MINUTES

SOUTH CAROLINA AERONAUTICS COMMISSSION MEETING

TUESDAY, AUGUST 18, 2026

SOUTH CAROLINA AERONAUTICS

Commission Members in Attendance

Denise Bryan, C.M., District 2
Skeets Cooper, District 3
Terry Connorton, District 4
Chad McGowan, District 5
Chris Bethea, District 7
Jim Hamilton, Commissioner Emeritus
Bud Coward, Commissioner Emeritus (*)

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
Rekik Maselli, Airport Engineer (EIT)
John Hodge, SCAC Attorney

Visitors

Ken Holt, Holt Consulting
Paul Werts, CFF
Steve Parry, HXD & ARW Airports
Lonnie Ford, LCAA
Kennedy Ford, Grandchild of Lonnie F.
Tyson Ford, Grandchild of Lonnie F.
Christopher "CJ" Will, LCAA
David Epting, City of Orangeburg
Betty Baker, City of Orangeburg
Phil Jufko, Mead & Hunt
Thomas J. Anderson, III, Development Resource Grp.
Jeff Knauer, KSMS
Lauren Watson, MBI
James Stephens, GMU
Jodi Salter, PHENOGY
Judy Elder, TBE
Charles Taylor, Marion County Airport
Hillary Crawford, Parrish & Partners
Melissa Robbins, CFF
Michael Stone, Marion County School District
Judi Olmstead, Horry County Dept. of Airports
Susan Stevens, Charleston
Ben Malone, Michael Baker Int.
Keith Roach, Chester County Airport
Melanie Friscoe, SCAA
Shawn P. Hagerty, Marion County School District
Andy Busbee, Ardurra
Michael A. Smith, LCAA
Lenny Sansone, Ridgeland -Claude Dean Airport
Steve Gould, UZA
Brad Beadles, FLO Airport
Laurens Harms, City of Rock Hill
Grant Scheffer, Sun Energy Solutions
Andy Busbee, Ardurra
Wayne Corley, Maes Awyr
Chuck Evans, Special Services Corporation
Eric Groves, Special Services Corporation
Doug Goldstrom, Special Services Corporation
Robert Moore, FOTH
Lonnie Browning, Allendale Airport
Kelly Garin, Guns Garin Memorial Foundation
Sarah Bush, Guns Garin Memorial Foundation
Kevin Morris, Holt Consulting
Vickie Williams, Santee Cooper Regional
Hernan E. Peña, Jr., Charleston Intl Airport
Ken Berry, SC Historic Aviation Foundation
Ron Skipper, SC Historic Aviation Foundation

(48 in-person attendance)

Remote Attendance (*)

Ryan Hounsell, Holt Consulting
Bedford Wooten, Holt Consulting
Stacey Thomas, MKS
Danny Moyd, Donaldson Center
Josh Rowe, Newberry County Airport
Nikki Violette, Marion County Schools
Caitlin Higgins, Talbert, Bright & Ellington
Chris McCauley, City of Aiken
J Simpson, Not Identified
Steve Swygert, Michael Baker Intl
Jim Taylor, Georgetown Airport
Liddy Frye, Horry County Airport
Kent Bontrager, GSP
Eric Lang, Mead & Hunt
(14-remote attendance)

Total:62 in attendance

Welcome & Call to Order

Commissioner Cooper called the meeting to order at approximately 10:00 AM and welcomed everyone.

Invocation and Introductions

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

Approval of Minutes

Commissioner Cooper presented the minutes of the May 19, 2026 meeting. Commissioner Bryan made a motion to approve the minutes and Commissioner Connorton seconded the motion. The minutes were approved as written.

Commissioner Cooper asked Mr. Siegfried to present the Financial Report.

Financial & Budget Reports

Mr. Siegfried presented the financial report. He began by sharing the year end numbers for FY25-FY26. Mr. Siegfried stated we are currently at 106% of the budget. FY26 started with a State Aviation Fund beginning balance of $30,964,195.61. This balance along with fuel sales tax revenues of $ 7,198,114.39, airline property tax revenue of $8,259,380.57, a general fund recurring appropriation of $5,350,000, reimbursement from Sumter County of $210,624.88 and a refund of prior year expense & miscellaneous revenue of $71,305.33 brought total available funds for airport projects to $52,553,620.78. After considering budgeted/committed items of $36,046,077.64 this left a balance of $16,507,543.14 available for new grants.

Mr. Siegfried explained details of the budget for our normal programs, such as herbicide, insecticide, lighting and pavement statewide contactors to be approved.

Commissioner Bethea made a motion to approve the budget and Commissioner Bryan seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

Mr. Seigfried asked if there were any questions about the Financial Report. There being none, he turned it over to Airport Development.

Commissioner Cooper stated we are going to swap the order around a little bit. He asked to begin with the Educational Grants due to having a lot to handle within the meeting. He requested the 5-presenters limit their time to 5-minutes.

Grants for consideration (Education)

Mr. David Gray presented all details pertaining to the educational grants. He shared we have received a total of grant requests. Staff has reviewed, vetted and recommended approval. Mr. Gray stated $750,000 is allocated for the educational grants program. The total amount for grant requests today is $341,846. This represents 46% of the funds allocated with a remainder of $408,154. Mr. Gray shared the order for each airport and organization to present.

1. Celebrate Freedom Foundation – $166,667

    - Outreach to students statewide to encourage STEM related careers in aviation
    - Grant to support cost of materials, training aides, transportation, lodging, meals

    The requested grant amount is $100,000

    Commissioner Bethea made a motion to approve and Commissioner Bryan seconded.

    The motion was approved unanimously.

2. Guns Garin Memorial Foundation– $165,000

    - Introducing students to aviation careers through online learning resources
    - Grant to support cost of education materials, interactive learning components and workforce engagement activities

    The requested grant amount is $99,000

    Commissioner Bryan made a motion to approve and Commissioner McGowan seconded.

    The motion was approved unanimously.

3. Lowcountry Aerospace Academy– $100,700

    - Grant to support Lowcountry Instructional Flight Training (LIFT) day camps and the Aviation Character-Education (ACE) Scholarship Program

    The requested grant amount is $60,420

    Commissioner McGowan made a motion to approve and Commissioner Connorton seconded.

    The motion was approved unanimously.

4. Marion County School District– $129,076

• Foster STEM Engagement with aviation emphasis
• Grant to support opportunities for students to receive hands on experience with aviation technologies, flight simulation and UAS

The requested grant amount is $77,446

Commissioner Bethea made a motion to approve and Commissioner McGowan seconded.

The motion was approved unanimously.

5. South Carolina Historic Aviation Foundation-$8,300

• Introduce, engage and inspire students to explore aviation and aerospace careers and technologies • Grant to support cost of providing materials for initiative and funds for outreach efforts

The requested grant amount is $4,980

Commissioner Bryan made a motion to approve and Commissioner Connorton seconded.

The motion was approved unanimously.

Airport Development

Mr. Eversmann shared that seven Airport Safety Data Inspections (ASDIs) have been completed since our last meeting with three or four remaining. SCAC has been working with our consultant, Mead & Hunt, on the upcoming Statewide Airport System Plan (SASP) / Airport Economic Impact Study (AEIS). This is anticipated to be a two-year duration planning project that will touch every public use airport in the State. The AIP Grant for this project is at the FAA Headquarters level awaiting issuance. Mr. Eversmann and Mr. David Smith are working with our state partners to ensure SCAC Information Security Compliance is up to date and meets State standards. The CLUE Tool Airport Zone maps are in the process of being updated by our consultant, Woolpert. Mr. Smith is also working on the ASDI application restoration and upgrade with Woolpert.

He also shared the significant training and exercise events for AD. David Smith and David Gray attended ASDI training in Seattle, WA. David Gray attended a resident Airport Planning short course given at USC, Berkley, CA. David Gray participated in SCEMD Exercise Operation Palmetto Passage (which included an 800 MHz communications test).

Mr. Eversmann explained the new policy for AD not to bring forward grant applications for the Airport Sponsors who are in arrears in excess of 90 days for payment of any SCAC invoices. There were indications of concurrence with this policy.

Finally, he provided State Fiscal Year 2026 (SFY-26) end-of-year performance and activity metrics. During that time, SCAC issued $26.1M in airport development project reimbursements to Airport Sponsors. This reflected 164 Requests for Reimbursement (RFRs) and the closing of 68 grants. Of those 68 grants, 38 of them had funds remaining and over $1.0M in unspent grant funds returned to the State Aviation Fund. Mr. Eversmann presented a PowerPoint to explain and share additional data for SFY-26 from his AD report.

Grants for consideration (Airport Development)

District 1

1. Berkeley County / Moncks Corner Airport (MKS) / AIP State Match Grant (2.5%) / Rehabilitate Airfield Lighting / Design / Project cost – $274,929

   Associated AIP Grant: 3-45-0041-033-2026 (AIP) / 3-45-0041-034-2026 (AIG)

   The requested grant amount is $6,873.

   ASDI items (April 8, 2026): Rwy 5 Approach obstructions have been removed; Two more obstructions being removed; Vehicle moved from Fuel Farm, Rwy 23 PAPI Light repaired; Plan of action for edge light repair and Segmented Circle erosion repairs.

   Commissioner Connorton made a motion to approve and Commissioner Bryan seconded.

   The motion was approved unanimously.

District 2

2. City of Aiken / Aiken Regional Airport (AIK) / Secondary Runway Rehabilitation Grant (90%) / Rehabilitate Secondary Runway 1 – 19 / Design / Project cost – $286,588

   Associated AIP Grant: None

   The requested grant amount is $257,929.

   ASDI items (January 9, 2026): Fire Extinguishers have been inspected / updated / replaced; Pavement markings will be cleaned and repainted by Pace Pavement Technologies; Opterra has provided treatment of weeds in pavement cracks; Pavement cracks will be filled by Pace Pavement Technologies; Tree obstructions have been removed.

3. City of Aiken / Aiken Regional Airport (AIK) / AIP State Match Grant (2.5%) / Update Airport Layout Plan (ALP) / Planning / Project cost – $333,002

   Associated AIP Grant: 3-45-002-028-2026 (AIP) / 3-45-002-029-2026 (AIG)

   The requested grant amount is $8,325.

   ASDI items (January 9, 2026): Fire Extinguishers have been inspected / updated / replaced; Pavement markings will be cleaned and repainted by Pace Pavement Technologies; Opterra has provided treatment of weeds in pavement cracks; Pavement cracks will be filled by Pace Pavement Technologies; Tree obstructions have been removed.

   Commissioner Bryan made a motion to approve both District 2 grants and Commissioner Connorton seconded.

   The motion was approved unanimously.

District 3

4. Newberry County / Newberry County Airport (EOE) / State – Local Airport Development Grant (60%) / Install Security Cameras / Construction / Project Cost – $13,641

   Associated AIP Grant: None

   The requested grant amount is $8,185.

   ASDI items (February 18, 2026): Part 77 Airspace penetrations are ongoing: Weeds growing through cracks in pavement have been addressed; Threshold lights and edge lights have been repaired. All other items have been corrected or are included in an upcoming project for correction.

   Commissioner Bethea made a motion to approve and Commissioner McGowan seconded.

   The motion was approved unanimously.

District 4

5. City of Spartanburg / Spartanburg Downtown Memorial Airport (SPA) / State – Local Airport Development Grant (60%) / Provide solar power energy sources for various airport circuits (including emergency backup power) / Construction / Project Cost – $497,200

   Associated AIP Grant: None

   The requested grant amount is $298,320.

   ASDI items (July 28, 2026): Part 77 Airspace penetrations being reviewed by Opterra for trimming / removal. All other inspection items have been corrected or are being corrected.

   Commissioner Bryan made a motion to approve District 4 grant # 5 and Commissioner McGowan seconded.

   The motion was approved unanimously.

6. Greenville Airport Commission / Greenville Downtown Airport (GMU) / State – Local Airport Development Grant (60%) / Improve Southeast Apron (Non-AIP Eligible items) / Construction / Project Cost – $5,120,126

   Associated AIP Grant: None (However, a follow-on AIP State Match Grant (2.5%) will be submitted in the future for AIP eligible project items).

   The requested grant amount is $3,072,076.

   ASDI items (August 14, 2024): 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.

7. South Carolina Technology Aviation Center (SCTAC) / Donaldson Center Airport (GYH) / State – Local Airport Development Grant (60%) / Install uAvionix ATCT Equipment / Equipment / Project Cost – $50,000

   Associated AIP Grant: None

   The requested grant amount is $30,000.

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

   Commissioner Connorton made a motion to approve District 4 grants # 6 & 7 and Commissioner Bethea seconded.

   The motion was approved unanimously.

District 5

8. Sumter County / Sumter Airport (SMS) / AIP State Match Grant (2.5%) / Widen Taxiway Fillets / Construction / Project cost – $642,772

   Associated AIP Grant: 3-45-0054-036-2026

   The requested grant amount is $16,069.

   ASDI items (May 23, 2025): All safety / facility / maintenance items have been corrected. Tree obstruction mitigation is ongoing.

   Commissioner McGowan made a motion to approve District 5 grant # 8 and Commissioner Connorton seconded.

   The motion was approved unanimously.

9. Rock Hill – York County / Bryant Filed Airport (UZA) / AIP State Match Grant (2.5%) / Expand South Apron / Construction / Project cost – $1,087,409

   Associated AIP Grant: 3-45-0049-040-2026 (AIP) / 3-45-0049-041-2026 (AIG)

   The requested grant amount is $27,185.

   ASDI items (May 14, 2024): All safety / facility / maintenance items have been corrected. Tree obstruction mitigation is complete using Opterra services.

10. Rock Hill – York County / Bryant Filed Airport (UZA) / State – Local Airport Development Grant (60%) / Expand South Apron (Non-AIP eligible project items) / Construction / Project cost – $1,155,077

    Associated AIP Grant: None

    The requested grant amount is $693,046.

    ASDI items (May 14, 2024): All safety / facility / maintenance items have been corrected. Tree obstruction mitigation is complete using Opterra services.

11. Rock Hill – York County / Bryant Filed Airport (UZA) / State – Local Airport Development Grant (60%) / Rehabilitate Taxiway J Apron, Phase II / Design / Project cost – $84,581

    Associated AIP Grant: None

    The requested grant amount is $50,749.

    ASDI items (May 14, 2024): All safety / facility / maintenance items have been corrected. Tree obstruction mitigation is complete using Opterra services.

12. Rock Hill – York County / Bryant Filed Airport (UZA) / State – Local Airport Maintenance Grant (75%) / Replace Terminal Roof / Maintenance / Project cost – $80,000

    Associated AIP Grant: None

    The requested grant amount is $60,000.

    ASDI items (May 14, 2024): All safety / facility / maintenance items have been corrected. Tree obstruction mitigation is complete using Opterra services.

13. Chester County / Chester Catawba Regional Airport (DCM) / Secondary Runway Rehabilitation Grant (90%) / Rehabilitate Secondary Runway 5 – 23 / Construction / Project cost – $5,964,401

    Associated AIP Grant: None

    The requested grant amount is $5,367,961.

    ASDI items (January 14, 2025): All items have been addressed.

    Commissioner Bethea made a motion to approve District 5 grants# 9-13 and Commissioner Bryan seconded.

    The motion was approved unanimously.

District 6

14. Walterboro – Colleton County Airport Commission / Lowcountry Regional Airport (RBW) / AIP State Match Grant (2.5%) / Reconfigure Taxiways / Construction / Project cost - $965,640

    Associated AIP Grant: None

    The requested grant amount is $24,141.

    ASDI items (April 23, 2026): All safety / facility / maintenance items have been corrected or will be corrected as part of the ongoing Runway rehabilitation project. Tree obstruction mitigation has been partially addressed using Opterra services.

15. Walterboro – Colleton County Airport Commission / Lowcountry Regional Airport (RBW) / Secondary Runway Rehabilitation Grant (90%) / Rehabilitate Secondary Runway 17 – 35 / Design / Project cost - $342,037

    Associated AIP Grant: None

    The requested grant amount is $307,833.

    ASDI items (April 23, 2026): All safety / facility / maintenance items have been corrected or will be corrected as part of the ongoing Runway rehabilitation project. Tree obstruction mitigation has been partially addressed using Opterra services.

16. Jasper County / Ridgeland – Claude Dean Airport (3J1) / AIP State Match Grant (2.5%) / Perform Various Airfield Improvements / Construction / Project cost - $597,072

    Associated AIP Grant: 3-45-0048-019-2026 (AIP) 3-45-0048-020-2026 (AIG)

    The requested grant amount is $14,927.

    ASDI items (August 29, 2025): Runway 36 PAPI lights still under repair. All other items and obstructions have been addressed.

17. Charleston Regional Airport Authority / Charleston International Regional Airport (CHS) / Commercial Service Entitlement Grant (100%) / Construct West RON Apron / Construction / Project cost – $250,000 / **Commercial Service Entitlement Funds**

    Associated AIP Grant: None (In support of another AIP Funded Runway Project)

    The requested grant amount is $250,000.

    ASDI items: CHS is a Part 139 Airport and therefore not inspected by SCAC Staff.

18. City of Orangeburg / Orangeburg Municipal Airport (OGB) / AIP State Match Grant (2.5%) / Rehabilitate Runway 17 – 35 Lighting / Construction / Project cost - $1,638,152

    Associated AIP Grant: 3-45-0003-025-2026

    The requested grant amount is $40,954.

    ASDI items (February 29, 2024): ODALS and PAPI repair reported to Walker & Whiteside for repair; Emergency Fuel Shutoff sign needs to re repositioned; Faded lighted sign panels need to be replaced; Advisory sign spelling corrected; Runway 17 – 35 Threshold Bar markings have been corrected. Improperly parked car has been removed. Tree obstruction mitigation is ongoing.

19. Allendale County / Allendale County Airport (AQX) / AIP State Match Grant (2.5%) / Rejuvenate Airfield Pavement and Lighting / Construction / Project cost - $1,344,401

    Associated AIP Grant: 3-45-0003-025-2026 (AIP) 3-45-0003-026-2026 (AIG)
    The requested grant amount is $33,610.

ASDI items (March 26, 2025): Tree obstruction mitigation, which requires coordination with the Railroad, is ongoing. A fence project is planned for 2027 (design) and 2028 (construction).

Commissioner Connorton made a motion to approve all District 6 grants and Commissioner Bryan seconded.

The motion was approved unanimously.

District 7

20. Marion County / Marion County Airport (MAO) / State – Local Airport Development Grant (60%) / Design Runway Extension lighting and marking / Design / Project cost – $172,275

    Associated AIP Grant: None

    The requested grant amount is $103,365.

    ASDI items (July 13, 2026): Four Maintenance / Safety items have been corrected or are underway. Tree obstructions are being removed by selective cutting.

21. Pee Dee Regional Airport Commission / Florence Regional Airport (FLO) / Commercial Service Entitlement Grant (100%) / Fix Terminal Chiller / Maintenance / Project cost – $114,887 / **Commercial Service Entitlement Funds**

    Associated AIP Grant: None

    The requested grant amount is $114,887.

    ASDI items: FLO is a Part 139 Airport and therefore not inspected by SCAC Staff.

Commissioner Bethea made a motion to approve both District 7 grants and Commissioner McGowan seconded.

The motion was approved unanimously.

Flight Department

Mr. Truemper presented the Flight Department Report. Mr. Truemper shared the numbers are pretty steady. We are down 3% over last year, considering the economy, having our only airplane down for a little while and being down for one airplane. The search is going for another airplane. The Flight Department looked at one airplane this morning. The airplane is good and solid but it has a few issues that need to be corrected. An offer will not be made until the repairs are complete. Mr. Truemper stated he has viewed the airplane market for 20 years; He has not seen a deficient of decent airplanes as there are right now. We are going to look at couple of other airplanes. He stated it will be a while to find the replacement. Mr. Truemper shared Mr. Matt Cropsey, our mechanic/pilot attended his first simulator training and passed with flying colors. Mr. Truemper attended the Flight Department insurance meeting. Our insurance went down over last year. We are going to rebate in the fall. Our pilots have been to reclassed, adjusting due the State of South Carolina requirements not being what our pilots actually do as far as duties and qualifications

Executive Director's Report

Mr. Siegfried presented the Director's Report. Mr. Siegfried spoke about the Statewide Airport Systems Plan and Economic Impact Study. He shared details pertaining to the continued development of the comprehensive State Aviation Fund revenue proposal. Mr. Siegfried explained the policy, guidelines and directions regarding the proposed closure of the Twin City Airport(5J9). He discussed the issues pertaining to Clarendon County's role as the airport sponsor for Santee Cooper Regional Airport(MNI). Mr. Siegfried shared the gratefulness of the Challenger Learning Center for the grant provided to them by SCAC, which has provide the center with Drone Demo and Drone Sim activities. The center has provide these activities for 6,195 students. The programs at the Challenger Learning Center has progressed tremendously by educating and growing our youth in the area of aviation. He also spoke about the status of runway 07-25 rehab project at Aiken Regional Airport. Mr. Siegfried share details about the State Aircraft program.

New Business

Commissioner Cooper asked if there was any New Business.

Hearing none, Commissioner Cooper asked the Commissioners to present their District Reports.

District Reports

District 2: Commissioner Bryan spoke about the only interesting grant being out there is Aiken for a secondary runway project. Commissioner Emeritus Bud Coward went over to the Aiken Regional Airport County and took some pictures of the rehab of primary runway 724. This will be great during the Masters for the State of South Carolina to pull a lot of money away from the State of Georgia. Chris McCauley, Aiken County Aiport Manager thanked SCAC for its continued support and the opportunities the support has brought to his airport. The runway 725 project has been successful due to the support of the State of South Carolina. We are going into the design process for runway 119. He continues to give thanks for support, which helps Aiken and surrounding areas to grew. Commissioner Emeritus Bud Coward shared City Manager and the City Council are delighted about the processing of this grant. The City Manager would like to have a formal ribbon cutting once runway 724 is complete and ready for use. He thanked Commissioner Bryan for her continued to support to get the fund for Aiken Regional.

District 3:. Commissioner Cooper shared everything is going well. Clemson is in the process of some taxiway construction. The other airports are doing very good.

District 4: Commissioner Connorton shared Stone Cottage, the new restaurant in Greenville Downtown is now open. If you get a chance to visit, go visit. Other than that, everything is going well.

District 5: Commissioner McGowan shared Rock Hill south apron expansion, which was badly needed is coming along. The hangar prices are crazy high. He attended the Chester Airport Commission meeting. They are very interesting in evolving and developing. Some the newer Chester Airport Commissioners are looking into putting in more hangars themselves. Other than that, everything is very well in D5.

District 7: Commissioner Bethea spoke about Jim Taylor having acquired some more acreage as it pertains to Georgetown County Airport. Jim Taylor may be coming to the SCAC for reimbursement grant at some point. Mr. Taylor stated we are putting the package together; it will be in for the next meeting. It has been a 3-year battle. He could not have done it without the SCAC. Commissioner Bethea gave a shout out to Mr. Charles Taylor for doing an incredible job in Marion. Myrtle Beach is working on their runway. Commissioner Bethea acknowledged Mr. Thomas Anderson with a Development Expert Group hired by Ms. Judy Elder to do some of the work at Myrtle Beach. Loris Airport, a Horry County project with through the fence issues. Commissioner Bethea believes the community wants to save it verses shutting down. This particular airport is on life support right now.

Next Meeting Date

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

Adjournment

There being no further business, Commissioner Cooper thanked everyone for coming. The meeting was adjourned.

Delphin Gantt
Chairman

Kimmy Harris
Recording Secretary

October 27, 2026
Date