



MUNICIPAL AIRPORTS AVIATION ADVISORY COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, March 5, 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 via TEAMS
Ransom Jones

Quorum met

COMMISSION MEMBERS ABSENT

John Pratt

AIRPORT STAFF PRESENT

Earl Malpass, Airport Manager
Julie Hixenbaugh, Commission Secretary
Amy Garcia, Assistant Airport Manager
Trey Reihle, Service Administrator

2. Review & Approval – Meeting Agenda

MOTION

Karl Kisser moved to approve March 5th agenda.
Dan Owen seconded the motion.
The board voted unanimously to approve.

3. Review & Approval - of the Minutes

MOTION

Karl Kisser moved to approve February 5, 2026.
Dan Owen 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:

- The switch to 100R unleaded avgas is scheduled to be in effect for Alaska by the year 2032.
- There has been no update on the H2H road realignment project.

5. Organization Reports

A. MRI ATCT- Ben Dodd - ATC Manager

- MRI tower hours will be reduced this summer due to staffing shortages. Starting March 8th through September 1st (tentative), hours will be 9 am to 7 pm.
- The goal is to deliver the highest quality service possible with the five controllers on staff.
- Two new employees will begin their training soon; they will require approximately two and a half years to complete the program.
- No formal risk assessment has been conducted for the shortened hours.
- Please adhere to CTAF procedures when the tower is unmanned.
- The hours were determined based on traffic data from the same period in the previous year.

B. AOPA-None

C. AACA-None

D. Anchorage Community Councils – None

E. MRI Aviation Celebration - Scott McEwen gave an update

- The event is scheduled for Saturday, May 30th, 2026, with a footprint similar to last year's setup.
- The Commemorative Air Force - Alaska Wing, has generously sponsored the use of their 501(c)(3) organization to accept donations for the celebration, with a goal of at least \$10,000 in contributions.
- Mayor LaFrance has been invited to the Ceremonial Start.
- Food Trucks have been confirmed.
- Efforts are underway to increase sponsorships.
- There will be more publicity for the event.

6. Old Business –

A. None

7. New Business Items –

A. None

8. Public Comments-

Al Merrill, Angel Aviation, expressed appreciation to Ben Dodds, Tower Manager, for visiting his business personally to inform them about the reduced tower hours.

Al apologized for the recent VPD and has taken steps to ensure it does not occur again.

- Cassie Martin from UAA Flight School thanked Ben Dodd for visiting UAA in person to inform them about the reduced tower hours.
- John Diument, Palmer Airport Manager, reported that Palmer Airport will undergo a lighting upgrade project this summer, which may include intermittent runway closures.
- Marshall Severson would like to have MRI cameras be accessible to the public.
- Earl mentioned that camera security updates are included as part of the Master Plan.

9. Commission Comments-

- Karl Kisser expressed appreciation to Caleb Newville for his contribution to the Tower Transmissions section in the 1st quarter MRI Bulletin; it was well-written and highly informative.
- Dan Owen would like to schedule a strategy session with Merrill-based operators regarding the reduced tower hours.
- Earl will attempt to organize a User's Group meeting next week to discuss this matter.
- Stormy thanked Ben Dodd for providing information to the MAAAC board concerning the new tower hours.

10. Next Meeting Date

- MAAAC Meeting: Thursday, April 5, 2026 12 PM
Anchorage Fire Department Training Center
1140 Airport Heights Road, Building C, Room 9

11. Adjournment - MOTION

Karl Kisser moved to adjourn

Dan Owen seconded the motion.

No objections were made, meeting adjourned at 12:55 PM

EXHIBIT A

Merrill Field Airport Operations Report March 5, 2026



EXHIBIT A

February's Operations Activity

Earl's FYI's –

- Runway 8/26 Rehab (MRI's role)
 - Construction in Winter Suspension.
 - PAPI & REIL
 - CEA completed RW8 – FAA QC'd and Flight Checked.
 - CEA Failed to complete work for RW 26.
 - FAA used generator to QC and Flight Check RW26
 - RW 34 PAPI Flight Check failed – Lights blew and no replacements.
- IAP Courtesy re-certified by Hughes Aerospace and Dan Owens.
 - Thank you AAT!



February's Operations Report

Earl's FYI's - Continued

- Landfill Gas Mitigation:
 - Restart: Spring 2026; SWS would like to meet w/MAAAC April (waiting on full plans)
- MRI Master Plan Status.
 - Negotiations in progress. Expect to finalize by EOM.
- FAA concurs w/MRI on AIP Set-a-Side for Unleaded Fuel Infrastructure Grant
- MRI Administration hired "Trey" Reihle (Ry-lee) as our new Customer Service Specialist. Please welcome him to the family!



February's Operations Report

Community Relations

- Met with Fairview CC - February.
- Aviation Celebration planning meetings have begun
 - Save the Date! Saturday, May 30th, 1000-1500 local.
- Master Plan will include robust user-group/public comment portion.
- Fur Rondy snow gathered & Iditarod Airforce hauled 17,000 lbs. of freight load out. Thanks to Amy for coordinating this process!



MRI Budget Status:

- MRI 2026 YTD Budget where expected 25% through the year



February's Operations Report

Upcoming Events:

- Airport Gate & Security Grant ; Environmental: Self pay
- Snow Removal Equipment Building grant: August 2026?
- Airport Master Plan – Phase I (Begin March 2026)
- Land Fill Gas mitigation Spring 2026
- Aviation Celebration May 30th, 2026

