



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

Monday, August 26, 2024, 4:00 p.m.
Baytown Township Hall
4020 McDonald Drive North
Stillwater, MN 55082

The meeting started at 4:00 p.m. In attendance were:

Representatives: B. Cornell, West Lakeland Township; M. Gunderson, EAA Chapter 54; M. Hanson, City of Bayport; G. Kreisel, Washington County; L. Peterson, At-Large; N. Ruedy, Lake Elmo Aero; D. Selander, Lake Elmo Aero; R. Weyrauch, Baytown Township

MAC Staff: A. Hanson, Attorney; J. Lewis, Community Relations Coordinator; M. Ross, Manager, Community Relations; R. Skoog, Commissioner; P. Tiedeman, Airport Manager, Lake Elmo Airport; Marisa Trapp, Manager of Environmental Affairs; Grace Olson, Environmental Compliance Specialist; Ryan Mintz, Air Quality Compliance Administrator

Other: M. Kaschmitter, M. Vierling, members of the public; Mat Knutson - Terracon

A quorum of at least three User Representatives and three Public Representatives was established.

Welcome and Introductions

Luke Peterson, Co-Chair, called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. There were 28 participants.

Approval of Meeting Minutes for 5-20-2024

Co-Chair Peterson opened the discussion regarding approving the minutes from the May 20, 2024, commission meeting. He reviewed the purpose of the minutes.

Chair noted a change to Phil's email
#5 community spotlight had rick's email wrong – it is missing a letter

**Representative Hanson moved and Representative Cornell seconded to:
Approve the Minutes from the May 20, 2024 meeting as published.**

The motion passed by unanimous vote.

Public Comment Period

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

Mary Vierling, West Lakeland Resident, requested the names of the pilots that fly at specific times.

Community Spotlight

Co-Chair Peterson introduced **Representative Tim Gladhill**, the Community Development Director for the City of Stillwater. **Representative Gladhill** shared information about the history and formation of the city. Stillwater is a charter city and can develop their own constitution. New mixed-use development proposed in the future land use plan. City working to increase access to the St. Croix River. Continuing to manage tourism and residential.

Co-Chair Peterson paused the agenda to go around the room and have members introduce themselves.

Community Spotlight

Co-Chair Luke Peterson introduced **Tom**, a pilot at 21D. **Tom** is a Chief Flight Instructor for Lake Elmo Aero and is a Captain with Sun County Airlines. **Representative Nate** updated the group that **Tom** recently moved on to Delta Air Lines.

Airport Manager Update

Philip Tiedeman, Manager – Lake Elmo Airport, reviewed the recent and ongoing construction and maintenance surrounding the North Service Road. The recent reconstruction of roughly ½ mile of the north service road included replacing the aggregate, adding a geofabric to help stabilize soil and pavement movements. Still to come is pavement markings, saw cutting joints, signs, seeding, and any remaining punch list items. This project was supposed to be completed in the spring but needed to be pushed back due to heavy rain.

He also noted that as a result of Brad Latvia's retirement, **Matt Schroer and Art Hemmingson** transferred from other MAC airports to conduct Field Maintenance at the Lake Elmo Airport.

He also shared an update on the ongoing work to update rates and charges, work that has been going on for the last year. The changes were sought to make sure MAC's general aviation system is financial sustainability to things like capital projects, equipment, promote business, and attract private investment while achieving a fair distribution of rates. This process kicked off with a 3rd party assessment and review of our current environment, followed by numerous meetings with commercial operators and tenants for feedback, public hearings and committee meetings regarding the updates, and now moving toward MAC Commission approval.

He also shared that have been working to install a radio and speaker at the aircraft viewing areas so that attendees can hear radio activity. MAC electricians have been busy with all the other projects around the Reliever System but plan on working on this project in the Fall. The new crew also have some thoughts on improvements to the roof structure to reduce the bird attractiveness.

Q2 2024 Aircraft Operations and Noise Complaint Trends

Jennifer Lewis, Technical Advisor, reviewed the process by which complaints are taken at the Metropolitan Airports Commission regarding aircraft activity. She stated that during the quarter, 10,945 operations and 201 nighttime operations were recorded for Lake Elmo Airport. Additionally, there were 7,398 noise complaints from 22 locations and 393 nighttime complaints from eleven nighttime locations in Q2 2024.

She also reviewed Q1 activity across the entire reliever system of aircraft.

Representative Cornell expressed concern about increased flight activity in the morning hours; the safety of high noise events and aircraft operating at low altitude; and the exceedingly loud noise levels that he believes were not experienced 18 months ago. He commented that the noise concerns of residents need to be elevated.

Environment 101

Marisa Trapp, Manager, Environmental Affairs at MAC, provided high level overview of the department and what they do across all MAC airports and specific to Lake Elmo Airport. Department mission is twofold, compliance with federal, state and local regulations, and serve as a resource to tenants to encourage stewardship.

Grace Olson, Environmental Compliance Specialist, explained she handles storm water management and spill prevention best management practices, review soil and erosion control during construction or other projects, and engages with tenants daily. Lake Elmo has several specific plans and permits that are in place to minimize pollution – general industrial stormwater discharge permit – and meet requirements, including the Stormwater Pollution and Prevention Plan, and Spill Prevention Control and Countermeasures plan

Mat Knutson, Terracon, works in partnership with Valley Branch Watershed for stormwater control to reduce runoff to Downs Lake. He noted the evaporators run approximately 12 hours each day except when it's raining. The MAC is on track to meet compliance goals.

Grace Olson shared tenant compliance resources.

Representative Cornell asked about lead testing. **Marisa Trapp** indicated that the MAC has benchmark values that are monitored but lead is not one of them.

Mary Vierling, West Lakeland Resident, asked about testing for Toluene and having a MS4 permit. **Marisa Trapp** replied that the MAC is not required to have an MS4 permit.

Co-Chair Peterson asked about compliance rate for tenants. **Marisa Trapp** indicated that the average is about 86% for all MAC airports.

Follow-up Items

Michele Ross, Manager, Community Relations, reviewed the scope of the sound monitoring study.

Member Comments

Co-Chair Peterson introduced an opportunity for additional public comment, then introduced the member comment period.

Co-Chair Peterson, on behalf of **Representative Mueller**, expressed some concerns regarding securing the airport.

Representative Gunderson noted that there was a public fly-in event at the airport on August 11, and he shared a summary of attendance, outreach, and purpose of the event. He also provided an overview of the organization that sponsored the event.

Representative Chase shared his observations about the increased use of Runway 32. He also agreed with the airport security concerns.

Representative Hanson noted an interest in keeping the viewing area accessible if security is enhanced, and she indicated an interest in promoting use of the viewing area.

Representative Chase clarified more security is needed for the hangars.

Representative Cornell noted his observations about pilots using the airport, and indicated appreciation for flight activity he believes is consistent with the noise abatement recommended practices. He noted his observations about other specific flight activity and noise levels, and shared ideas about how he would like some activity to change. He indicated he would like the commission (LEAAC) to be more engaged in reducing noise complaints. He also inquired about airport signage.

Phil Tiedeman indicated there is no timeline update available for Fly Neighborly sign installation.

Co-Chair Peterson acknowledged airport tenants received mailed information about the Fly Neighborly program, and the airport Automated Weather Observation System (AWOS) has been updated to alert pilots about it.

Chair Peterson polled the LAAAC members and determined the City of Lake Elmo will be next community spotlight; West Lakeland will be the spotlight during the February 2025 meeting.

Review LAAAC Meeting Schedule

Co-Chair Peterson announced that the next LAAAC meeting is scheduled for November 25, 2024, at the same location to start at 4:00 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:12 p.m.