



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

Monday, November 25, 2024, 4:00 p.m.
Baytown Township Hall
4020 McDonald Drive North
Stillwater, MN 55082

The meeting started at 4:02 p.m. In attendance were:

Representatives: D. Chase, At-Large; B. Cornell, West Lakeland Township; D. Elder, Washington County; P. Evenson, EAA Chapter 54; M. Gunderson, EAA Chapter 54; M. Hanson, Bayport; J. Holtz, Lake Elmo; M. McComber, Oak Park Heights; N. Miller, Lake Elmo; D. Weiler, At-Large; R. Weyrauch, Baytown

MAC Staff: R. Skoog, MAC Commissioner; J. Harris, Director – Reliever Airports; J. Lewis, Community Relations Coordinator, Community Relations Coordinator; C. Metcalfe, Assistant Manager – Community Relations; M. Ross, Director – Stakeholder Engagement; P. Tiedeman, Airport Manager, Lake Elmo Airport

Other: M. Appelt, R. Dana, D. Eichman, P. Johnson, L. Kaschmitter, M. Kaschmitter, M. Vierling, J. Widing, R. Ziegler, M. Seeber, members of the public; R. Ziegler, Recording Secretary

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

Welcome and Introductions

Representative Mary McComber, Co-Chair, called the meeting to order at 4:02 p.m. There were 27 participants. **Co-Chair McComber** had all present briefly introduce themselves.

Approval of Meeting Minutes from 8-26-2024

Co-Chair McComber opened the discussion regarding approving the minutes from the August 26, 2024, commission meeting.

Representative Gunderson motioned and Representative Evenson seconded to approve the August 26, 2024, meeting minutes.

The motion passed by unanimous vote.

Approved 2-24-2025



Public Comment Period

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

Mary Vierling, a member of the public, requested to start the public comment period after presentation of the sound study report.

Community Spotlight

Co-Chair McComber introduced **Representative Miller, Lake Elmo City Administrator**.

Representative Miller noted that she is new to the position and that **Representative Holtz** might assist with the Community Spotlight. **Representative Miller** reviewed the history and governmental organization of Lake Elmo, as well as general information regarding its population, growth, and land use. **Representative Holtz** noted how several entities have collaboratively worked together on recent development projects.

Representatives Miller and Holtz fielded questions regarding development projects and the city's growth.

2024 Sound Study Results:

Co-Chair McComber introduced **Michele Ross, Director of Stakeholder Engagement**, to give a report about the sound study that was conducted over a seven-day period from August 13 to August 19, 2024. **Director Ross** clarified the scope, purpose, and method of the study and that this was a follow-up study to one completed in 2021, including clarification that the study is a snapshot in time.

Sound events of noise above 65 decibels for over 4 seconds were measured and broken out between community events and aircraft events. Sounds were analyzed for time of day and from which runway they came. The study measured 333 21D aircraft sound events over the course of seven consecutive days. How the study results compare to the 2021 study results was also discussed, as well as how the captured sound events differed depending upon time of day, runway used, intensity and duration.

Representative Cornell expressed that the data presented seemed on the light side as far as sound events. He discussed how they compare to measurements he has taken and stated that more data analysis and measurements may be required.

Director Ross clarified the methods and modeling used in the study.

Representative Evenson discussed calibration and reliability of equipment used in sound measurements. **Director Ross** explained the calibration and quality of the equipment used in the sound study, and **Representative Cornell** explained the calibration and quality of equipment used in his measurements.

Representative Weyrauch asked about the study's modeling to account for variability in airport use over the year, and **Director Ross** clarified that the models are capable of addressing that, but that it was not included in this study.

Public Comment Period

Co-Chair McComber opened the meeting for public comment.

Approved 2-24-2025

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Mary Vierling, a member of the public, expressed frustration with airport noise, particularly beginning two years ago when a runway was moved. She noted how loud it is and that it affects her life and enjoyment of her property. She expressed wanting resolution.

Representative Holtz and **Representative Cornell** asked about FAA regulations and remediation, and **Director Ross** gave information regarding FAA regulations and the parameters of the sound study.

Laura Kaschmitter, a member of the public, expressed her inability to use her horse property as desired because of aircraft noise levels.

Rachel Dana, a member of the public, noted her experience in balancing loud and disruptive industries with resident concerns and expressed frustration at the lack of resolution for neighbors of the airport. She stated regulations alone should not be the sole measure of responsibility, and suggested that LEAAC adopt measures such as establishment of Sunday evening quiet hours and better communication regarding noise from the airport.

Representatives Evenson and Cornell engaged in discussion regarding changes in airport usage from 1980 to present.

Jennifer Lewis, Technical Advisor, noted historical levels are documented at 100,000 operations in 1980.

Michele Ross, Director, Stakeholder Engagement, noted that the runway location was changed and that the residents feel that not enough has been done.

Mary Vierling, a member of the public, expressed frustration about the history of the runway being moved and development of the area.

Representative Cornell addressed current versus historical airport usage data.

Marian Appelt, a member of the public, discussed the history of the airport, runway development, and safety zones. She stated that the airport encroached on its neighbors.

Airport Manager Update

Phil Tiedeman, Airport Manager - Lake Elmo Airport, discussed winter preparations at the airport, as well as staffing updates (**Matt Schroer** and **Art Hemmingson** coming into their new roles).

Representative Cornell complimented the crews on their maintenance work on the fence line along 30th Street North.

Follow-up on Other Topics

Co-Chair McComber gave an opportunity for follow-up on any other topics.

Representative Weyrauch noted that it is his last meeting as his term is ending. He expressed the importance of clear communication regarding reaching final resolution for the airport and community and expressed empathy towards neighbors' disappointment with the limitation of remediation options.

Approved 2-24-2025

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Co-Chair McComber thanked **Representative Weyrauch** for his years of leadership and participation and also acknowledged the service of **Representative Kriesel**, whose term is also ending.

Representative Cornell responded to **Representative Weyrauch**, giving further information about the history of comprehensive plans and safety zones. He suggested that it may be time to involve the FAA.

2025 Memberships and Meeting Schedule

Co-Chair McComber invited **Technical Advisor Lewis** to review the 2025 proposed membership and meeting schedule.

Jennifer Lewis, Technical Advisor, noted that membership in LEAAC is on a two-year-term basis and that they hope to receive renewal information as soon as possible, before January 31, 2025. The 2025 proposed meeting schedule was discussed.

Co-Chair McComber requested that groups review membership and the schedule and get back to **Technical Advisor Lewis** as soon as possible.

Representative Weyrauch noted a conflict with the proposed May date, and **Representative Cornell** noted a request regarding the proposed November date.

A motion was made by Representative Hanson to finalize the meeting dates of February 24 and August 25, 2025, and was seconded by Representative Holtz.

The motion passed by unanimous vote.

Technical Advisor Lewis stated that more information will be gathered regarding meeting dates in May and November and that those dates will be finalized and shared at the February 2025 meeting.

A motion to adjourn was made by Representative Hanson and seconded by Representative Cornell.

The motion was passed by unanimous vote.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:23 p.m.

Approved 2-24-2025

