



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

Monday, February 9, 2026; 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 23 participants. A quorum of at least three User Representatives (Evenson, Flint, Mueller, Peterson, Thomas, Weiler) and three Public Representatives (Buelow, Cox, Johnson, Kipp, Kragness) was established. In attendance were:

**Representatives:** J. Buelow, West Lakeland Township; B. Cox, Washington County; D. Elder, Washington County (Alternate); P. Evenson, Airport User (EAA Chapter 54); J. Flint, Airport User (At-Large); P. Johnson, Baytown; O. Kipp, Bayport; N. Kragness, City of Lake Elmo; C. Mueller, Airport User (At-Large); L. Peterson, Airport User (At-Large); J. Thomas, Airport User (At-Large); D. Weiler, Airport User (At-Large);

**MAC Staff:** R. Anderson, Manager - Community Relations; K. Gerads, Director - Reliever Airports; D. Lafferty, Assistant Manager - Community Relations; J. Lewis, Coordinator - Community Relations; M. Ross, Director - Stakeholder Engagement; R. Skoog, MAC Commissioner; P. Tiedeman, Airport Manager;

**Other:** B. Harvey; A. Peters; D. Yost, Civil Air Patrol; R. Ziegler, Recording Secretary.

### 1. Welcome & Introductions

**Co-Chair Peterson** introduced himself. He asked those present at the tables to introduce themselves and reminded everyone to sign in.

### 2. Consent Items

#### **2.1 Approval of Meeting Minutes 12-1-2025**

**Co-Chair Peterson** introduced the item. No Representatives had comments or requested changes.

**Representative Flint motioned and Representative Kragness seconded to approve the 12-1-2025 meeting minutes as printed. There was an opportunity for further discussion, and then Co-Chair Peterson called the question and a vote was taken.**

**Representative Evenson abstained. All other Representatives voted aye. Motion passed.**

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

The report was provided via the meeting packet. **Co-Chair Peterson** noted that **Ryan Anderson** would be giving additional detail regarding operations and complaints later in the meeting.

*Approved 5-11-2026*



### **3. Public Comment Period**

**Co-Chair Peterson** introduced the agenda item and asked if there were any public comments. There were none.

### **4. Business**

#### **4.1 Community Co-Chair Election**

**Co-Chair Peterson** explained the role of Co-Chairs and election procedures. He then opened the floor for nominations for the Community Co-Chair.

**Representative Johnson** nominated **Bethany Cox**, who accepted the nomination.

**Co-Chair Peterson asked if there were any other nominations, and there were none. He announced that Representative Cox had been elected Co-Chair.**

#### **4.2 Updates on School Outreach Follow-up**

**Co-Chair Peterson** opened the agenda item and noted conversations with the school are ongoing. He said Lake Elmo Aero is involved with student training and is working with three seniors to get licensed.

**Representative Mueller** asked which schools were being referred to.

**Co-Chair Peterson** clarified that he was referring to three seniors from Stillwater High School. He then asked if anyone else had further updates or follow-up from the discussion from last meeting.

**Mr. Anderson** stated that MAC reached out to Delta and Sun Country to see if they have programs that might be a good fit for youth at Lake Elmo. MAC continues to work to make the right connections and figure out what options will work best. He will report back when he has more information.

**Co-Chair Peterson** noted he will be speaking with people at Northeast Metro ISD 916 about potential program options, as they provide technical education but do not currently have an aviation program. He highlighted the importance of engaging youth in and around the airport and in aviation. He pointed out that EAA is very active with such programs and that continuing to work with youth to spark their interest in aviation is a very positive thing.

#### **4.3 Airport Tour/Open House for Viewing Area**

**Co-Chair Peterson** introduced **Phil Tiedeman** for the topic

**Mr. Tiedeman** said in previous years LEAAC has done group tours of the facilities, but due to scheduling difficulty, they moved to providing individual tours. He is happy to coordinate with any Representatives to provide tours.

With regard to the open house for the viewing area, he noted the signage and radio equipment which is yet to be completed and that, once those are done, they will look for a date for an open house.

**Co-Chair Peterson** asked for additional information on signage.

**Mr. Tiedeman** confirmed the signage would be throughout the airport and said the goal of the signage would be to educate the public about what they might see and hear around the airport.

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**Representative Mueller** said he had recently been to Naples, Florida, and was stunned by their viewing area, where there were approximately two dozen people. He remarked that it was a great community spot and that it was nice to see.

**Co-Chair Peterson** said publicizing the viewing area improvements to bring people in is important, to which **Mr. Tiedeman** agreed.

**Co-Chair Peterson** noted that it is a LEAAC mission to engage and create community and that effective use of the viewing area space is a good way to do that.

**Representative Thomas** asked whether or not, when taxiing, pilots could do a quick callout to members of the public in the viewing area.

**Mr. Tiedeman** said MAC has a limited role in enforcing radio communications, but that short callouts could be fine.

**Representative Thomas** stated it could help bring the community closer.

**Representative Mueller** said he had spoken with some airport staff about putting a placard up to give information on airplane traffic patterns and suggested that EAA might help with that.

**Mr. Tiedeman** indicated he would reach out to EAA once the sign mock-ups were complete to see if they align with his suggestions and that he would welcome EAA's help with signage.

**Representative Thomas** said he thought it is a great idea.

**Co-Chair Peterson** sought clarification on the number of signs planned.

**Mr. Tiedeman** said they are planning for six signs.

**Representative Thomas** asked if information would be included so that visitors could connect the dots between what they see on the signage with what they view of the airplane activity.

**Mr. Tiedeman** indicated the intent is to show a graphic overlay so that people can put the sign information into the context of what they see at the airport.

**Co-Chair Peterson** asked if there were any further questions, and there were none at this time. He then asked what Representatives would need to do in order to schedule a tour.

**Mr. Tiedeman** stated they simply need to reach out to him and pointed out he had business cards available for anyone wanting quick access to his contact information.

## **5. Information**

### **5.1 Stakeholder Spotlight**

**Mr. Tiedeman** introduced the Civil Air Patrol (CAP) for the stakeholder spotlight. He noted that CAP is a congressionally chartered nonprofit corporation that serves as a volunteer civilian auxiliary of the U.S. Air Force. He introduced David Yost for further information.

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**Mr. Yost** thanked the Commission for the opportunity to speak. He said CAP was chartered in 1948 in its present form and gave some history of the organization and its mission. He detailed the many opportunities for youth leadership development available as part of CAP. He highlighted their important work during disasters, including aerial imaging and search and rescue assistance. He indicated that he has been a pilot for 25 years and discussed how some of the work and focus of CAP is changing, with a strong focus on sophisticated equipment and techniques. He discussed how the Air Force is putting an emphasis on scholarship and training for carefully selected CAP cadets to become private pilots. He reiterated that they are not a flight school or flying club, but a volunteer organization that requires active participation. He added that CAP has a presence at Lake Elmo Airport and has had a long history of flying there.

**Representative Mueller** said he serves as a Ramsey County Sheriff reserve deputy and that he has contacted CAP to discuss integrations and shared missions. He noted he was surprised to hear that CAP has 7 to 11 planes available in the metro area to respond to any incidents.

**Mr. Yost** stated he has been in CAP for 22 years and that they have wanted to collaborate with the Ramsey County Sheriff's Office for a long time but needed the right agreement.

**Representative Mueller** said he thought an agreement might be close to being finalized.

**Mr. Yost** indicated that would be great news. He has sometimes taken deputy sheriffs up for an orientation to show them the available services and quick response time offered by CAP.

**Co-Chair Peterson** inquired as to how often CAP flies out of Lake Elmo Airport.

**Mr. Yost** indicated that it varies from a couple times a day to a couple times a week and that it depends on what kind of training is being done and who is doing it. He stated that the national organization wants every CAP unit to fly 200 hours a year or more as well as have every CAP plane flown 200 hours a year. He noted that last year was a very active year, having just topped 400 hours in the fiscal year.

**Representative Mueller** inquired as to what kind of planes CAP utilizes.

**Mr. Yost** said they have a mix of older and newer planes, from mid-'80s planes to some that are just two or three years old, and that all their planes are well maintained and run well.

**Representative Weiler** asked if those 400 hours were all on one airplane out of Lake Elmo Airport.

**Mr. Yost** stated the hours were across multiple airplanes. He said they need to switch out the planes for maintenance, training requirements, and other reasons.

**Co-Chair Peterson** asked if there were any other questions, and there were none at this time. He thanked **Mr. Yost** for his attendance and for his presentation at the meeting today.

## 5.2 MAC Update

**Mr. Anderson** provided supplemental information highlighting complaints and noise reports for the fourth quarter of 2025, including total numbers of complaining households, operations, and complaints received. He noted the top four complaining households accounted for 45 percent of all complaints. He

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indicated there was one new household to file a complaint about Lake Elmo Airport noise in 2025. He reviewed operations data for the quarter, noting that both operations and complaints decreased from October through December. He anticipated January's numbers will be similar to December's.

**Co-Chair Peterson** asked how that data compare to third quarter of 2025 and fourth quarter of 2024.

**Mr. Anderson** said operations numbers were slightly up compared to the fourth quarter of 2024.

**Ms. Lewis** gave detailed operations numbers for 2024 and 2025.

**Co-Chair Peterson** clarified that he was asking about a comparison of complaint numbers.

**Ms. Lewis** gave detailed complaint numbers for fourth quarter 2024 and third quarter 2025, both of which were higher than the complaints in the fourth quarter of 2025.

**Co-Chair Peterson** asked if the distribution of complaints in those time periods was similar, with a small number of households accounting for a large portion of complaints.

**Ms. Lewis** confirmed that the distribution was similar.

**Co-Chair Peterson** asked if there were any further questions, and there were none at this time.

### 5.3 Airport Manager Update

**Mr. Tiedeman** discussed the new equipment building that was finished in the fall of 2025. He said it's a very nice airport feature and gives the mechanics a heated environment in which to work. He showed pictures of the finalized equipment building and also the new gazebo at the viewing area.

He then discussed winter operations, noting snow totals to date and comparisons to prior years. He discussed his team's preparations for snow through February and March. He noted there were some equipment issues that reduced their ability to quickly clear snow, but said they are working on fixes to those issues. He pointed out that there has been only one closure this winter so far where there are usually three to four in a winter due to snowy and icy conditions. His crew will continue to work hard to keep operations moving smoothly and do all they can to avoid closures while prioritizing safety.

**Representative Mueller** said that the airport crew does a great job and is easy to work with, and **Mr. Yost** concurred.

**Mr. Tiedeman** thanked them for the compliments.

He then explained the upcoming summer 2026 construction, including Runway 4/22 reconstruction, Taxiway E edge lighting and signage, and the burial of private utility lines. He indicated the FAA has plans which are being finalized for a new run-up area. He gave the proposed timeline for each project.

**Representative Thomas** asked if all power lines would be buried and how they would be installed under the concrete.

**Mr. Tiedeman** indicated that burying all power lines is the intent and explained that directional boring would be used.

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**Representative Mueller** asked about landing on Runway 4 and if there was a way to modify the area near Runway 32.

**Mr. Tiedeman** mentioned that had been brought up before but that the design of the runway can't be modified without the FAA. He said they will work with the FAA in the future to improve that area if the opportunity arises.

**Representative Mueller** said he appreciated that and that he understands.

**Representative Kragness** asked for clarification on the timing of the Runway 4/22 reconstruction.

**Mr. Tiedeman** stated they anticipate two months for the project, starting June 1 and going through July.

**Representative Kragness** inquired if the runway would be out of service for that entire period.

**Mr. Tiedeman** indicated it would be a complete closure because of safety factors.

**Co-Chair Peterson** asked if other areas or runways may be affected or closed due to the construction.

**Mr. Tiedeman** said that no extended closures of other runways is anticipated, although some limited closures in nonpeak hours may be needed for equipment mobilization. He stated that the crews will work to limit effects to operations as much as possible.

**Representative Mueller** asked whether it was expected the project would be completed on time.

**Mr. Tiedeman** said the project scope includes start and end dates, so completing the project in that time period is the intent.

**Co-Chair Peterson** asked if there would be any new approaches.

**Mr. Tiedeman** said there would be no new approaches.

**Mr. Anderson** noted there is obviously short-term pain with construction and closures, but that he hopes the long-term benefits to the airport community, especially pilots and other stakeholders, will be significant. He expressed optimism that the construction could help relieve traffic levels on the main runway and that the enhancements will increase utilization and better spread the traffic load.

#### **5.4 Upcoming Development and Events Around Airport**

**Co-Chair Peterson** introduced the topic and opened the floor for comments or questions.

**Representative Mueller** asked about getting water and sewer to come from across the street.

**Mr. Tiedeman** indicated there is no timeline for that potential project at present.

**Representative Evenson** inquired about whether security gates might be added.

**Mr. Tiedeman** is looking into that, but there is currently no timeline for that potential project.

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**Co-Chair Peterson** asked for further comments or events and whether or not any communities were planning something for the 250th celebration of America's founding, and none were currently planned. He inquired as to if there were any plans for that at the airport.

**Mr. Anderson** indicated there is nothing currently planned at the airport.

**Representative Mueller** asked if any of the other MAC airports are planning anything.

**Mr. Anderson** said he is unaware of any plans at MAC airports at this time.

**Co-Chair Peterson** noted that Lake Elmo Airport has done a tenant dinner or barbecue in the summers and asked if one was planned for this year.

**Mr. Tiedeman** stated that there are plans for that. He pointed out other summer events, like EAA's Young Eagles flights and the Lake Elmo Aero open house.

**Co-Chair Peterson** said there will also be the viewing area open house event and asked if that was planned for the beginning or end of summer.

**Mr. Tiedeman** said that date had not yet been set, but noted that it might be nice to coordinate that event with the finishing of the runway reconstruction.

## **6. Member Announcements**

**Co-Chair Peterson** opened the floor for Representative announcements and comments. There were none at this time.

## **7. Review 2026 Meeting Schedule: May 11, August 24, November 9, 2026**

**Ms. Lewis** explained the suggested meeting schedule for 2026. She highlighted that the November date was changed to the 9th to avoid Thanksgiving and ensure availability of the facility. She indicated that a meeting schedule into 2027 has not yet been set.

**Co-Chair Peterson** said the group would next convene in May. He 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 and encouraged all to attend.

**Co-Chair Peterson** adjourned the meeting at 4:40 p.m.

