



**METROPOLITAN AIRPORTS COMMISSION
LAKE ELMO AIRPORT ADVISORY COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES**

Monday, August 25, 2025; 4:00 p.m.
Baytown Township Hall
4020 McDonald Drive North; Stillwater, MN 55082

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m. with 21 participants. A quorum of at least three User Representatives (Evenson, Gunderson, Peterson, Ruedy, Weiler) and three Public Representatives (Bliss, Cox, Holtz) was established. In attendance were:

Representatives: C. Bliss, Bayport; B. Cox, Washington County; D. Elder - Washington County Alternate; P. Evenson, Airport User - EAA Chapter 54; M. Gunderson, Airport User - EAA Chapter 54; J. Holtz, Lake Elmo; L. Peterson, Airport User At-Large; N. Ruedy, Airport User - Lake Elmo Aero FBO; Dag Selander, Airport User - Lake Elmo Aero FBO Alternate; D. Weiler, Airport User At-Large;

MAC Staff: R. Anderson, Manager - Community Relations; S. Lakku, Intern - Community Relations; C. Metcalfe, Assistant Manager - Community Relations; M. Ross, Director - Stakeholder Engagement; P. Tiedeman, Airport Manager;

Other: Gregg DeCarlo; Marc Olson; Leighton Thron; Mary Vierling; Justin Vossa, Bolton & Menk; Ryan Ziegler, Recording Secretary.

1. Welcome & Introductions

Co-Chair Peterson introduced himself and invited participants to do so as well. He then reviewed the goal and purpose of the Lake Elmo Airport Advisory Commission. He discussed the agenda, public comment period procedure, and the educational seminar scheduled to occur after the meeting.

2. Consent Items

2.1 Approval of Meeting Minutes 6-9-2025

Co-Chair Peterson asked if members had reviewed the June 9, 2025, draft meeting minutes and whether there were any comments or changes requested. There was no further discussion at this time.

Representative Gunderson motioned and **Representative Ruedy** seconded to approve the meeting minutes as drafted. **Co-Chair Peterson** asked if there was any discussion, and there was none at this time.

The motion passed by unanimous vote.

2.2 Aircraft Operations & Noise Complaints Quarterly Report

The report was provided via the meeting packet.

Approved 12-1-2025

3275 Manning Avenue, Box 2, Lake Elmo, Minnesota 55042

Philip Tiedeman, MAC Airport Manager • Philip.Tiedeman@mspmac.org • 763-717-0001



3. Public Comment Period

Co-Chair Peterson introduced the public comment period and reminded attendees of the rules for public comment.

Gregg DeCarlo said, since the runway expansion, noise has picked up dramatically, adding that he hears it first thing in the morning and into the evening, with aircraft circling at 10 p.m. He stated the increase is very noticeable and that it was much quieter in the past. He was not sure what could be done. He understands that it is public airspace and controlled by the FAA. Looking at information online, he sees that noise is a common theme for Lake Elmo Airport but that nothing much can be done. He thought he would come to the meeting and learn a little of what is going on and what might be done. He stated he believes he is just one of many who have noted concerns over the years.

Co-Chair Peterson thanked **Mr. DeCarlo** for his comment and asked **Mr. Anderson** to give an overview of the work that has been done by the Commission regarding noise.

Mr. Anderson indicated there would be an overview of complaints and noise abatement programs later in the meeting and that he would be happy to speak with **Mr. DeCarlo** individually.

Co-Chair Peterson asked for additional public comments, and there were none at this time.

4. Business

4.1 Comparative Review of Fly Neighborly Program Strategies

Mr. Anderson reviewed the discussion that occurred at the last meeting and the investigation done at the request of the Co-Chairs since that time. He introduced **Ms. Lakku** and her informal benchmarking study work comparing noise abatement programs across the country to those at Lake Elmo Airport.

Ms. Lakku gave an overview of noise abatement programs and their goals. She discussed the FAA's restrictions and limitations placed on airports, including that all Lake Elmo's noise abatement programs are voluntary. She reviewed findings of her comprehensive study of 25 general aviation airports around the country and compared their noise abatement programs to Lake Elmo's. She discussed all the noise abatement features available at Lake Elmo Airport and those at the other 25 airports.

Mr. Anderson provided information about the airports in the study and how they compare to Lake Elmo. He noted Lake Elmo has many of the noise abatement procedures that other airports employ and explained the reasons for what procedures are used or not used. He noted that implementing the Fly Neighborly Guide into ForeFlight has been very helpful and gets information to where pilots can access it. He is unaware of other airports that do that.

Co-Chair Holtz inquired if other MAC airports have implemented the guide into ForeFlight.

Mr. Anderson stated that some do, but not all.



Representative Weiler said that, as a user and pilot at Lake Elmo Airport for a long time, he questions how comprehensive the dissemination of information is to users other than the flight school. He remarked that many hangar owners and pilots are not aware of the intensity of the noise issue. He asked whether there has been specific notification by mail or email to airport users regarding noise abatement and the Fly Neighborly Guide.

Mr. Anderson was not sure if mailing or emailing had occurred at Lake Elmo Airport but said the Fly Neighborly Guide, when finalized, was mailed to all tenants of record, which **Mr. Tiedeman** confirmed.

Mr. Anderson thanked **Representative Weiler** for his comments and observations. He stated MAC relies on the Commission to help get the word out to pilots and airport users and that they are always looking for further ways to help disseminate information effectively to the pilot community.

Representative Weiler stated there should be more communication to users.

Co-Chair Holtz asked how often hangar contracts are renewed or acted upon.

Mr. Tiedeman said standard hangar storage leases are every 10 years with a 5-year update after that.

Co-Chair Holtz inquired as to whether additional supplemental documents and information could be given at the time of renewals as far as what has occurred or changed during the period of the lease.

Mr. Tiedeman stated that he did not know what specific documentation was given through the lease renewal/update process, but that the tenant newsletter does include updates.

Co-Chair Peterson asked what percentage of tenants are on the newsletter list.

Mr. Metcalfe and **Mr. Tiedeman** answered that it is approximately 60 percent of tenants.

Representative Gunderson discussed the yearly cadence to communications received from MAC, including when leases are paid, when the environmental survey is done, and when letters are sent. He then noted that, as someone who runs an organization, information sent by email has a low hit rate. He believes that the most effective communication method at the airport is when the magnetic notices are placed on everyone's door and that every user sees those, although he added that the method is costly.

Representative Gunderson asked about the instant alerts used at Manassas Regional Airport.

Mr. Anderson stated Manassas's alerts could be sent about any activity such as runway construction or flight pattern changes and that the alerts are only sent to a select number of residents.

Co-Chair Peterson asked if there was further discussion or questions, and there were none at this time. He thanked MAC staff for their presentation and research.

5. Information

5.1 Community Spotlight

5.2 Airport User Spotlight

Co-Chair Peterson stated that community and user spotlights will be combined into one spotlight: sometimes user, sometimes community, sometimes student. He reviewed that spotlights are done to remind the Commission members of who is at the airport and what they use the airport for.

3275 Manning Avenue, Box 2, Lake Elmo, Minnesota 55042

Philip Tiedeman, MAC Airport Manager • Philip.Tiedeman@mspmac.org • 763-717-0001



Co-Chair Peterson then gave a spotlight on an airport user who has been at Lake Elmo Airport for many years. He discussed the user's history with aviation and the plane he keeps at the airport. He also told the Commission about the user's volunteer work.

5.3 MAC Update

Mr. Tiedeman gave an update on the construction at the airport, including taxiway repaving and taxilane and service road reconstruction. He stated Phase 3 of the project is starting currently and discussed the plans, impacts, and timelines for Phases 3 and 4. He also gave information on construction of the equipment building and the plans for that continued work. He reviewed plans for the viewing area rebuild as well and said that, although weather has affected the timing of that project, there are quotes from contractors and work will hopefully start in the next few weeks. He noted tenant input has been received regarding the project and that he may reach out to solicit more feedback.

Co-Chair Peterson asked whether the viewing area project was being funded by MAC.

Mr. Tiedeman indicated that it is being entirely funded through MAC.

Mr. Tiedeman then gave an update on recent MAC events at the airport, including a Lake Elmo Aero open house with 500-600 attendees. He discussed what the event entailed and how well attended it was. Another event he mentioned was the EAA fly-in breakfast. About 550 people attended, and about 20 aircraft participated. He noted the weather was foggy, so less flying occurred than expected, but there were many demonstrations and exhibitors. He also talked about the Washington County Fair, which was just north of the airport, and the many attractions of the fair and their good turnout.

Representative Cox stated that the 4-H barn and milkshake group ran out of food, so big numbers are expected but have not yet been finalized.

Mr. Tiedeman discussed the County Highway 15 (Manning Avenue) pavement project, including the timeline and that it is planned to continue through the end of October. He stated there has been good communication with the project manager.

Mr. Anderson said that, as part of their regular reporting, MAC provides Reliever Airport Operations and Noise Complaint Reports on a quarterly basis. The purpose of the report is to go through noise complaints and operations each quarter. At the last meeting, the Commission Co-Chairs asked for supplemental information to be provided; those metrics are included on the last page of the report for this quarter. He then reviewed the information in the packet and asked if there were any additional questions or comments from Commission members.

Co-Chair Peterson asked whether anything stood out on the noise complaints that were investigated.

Mr. Anderson answered that this quarter's report did not have any stand-outs but that there was an increase in the Q3 numbers due to the county fair and helicopter rides.

Co-Chair Holtz asked whether that data had been sent to **Representative Cox**.

Representative Cox said it had not yet been.



Mr. Anderson indicated that they did inform Washington County of the additional activity. He added that noise complaints did go down in June, but that some residents expressed to MAC that, although they may not be filing as many complaints, the problem has not gone away.

Co-Chair Peterson asked if there were operations that were out of the ordinary other than the fair.

Mr. Anderson stated that inquiries were made but that nothing unusual was found in the operations.

Co-Chair Holtz asked whether MAC uses AI in analysis of noise complaints.

Mr. Anderson said they do use AI and machine learning within MACNOMS, but that that is more for identifying noise event types and that MAC has not begun using AI in noise complaint analysis.

Co-Chair Peterson indicated that the summary of the noise report was helpful and asked that staff continue to prepare one for each meeting.

6. Member Announcements

Co-Chair Peterson opened the floor for member announcements and comments.

Representative Bliss gave information about Bayport Derby Days on September 19th and 20th.

Co-Chair Holtz said the city of Lake Elmo is celebrating its centennial birthday on September 13th, including fireworks, food trucks, music, a street dance, and a military fly-over.

Representative Gunderson provided information on the fly-in breakfast, including new advertising methods used and challenges in getting volunteers. He noted that enough money was raised to send two students to summer camp at EAA's Aviation Academy and talked about the benefits to the students who are supported by the fundraiser. He thanked everyone who came and participated in the event.

Representative Evenson noted the upcoming Young Eagles flight event to be held September 13th.

7. Review 2025 Meeting Schedule

Co-Chair Peterson reminded the Commission that the remaining meeting for the year is scheduled for December 1st. He asked whether or not any meetings have yet been scheduled for 2026.

Mr. Metcalfe stated that 2026 scheduling would be done at the 12/1 meeting.

Co-Chair Peterson remarked that the 12/1 meeting would occur at the same place and time as the current meeting and that another educational event would take place after the meeting.

Co-Chair Peterson asked if there was any further business to come before the Commission, and hearing none, entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Representative Evenson motioned and Representative Weiler seconded to adjourn the meeting. Co-Chair Peterson called the question, and the members voted.

The motion passed by unanimous vote.

Co-Chair Peterson adjourned the meeting at 4:46 p.m.



3275 Manning Avenue, Box 2, Lake Elmo, Minnesota 55042

Philip Tiedeman, MAC Airport Manager • Philip.Tiedeman@mspmac.org • 763-717-0001

