

MUNICIPAL AIRPORTS AVIATION ADVISORY COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, July 11, 2024
Anchorage Fire Training Center, 1140 Airport Heights Rd., Bldg. C, Rm 9
Anchorage, Alaska

The Purpose of the MAAAC is to advise and make recommendations to the Assembly and the Administration regarding the Airport budget and operations.

1. Call to Order / Roll Call

Commission Chair, Stormy Jarvis called the meeting to order at 12:02 PM.

COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT

Stormy Jarvis, Chair
Keenan Zerkel, Vice Chair (via TEAMS)
John Pratt
Dan Owen
David Frazier

COMMISSION MEMBERS ABSENT

Marty Edwards-Unexcused

AIRPORT STAFF PRESENT

Earl Malpass, Airport Manager
Amy Garcia, Assistant Airport Manager
Julie Hixenbaugh, Commission Secretary
Quorum met.

2. Minutes of Previous Meetings

March 7, 2024, April 4, 2024, and May 2, 2024 Minutes tabled for revisions.

3. Informational Reports

A. Chair

Stormy Jarvis introduced New Airport Manager Earl Malpass.

B. Airport Management

Airport Manager's Report, Earl Malpass

- Introduction of new Airport Manager Earl Malpass
- Airport Operations Status
- Community Relations
- AIP Grant Funds/Projects
- ALP, 7-25 Rehab, Master Plan
- Introduction letter to the MAAAC members introducing himself. Corrected cell phone number 907-917-6843.

Runway 7-25 Rehabilitation

- Erik Jordt discussed the bidding, construction, and FAA Grant process for the RW 7-25 Rehabilitation.
- The construction pre-bid meeting for bidding contractors will be held Friday July 12, 2024.
- The deadline to submit written questions is July 17th, 2024.
- The bids are due by July 31, 2024.

- Once Merrill Field chooses a contractor and has a bid for the work, the AIP grant application can be submitted.
- This fall, a formal eight-month notice will be given to all airfield users regarding the construction in summer of 2025.
- The project timeline includes 60-days for RW 7-25 to be closed.
- The finished project must be complete by October 2025.
- Keenan Zerkel shared his concern that the 60-day runway closure was too long, and asked for Earl to review the scope of work. Try to figure out how to not have the runway fully closed, find a way to open with restrictions (target July) for safe aircraft operations.
- Earl discussed that has reviewed the scope of work. He doesn't anticipate that the runway closure will be for the full 60 days, and the timeline was set to give the contractor enough time to finish the project. He will be hands-on during the entire project.
- Cares Act Funds/Projects/Close Out
- Budget/Financial Position

Amy Garcia, Assistant Airport Manager

- Reported the final spending numbers on the CARES money and the amount to give back will not be finalized until August when it is fully closed with the FAA. She will give
- a full presentation when it is finalized.
- Merrill Field can no longer charge payroll to the CARES grant and has two new one-million-dollar grants for the years 2025 and 2026. The total budget for labor and benefits at MRI is \$1.4 million dollars this year.
- Merrill Field has a fund balance that will carry forward and will be used for the 6.25% AIP grant match for future projects.

4. Organization Reports

- A. MRI ATCT-**Tyler Barnett explained the TFR's that were emailed to all field users and posted on Merrill Field Facebook Page Exhibit C-attached for the July 18 through 21 Arctic Thunder Air show at JBER.

B. AOPA-None

C. AACA-None

D. Anchorage Community Councils

- Marshall Severson, representing Rogers Park Community Council, requested a presentation on noise impacts and any updated noise studies from the Airport Manager.
- The Rogers Park Community Council meeting is scheduled for September 9th, 7pm at Rogers Park
- Elementary school.
- Stormy noted that the most recent 2014 noise study that was done in conjunction with the economic impact analysis is published on the Merrill Field website.
- Dan Owen asked if Hughes did a noise study when they created the IFP's? Amy will contact Hughes to find out.

5. Business Items - None

6. Public Comments-None

7. Commission Comments-

- Stormy asked when Earl's assembly confirmation with the assembly is scheduled. Earl said it will be most likely in August. The MAAAC board will make a resolution

supporting Earl's appointment and will attend the assembly meeting. Stormy will email the resolution to MAAAC members for review.

- All MAAAC members welcomed Earl to Merrill Field.

8. Upcoming Meetings

- **Airport User Group Meeting:**
Wednesday, October 2, 2024, 12:00 PM
Airport Manager's Office and TEAMS
- **Runway 7/25 Rehabilitation Working Group Meeting:**
Thursday, August 1, 2024, 11 AM
Anchorage Fire Department Training Center
1140 Airport Heights Road, Building C, Room 9
- **MAAAC Meeting:** Thursday, August 1, 2024, 12 PM
Anchorage Fire Department Training Center
1140 Airport Heights Road, Building C, Room 9

EXHIBIT A

Municipality Airport Aviation Advisory Commission
Airport Manager's Report



EXHIBIT A

Merrill Field Airport Operations Report July 12th, 2024



June Operations Report

- Introduction to new Airport Manager, Earl Malpass Please see letter to MAAAC Members
 - 35+ years experience in GA
 - 17 years on Fairbanks International Airport – Lease holder, pilot, mechanic, IA
 - 8 Years as a contract Airport Manager in North Carolina (2016-24)
 - Experience in managing infrastructure projects, land acquisition, runway/taxiway refurbishment, hangar builds, grants, leases, etc..
- Will be glad to meet with each Commission member personally, if you so desire. (I drink my coffee black)
 - 907-917-6843 (cell) 907-343-6301 (Office)



June Operations Report

- MRI Maintenance team began cutting grass in earnest
- Began servicing of winter-use equipment
- Tree removal from fencing will be ongoing throughout summer
- Replacement of two gate controllers scheduled for replacement in May were bumped to June, then July. (in place – awaiting electrical hookup)
- Earl's first day was June 17th, and processed in.
 - Received email from Mayor stating have been retained. Assembly to vote August.
- Earl has called or met w/ eleven or more business owners on field.



June Operations Report

Community Relations

- Cake and Ice Cream - Meet & Greet Social June 27th
- One (1) noise related call received
- MRI User Group Meeting (July 10th)
- Merrill Field Hangar Party - July 27th 10:00-2:00 – UAA Hangars
 - Please advertise this event and plan to attend!
- MRI Awareness: 2023 Filed Flight Plans Animation – YouTube
 - On MRI's Facebook Page – [Merrill Field Airport \(MRI\) Filed Flight Plans - 2023 \(Version 1\) \(youtube.com\)](#)
 - MRI 5-Year Plan: Plan 100 Year celebration
 - Can't wait until 2030 to begin planning
 - Goal: To make much of MRI's 100 year history
 - Highlight the economic impact MRI has on MOA and State of Alaska



June Operations Report

MRI Budget Status:

- Evaluation of 2025 Specific Line Items Being Reviewed.
 - Current MRI Annual Budget format lacks details
 - MRI's 2025 Calendar Year Budget in progress; will have additional line items;
 - More to Come...
- Reformatting of MRI 2024 "End of Month" budget review in progress.
 - New format does not affect bottom line, but provides clarity for manager
 - This reformatting is primarily to accommodate management style
 - Expect this to be a work in progress for a couple months



June Operations Report

Airport Project Status: (1 of 3 slides)

- CARE's Act Project(s)
 - CARE's Act Grant (o8o-2020) for Airport Operating Budget = \$8.9M
 - Allowed for purchase Reimbursement of approved and USA made Airport equipment, re-stock inventory
 - Replaced aging Airport motor graders, loaders, 5 maintenance service trucks, equipment, tools,
 - Eligible purchases reimbursement date ended May 2024
 - Grant final close out August 2024
 - CARE's Act for Airport Landside Grant (o87-2023) Projects = \$8.996M
 - Allowed for Airport construction projects reimbursements
 - Manager Office Refurbishment, 1025 Orca St, USGS building,
 - Final project will be maintenance roof only
 - Scope of Work and Bid Process



June Operations Report

Airport Project Status: (2 of 3 slides)

- Reconstruction of Access Road Grant 079-2020 = \$8.7M
 - Construction Completed.
 - Close Out Package being finalized by HDL – Eminent
 - CRRSA Act Grant (083-2022) = \$1M
 - CRRSA Act Grant (085-2022) = \$1.1M
- } COVID Relief for Payroll relief



June Operations Report

Airport Project Status: (3 of 3 slides)

- ALP
 - FAA "Study Entitlement Grant" Awarded 079-2019 to R&M \$287,767 (est. remaining = \$25
 - Draft ALP Submitted by R&M to FAA for review - June 2024
 - Final Completion Date TBD (est. FAA report due September + 90 days to close)
- Runway 7/25 Rehab DESIGN Entitlement Grant(086-2022) = 945k
 - Project Scope of Work put out for bid – June 2024
 - Project Pre-bid meeting – July 12th
 - Quote accepted (tingent construction grant awarded)
 - Project Breaking Ground May-ish 2025 (60 day completion max)



June Operations Report

Upcoming Events:

- Taxiway A & N - Lighting Rehab Design Grant (apply 2025)
 - Yet to be determine



EXHIBIT B



Merrill Field Airport
800 Merrill Field Drive
Anchorage, Alaska 99501

Dear MAAAC Member,

My name is Earl Malpass, and I am a recent hire as Director of Merrill Field Airport here in the Municipality. I would like to introduce myself to you so you have my contact information in case you have any questions for me.

In way of a brief introduction, I have 35+ years of experience in numerous facets of aviation. The most relevant experience for this job is two-fold. First is my almost 17 years of experience in Fairbanks as an end user of Fairbanks International Airport. That experience was as a pilot, aircraft maintenance/inspections, and hangar/office owner and leaser. Secondly, and most recently, I spent the last eight years as the Airport Director of Washington-Warren Airport in Washington, North Carolina.

Some key highlights of my previous role were managing numerous airport infrastructure projects using both Federal and State grants, leading a team in creating a Strategic Business Plan for the airport, re-branding the airport which greatly improved community relations, and re-establishing a sense of community and camaraderie at Washington-Warren Airport. I believe my experience has prepared me well to steer Merrill Field towards it's 100th anniversary celebration in 2030.

If you have time in your busy schedule, I would love to visit with you and answer any questions you may have. Just let me know when and where, and I will do my best to accommodate.

Kindest regards,

Earl Malpass
Airport Manager
907-343-6301 (Office)
907-917-6843 (Cell)
earl.malpass@anchorageak.gov

EXHIBIT C



Merrill Tower Arctic Thunder 2024 Operations Information



***** ALL INFORMATION SUBJECT TO CHANGE. CONSULT ATC FREQUENCIES FOR UP TO DATE INFORMATION. *****

Updated 9 Jul 2024

General Information

The Arctic Thunder Open House 2024 is packed full of nationally acclaimed airshow acts and demonstrations by military aircraft. In order to provide a safe operating environment for the performers, Temporary Flight Restrictions will be in effect. Two different TFR sizes will be implemented to reduce the impact to surrounding operations.

2.5 NM –

MRI will depart runways 25, 23, 16 and land runways 34, 7, 5.
Because of Opposite Direction Operation requirements, expect delays.
IFR arrivals/departures should expect EXTENSIVE delays.
Local traffic pattern operations will NOT be available.

5.0 NM –

ALL air operations in MRI airspace are suspended.

The Air Boss will try to keep the show on schedule, but note that these times may slide if acts run ahead or behind. If you are planning to operate during the 2.5 mile window, allow plenty of time in your schedule in case delays occur, and a large buffer ahead of the 5 NM TFR schedule time. We suggest having plenty of fuel reserve or alternate landing areas in case there is a delay entering MRI airspace.

All aircraft MUST be clear of the 5 NM radius BEFORE it goes active. MRI will NOT issue a takeoff clearance if they do not expect that the aircraft will be clear.

All pilots are encouraged to receive Flight Following when operating within 10 NM of EDF. The 5NM TFR will affect traffic in the Pt. Mackenzie area, and east side traffic from the Ft. Richardson artillery ranges to the Tudor/Muldoon curve. Use of moving map electronic flight bags are also suggested.

For questions prior to July 18, contact Caleb.Newville@faa.gov. Contact ATC on show dates.

EXHIBIT C

Thursday, July 18

Time	TFR	Details
1400-1430	5	German Tornado practice
1430-1545	5	USAF Thunderbirds arrival
1600-1630	5	German Tornado demo

Friday, July 19

Time	TFR	Details
1030-1101	5	Opening Ceremony
1102-1212	2.5	Parachutist / Melissa circles
1212-1223	2.5	Melissa Burns
1223-1240	2.5	C-17 Demo
1240-1300	5	F-16 Demo
1300-1308	2.5	Texan/Harvard
1308-1323	2.5	Acemaker
1323-1337	2.5	Undaunted
1337-1357	5	German Tornado Demo
1357-1427	2.5	Golden Knights
1427-1512	5	Joint Forces Demo
1512-1523	2.5	Melissa Burns
1523-1543	5	F-22 Demo
1543-1642	5	USAF Thunderbirds

Saturday, July 20 – Sunday, July 21

Time	TFR	Details
1200-1212	2.5	Parachutist / Melissa circles
1212-1223	2.5	Melissa Burns
1223-1240	2.5	C-17 Demo
1240-1300	5	F-16 Demo
1300-1308	2.5	Texan/Harvard
1308-1323	2.5	Acemaker
1323-1337	2.5	Undaunted
1337-1357	5	German Tornado Demo
1357-1427	2.5	Golden Knights
1427-1512	5	Joint Forces Demo
1512-1523	2.5	Melissa Burns
1523-1543	5	F-22 Demo
1543-1642	5	USAF Thunderbirds

EXHIBIT C

Draft TFR – consult official NOTAM when published

