



MUNICIPAL AIRPORTS AVIATION ADVISORY COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, April 2, 2025
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

Stormy Jarvis called the meeting to order at 12:01 PM.

COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT

Stormy Jarvis, Chair
Dan Owen, *Vice Chair*
Karl Kisser
Marty Edwards

Quorum met

COMMISSION MEMBERS ABSENT

John Pratt
Ransom Jones

AIRPORT STAFF PRESENT

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

2. Review & Approval – Meeting Agenda

MOTION

Marty Edwards moved to approve April 2nd agenda.
Karl Kisser seconded the motion.
The board voted unanimously to approve.

3. Review & Approval - of the Minutes

MOTION

Karl Kisser moved to approve March 5, 2026 minutes.
Marty Edwards seconded the motion.
The board voted unanimously to approve.

4. Informational Reports

A. Chair

- None

B. Airport Management PowerPoint (Exhibit A)

- Earl's FYI

- Community Relations
- MRI Budget Status
- Upcoming Events

Follow up discussions on Earl's power point presentation:

- Runway 16/34 will be renamed to 17/35 to account for compass variation. The runway will be temporarily closed for approximately 2 to 3 days to facilitate the repainting of the updated runway designations.
- The landfill gas mitigation project is currently on hold, as methane levels are no longer exceeding limits.
- SWS will be invited to the May MAAAC meeting to discuss the landfill gas project.
- The glaciating on 15th Avenue roadway is not associated with the methane gas project.
- A dedicated website will be established for the Master Plan planning process. Phase 1 has a 10-month timeline, with funding already secured, beginning once the agreement is signed. The scope will subsequently be amended to incorporate Phase 2.
- The 2017 ALP is the current document; it was updated to incorporate the instrument approaches.
- The MAAAC revenue subcommittee will be invited to review and discuss the budget.
- An increase in fuel prices will be offset by adjustments to other budgets or by reducing the scope of ongoing projects.

5. Organization Reports

A. MRI ATCT- Ben Dodd, ATC Manager, reported

- The MRI tower will be closed on April 10th for the installation of new equipment required for its operation, including radios and new system.
- ADSB will remain active during this time.
- The closure will be on the ASOS.
- The closure will be announced via NOTAM at least 7 days in advance.
- Anticipating there will be 2 new employees fully trained for ground control by July or August.
- Starting in September, a new contact phone number will be available for the tower. It will be widely communicated.

B. AOPA-None

C. AACA-Will Day announced there will be a Transportation Disaster Assistance Program on April 21st and 22nd, 2026, open to the public. Email Will Day for more information will@alaskaaircarriers.org.

D. Anchorage Community Councils – Allen Kemplen, FVCC President- encouraged the MAAAC board and airport to reach out to the local communities and partnership with them.

E. MRI Aviation Celebration - Scott McEwen gave an update (**Exhibit B**) for the celebration.

- The event is scheduled for Saturday, May 30th, 2026, with a footprint similar to last year's setup.
- Sponsorships are the sole source of revenue for the celebration.

- Increased publicity efforts will be implemented.

6. Old Business –

A. None

7. New Business Items –

A. New Operating Hours for ATCT at MRI

- March 8th through September 1st (tentative), hours will be 9 am to 7 pm.

B. DOT Planned Pedestrian Barrier on 5th Avenue

- DOT has finalized this project, and community input was sought to select the color schemes.
- Discussion regarding the implementation of an Engineered Material Arresting System (EMAS) for overrun prevention at the end of Runway 16.

8. Public Comments-

- None

9. Commission Comments-

- None

10. Next Meeting Date

- MAAAC Meeting: Thursday, May 7, 2026 12 PM
Anchorage Fire Department Training Center
1140 Airport Heights Road, Building C, Room 9

11. Adjournment -

MOTION

Dan Owen moved to adjourn

Marty Edwards seconded the motion.

No objections were made, meeting adjourned at 1:21 PM

EXHIBIT A

Merrill Field Airport Operations Report April 2, 2026



March's Operations Activity

Earl's FYI's –

- MRI ATCT – Reduced Hours – Numerous calls w/TWR & tenants, emails, discussion
 - Mixed opinions; No issues to date. Monitoring daily.
- Runway 8/26 Rehab (MRI's role)
 - Construction in Winter Suspension.
 - PAPI & REIL – Operational
 - Working a warranty issue
- Runway 16/34 – Number change this summer (17/35)
 - MRI Maintenance will perform this work
- Snow Removal – Limited due to fuel costs.



March's Operations Report

Earl's FYI's - Continued

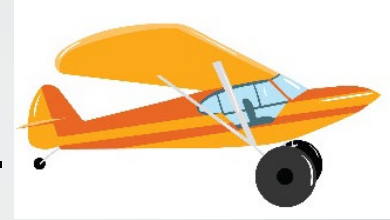
- Landfill Gas Mitigation:
 - **Suspended** indefinitely due to costs.
 - No exceedance of any facilities this winter.
- MRI Master Plan Status.
 - Initial Negotiations completed. Sent to FAA for concurrence. Expected response by April 15th.
 - After FAA Concurrence, Contract will be finished and signed.
- MRI's facility at 901 Orca had boiler freeze up. Winterized and quotes rec'd.



March's Operations Report

Community Relations

- Aviation Celebration planning meetings have begun
 - Save the Date! Saturday, May 30th, 1000-1500 local.
 - Volunteers needed. Free entrance!
- Master Plan will include robust user-group/public comment portion.
- Fur Rondy and Iditarod snow gathered & Iditarod Airforce hauled 17,000 lbs. of freight load out. Thanks to Amy for coordinating this process!
- 5th Avenue lane barrier meeting(s) attended.



MRI Budget Status:

MRI 2026 YTD Budget where expected 25% through the year



March's Operations Report

Upcoming Events:

- Airport Gate & Security Grant ; Environmental: –In progress
- Airport Gate & Security Grant; Design & Bid – In progress
- Airport Master Plan – Phase 1 to begin **May 2026** (date slipped)
- Airport Master Plan – Phase 2 grant – July 2026
- **Aviation Celebration May 30th, 2026**



2026 Merrill Field Aviation Celebration (MFAC) Saturday, May 30 from 10 AM to 3 PM Update for April 2, 2026

Opening Ceremony, 11:30 to Noon

- Color Guard
- Pledge of Allegiance
- Nat'l Anthem by Midnight Suns A Capela Chorus
- Remarks by Mayor

With stage & PA system

Confirmations:

- | | | | |
|--|------|----------------------------------|------------|
| 1. Announcer | Free | Mike Ford of The Big Alaska Show | Confirmed |
| 2. Band | | Spaffdaddy | Confirmed |
| 3. Publicity | | Steve Stripling Advertising | Contracted |
| 4. Food trucks (Kirsten): | | | |
| 1. Alaska's Best Gourmet Dogs | | | |
| 2. Hungry Desk Hand | | | |
| 3. Lucky Wishbone | | | |
| 4. Nonkie Be's | | | |
| 5. Northern Fluff Cotton Candy | | | |
| 6. Pikiniki | | | |
| Plus, a dining tent w/ tables & chairs | | | |

Costs for hosting this year's event include: publicity = \$6,000; dining tent, tables, chairs, and stage rental = \$5,000; shuttle and tour bus rental = \$4,000; sound system rental = \$4,000; and miscellaneous expenses = \$1,000. Totals to **\$20K. Sponsorships are the sole source of revenue.**

Sub Teams

Aircraft Ops

- Fly-in A/C not "showing" Mark Barker, Bob Lee, Aras Sirvelis w/ MRI ATCT
- Static Display A/C Park @ 3 normal transient parking areas
- Intermittent A/C Park @ UAA and Stoddard's
- Flyby A/C Park @ North Edge
- Enter pattern & request "low approach" with MRI ATCT

Career Fair

Alaska Airmen's Assoc with MRI businesses

Exhibitors

Amy, Scott, others

- Invitations sent to MRI distribution and list of 80 exhibitors, 10 auto & military truck orgs/clubs, 30 aircraft owners, dozen local aviation clubs/orgs

Facilities

- UAA Jonah Bloom for Dean Ray Weber
- Stoddard's Jane Dubbins
- North Edge Mike McNamara & Scott Setzer, c/o Mark Barker, Bob Lee

EXHIBIT B

- History** (buildup to 2030) Brian Aho, Rob Stapleton, others with
- James Gorgan, Exec Dir, Museum of Alaska (Wasilla) (a.k.a. Alaska Transportation Museum)
 - Alaska Aviation Museum (Anchorage)
 - Pioneer Air Museum (Fairbanks)
 - Alaska's Digital Archives
 - Alaska State Library Historical Collections (Juneau)
 - UAA/APU Consortium Library – Archives & Special Collections (Anchorage)
 - UAF Rasmuson Library (Fairbanks)
 - Anchorage Museum
 - Alaska Veterans Museum
 - others

Insurance Amy & Priscilla Ribic (Exec Dir, Alaska Airmen's Assoc)

Publicity Steve Stripling, Perry Alexander, Earl, Amy, Scott

- Official Flyer is nearing finalization
- Professional Photo Restoration
- Short video on MRI Benefits to the community
- Social media & broadcast media (TV & radio) publicity blitz starting mid-May
- Big Alaska Show will be streamed from UAA auditorium on May 30

Signage to come

Sponsors All of us

- Sponsor letter & levels are nearing finalization
- Tax-deductible donations are made to our fiscal sponsor, CAF AK Wing, a 501(c)3

Volunteers to come

Tours Joe Darnell

Youth Aviation Center – Hands-on aviation activities for all, targeting school-age youth & teens

- Northern Lights Innovation Lab (Domenic Giunta with 3D printer & CNC activities)
- CAP Wing & local squadrons
- EAA Chapters 42 & others with stations: Airport Ops, Instruments, Airframe, PowerPlant, Aerodynamics, Preflight
- FAA STEM Aviation & Space Education Program (Krisjon Tabisola)
- Twindly Robotics
- Women in Aviation & Girls in Aviation
- Alaska Northstars Rocket Club

EXHIBIT B

