

CITY MANAGER REPORT

TO: Mayor Pat Humphrey & Clare City Commission
FROM: Jeremy Howard, City Manager
DATE: April 2, 2026
RE: City Manager's Report

For the Agenda of April 6, 2026

Lake Shamrock Dredging. Mechanical dredging by the city will continue at the west end of the lake as time and weather permit but we are also under the fish spawning restriction as of March 15. We will be able to fully operate again starting July 1. Savin's hydraulic dredging continues to be paused due to the temperature and ice formation on the lake. The fish spawning restriction runs through June 30th so this means Savin will be back at the beginning of July to complete the dredging when the restriction is lifted. They estimate about 4 to 6 weeks of dredging remaining with completion by mid to late August hopefully.

Lake Shamrock Dam Project. For the dam project, our engineering firms, GEI and Spicer, have completed the design work for the new dam, emergency/auxiliary spillway, and the new walkway. The bids came in higher than anticipated by well over 2 million dollars. Fisher Contracting was low bid at \$8,891,895 and Anlaan Corporation was \$9,970,000. Currently, we do not have enough funding in place with the grant dollars we have received to fully fund both phases of the project at those costs. The engineers are completing a detailed review to ensure the bid items are correct and to find ways to allow the city to reduce the costs by changing the scope or phases if possible. Fisher Contracting is also reviewing the project to see if there are potential cost savings on any pieces of the project. We spoke with EGLE and FEMA to see if there are additional grants or other funding sources available. Once the bids are fully reviewed and the numbers verified, I will bring a recommendation for approval to the City Commission. We submitted for Federal budget allocations from Moolenaar and Slotkin's offices, but the odds are low that we will receive a federal allocation. We are still waiting to receive the grant agreement with FEMA. The EGLE permit is progressing quickly. They have stated that they will be able to give us a permit for both phases of the project which we can then modify if needed, and we can only do phase one at this time (just the dam removal and replacement and site prep for the auxiliary spillway for the future).

Airport Fencing. As you remember, the city recently sought bids for fencing at the airport. The bids ranged from \$427,606 to \$971,098 for the full perimeter. The city does not have the funds to accomplish this project without the grant funding. Luckily, MDOT Office of Aeronautics recently announced a new State/Local Airport Program for Fiscal Year (FY) 2026 (*att'd*). The State of Michigan has provided a one-time General Fund appropriation of \$5 million to help address unfunded airport maintenance, capital development, revenue-generating, and equipment needs at general aviation airports. Airport Manager Gabe Ambrozaitis is preparing an application seeking funds for the fencing project. He has also worked with local pilots who are willing to contribute toward the cost by helping with the cattle guard component pieces of the project. If we are successful in receiving this funding, we will bring information back to you to move the project forward at that time.

Barnes Island on Lake Shamrock. With exception to the willow tree on the east side, DPW crews have cleaned up the island. Several trees took heavy damage in the ice storms earlier this year and we took this opportunity to remove dead or leaning trees from the island.

City Commission Nominating Petitions. Reminder: The City of Clare is accepting nominating petitions for the non-partisan offices of City Commissioner (2 seats). Nominating Petitions will be accepted up to 4 p.m. on April 21, 2026. City Commissioners serve a four-year term. For additional information, contact City Clerk Diane Lyon, dlyon@cityofclare.gov, 989-424-4068. I have also attached the public notice which contains more information.

Attachments:

1. Announcement – State/Local Airport Program for Fiscal Year (FY) 2026.
2. Public Notice – City Commission Nominating Petitions.



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MDOT Office of Aeronautics -Fiscal Year 2026 State/Local Airport Program

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MDOT Office of Aeronautics is excited to announce a new State/Local Airport Program for Fiscal Year (FY) 2026. The State of Michigan has provided a one-time General Fund appropriation of \$5 million to help address unfunded airport maintenance, capital development, revenue-generating, and equipment needs at general aviation airports.

If you wish to be considered for this program, please submit a cover letter, completed application Form 1579 (attached), including letters of support, and any additional documentation electronically, in one combined pdf file, to Jim Hartman at HartmanJ1@Michigan.gov by **Friday May 1, 2026, at 5 p.m. EST.**

Project applications can compete for the following categories of funding:

- Capital Development: Addresses the highest priority system plan or current licensing deficiencies.
- Revenue Generating: Addresses sustainability with potential revenue-generating projects that lead to self-sufficient operations.
- Equipment Procurement: Addresses equipment purchases that are not eligible for federal funding or present other challenges.
- Maintenance: Addresses airfield and other maintenance projects to improve pavement conditions, drainage, etc.

Program Timelines and Deadlines:

- Call for projects sent out March 19, 2026
- **Application Deadline - Friday, May 1, 2026, at 5 p.m. EST**
- Project selections announced, with a request for Michigan Aeronautics Commission approval scheduled for Wednesday, May 20, at the MAC meeting.
- Sponsor Contracts Executed – June 2026
- Project Start – June 2026
- Project Closeout Complete - September 30, 2026

General Information and Guidelines

All public use airports may apply. Airports must have an active basic or general utility license in good standing.

If an airport currently has a provisional license, the proposed project must address the existing licensing deficiencies. Obstruction clearing projects at airports with existing airport zoning protections will not be considered.

Airports that have not finished their closeout from the 2025 state local program will not be considered.

Funding not spent by **September 30, 2026**, is not guaranteed even if a project has been approved and started. Funding requested past September 30, 2026, is subject to Legislative review and approval.

For selected projects, the intent is to provide grant funding directly to the airport and sponsor as early as possible after sponsor contract execution. Specific contract terms and payment processes will be included in an award letter, along with information on other required administrative, reporting, and financial reporting functions.

All required permits, processes, and approvals will remain the responsibility of the airport sponsor including but not limited to project design, procurement / bid letting, construction administration, environmental clearance, airspace approval, local permitting, and other items involved in completing the work.

Application Information (Form 1579)

Section 1: Please provide a general description of the airport, its current operations, and clear, concise details of the proposed project. Include a scope of work, schedule of activities, and any photos, sketches, drawings, and cost information needed to demonstrate that the project can be completed within the required timeframe.

Section 2: Please provide a narrative, justification, and any additional information regarding the impact of this investment. Describe how the project will benefit the airport, the surrounding community, and the people of Michigan.

Section 3: Please elaborate on any unique elements of the project and provide evidence of local support.

Selection

Project applications will be reviewed and awarded by MDOT Office of Aeronautics staff. All selections will be final and based on the following criteria.

- impact of investment
- provisional license or other safety impact
- included local letters of support

- demonstration of readiness, procurement method, (or ability to complete within the Fiscal Year by September 30, 2026)
- in alignment with and support of the Michigan Aviation System Plan
- Cost (bids preferred)

If you have any additional questions, please contact Jim Hartman at 517-242-4968 or HartmanJ1@Michigan.gov.

- [1579.pdf](#)

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PUBLIC NOTICE**

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Manager x102
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**DEPARTMENT OF
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AIRPORT

Ph 989.386.0445
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Nominating petitions for the office of City Commissioner will be accepted in the office of Clare City Clerk, 202 West Fifth Street, Clare, MI **until 4:00 p.m. on Tuesday, April 21, 2026.**

REQUIREMENTS FOR FILING NOMINATING PETITIONS

1. The nominee shall be qualified elector of the City of Clare
2. The petition shall be signed by not less than 25 nor more than 50 qualified registered electors of the City of Clare
3. Separate nominating petition forms must be filed for each county (Isabella and Clare) in which signatures are obtained from qualified voters within the city limits. If the qualified voter resides in the Isabella County portion of the city, they must sign a nominating petition form with Isabella County listed in the header. Qualified residents residing in the Clare County portion of the city must sign a nominating petition form with Clare County listed in the header.
4. No person shall sign his/her name to a greater number of petitions for any one office than there will be persons elected. For example, if there are two (2) Commissioners to be elected, a qualified voter may only sign two (2) petitions.
5. At the time of filing nominating petitions, two copies of an "Affidavit of Identity" must be filed by all candidate seeking office.
6. A "Campaign Finance Statement" must be completed by the petitioner and filed with the County Clerk's Office (Lori Mott) after nominating petitions are returned to the City. Contact the County Clerk's office at 989-539-7131 for more information.
7. Nominating petitions & accompanying paperwork for the city office will be accepted in the office of the Clare City Clerk, 202 West Fifth Street, Clare, MI until **4:00 p.m. on Tuesday, April 21, 2026.**
8. **It is the responsibility of the candidate or the authorized representative to assure that these requirements are fulfilled.**

Please contact the City Clerk, Diane Lyon, dlyon@cityofclare.gov, (989) 424-4068 if you would like to file for office or if you have questions about filing for office.



Posted February 5, 2026

