

WINNEBAGO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
AVIATION COMMITTEE

Date: August 9, 2023

Time: 8:00 am (in person and virtual)

Present: Maribeth Gabert, Jeffrey Beem, Betsy Ellenberger, Koby Schellenger, John Hinz

Virtual:

Also Present: Jim Schell, Airport Director; Cameron Hallock, Deputy Airport Director; Nicoletta Salvatore, Wittman Airport Intern; Kathy Griese, GO-EDC; Jared Huss, Fox Valley Technical College; Jim Busha, EAA; Terry Rushing, Wings As Eagles; Fred Stadler, tenant; Tom Gabert, tenant; Sandy Forsgren, tenant; Teresa Novak, tenant

Meeting was called to order at 8:00 am

1. **Approve Minutes of July 10, 2023:** Supv. Ellenberger moved to approve the minutes from July 10, 2023, seconded by Supv. Schellenger. Motion carried 5 /0
2. **Public Comment on agenda items or any item under the jurisdiction of this committee:** None
3. **Director's Report:**
 - a. *East GA Hangar Project Update:* Mr. Schell stated that our t-hangar project is progressing nicely. There was a break taken during AirVenture week due to the contractor that was going to be on-site unable to secure hotel rooms nearby. To date, all the structural steel is in place, now they're working on insulation and walls. Mr. Schell offered to take committee members over to see the project site after the meeting, if anyone is interested. We are on track for the move in date to be somewhere around October 1st.
 - b. *AirVenture 2023 Recap:* Mr. Schell stated that we had a great week on the airfield and the grounds. He did include a sheet that provided the EAA statistics to the committee that was recently released. Mr. Schell stated he personally never saw the grounds so packed. Thursday of AirVenture week was an interesting day for air traffic with a lot of folks leaving and more people coming in. He commended our airport staff for their hard work in preparing for AirVenture straight through post AirVenture. Unfortunately, we had a bad Saturday with the T-6 that went down in Lake Winnebago after taking off and the helicopter and gyrocopter collision that took place on the south end near the Ultralight area. Airport staff and emergency personnel responded and handled everything according to protocol. Airport staff were on scene for quite a long time to process the site of the midair collision. On a positive note, our week, overall, was very successful. The airport had an exhibit booth that partnered with GO-EDC, City of Oshkosh, The Chamber, and Discover Oshkosh. Over two thousand (2,000) postcards from all fifty states and thirty-eight countries were sent out this year. This exhibit space also led to additional contacts and interests in our Aviation Park that our development team continues to follow up on.
4. **Discuss & Approve twenty (20) t-hangar lease agreements for the new E & F hangar buildings:** Mr. Hallock advised that the new 'E' and 'F' t-hangar buildings are expected to be open on or around October 1, 2023. All twenty (20) units have been filled. New lessees will put down a non-refundable deposit that is equal to and will count towards their first month's rent. The E and F hangar units will be leased using our standard month-to-month t-hangar lease. The lease was modified to include a clause that requires tenants to pay their own gas utility bill, and to keep their hangar at a minimum of 40F degrees. Either party may terminate each lease agreement with a 30-day written notice. The rent for the new E and F t-hangar units is \$350.00 per month plus tax and utilities. Supv. Ellenberger made a motion to approve twenty (20) t-hangar lease agreements for the new E and F hangar buildings. Supv. Schellenger seconded the motion. Motion carried 5/0

5. **Intern's Report:** Ms. Salvatore shared that she has been working on a new lease database during her internship. She is in the process of uploading all the paper copy leases to an electronic version. This database will be useful for tracking lease renewals and rent adjustments. Ms. Salvatore added that she is also finishing up an aircraft recognition guide that was requested by our firefighters. This guide is customized to our airport and includes all our common aircraft. The firefighters can look up the specs of the aircraft in distress to aid them. Ms. Salvatore stated that there are over one hundred and fifty (150) aircraft included in the guide ranging from small aircraft to military jets. She concluded her report by stating that her time at Wittman Regional Airport was an incredible and rewarding experience. She thanked our airport staff for all that she learned during her time here.
6. **Operations & Maintenance Report:** Mr. Stuker advised that the sealcoat is now complete on the ramp and parking area of the DNR hangar. He continued to provide information pertaining to AirVenture 2023. This includes two hundred and twenty-five (225) gallons of paint applied, responded to six aircraft incidents and numerous in-flight emergencies, one off airport accident, one mid-air collision, and assisted with the off loading of the T-6 aircraft, and pressure washed all temporary pavement markings off in two days. Mr. Stuker then updated that Wisk Aero, an autonomous eVTOL company, did have a successful airshow demonstration despite multiple setbacks during testing. Their team had been here for several weeks prior to the event doing flight testing. The last item that Mr. Stuker reported is the loss of an operations staff member. The staff member transferred to another department in Winnebago County and leaves the position of Equipment and Maintenance Operator now vacant.
7. **EAA Report:** Mr. Busha shared that they are still recovering from a very crowded event. Advanced tickets sales were up, attendance was up, campgrounds were filled, and they believe this upward trend for AirVenture will continue. By next week EAA will already begin planning for AirVenture 2024 and Mr. Busha stated that the Snow Birds have already committed to their attendance in 2024. Right now, the volunteers for EAA are cleaning up from AirVenture. They have about five thousand (5,000) volunteers to help with this. Mr. Busha stated that overall, he is very pleased and said that it was a great AirVenture.
8. **Chairman's Report:** Supv. Gabert gave an acknowledgement to Mr. Busha for his article in Sport Aviation and the book he wrote. This book is currently on sale at the museum and Supv. Gabert found it a great read. She also spoke to the coordination of EAA with the city, the county, and the airport has been spectacular. AirVenture wouldn't be such a great event if we didn't all work together. Supv. Gabert is very happy that EAA is here and thinks that our citizens are realizing how important this airport is to our community.
9. **Committee Member Statements/Suggestions/Items for Future Agenda:** Supv. Schellenger would like to see a report of the economic impact from AirVenture and hopeful to include the numbers from the NIFA/SafeCon event. Mr. Schell stated that we had planned to conduct an economic impact study pertaining to the airport back in the 2020 timeframe. Unfortunately, with COVID happening in 2020, it was not a good time to conduct an EIS. Currently there is a statewide study underway for all airports in Wisconsin led by the WI BOA. Mr. Schell is not sure when that data will be available, but will update the committee as that study progresses.
10. **Set Next Meeting Date:** September 6, 2023
11. **Adjourn:** Motion to adjourn was made by Supv. Ellenberger, seconded by Supv. Hinz. Motion carried 5 /0. Meeting adjourned at 08:35 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kim Maki
Administrative Associate
Wittman Regional Airport