



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

Monday, August 28, 2023, 3:00 p.m.

Baytown Township Hall
4020 McDonald Drive North
Stillwater, MN 55082

The meeting started at 3:04 p.m. In attendance were:

Representatives: D. Chase, At-Large; P. Evenson, EAA Chapter 54; M. Hanson, City of Bayport; G. Kreisel, Washington County; L. McGinn, City of Lake Elmo; L. Peterson, At-Large; D. Selander, Lake Elmo Aero; J. Thomas, At-Large; R. Weyrauch, Baytown Township; D. Weiler, At-Large; C. Mueller, Representative At-Large

MAC Staff: R. Skoog, MAC Commissioner; J. Harris, Director – Reliever Airports; J. Lewis, Community Relations Coordinator; D. Nelson, Director – Stakeholder Engagement; M. Ross, Manager – Community Relations; P. Tiedeman, Airport Manager, Lake Elmo Airport; K. Verdeja, Administrative Specialist

Other: M. Wiens, Minnesota House of Representatives – District 41A; N. Ruedy, airport user; T. Vierling, M. Vierling, B. Cornell, D. Cornell, S. Buckingham, E. Buckingham, M. Appelt, D. McGann, J. McGann, M. Ritt, J. Ritt, V. Thalecker, A. Carr, L. Kaschmitter, A. Bucheck, P. Carlson members of the public

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

1. Welcome and Introductions

Luke Peterson, Co-Chair, called the meeting to order at 3:04 pm. There was a total of 46 participants. He gave an overview of the objective of the commission.

2. Approval of Meeting Minutes for 5-22-2023

Chair Peterson opened the discussion regarding approving the minutes from the May 22, 2023 commission meeting. There was no discussion.

**Representative Thomas moved and Representative Selander seconded to:
Approve the Minutes from the May 22, 2023 Meeting as presented.**

The motion passed by unanimous vote.

Approved 11-27-2023

3. Bayport Community Spotlight

Chair Luke Peterson introduced a community member, **Michele Hanson**, Mayor of Bayport. **Mayor Hanson** reviewed the history of the City of Bayport, size and land use, and other community statistics including their “newest” development. She also spoke about Bayport’s community partners and upcoming events. **Mayor Hanson** gave an overview of their city council and staff. She also gave an update on their police and fire departments. Lastly, she covered some of the hot topics in Bayport.

4. Airport User Spotlight

Chair Luke Peterson introduced an airport user, **Jason**. **Jason** grew up just north of Stillwater and now lives south of the airport in West Lakeland Township. **Jason** has a sport pilot license which is specifically designed for people who want to fly small, light planes (SLA). Jason built a Sonex experimental-class light sport aircraft that he flies during nice weather evenings.

5. Meet the Fleet: Piper PA28

Michele Ross, Technical Advisor, explained how the “Meet the Fleet” program began. She noted that this is the first video with a general aviation aircraft. This video can be found at: <https://youtu.be/fozqvhUs7h0>.

The other aircraft videos can be found at: [Meet the Fleet | Metropolitan Airports Commission \(metroairports.org\)](https://metroairports.org)

Due to technical difficulties, the video was played later during the meeting.

6. Public Comment Period (1 of 2)

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

Brad Cornell, a member of the public, was the first to speak. A community meeting was held at his home at the southeast corner of the Lake Elmo Airport. He noted that he has been measuring noise levels. There is a great amount of data that he has collected and shared with members of the MAC Staff.

Vic Thalacker, a member of the public, lives on the north end of McDonald Lake, this appears to be the turning point for take-off routes. He stated that the noise has increased in recent years. He also noted that the committee is very user-heavy.

Diane McGann, a member of the public, noted that aircraft fly low over the houses, she noted they can’t have conversations, can't invite visitors, and can’t enjoy life in general. Has an effect on her physical and mental health. She noted a New York Times article that noise affects health and it is affecting her well-being.

Mary Ritt, a member of the public, is concerned about how the air quality has decreased over the last few years. It has affected her physical and mental well-being.

Alexander Carr, a public member, lives under flight path, is also an airport user. He is curious about the noise complaints and how the numbers break down. His neighborhood seems not to be as bothered by the airport as much as it is by the train noise.

Ann Bucheck, a member of the public, has lived in the area for the past 45 years and has enjoyed the location until the last three years. She agrees that the noise affects physical and mental well-being.

The meeting attendees viewed the “Meet the Fleet” – Piper Archer video.

7. Airport Manager Update

Philip Tiedeman, Manager – Lake Elmo Airport, gave an update on Safety and Security at the airport. He also reviewed the airport construction. Lastly, he gave an overview of the airport tour.

8. Update on Prior Community Discussion/Concerns:

Philip Tiedeman, Manager – Lake Elmo Airport, updated the commission on prior community discussions and concerns. The first of these was regarding the evaporators. He also spoke about the sound studies, which was most recently conducted in August 2021 and the next study was proposed for August 2024.

Mr. Tiedeman answered a question regarding the donated radio for the observation area. He also responded to a question regarding signage being updated. Lastly, he answered a question regarding repaving Runway 4/22.

9. Q2 2023 Aircraft Operations & Noise Complaints

Jennifer Lewis, Technical Advisor, reviewed the process by which complaints are taken at the Metropolitan Airports Commission regarding aircraft. She stated there were 1,661 noise complaints from eleven locations and 40 nighttime complaints from five nighttime locations in the second quarter of 2023. There were 11,920 operations and 252 nighttime operations recorded for Lake Elmo Airport (21D) during the quarter.

Ms. Lewis explained that more detail about complaints and operations is available at www.metroairports.org/community-connection/aircraft-noise.

Ms. Lewis gave an overview of the overall noise concerns. She reviewed the operations per complaint and average complaints per household. She also explained the wind summary and runway use. She also noted information about accessing MAC FlightTracker at www.macnoms.com.

10. 21D Noise Abatement Plan Discussion

Philip Tiedeman, Manager – Lake Elmo Airport, reviewed the current noise abatement plan and the pilot guide. A voluntary Noise Abatement Plan (NAP) for 21D results from cooperative efforts between airport users, pilots, surrounding communities, and the Metropolitan Airports Commission (MAC). He noted that the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) regulations and requirements take precedence over noise abatement procedures.

Recommended procedures are not intended to conflict with instructions from Air Traffic Control (ATC) or those that are the exclusive authority of the FAA.

Mr. Tiedeman explained the preferred runway during calm wind is Runway 32. He also explained the traffic pattern procedures and gave an example of the flights on a slide. He noted the FAA standard of traffic patterns is left-hand traffic. Mr. Tiedeman defined nighttime measures. He explained updated airport data, including field elevation, Traffic Pattern Altitude (TPA), and runway information. He also noted the frequencies used at the airport for CTAF/UNICOM, MSP APP/DEP, Clearance Delivery, WX AWOS-3 (Phone: 651-779-5949. He also reviewed departure procedures. He explained the (National Business Aviation Association) NBAA – Recommended Noise Abatement Departure Procedures with High-Density Airport Option.

Mr. Tiedeman then reviewed the arrival and helicopter procedures. Lastly, he defined maintenance run-ups.

Mr. Tiedeman clarified the reasoning behind the preference for Runway 32.

Mr. Tiedeman, Chair Peterson and some of the pilots in attendance helped explain how pilots acquire and use the pilot guides. There is a flight tracker that shows the aircraft data. **Ms. Lewis** also responded to the meeting attendees about how the MAC FlightTracker is used. She also clarified that the MAC's noise abatement plan is voluntary. She noted that the FAA is the governing body responsible for the safety regulations applicable to the use of the aircraft.

Representative McGinn asked for clarification on the Noise Abatement Plan and how pilots could be held accountable for their aircraft patterns. **Mr. Tiedeman** responded to this inquiry. **Chair Peterson** clarified that a draft of the noise abatement plan will be presented at the next meeting. **Ms. Lewis** and **Ms. Ross** asked for additional comments be emailed to:

MicheleRoss@mspmacc.org

Philip.Tiedeman@mspmacc.org

Jennifer.Lewis@mspmacc.org

11. Public Comment Period (2 of 2)

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

John Ritt, a member of the public, noted the safety of the pilot and passengers is as important as the ground they are flying over. How can we make this a better environment for all of those concerned?

Brad Cornell, a member of the public, noted that there was a large presentation that was given to MAC. He noted that the FAA is supposed to ensure the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) are made available to pilots. He noted that half of the operations at the airport are patterns done by Lake Elmo Aero which significantly affected the southeast neighbors. Mr. Cornell indicated that he submitted a number of written suggestions to the MAC for the next

draft of the Noise Abatement Plan in the future. He also noted that he has not been contacted as a person who has filed a complaint. Mr. Cornell also recommended that the Noise Study not be conducted in August, but in June or July to capture the large amount of the aircraft traffic.

Ann Bucheck, a public member, also reiterated that the information Mr. Cornell presented was a true reflection of the neighborhood members.

Pam Carlson, West Lakeland Township, has been in meetings that have been impacted. She came to observe.

Brad Cornell had presented at West Lakeland Township. What can be done to change this?

Mary Ritt, a public member, asked if the pilots are held accountable for their actions.

Vic Thalacker, a member of the public, noted that the people who didn't file a complaint are still important.

12. Member Comment Period

Chair Peterson introduced the member comment period.

Representative Thomas, a pilot user, thanked Mr. Cornell for his comments.

Representative Hanson, also thanked Mr. Cornell for bringing so much data and information to the meeting.

Representative Mueller, noted that there is an opportunity to learn more about the flight patterns and invited the residents to come to the airport for that purpose.

13. Review LEAAC Meeting Schedule

Chair Peterson led a discussion regarding the upcoming meetings for the calendar year.

The next LEAAC Meeting is scheduled for November 27, 2023 at Baytown Township Hall.

The rest of the agenda was tabled to a future meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:15 p.m.