



**MINUTES FOR THE
RICHLAND COUNTY AIRPORT COMMISSION
JULY 14, 2025 MEETING**

Meeting Details:

Location: Jim Hamilton – L. B. Owens Airport Community/Conference Room
Time/Date: 11:30 AM, July 14, 2025

Roll Call:

Commission Members in attendance:

- Lynn Hutto, Chairman
- Brianna Barrineau, Vice Chairman
- Prentiss McLaurin, Secretary/Treasurer
- Lindsey Ott
- John Brisini
- Ken Harrill
- Mike Kelly, Esquire, Immediate Past Chair (*via TEAMS*)

Richland County Council & Staff in attendance:

- John Thompson, Asst. County Administrator
- Michael Maloney, Department of Public Works Director
- Peter Cevallos, Airport General Manager

Guest in attendance:

- Peggy Roberson, Eagle Aviation
- Jim Herpst, Airport Tenant/EAA
- Lee Thomas, Eagle Aviation
- Tyler Moser, Eagle Aviation
- Kodi Koller, Eagle Aviation
- Andy Busbee, Michael Baker Inc.
- Ben Malone, Michael Baker Inc.

Call to Order

Chair Hutto called the meeting to order at 11:32 pm, welcoming all those in attendance. Chair Hutto stated that there is a quorum, with Commissioner Kelly approved to attend the meeting virtually.

Adoption of Meeting Agenda

Chair Hutto called for adoption of the agenda as presented: Vice Chair Barrineau motioned to approve, seconded by Commissioner McLaurin.

Previous Meetings Minutes

Chair Hutto called for adoption of minutes for the May 12, 2025. Commissioner Brisini made motioned to approve, it was seconded by Vice Chair Barrineau. The motion passed by a unanimous vote.

Airport General Manager's Report

Mr. Cevallos provided the following brief of airport operations:

Operations/Finance:

- Total Operations for May 2025: 1,543 (771 take-offs and 772 landings)
- Total Operations for June 2025: 1,805 (899 take-offs and 906 landings)
- Total Operations for FY 2025: 19,628 (9,855 take-offs and 9,773 landings)

Mr. Cevallos presented a graph illustrating total FY 2025 flight operations to date and provided background and explained process used to obtain airport traffic data.

Mr. Cevallos recognized Mrs. Peggy Roberson of Eagle Aviation who reported the following fixed base operation activity:

- Fuel sales for May 2025, compared to the same period for 2024, was up 11%
- Fuel sales for June 2025, compared to the same period for 2024, was down 28%.
- Ramp fees for May 2025 totaled \$2,628,
- Ramp fees for June 2025, totaled \$1,540.
- 122 based aircraft with 8 aircraft on tie-down
- Eagle Aviation will begin flight school operation starting August 1, 2025

Mr. Cevallos shared the airport's operating budget data through June 2025, which he explained is 100% of budget year, and unaudited:

- Revenue received was \$281,816, which is 105% of budget compared to the budgeted amount of \$268,000
- Expenditures was \$574,431, which is 106% of budget compared to the budgeted amount of \$543,279
 - Personnel expenditures was \$172,091, compared to the budgeted amount, \$180,762 and 95% of budget
 - Operations expenditures was \$215,060, compared to the budgeted amount, \$269,173 and 80% of budget, and
 - Capital expenditures \$187,280, compared to the budgeted amount, \$93,344 and 201% of budget. Mr. Cevallos pointed out the large increase in actual capital expenditure reflect payment to the contractor that installed the Airport Beacon Tower. Director Maloney asked for clarification if there was also grant monies for the project. Mr. Cevallos agreed there was a State grant of \$117,288 that would offset the tower cost.

Airport Project Status:

Mr. Cevallos reported on the following projects:

- **Taxi Lane Pavement Rehabilitation-Design Project** – The consultant and staff met virtually with FAA in May to brief them on the responsive bids, and to finalize grant funding requirement vs. availability so the project could be completed. The low bid came in at approximately \$5M+, with available grant funding is estimated at approximately \$2.5M (95% federal share). Based on this meeting with the FAA, the consultant reviewed the project scope and budget, made appropriate adjustments, and coordinated with potential contractor to ensure the project could be done based on proposed FAA grant funding. The contractor still expresses an interest to complete the project. The anticipation is for the grant award to be offered in the August/September timeframe for County acceptance and to award construction contract, with work scheduled to begin later this fall.
- **Airfield Assessment and Alternative Study** - The consultant and staff met virtually with FAA in June to update them on the status of the project, and present a couple of draft design alternatives that would support the project objective of identifying those parts of the airfield that are not within FAA design standards. The draft alternatives the consultant has produced confirm the current airport design conditions that are lacking those parts of the design standards. The FAA is currently reviewing these alternatives to give the consultant further direction on completing the project: either to work on submitting modifications to standards, or begin to develop projects that when completed would meet current FAA Design Standards.

Notes of Interest: Mr. Cevallos reported in April the Citadel students made their final presentation for their Capstone Project. The presentation showcased their two best design projects from their program: Team 1 Day and Team 2 Night. He reminded the Commission that the teams were given a selection of 4 properties on the airport to focus their design. Team 1 selected Tracts 1 & 2 for their design; Team 2 selected Tract 4. He concluded his comments explaining these designs were conceptual and would still have to be vetted for feasibility and accurate applicability. Regardless the designs are on file for future consideration.

Approval of Avigation Easement – 650 S. Edisto Avenue Townhome Development

Mr. Cevallos presented an avigation easement that has been drafted for a proposed townhome development at 650 S. Edisto Avenue, which is less than one mile to the northwest of the airport, off the end of the runway. The easement will enforce airspace protection over the property, holding the County and the Airport harmless for aircraft passing through the airspace at any altitude above the property. He explained this easement is similar to the easement for an adjacent townhome development located at 480 S. Pickens Street that County Council approved at their February 4, 2025 meeting. Mr. Cevallos explained the easement has been submitted to the County for their review and coordination. Per the current County Council meeting process and schedule, it is anticipated that it will be placed on the Council's Development and Service Committee July 22nd meeting agenda for their consideration; subsequent consideration of full County Council would be projected at their September 16 meeting.

Chair Hutto called for a motion to support the County Council's approval of the easement. Commissioner Brisini made motioned to approve, it was seconded by Vice Chair Barrineau. The motion passed by a unanimous vote.

Special Presentation

Chair Hutto recognized Commissioner Ott who would be ending her term with the Airport Commission, and thanked her for her service, presenting Commissioner Ott with a token of appreciation.

General Discussion

Chair Hutto recognized Mr. Jim Herpst who wanted to address the Airport Commission with an explanation on the reasoning the Aerofest 2025 event has been cancelled.

Executive Session

Chair Hutto asked that the Commission enter Executive Session to discuss Commission strategy. Vice Chair Barrineau made a motion for the Commission to enter Executive Session at 12:16 pm; Commissioner Ott seconded, and motion passed unanimously. Vice Chair Barrineau made a motion for the Commission to come out of Executive Session at 1:37 pm, with no business conducted nor votes taken; Commissioner Harrill seconded the motion and was voted unanimously.

Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 1:39 pm.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Airport Commission will be on Monday, September 8, 2025 at 11:30pm.