



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

Monday, December 1, 2025; 4:00 p.m.
Baytown Township Hall
4020 McDonald Drive North, Stillwater, MN 55082

The meeting was called to order at 4:01 p.m. with 23 participants. A quorum of at least three User Representatives (Evenson, Flint, Gunderson, Thomas, Weiler) and three Public Representatives (Cox, Holtz, Johnson) was established. In attendance were:

Representatives: B. Cox, Washington County; D. Elder, Washington County (Alternate); P. Evenson, Airport User - EAA Chapter 54; J. Flint, Airport User (At-Large); M. Gunderson, Airport User - EAA Chapter 54; J. Holtz, City of Lake Elmo; P. Johnson, Baytown Township; N. Kragness, City of Lake Elmo (Alternate); J. Thomas, Airport User (At-Large); D. Weiler, Airport User (At-Large)

MAC Staff: R. Anderson, Manager - Community Relations; S. Lakku, Intern - Community Relations; J. Lewis, Coordinator - Community Relations; M. Ross, Director - Stakeholder Engagement; R. Skoog, MAC Commissioner; P. Tiedeman, Airport Manager

Other: R. Dana, West Lakeland Township; D. Laun; M. Olson, Lake Elmo Aero; H. Shah; J. Vossen, Bolton & Menk for Met Council; R. Weyrauch, Baytown Township; R. Ziegler, Recording Secretary

1. Welcome & Introductions

Co-Chair Holtz introduced himself and confirmed with **Ryan Ziegler** that a quorum was present.

2. Consent Items

2.1 Approval of Meeting Minutes 8-25-2025

2.2 Aircraft Operations & Noise Complaints Quarterly Report

The report was provided via the meeting packet.

Co-Chair Holtz opened discussion of the consent items. No changes or comments were made at this time.

Representative Cox motioned and **Representative Flint** seconded to approve the consent agenda items as printed. **Co-Chair Holtz** called the question and a vote was taken.

The motion passed by unanimous vote.

Approved 2-9-2026



3. Public Comment Period

Co-Chair Holtz introduced the public comment period and reminded attendees of the rules for public comment. There were no public comments at this time.

4. Business

4.1 Student Education Outreach

Co-Chair Holtz discussed aviation outreach generally and where it fits into LEAAC's goals and the history of the agenda item. He then gave information about a meeting **Co-Chair Peterson, Co-Chair Holtz, Representative Gunderson**, Lake Elmo Aero personnel, and MAC staff had with School District 834 and the head of the Pathways Program for Stillwater High School in which they discussed what can be done to connect area students to aviation and the airport. The Pathways Program connects kids to real-life career experiences and includes teacher training to better understand available opportunities. He said the school district is interested in building a partnership for both short- and long-term projects that allow education and experiences for teachers and students to gain familiarity and experience with career opportunities in aviation fields. This could be a long-term relationship with many steps and partners and could be expanded to include several local municipalities.

Mr. Anderson added this was an initial discussion and that Pathways has strong and genuine interest. He noted the program could be replicated at other schools. He noted MAC is available to play a role in facilitating discussion and ensuring stakeholders have an opportunity to participate. He said it is a great connection and is definitely needed from the industry side.

Co-Chair Holtz said EAA is a fantastic resource and that additional help and resources will be required for them to continue with outreach, including for their pancake breakfast. He suggested working with the Boy Scouts or National Honor Societies. He reiterated that the meeting was very productive and hopefully the first of many and could lead to a successful program that other districts could join.

Representative Gunderson mentioned the Pathways Program director's main focus is exposing teachers and having them visit the airport. He also noted that **Co-Chair Peterson** has a son who may be interested in starting an aviation club at Stillwater High School.

Commissioner Skoog inquired regarding where funding could come from and if it might be reasonable to have a conversation with airlines like Delta to see about possible assistance and partnerships.

Mr. Anderson said funding was discussed and that he has plans to connect with Sun Country and Delta to feel out interest and see what mechanisms to help might exist.

Commissioner Skoog noted the shortage of air traffic controllers and how airlines are talking about finding ways to overcome that challenge, possibly in starting training programs.

Co-Chair Holtz pointed out that those present may not be familiar with **Commissioner Skoog**, who then briefly introduced himself and his role with MAC.

Co-Chair Holtz asked if there were further questions or comments at this time, and there were none.



4.2 Community Outreach

- viewing area
- ongoing outreach support

Co-Chair Holtz introduced the agenda item and again noted the need for volunteers. He highlighted the EAA pancake breakfast as a great event and asked when it will be scheduled for next year.

Representative Gunderson indicated it is scheduled for the second Sunday of August.

Co-Chair Holtz encouraged all to attend the pancake breakfast and asked about other opportunities for outreach such as National Night Out, local municipality events, and other speaking opportunities.

Commissioner Skoog said airports are a mystery to most people, but that it is important to make people feel comfortable and not fearful of the airport. He noted that Lake Elmo Aero does a good job and has a wonderful open house. He also brought up EAA Chapter 54's Young Eagles Flights.

Representative Gunderson noted the Young Eagles Flights are done on the second Saturday of the month from May to October, weather permitting.

Co-Chair Holtz asked whether or not EAA Chapter 54 yet has a date for their 2026 open house.

Mr. Olson indicated they do not, but it is usually in the end of August or beginning of September.

Co-Chair Holtz said, as part of community outreach, maybe they could work to host more field trips. He discussed his plans to speak with representatives of Mahtomedi schools and noted the difficulty in ensuring proper levels of volunteer staffing without over-leveraging current volunteers.

Representative Evenson said he would accompany **Co-Chair Holtz** on Mahtomedi school visits.

Co-Chair Holtz thought that would be great and that other school districts and municipalities are not far and could also be visited such as Oakdale and Woodbury.

Representative Evenson said New Richmond, Eau Claire, and Menomonie have various aviation programs.

Co-Chair Holtz asked to hear more about those programs.

Representative Evenson stated that Eau Claire has a very active Young Eagles group with a lot of outreach. There is also a program at NDSU for college kids as part of the mechanical engineering program with a one-credit aviation class similar to an introductory ground school. He explained that, in the mid '70s, the University of Minnesota had a ground school through their engineering program, and he said they also once had a flight school.

Co-Chair Holtz inquired as to similar programs available nearby now.

Representative Evenson said Mankato State has an aviation degree program.

Mr. Anderson noted that **Ms. Lakku** is a recent graduate of that program.

Ms. Lakku mentioned that there is outreach to area high schools about the aviation program, but that it is within the university program that more of that discussion happens.



5. Information

5.1 Stakeholder Spotlight

Mr. Tiedeman highlighted a tenant at the airport with a love of aviation and boating who owns an amphibious plane. He works hard to be a good neighbor to the communities surrounding the airport.

Representative Cox asked about the tenant's aircraft and whether it is a common type at Lake Elmo.

Mr. Tiedeman said they are becoming more common and gave more information regarding the plane.

Co-Chair Holtz inquired regarding water landings.

Commissioner Skoog stated that, while most lakes can be used for landings and takeoffs, there are restrictions on dates and flight times. He noted that some lakes are off limits completely.

5.2 MAC Update

Mr. Anderson gave an update on the standing Commission request to take a closer look at noise complaints. He gave detailed information for Quarter 3 of 2025, including that 17 households made 3,102 complaints, with 4 households accounting for over 87% of those complaints. He noted that complaints have been received from only 2 new households since January 2024.

Co-Chair Holtz asked if there was resolution of the complaints lodged by those 2 new households.

Mr. Anderson shared that MAC follows up on complaints received where the person lodging the complaint asks for follow-up and that those 2 new complaints did not request follow-up.

Co-Chair Holtz asked if there is any further discussion or questions, and there was none.

Mr. Tiedeman gave his Airport Manager Update, focusing on the gazebo, equipment building, sustainability project, and winter operations. He gave a brief history of the gazebo project and its original construction. After exploring options, it was decided to construct the gazebo with cedar wood and a metal roof. There are additional plans for a speaker and signs as well as bird netting.

Representative Weiler asked if signage will be placed on the road to direct people to the viewing area.

Mr. Tiedeman stated there would be signage at the airport entrances.

Co-Chair Holtz inquired if there could be signage placed on Manning Avenue as well.

Mr. Tiedeman said that would need to go through the county.

Mr. Tiedeman then discussed the status of the equipment building project, which is nearly completed. He discussed timelines for the work yet to be performed and the benefits the building will provide. He also talked about the sustainability project of adding native grasses and wildflowers to the airport. He noted the areas that were planted this year and the upcoming additional work that will be done. He stated that, if the project is successful, it could also be used at other airports.

Co-Chair Holtz asked if all plantable areas were seeded this year.

Mr. Tiedeman indicated two areas were chosen this year and that more can be planted in the future.



Representative Evenson asked if they would be no-mow-type areas.

Mr. Tiedeman said the areas will be mowed twice a year for now, as mowing will help with root development and encourage blooming. After a couple years, they will not need to mow as much but likely will to avoid any issues with overgrowth or snow removal in the winter.

Mr. Tiedeman then moved on to update the Commission on winter operations. He said the airport got their first real taste of snow in recent days and that the dry snow was a good first run for equipment and procedures. He remarked that supplies are on hand for deicing and that, with the completion of the equipment building, they will also have sand stored inside at the airport.

Co-Chair Holtz asked about the timeline for finishing the gazebo project.

Mr. Tiedeman stated that the project is complete other than electrical lines for the speaker, the signage, and the bird netting. Those items are expected to be completed by spring 2026.

Representative Evenson noted the existing benches were still in place.

Mr. Tiedeman said they are unique and were built for the airport and that they wanted to keep them.

Representative Gunderson stated they were built in partnership with EAA and the Boy Scouts.

Co-Chair Holtz relayed a question from **Co-Chair Peterson** as to next year's landscaping and if anything was planned to deal with brush along the fence lines.

Mr. Tiedeman stated that brush along 30th was cut back and sprayed earlier this year, but noted there are some areas that have grown up and that more effort is needed. He explained further plans to put in Class 5 to protect the fence line and avoid brush growth.

Representative Evenson asked what deicing the airport uses, as salt can be damaging to aircraft.

Mr. Tiedeman said they use only FAA-approved products such as QS50 and New Deal. He added that it is not encouraged for anyone at the airport to use rock salt because of its corrosive nature.

6. Member Announcements

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

Representative Gunderson said EAA Chapter 54 is hosting a guest speaker later this evening and that all are welcome.

Representative Cox noted that Manning Avenue is now open after construction and that there may be an update on further construction at the February meeting.

Co-Chair Holtz inquired about the open house regarding the County Highway 10, 17, and 17B Intersection Improvement Project.

Representative Cox said she would quickly confirm that information to share with the Commission.



Representative Weiler commented on the new taxiways on the north side of the airport and how nice they are.

Representative Cox stated that the open house regarding the intersection project will be December 3rd at Oak-Land Middle School from 4 to 6 p.m.

Co-Chair Holtz noted this is a big intersection that needs to be done right the first time and that it is being fast-tracked. He said Washington County is a great partner and discussed intersection plans for both the short term and the long term. He encouraged all those interested to attend the open house.

7. Proposed 2026 Meeting Schedule: February 23, May 11, August 24, November 23, 2026

Ms. Lewis explained that the suggested meeting schedule follows the current meeting cadence of four meetings per year on the fourth Monday of the month. She stated the group can decide to keep the same meeting schedule or change it to whatever they may wish. She showed a calendar with suggested dates and said MAC is open to suggestions or discussion on the 2026 meeting schedule.

Representative Evenson inquired regarding Thanksgiving and the November meeting and asked about bumping that meeting up to avoid the holiday week.

Ms. Lewis stated she could check meeting room availability for November 9th, 16th, and 30th as alternate dates and asked if there was a preference among the November Mondays.

Co-Chair Holtz asked for any preference or thoughts and, hearing none, suggested they could see when the room would be available and discuss at the next meeting.

Ms. Lewis stated she would check room availability for discussion at the next meeting. MAC will move forward in scheduling 2/23, 5/11, and 8/24, and the November date will be finalized at a later time.

Co-Chair Holtz asked if there was any further business to come before the Commission, and no further comments were made at this time. He reminded everyone that an education session would immediately follow the meeting with valuable information.

Co-Chair Holtz adjourned the meeting at 4:47 p.m.

