



**MINUTES FOR THE
RICHLAND COUNTY AIRPORT COMMISSION
September 8, 2025 MEETING**

Meeting Details:

Location: Jim Hamilton – L. B. Owens Airport Community/Conference Room
Time/Date: 11:30 AM, September 8, 2025

Roll Call:

Commission Members in attendance:

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

Commission Members absent:

- Ken Harrill

Richland County Council & Staff in attendance:

- Michael Maloney, Department of Public Works Director
- Peter Cevallos, Airport General Manager

Guest in attendance:

- Peggy Roberson, Eagle Aviation
- Ryan Turiak, AMS, LLC
- Joseph Benevides, AMS, LLC
- Lee Thomas, Eagle Aviation
- Tyler Moser, Eagle Aviation
- Andy Busbee, Michael Baker Inc.
- Ben Malone, Michael Baker Inc.

Call to Order

Chair Hutto called the meeting to order at 11:35 pm, welcoming all those in attendance. Chair Hutto recognized Commissioner Brisini who was attending the meeting virtually.

Adoption of Meeting Agenda

Chair Hutto called for adoption of the agenda as presented: Past Chair Kelly motioned to approve, seconded by Vice Commissioner Barrineau. The motion passed by a unanimous vote.

Previous Meetings Minutes

Chair Hutto called for adoption of minutes for the July 14, 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 July 2025: 1,989 (993 take-offs and 996 landings)
- Total Operations for August 2025: 2,148 (1,076 take-offs and 1,072 landings)
- Total Operations for Calendar Year 2025: 14,401 (7,231 take-offs and 7,170 landings)

Mr. Cevallos presented a graph illustrating total Calendar Year 2025 flight operations to date and provided background and explained process used to obtain airport traffic data. He pointed out there were 45 “fly-over” for July, and 52 for August; he explained that a flyover are those aircraft that transition through the Airport’s airspace.

Mr. Cevallos also mentioned that in August, there was a Global 5000 operated by Net Jets that used the airport five times. He clarified that having operations by this aircraft, one of the biggest business jets currently in use, is beneficial since it indicates that the airport is becoming more well-known as a corporate aviation hub, these kinds of activities also shorten pavement life since they put an unusual amount of strain on the runway and taxiways.

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

- Fuel sales for July 2025, compared to the same period for 2024, was up 45%
- Fuel sales for August 2025, compared to the same period for 2024, was down 4%.
- Ramp fees for July 2025 totaled \$878
- Ramp fees for August 2025, totaled \$1,982
- 125 based aircraft with 10 aircraft on tie-down

Commissioner Brisini asked about the Airport occupancy’s rate; Mrs. Roberson responded that the hangars are all full, but that there were still sufficient tie-downs spots available. Mr. Cevallos gave an additional explanation on how the tie-down spots are utilized.

Mr. Cevallos shared the airport’s operating budget data through August 2025, which he is explained is 17% of budget year:

- Revenue received was \$51,470
- Expenditures was \$117,716, which is 16% of budget compared to the budgeted amount of \$735,149
 - Personnel expenditures was \$25,902, compared to the budgeted amount, \$204,008 and 12.7% of budget
 - Operations expenditures was \$89,701, compared to the budgeted amount, \$255,652 and 35% of budget, and
 - Capital expenditures \$541, compared to the budgeted amount, \$275,489.

Chair Hutto asked Mr. Cevallos if the personnel budget recognized funds for the new additional position, which Mr. Cevallos confirm that it did.

Airport Project Status: Mr. Cevallos reported on the Airfield Assessment and Alternative Study, sharing that the consultant and staff met with the FAA on August 27 to discuss future capital projects in light of the expected conclusions of the project. Following the consultant's presentation of the two alternate designs that have been drafted, it was concluded the consultant should concentrate on the second design presented. According to Mr. Cevallos, the meeting's outcomes were crucial since they provided the consultant with precise guidance on how to complete the project and provide a final product that would guide the creation of upcoming airport capital projects in order to comply with FAA Design Standards.

Notes of Interest: Mr. Cevallos briefed that the Airport Commission meeting schedule for 2026 has been published, and that he would be sending out meeting invites for the Commission's personal calendars.

Acceptance of Federal Grants - Taxilane Rehabilitation Project

Mr. Cevallos briefed the Commission Richland County has received notification of two federal grants that will fund the Airport's Taxilane Rehabilitation Project. The two grants total \$ 2,553,214 in federal funds, are on the agenda for the September 16 County Council meeting for formal acceptance. Chair Hutto asked confirmation that there were no additional steps needed to ensure the County accepts these grants. Mr. Cevallos confirmed there wasn't. Commissioner Brisini raised concerns if these funds were at risk. Mr. Cevallos gave assurances that grant agreements are completed, and only awaiting County acceptance.

Chair Hutto called for a motion to support the County Council's acceptance of the two federal grants. Vice Chair Barrineau made motioned to approve, it was seconded by Past Chair Kelly. The motion passed by a unanimous vote.

Final Draft - Airport Guiding Documents

Mr. Cevallos briefed the Commission, per the direction offered at the May 12, 2025 Airport Commission meeting, the Code of Ordinance and the Airport Manual were submitted to the County's Attorney's office to conduct their legal review of both documents.

Chair Hutto called for a motion to support the County Council's acceptance of the two Airport Guiding Documents. Past Chair Kelly made motioned to approve, it was seconded by Vice Chair Barrineau. The motion passed by a unanimous vote.

General Discussion

Chair Hutto recognized Director Maloney who provided insight to the local funding for the Taxilane Rehabilitation Project. He explained the local funding comes from funds in that had been set aside in the County's Penny 1.0 Program for the relocation of Commerce Drive. He stated as the Airport is no currently pursuing the relocation of Commerce Drive, a part of these funds could be used for this project. He concluded that the use of these funds for this project have been approved by the Citizen's Transportation Advisory Committee, and will formally be requested at County Council's Transportation Ad Hoc next month for action.

Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 12:12 pm.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Airport Commission will be on Monday, November 10, 2025 at 11:30pm.