

West Michigan Airport Authority
Minutes
February 10, 2025

CTO: Chair Murray called the board to order at 4:01 pm (1601)

Roll Call: The following members answered the roll call: Shea, Roden, Gruppen, Dannenberg, Hoekwater, Brandsen; *ex-officio*: Van Beek, Fogg. Members Zeerip and Byrd were absent. Others present: Rachel Hillegonds, WMAA counsel; Lynn McCammon, treasurer; Tyler VandenBrand, FBO-AvFlight; Leanne Schaeffer, communications-marketing consultant; Storey, Sawyer, WMAA staff.

Public Comment: None offered.

Agenda: Dannenberg moved approval, Gruppen second. Motion passes voice vote.

Minutes: Dannenberg moved approval of January 13, 2025, minutes; seconded by Shea. Corrected spelling of Ms. Roden's name noted. Motion passes voice vote.

Introductions: Chair Murray introduced new board member Heather Roden representing city of Zeeland and Craig Van Beek, *ex-officio* member representing Allegan County.

Consent Agenda: Dannenberg moved approval of the consent agenda consisting of the FBO report, 1200 Aero data collection, snow removal costs, WMAA member terms of office. Seconded by Hoekwater. Motion passed voice vote. Storey directed to follow-up on questions and statements concerning 1200 Aero submission.

Conflict of Interest Documentation: Storey read out the names of members who filed conflict of interest statements. All but two statements from board members were received. Storey directed to follow-up.

OMA presentation: WMAA legal counsel Rachel Hillegonds briefed the board on the essential requirements of the state open meetings act (OMA). Ms. Hillegonds distributed a fact sheet developed by the Michigan Municipal League, and a copy of the OMA. Hillegonds noted: all decisions and deliberations of the board must be made in public when a quorum is present; public has right to attend, record, and speak at meetings (Board by rule can set boundaries on public comment); emails cannot be used to deliberate an issue; a quorum of members can attend outside meetings as long as no deliberation of authority business is conducted; limitations on closed meetings; minutes posting requirements; calling a special meeting; remote attendance and in person attendance requirements; OMA does

not apply to committees consisting of less than a board member quorum and are not a decision body.

Airport Manager Hiring Committee: Committee chair Brandsen reported that candidate submissions have been shared with the board; city of Holland human resources director Orme is assisting and contacted applicants for a phone assessment; candidates will be given a Kolbe assessment; committee intends to present list for board interviews by March meeting.

Crosswind Runway Committee: Committee member Voss said that committee is gathering data and deciding direction.

4 One Air LLC franchise: Board members discussed the company's proposed modification of the franchise agreement that was distributed at the January 13 WMAA meeting. Company CEO Rick Thompson responded to questions on the details of the proposal. Member Shea verified submissions by Thompson of other flight schools' financial arrangements with their host airport. Dannenberg moved to reject the company's January 7, 2025; seconded by Gruppen. After brief discussion, Gruppen moved an amendment to form a committee to negotiate an alternative proposal and bring back a recommendation at the March meeting. Seconded by Shea. Amendment adopted on voice vote. The amended motion passed on voice vote. Dannenberg moved to appoint members Shea and Hoekwater with support from Treasurer McCammon to the committee to develop a proposal. Motion passed voice vote.

AEV Charging Station (BETA): Board reviewed a schematic submitted by Beta Technologies locating an aircraft electric charging station at the north-south midpoint of the west edge of the business center apron and two alternative EV charging locations adjacent to the vehicle parking lot. Discussion ensued on the revenue yield from the charging stations; the decision whether the agreement with Beta for the installation and operation of the stations should be with the WMAA or AvFlight, the FBO. Hoekwater moved that WMAA accept the proposal by Beta Technologies as depicted in the diagram for the location of the aircraft charger and alternative one for the vehicle charging station. Second, by Dannenberg. Motion passes voice vote.

Financial Reports: Treasurer McCammon repeated her recommendation not to act on whether to transfer funds to capital budget. Murray reminded the board that the new snowplow may be a stretch goal. Brandsen moved acceptance of the financial reports; Dannenberg seconded. Motion passed voice vote.

Veregy Solar Array – Dr. Jeff Studebaker of Veregy presented the company's proposal to install solar panels at WMRA. He was accompanied by Corey Harper and Tyler Grant. The

board reviewed the case study handouts of MBS International Airport's and Jackson County Airport with Veregy and the company's payback projections from installation. The board presented several questions to the Veregy representatives.

Members Gruppen and VanBeek departed meeting for other commitments at 5:45pm.

Airport Authority Manager Communications– Storey brought to the board's attention the request of HoM Flats for a waiver to the city of Holland's airport overlay development ordinance height restriction for its proposed development on Cabill Drive. Airport consultant Mead & Hunt found the proposed height of forty-nine feet not an impediment to aircraft operations. Board members discussed the request. Dannenberg moved the board waive objection to the HoM Flats proposed development; seconded by Shea. Murray announced a quorum was still present. Motion passed voice vote. Other airport manager communications were in a written report sent to the board.

Board Updates – Hoekwater announced her absence from the March 10 meeting. Brandsen noted he would also be absent. Zeerip previously advised her intended absence. As a result, the meeting would be absent a quorum. Hoekwater moved, Brandsen seconded motion to move March 10 meeting to March 17. Motion passed voice vote.

Adjourn: The business of board having been completed, Dannenberg moved to adjourn; seconded by Shea. Motion passed voice vote at 1753 (5:53pm).

Respectfully submitted,

Jim Storey
Interim Airport Manager