approved unanimously.

Grants for consideration (Administration)

13. South Carolina Aviation Association (SCAA)

<i>Palmetto Aviation</i> newsletter	\$18,250
SC Aviation Safety Committee	\$7,500
Aviation Week	\$20,000
Airport Promotion Video	\$13,000

The requested grant amount is \$58,750.

Commissioner Bryan made a motion to approve the administration grant and Commissioner Cooper seconded.

The motion was approved unanimously.

Grants for consideration (Education)

14. Celebrate Freedom Foundation (CFF)

STEM Aviation Education & Workforce Development Outreach Program

The requested grant amount is \$100,000.

Commissioner Bryan made a motion to approve the education grant with the contingency of only moving forward once the Commission reviews the schools chosen for visits by Celebrate Freedom.

The motion was approved unanimously.

Flight Department

Mr. Gary Siegfried presented the report. The Flight Department is tracking similarly to past years. We have been busy with Clemson recruiting. We have received a new appraisal on the 90 of \$710 million. We are working with Surplus in other places to advertise.

Executive Director's Report

Mr. Siegfried presented the Director's Report. He facilitated a meeting between the South Carolina Fire Academy and UAM, Inc. to discuss purchasing an aircraft fuselage for Fire Academy training. Mr. Siegfried met with South Carolina HR to discuss SCAC pilot classification categories and salaries. Also discussed restructuring Aeronautics job classifications to reclassify a position for Aircraft Mechanic I. He prepared for and presented SCAC annual budget request to House Ways and Means Transportation Subcommittee last week. Mr. Siegfried attended South Carolina House Regulations Subcommittee hearing on new Aeronautics regulations. These regulations formalize Aeronautics airport development grant policies and eligibility standards. He participated in the Citadel's Senior Capstone Project end of semester cadet presentations. Mr. Siegfried also attended the following events; the ribbon cutting for the Winthrop University Aviation Program at Rock Hill/York County Airport; the ribbon cutting for the MYR Concourse A Expansion as well as the ribbon cutting for the CAE Security Checkpoint and Terminal Expansion.

Mr. Siegfried shared the airplane sale update. He provided an update on the Statewide Airport System Plan and Economic Impact Study.

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

Chairman Gantt asked the Commission about a tentative date for the next meeting. The date was set for Tuesday, March 17, 2026.

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 asked all Commissioners to present their reports

District 2: Commissioner Bryan began by asking Chris White, the new Executive Director for the Columbia Metropolitan Airport (CAE) if he had anything to share. We are working together to find out what the needs are for CAE. Commissioner Bryan mentioned that she had a mechanical issue with her airplane causing a gear-up landing on runway 11-29 at CAE. This caused a temporary shutdown of the runway. That is all for District 2.

District 3: Commissioner Cooper reported that everything was frozen this morning in the upstate with temperatures around 10 degrees.

District 4: Commissioner Connorton reported that storm cleanup is still underway. Operations at SPA and GSP are back to normal.

District 5: Commissioner McGowan had nothing new to report.

District 6: Commissioner Cavazzoni had nothing new to report.

District 7: Commissioner Bethea reported that MYR and Judi Olmstead put on a great terminal expansion ribbon cutting. He noted that GGE is very busy. New Sherpa hangar, new Precision Air Hangar, 6400 SF maintenance hangar all planned. Jim Taylor is doing a great job. Commissioner Bethea also reported that he attended the McCormick ribbon cutting along with Mr. Chris Eversmann.

Executive Session

Chairman Gantt made a motion to go into an Executive Session and seconded by Commissioner Cavazzoni at 12:05p.m.

The motion was approved unanimously

Next Meeting Date

The next regular Commission Meeting is tentatively set for Tuesday, March 17, 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

March 17, 2026
Date