

January 25, 2012

Montana Aeronautics Board
Helena, MT
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Aeronautics Board

Tricia McKenna, Board Chair
Rob Buckles
Chuck Manning
Ted Schye
Bill Hunt
Fred Lark
Roger Lincoln
Chris Edwards

Department of Transportation

Debbie Alke, MDT Aeronautics
Carol Grell Morris, MDT Legal
Jim Greil, MDT Aeronautics
Patty Kautz, MDT Aeronautics
Tim Reardon, MDT Directors Office
Wade Cebulski, MDT Aeronautics
Don DeGraw, MDT Yellowstone Airport

Guests

Rick Donaldson, Robert Peccia & Associates
Tex Irwin, Ravalli County Airport Board
Dave Hedditch, Ravalli County Airport Board
Carl Seilstad, Fergus County
Gary Gates, FAA, Airports District Office

Call to order/approval of minutes/MDT Updates – 1:00 p.m.

- Chairman McKenna called the meeting to order. Debbie Alke introduced MDT Director, Tim Reardon who was appointed by Governor Schweitzer in August. Tim Reardon greeted the board and said he appreciates the opportunity to meet with them. Tim said the growth in eastern Montana is impacting the airports. He sees a lot of worthwhile projects in the applications received this year and knows there is not enough money to go around. Tim said this year we felt it was important for Yellowstone airport to put in an application.
- ***Chuck Manning made a motion to approve the June 8, 2011 minutes as written. Ted Schye seconded the motion which passed unanimously.***
- Debbie Alke introduced new staff Wade Cebulski who started with us last March in the Aviation Support Officer position. She also introduced Don DeGraw new Director at Yellowstone Airport. Don DeGraw gave a brief overview of the airport. SkyWest serves the airport. In 2011 the airport saw over 10,000 passengers. Staff has been looking at ways to increase revenue for years now. Debbie Alke said this has been an issue for many years. We are considering asking for a general fund appropriation in the next legislative session but don't know how likely that is but the airport needs financial help. Another option is a congressional line item from the Department of Interior but they have told us recently it would take congressional action. Fred Lark asked what the restrictions were on generating other types of income. Debbie Alke said we were given the land from the federal government and the deed contains several restrictions that prevent some charging or generating certain sources of revenue. We have been trying to get the deed restrictions lifted for many years with no luck.
- Debbie Alke said yesterday the house passed the 23rd extension, extending FAA funding to February 17. Chairman Mica on the house side has said there will not be another extension we will have a long term (4 year) bill by February 17. One issue of concern to us is the EAS program. The house has eliminated it in 2014; the senate has fully funded it. Debbie feels it won't go away as it has powerful support; Montana senators are very supportive of EAS.

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- Debbie Alke said the board has had discussions about UAV's. There is one certified and flying in Columbia Falls. There was a demonstration flight in November. There has been indication that a company is looking to utilize the HAYS MOA which is north of Great Falls. There is a Montana Pilot's Association (MPA) meeting on February 4 and there will be a representative from the company in Nevada and former state Senator Ryan Zinke who has been involved in the development. Debbie feels there is a lot of misinformation out there so will be good to hear from the players involved. This same group will be at the aviation conference conducting a session for those of you that can't make the MPA meeting.
- Debbie Alke said in regards to Powder River training complex. The air force is still in negotiations with historic preservation offices and the tribes. We will continue to follow the issue.
- Tricia McKenna said she told Jon Hudson that Jim Greil would get him a copy of the webinar that she and Jim attended on UAV's so he would have some background and education before the MPA meeting.

EEO Training – 1:40 p.m.

- Debbie Alke introduced Bill Anderson from MDT Civil Rights. Bill will conduct mandatory EEO training that is required every two years for the board. Bill Anderson conducted training on Title VI public meetings and public participation.

Review of Loan/Grant Applications – 2:40 p.m.

- Carol Grell Morris reminded the board that public comment is tomorrow at 10:00 a.m. The board must listen to public comment; the speaker should be speaking on a matter that is in the board's jurisdiction. Since the item is not on the agenda no action can be taken, more importantly if it's not in your area of jurisdiction you cannot take action on it. The board cannot enter into any kind of debate or question and answer session. It is just a listening session and their comments will be noted in the minutes.
- Jim Greil said Columbus, Plentywood and Twin Bridges withdrew their applications.
- **Baker (2nd phase 1000' runway extension, lighting, apron)** – Jim Greil said the FAA is good to go with Baker. Jim would recommend a \$30,000/grant and a \$30,000/loan. Jim noted that Baker would probably not take a loan.
- **Big Timber (SRE Plow & Building)** – Jim Greil said FAA is good to go with this project and he would recommend full funding with a \$11,250/grant.
- **Bridger (complete lighting system upgrade including PAPI)** – Jim Greil said this is a good project but when comparing the overall need to other projects he would not recommend funding. It would be one of his first alternates.
- **Broadus (well & septic system)** – Jim Greil said this is not eligible for federal funding. He feels it is a low priority and did not recommend funding.
- **Chinook 1 & 2 (SRE plow and SRE building)** – Jim Greil said the FAA is okay with this project. He recommends a \$5,000/grant for #1 (SRE Plow) and a \$5,000/grant for #2 (SRE Building).
- **Choteau (Crack/fog seal, repaint runway taxiway apron, pave self-fueling apron)** – Jim Greil said FAA is good with this project. They are eligible for half the amount requested. Jim recommends full funding for the eligible amount, \$7,852/grant and a \$7,852/loan. Chairman McKenna reminded the board that these are Jim's recommendations the board does not have to go with them. The board will make their decisions based on all the information they have.

- **Cut Bank (Runway/taxiway reconstruction; apron concrete; runway lighting; pavement maintenance)** – Jim Greil said FAA is good to go with this project, they won't be able to do the entire project because the FAA doesn't have enough funding. Jim said he would recommend a reduced amount of \$25,431/grant and \$144,569/loan. Gary Gates said in terms of funding for these larger projects like Baker & Cut Bank, we estimate that we will have about \$5 million for the whole state. They will need to use available non primary entitlements to complete this size of a project.
- **Deer Lodge (Crack/fog/coal tar seal; repainting AWOS; design for future work)** - Jim Greil said the FAA is good to go with this project. He recommends \$7,000/grant. Jim said the FAA is good with AWOS if all requirements are met. Ted Schye said he got a letter from his POI saying you can't use Super AWOS & DigiWX for IFR anymore. He also has a letter from the FAA saying you can use it for IFR so he is wondering what is going on with that. Gary Gates said it comes down to the manufacturer. They provided letters saying they were certified by FAA the problem was the entire installation has not been commissioned. We've had a lot of contact with FAA headquarters trying to get these commissioned because quite a few in the state. He thinks we are closer but not quite there yet. The DigiWX are commissioned but Super AWOS are not. Debbie Alke said she heard there was a letter issued by the FAA that shut them down but a couple days later that was rescinded and they were allowed to be used. Debbie Alke said she will follow up on this and let the board know.
- **Fairfield (Crack/fog seal)** – Jim Greil said this is a non-NIPIAS airport. They do a lot with very little, good project, he recommends a \$14,700/grant. The board may want to inquire about marking as it is usually done after you crack/fog seal.
- **Fort Peck (Installation of lights)** – Jim Greil said we gave them \$18,000 to do this project years ago and he is not sure why it wasn't done. He did not recommend funding.
- **Glasgow (Runway reconstruction; taxiway realignment; rehabilitation lights; pavement maintenance; VASI/REIL)** - Jim Greil said the FAA is good to go with this project. He recommended a \$70,154/grant and a \$64,363/loan. Gary Gates said this is one of the FAA's top priorities.
- **Glendive (Partial retroactive for new taxiway; taxiway paving; reflective markers)** – Jim Greil said part of this project is retroactive. FAA is good to go with this project. He recommends funding only the new part of project with an \$11,000/grant.
- **Hamilton – (Update environmental assessment)** – Jim Greil said the FAA will only reimburse part of this project so his recommendation is based on that. He would recommend a \$1,053/grant.
- **Hardin – (New Airport – Phase 1)** – Jim Greil said the FAA is good to go with this project. He recommends full funding with a \$40,000/grant.
- **Havre (Update ALP)** - Jim Greil said FAA is good to go with this project. He would recommend a \$1,470/grant and a \$1,470/loan.
- **Laurel (Runway/Taxiway pavement maintenance)** – Jim Greil said FAA is good to go with this project. He would recommend a \$4,600/grant.
- **Lewistown (Grooving; gas/electric hangar development; hangar engineering and sewer development)** – Jim said this is not eligible for FAA funding. He recommends not funding because of limited amount of funding, a low priority.
- **Libby (Runway/Taxiway pavement rehabilitation; taxiway overlay; fog seal and remarking)** – Jim Greil said FAA is good to go with this project. He would recommend a \$7,894/grant.

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- **Red Lodge (SRE Building)** – Jim Greil said this is a non-NIPIAS project. He feels this is a good project and could use help. He recommended a \$14,400/grant. Debbie Alke asked Jim what the condition of the pavement was, wouldn't money be better spent on pavement. Jim Greil said not great will take a lot of money to get that fixed.
- **Ronan (Complete road behind taxiways)** - Jim Greil said this is not eligible for FAA funding therefore he would recommend not funding.
- **Roundup (Phase 1 of Partial Taxiway Construction)** – Jim Greil said FAA is good to go with this. He recommends a \$10,750/grant and a \$10,750/loan.
- **St. Ignatius (replace 370 fence posts)** – Jim Greil said this is a low priority so he would recommend not funding.
- **Shelby (Partial retroactive for CIP; hangar construction; rehabilitation of taxiway)** – Jim Greil said the FAA is good to go with this project. He recommends full funding at \$28,000/loan and a \$28,000/grant.
- **Sidney (Rehabilitation of taxiways and apron)** – Jim Greil said FAA is good to go with this project. He recommends full funding with a \$29,275/grant and a \$29,275/loan.
- **Stevensville (Taxiway Extension Construction)** – Jim Greil said FAA is good to go on this project. He recommends funding with a \$7,250/grant.
- **Townsend (Partial retroactive for CIP; pavement maintenance)** – Jim Greil said the FAA is good to go with this project. He recommends full funding with a \$2,600/grant.
- **Turner #1 & #2 (Land acquisition; animal control fence; crack/fog seal and remarking)** – Jim Greil said FAA is good to go with this project. He recommends full funding with a \$3,367/grant for Turner #1 (land acquisition for animal control fence) and a \$12,250/grant for Turner #2 (construction of animal control fence; crack/fog seal and remarking).
- **White Sulphur Springs (Construct 8' Wildlife Fence)** – Jim Greil said FAA good to go with this project; he recommends \$9,347/grant and a \$9,347/loan.
- **West Yellowstone #1, #2 & #3 – (Wildlife Hazard Assessment; replace airfield lighting, fixtures, circuits, regulators; Construct ARFF building)** – Jim Greil said he considers this a high priority. For the wildlife hazard assessment the FAA will use discretionary dollars and it needs to be done. Jim said there is a high potential for a lighting failure. The new ARFF building will be better suited for what we need. He recommends a \$3,000/grant for #1(Wildlife Hazard); a \$10,548/grant for #2 (lighting) and an \$11,500/grant for #3 (ARFF building).
- *Being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 4:10 p.m.*

Tricia McKenna, Chairman

Roger Lincoln, Secretary