

Gratiot County Board of Commissioners
Airport Advisory Committee
July 8, 2026, Meeting Minutes

A meeting of the Gratiot County Board of Commissioners' Airport Advisory Committee was held on Wednesday, July 8, 2026, at the Gratiot Community Airport terminal. The meeting was called to order at 1:30 p.m. with a quorum present.

Members Present: George Bailey, Kevin Beeson, Timothy Dolehanty, Kurt Giles, John Leppien, Steve Meinhardt, Aeris Ripley, Bart Stoneman

Members Absent: None

Others Present: Dennis McDonald

It was moved by John Leppien, supported by Kevin Beeson, to accept the agenda as presented. On a voice vote, the motion was CARRIED.

It was moved by Kurt Giles, supported by Aeris Ripley, to approve the May 13, 2026, meeting minutes as presented. On a voice vote, the motion was CARRIED.

There was no public comment.

Airport Manager Dennis McDonald provided updates for the Taxiway and Runway 9/27 lighting and signage rehabilitation project, pavement crack sealing project, and the status of agricultural land leases. Taxiway and runway rehabilitation awarded to Reith-Riley will begin on August 3 with a pre-construction meeting scheduled for July 24. The lighting component was awarded to J. Ranck Electric and might be completed in 2026. Mr. McDonald reported that Jack Butcher signed the agricultural land lease.

Mr. McDonald reviewed the monthly Airport Manager's Report and briefed the committee on the MDOT grant application status. He stated MDOT would recommend approval of all four grant requests totaling \$186,418 at the meeting scheduled for July 15. He also reported that runway PAPI lights were up on runway 27.

The committee discussed ongoing issues with the fuel pumps and credit card systems. Mr. McDonald will continue to monitor the situation and will inform the vendor of the issues encountered.

Mr. McDonald reviewed the draft floor plan of the new terminal building.

There were no additional items from members, and there was no public comment.

It was moved by Kurt Giles, supported by Aeris Ripley, to adjourn the meeting. On a voice vote, the motion was CARRIED. The meeting was declared adjourned at 2:41 p.m.