



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

Monday, February 24, 2025, 4:00 p.m.

Baytown Township Hall  
4020 McDonald Drive North  
Stillwater, MN 55082

The meeting started at 4:05 p.m. with 25 participants. A quorum of at least three User Representatives and three Public Representatives was established. In attendance were:

**Representatives:** C. Bliss, Bayport; B. Cornell, West Lakeland Township; B. Cox, Washington County; D. Elder, Washington County; P. Evenson, Airport User - EAA Chapter 54; J. Flint, Airport User At-Large; M. Gunderson, Airport User - EAA Chapter 54; J. Holtz, Lake Elmo; P. Johnson, Baytown; N. Kragness, Lake Elmo; C. Mueller, Airport User At-Large; L. Peterson, Airport User At-Large; J. Rife, Oak Park Heights; N. Ruedy, Airport User - Lake Elmo Aero; J. Thomas, Airport User At-Large; D. Weiler, Airport User At-Large

**MAC Staff:** R. Anderson, Manager - Community Relations; J. Lewis, Coordinator - Community Relations; C. Metcalfe, Assistant Manager - Community Relations; M. Ross, Director - Stakeholder Engagement; P. Tiedeman, Airport Manager

**Other:** B. Collins, EAA Chapter 54; J. Kremer; Mary Vierling; Ryan Ziegler, Recording Secretary

### **1. Welcome and Introductions**

**Co-Chair Peterson** reminded participants to sign in and turn in needed Tennessee forms. Participants introduced themselves, and **Co-Chair Peterson** reviewed the goals of LEAAC and the agenda.

### **2. Consent Items**

#### **2.1 Approval of Meeting Minutes from November 25, 2024.**

**Co-Chair Peterson** opened a discussion regarding the November 25, 2024, meeting minutes.

**Representative Holtz motioned and Representative Cornell seconded to approve the November 25, 2024, meeting minutes as drafted.**

**The motion passed by unanimous vote.**

#### **2.2 Aircraft Operations & Noise Complaints Quarterly Report**

The report was provided via the meeting packet.

Approved 6-9-2025

**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.

**Mary Vierling** commented regarding recent aircraft noise. She discussed a state patrol plane and her communications with the state patrol regarding that aircraft.

### **4. Business**

#### **4.1 Co-Chair Elections**

**Co-Chair Peterson** and **Ms. Lewis** explained the role of co-chairs. **Co-Chair Peterson** opened the floor for nominations of the Public User co-chair.

**Representatives Cornell** and **Holtz** nominated themselves. **Co-Chair Peterson** called for any further nominations and then asked each nominee to introduce themselves and their candidacy.

**Representative Cornell** discussed his history with the airport, involvement in the Commission, and why he nominated himself to run for co-chair. **Representative Holtz** discussed his history with the airport, involvement in the Commission, and why he nominated himself to run for co-chair.

**Co-Chair Peterson called for discussion and then a vote on the candidacy of Representative Cornell as Public User co-chair. Representative Cornell voted aye.**

**Co-Chair Peterson called for discussion and then a vote on the candidacy of Representative Holtz as Public User co-chair. Representatives Bliss, Cox, Holtz, Johnson, and Rife voted aye.**

**Co-Chair Peterson** announced that **Representative Holtz** had been elected co-chair.

**Co-Chair Holtz** opened the floor for discussion and nominations for the User Representative co-chair.

**Representative Gunderson** nominated **Co-Chair Peterson**. **Co-Chair Peterson** accepted the nomination.

**Co-Chair Holtz called for discussion and then a vote on the candidacy of Co-Chair Peterson as User Representative co-chair. Representatives Evenson, Flint, Gunderson, Peterson, Ruedy, Thomas, and Weiler voted aye.**

**Co-Chair Holtz** announced that **Co-Chair Peterson** had been re-elected co-chair.

#### **4.2 Approval of Work Plan 2025-2026**

**Co-Chair Peterson** reported that he and **Representative McComber** met with **MAC Staff** to prepare the 2025-2026 Work Plan. The plan is categorized into three buckets: Advise/Recommend/Engage, Communication/Coordination, and Education/Orientation. The 2023-2024 Work Plan was mostly accomplished, including work on the Noise Abatement Plan.

**Co-Chair Peterson** recommended that the Commission approve the 2025-2026 Work Plan.

**Representative Evenson motioned and Representative Thomas seconded approving the 2025-2026 Work Plan.**



**Co-Chair Peterson** called for discussion.

**Co-Chair Holtz** complimented the plan and inquired about posting examples of prior action along with the Work Plan once approved.

**Representative Thomas** discussed airport and hangar aesthetics and the importance of being a good neighbor through communication and taking care of details.

**Co-Chair Peterson** suggested adding a bullet point of “Airport Aesthetics” under the Advise/Recommend/Engage category.

**Representatives Bliss, Cornell, Holtz, Thomas, Co-Chair Peterson, and Ms. Lewis** discussed effective communication between the airport and community and ways to strengthen information-sharing.

**Co-Chair Peterson called for a vote on the motion to approve the 2025-2026 Work Plan as amended to add a fourth bullet point of “Airport Aesthetics” under the Advise/Recommend/Engage category.**

**The motion passed by unanimous vote.**

#### **4.3 Member Discussion about Community Engagement**

No further discussion occurred at this time.

### **5. Information**

#### **5.1 Community Spotlight**

**Representative Cornell** discussed West Lakeland Township’s demographics and history, including information about township infrastructure and an upcoming road project. He noted a high level of civic participation of the residents.

#### **5.2 Airport User Spotlight**

**Co-Chair Peterson** spotlighted an airport user, highlighting his and his family’s long and interesting history in aviation.

#### **5.3 Airport Manager Update**

**Mr. Tiedeman** updated the Commission on airport operations, including the recent frequency change and upcoming construction on Taxiway H, a service road, and a new equipment building.

He noted the frequency change was accomplished on February 20th from a more heavily used frequency to one that is unused by another regional airport to improve safety and avoid interference. There was discussion regarding how communication was sent to pilots about the change. Airlake Airport will also be changing frequency.

He discussed the upcoming taxiway and service road construction, which is anticipated to take around 36 days. Some airport operations could be impacted. He noted that favorable bids have been received for the new equipment/materials storage building and then reviewed the anticipated design and usage for the building. There was discussion about the location of the construction projects as well as the lighting that will be utilized and the potential improvements from the projects.



**Representative Thomas** inquired regarding impacts to airport operations.

**Mr. Tiedeman** gave additional information regarding the work being done to limit operations impact.

**Representative Cornell** asked about the possibility of bringing in lead-free fuel.

**Mr. Tiedeman** replied regarding the availability of that fuel for the majority of aircraft. He then explained the goal to have community engagement and a collaborative process through all projects.

**Co-Chair Peterson** noted that most of the Commission lives near the airport and how the goal is to work with all stakeholders as good neighbors.

## **6. Member Announcements**

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

**Representative Evenson** noted that he flew Sunday and that the new frequency worked well.

**Representatives Gunderson** and **Mueller** discussed the Young Eagles program that will start up again in May and sign-ups can be made through the website (<https://chapters.eaa.org/ea54/young-eagles>), including information about the popularity of the program, its logistics, and available scholarships for youth getting involved in aviation. **Representative Gunderson** noted that **Bob Collins** recently received a national award for EAA Chapter 54's website (<https://chapters.eaa.org/ea54>).

**Representative Ruedy** noted that Lake Elmo Aero has recently received Part 141 approval. He discussed the flight school's association with Purdue Global University and the educational opportunities provided with that. More information will be given at a future meeting. Lake Elmo Aero is still monitoring the old frequency.

**Co-Chair Peterson** asked about the timing of Lake Elmo Aero's pancake breakfast this year.

**Representative Ruedy** noted that an announcement will come soon and that the breakfast will likely be in September. **Representative Mueller** added that they hope the construction will be done by then.

**Representative Holtz** commented regarding the final phase of construction in Eastern Village. It was approved in 2015, and the final construction phase is of approximately 35 houses. No land use applications have been received for the other side of the railroad, but that land is appropriately zoned and applications could be received. North of County Road 14, there will be a bank, other commercial lots, and some medium-density housing. Construction has been paused for the winter but will likely start up again soon.

**Representative Gunderson** noted the different forms of government of the municipalities near the airport and asked about West Lakeland Township's zoning laws and regulations.

**Representative Cornell** responded that the zoning is predominantly agriculture/residential with a minimum lot size of 2.5 acres. They have a planning board and a township board and extensive zoning ordinances.



**Representatives Cornell, Gunderson, Holtz, and Ms. Vierling** discussed land use near the airport, focusing on zoning and the history of construction in the area.

**7. Review 2025 Meeting Schedule**

**Ms. Lewis** discussed the upcoming 2025 meeting dates: 6/9, 8/25 and 12/1. **Co-Chair Peterson** clarified the location and time of the meeting.

**A motion to adjourn was made by Representative Holtz and seconded by Representative Gunderson.**

**The motion was passed by unanimous vote.**

The meeting was adjourned at 5:11 p.m.

