

Montana Aeronautics Board  
Helena, MT  
January 22, 2013

**Aeronautics Board**

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

**Department of Transportation**

Debbie Alke, MDT Aeronautics  
Mike Tooley, MDT Directors Office  
Pat Wise, MDT Directors Office  
Carol Grell Morris, MDT Legal  
Tim Conway, MDT Aeronautics  
Wade Cebulski, MDT Aeronautics  
Patty Kautz, MDT Aeronautics

**Guests**

Ben Mello, FAA Helena Airports District Office  
Gary Gates, FAA Helena Airports District Office  
Rick Donaldson, Robert Peccia & Associates  
Curtis Kelly, HDR Engineering

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

- Chairman McKenna called the meeting to order. Debbie Alke introduced MDT Director, Mike Tooley and Deputy Director, Pat Wise and Tim Conway who is the new Bureau Chief for the Airport/Airways Bureau.
- Mike Tooley said Debbie has updated him on the board's duties and what the division does. He is excited to see the job they do, and looks forward to working with them. Pat Wise said she looks forward to working with them and getting to know each other better. They can stop in and see her anytime.
- Debbie Alke said both the Director and Deputy Director have been briefed on the financial situation at West Yellowstone (WYS). They are working to come up with a fix for the airport. They have a new manager starting in March.
- Debbie Alke said Powder River MOA has been quiet, in December there was an article in a military publication that the Air Force was still talking with tribes and national historic preservation offices with little progress. On January 10 there was an article in the Billings Gazette with a contradictory statement saying things were moving along and they hope to have flights early next year. An FAA military liaison is trying to dig in to that for them. She is still concerned for the GA relievers that are under that airspace. Aeronautics will continue to watch and keep the board and director informed.
- Debbie Alke said at the last meeting we talked about an internal audit of loans/grants, an audit is being done and should be completed by this fiscal year.
- Debbie Alke said on unmanned aerial vehicles congress mandated the FAA to designate six test sites. They missed the March deadline last year and it's now on hold indefinitely. We hear and read about a lot of law enforcement agencies that are trying to integrate those vehicles into their group.
- Debbie Alke said on the Super AWOS issue one of the vendors was decertified and we do have some in Montana that this board put state money into and they cannot be used. The vendor will resubmit all paperwork to the FAA and hope they will take a look at his

proposal and get those back on the air. Ted Schye said you can use them for VFR you can't use for IFR. Debbie said some were never commissioned. FAA is interested in getting a resolution to the problem. Ted Schye said Digiwix are commissioned so the board could fund those.

- Fred Lark asked if there was any development on wind towers that go up all over the state. Debbie Alke said the aerial applicators are meeting next week and there is a legislative place holder to regulate those towers. Other states are requiring some kind of marking. Roger Lincoln said there is a 700' tower northwest of Havre that has not been lit since August. They seem to think they are meeting requirements by having a Notam. Debbie Alke said she will follow up on this.
- Fred Lark said there are new LPV's that have been established in the state and have these been incorporated into the new airport directory? Wade Cebulski said they have never put approaches in the directory. Fred Lark said he would want them to know an LPV is available. Wade Cebulski said not at this point but something they could think about for 2014. Chairman McKenna asked Wade Cebulski to make a note of that for the 2014 directory.
- *Chris Edwards made a motion to approve the June 12, 2012 minutes as written. Ted Schye seconded the motion which passed unanimously.*

#### Review of Loan/Grant Allocations

- Chairman McKenna reminded the board that Aeronautics did make recommendations but the board needs to keep in mind they are only recommendations. The board will make the decision based on presentations tomorrow and discussions. Tim Conway explained how they came up with their recommendations. Gary Gates and Ben Mello for the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) were there to answer any questions the board may have.
- **Big Timber** – Tim Conway said Big Timber is asking to do an Airport Layout and Master Plan. FAA considers this good to go. They requested an \$8,500 grant they are eligible for \$8,333 grant and loan which is what Aeronautics recommends.
- **Bridger** – Tim Conway said this is a non-federal project. They are requesting money for electrical/runway lights. They are asking for an \$8,000 grant. Chairman McKenna asked if they were awarded the \$7,000 the board gave them last year once that question is answered the board can come back to Bridger application.
- **Chinook #1** – Tim Conway said they are requesting \$8,005 grant for a snowplow this is a retroactive project. Chairman McKenna reminded the board they can fund retro projects. Tim Conway said this is a planned project with FAA and they are good to go. Aeronautics did not recommend funding.
- Rob Buckles asked if the FAA could explain the new 90/10 split for federal projects as we will be seeing a lot of retroactive this year. Gary Gates said it changed as a result of the reauthorization passed through congress last year. We did have a number of projects that dropped as a result of the increase over the match. We don't know if that will change the authorization is good for four years. Money doesn't go quite as far for these small communities. Chairman McKenna suggested the board think about loans for the retro projects.
- **Chinook #2** – Tim Conway said the request is for a snow removal equipment building they are asking for a \$5,600 grant. FAA is good to go with this Aeronautics considers it a

lower priority recommends a \$4,407 grant. Chairman McKenna said she would like to come back to this as they also asked for money last year.

- **Chinook #3** – Tim Conway said they are asking for a \$10,000 grant for a fuel system. FAA is good to go with this project. The fueling system will be owned by the airport. Aeronautics did not recommend funding.
- **Choteau** – Tim Conway said they are asking for a \$12,750 grant and loan to seal and cover runways, taxiways and aprons. FAA is good to go with this project. Aeronautics recommends funding. Chairman McKenna said we granted them money last year but they haven't used it. Debbie said they have until July 1 to accept those funds.
- Chairman McKenna said we gave Bridger money last year and they are requesting money this year it appears for the very same thing. Have they used the \$7,000 we awarded them last year if we gave them the money we need to know what they are requesting for this year. It's the same thing with Chinook. She would like clarification to these applications.
- **Colstrip** – Tim Conway said Colstrip is asking for money for expansion of apron, new taxiway and existing maintenance. FAA said they are good to go they may need to prioritize the scope. They are asking for \$31,325 grant for apron; \$9,825 grant for taxiway and \$2,850 grant for existing maintenance. Gary Gates said it's a larger project and will all be funded with their non-primary entitlements. Aeronautics did not recommend funding.
- Debbie Alke said in regards to information on last year's loans and grants. Bridger has not requested any funding yet this year. Chinook was paid for their snowplow and it says project is being delayed due to lack of local funds, they may ask for an extension for this project. Chairman McKenna said she doesn't understand why these airports wouldn't request an extension instead of reapplying. Chris Edwards thinks that Bridger is requesting something different this year. Debbie Alke said we could have Wade Cebulski call and clarify Bridger. Chairman McKenna asked if he could verify both Bridger and Chinook.
- **Columbus** – Tim Conway said they are requesting a \$6,325 loan and grant for master plan and airport layout plan. FAA is good to go with this project. Aeronautics recommends funding.
- **Conrad** – Tim Conway said they are requesting a \$6,750 loan and grant for a crack seal. Gary Gates said they have had discussion with consultants about this thin overlay. The FAA will want a realistic life cycle and cost analysis. Aeronautics recommends funding.
- **Culbertson** – Tim Conway said they are requesting a \$6,000 grant for pavement maintenance. The FAA supports a reduced scope for crack sealing. Aeronautics is recommending \$3,000 loan and grant. Gary Gates said they can fog seal every 5 years.
- **Cut Bank** – Tim Conway said request is for rehabilitation of runway and taxiway and lighting. They are asking for a \$160,000 loan and grant. FAA is good to go. Aeronautics recommends offering \$125,920 grant and a \$194,080 loan due to funding constraints. Chairman McKenna said last year we gave them \$25,431 in grant and \$144,569 in a loan. Debbie Alke said they denied the loan. Rick Donaldson said they had to drop out because of the 95/5 change what was offered did not cover the whole project. They proceeded with engineering and maintenance. They used about \$15,000 of that grant the board could deduct \$10,000 from this year's request. Gary Gates said one of the issues we have with the project is environmental clearance. Fred Lark asked what

kind of traffic they have with customs now. Debbie Alke said she does not have a good read on that. Rick Donaldson said Dave should be here tomorrow to answer that question. Chairman McKenna asked if Aeronautics would want to change their recommendation by \$10,000, Debbie Alke said leave it as is. Gary Gates said if they are not able to complete the environmental process the FAA won't be able to issue a grant; there is a bit of an unknown here.

- **Deer Lodge** – Tim Conway said request is for a \$7,500/grant for an environmental assessment. FAA is good to go. Aeronautics recommends funding.
- **Ekalaka** – Tim Conway said request is for a hangar access taxiway, snow removal equipment and lights. They are requesting a \$23,160 grant. Aeronautics recommends \$5,328 for the snow removal equipment and \$9,361 for the lighting. They do not recommend funding the hangar access taxiway.
- **Ennis** – Tim Conway said the request is for pavement maintenance and land acquisition. Aeronautics recommends an \$8,600 loan and grant for the pavement maintenance. Ennis is also requesting a grant of \$6,000 for land acquisition. FAA is not in favor of the land acquisition and Aeronautics agrees so does not recommend any funding for land acquisition. Gary Gates said part of the problem is they have had a long standing through the fence issue and there is an existing lease that ties up the apron area. A good question would be to find out where they are with that land acquisition. Rick Donaldson said they have since transferred that lease to another party and there is a dispute between those two parties. While this is tied up we can't do any apron maintenance on one of the aprons. They still need pavement maintenance on the rest of it. He was not aware the FAA wasn't supporting the land acquisition. Some land has come up for sale at a reasonable price they anticipate getting it done this year it has nothing to do with the disputed area.
- **Glasgow** – Tim Conway said request is for PAPI/REIL replacement they are requesting a \$12,629 grant. Aeronautics does not recommend funding because it's a retroactive project.
- **Glendive** – Tim Conway said the request is for pavement maintenance they are requesting a \$25,000 grant. Aeronautics recommends a \$25,011 grant and a \$25,011 loan. Gary Gates said this is for different work than last year, FAA is good to go.
- **Hamilton** – Tim Conway said the request is for a \$140,000 grant and loan. FAA does not support environmental work at this time but they do support the ALP and apron rehabilitation. Aeronautics recommends a \$4,500 grant and a \$4,500 loan for the ALP and apron rehabilitation.
- **Hardin** – Tim Conway said this is a request for Phase II of a new airport. They are requesting a \$105,000 grant. Aeronautics recommends a \$82,635 grant and a \$127,365 loan. FAA is good to go with this project. Debbie Alke commented that Hardin requested a \$105,000 grant and Aeronautics did not recommend all due to lack of funding but if something happens with the Cut Bank environmental assessment you have over \$120,000 in grant money sitting there so something the board can keep in mind.
- **Havre** – Tim Conway said the request is for a wildlife assessment, wildlife fence and engineering for runway rehabilitation. They are requesting a \$32,700 grant and loan. Aeronautics recommends a grant of \$25,735 and a loan of \$39,665. FAA is good to go with this project.
- **Lewistown #1** – Lewistown withdrew their application for pavement maintenance.

- **Lewistown #2** – Tim Conway said the request is for a \$10,700 grant for an ARFF vehicle. Aeronautics recommends a grant for \$8,421. FAA is good to go with this project.
- **Lewistown #3** – Tim Conway said the request is for a \$2,000 grant for a security fence. Aeronautics recommends funding. FAA is good to go.
- **Lewistown #4** – Tim Conway said request is for a \$1,750 grant for the remodel of an ARFF Building. FAA is good to go with this project. Aeronautics recommends funding.
- **Libby #1** – Tim Conway said this is a non-federal project. Request is for a \$3,500 grant for equipment for an AWOS. Aeronautics recommends funding.
- **Libby #2** – Tim Conway said the request is for an \$11,111 grant for an environmental assessment for runway extension. FAA is good to go. Aeronautics does not recommend funding.
- **Malta** – Tim Conway said the request is for a \$34,600 loan to construct hangars. Aeronautics recommends funding. FAA is good to go with this project, low priority. Gary Gates said they have a few things they need to confirm before this is a go but they should get it done.
- **Bridger** – Wade Cebulski said he talked to Merrill and Bridger is a continuation grant. They received a new PAPI from surplus and when putting that in they found out the wiring was not adequate. This is a continuation to update that wiring they received the grant for last year.
- **Plains** – Tim Conway said the request is for a \$6,000 grant and loan for snow removal equipment. Aeronautics recommends a \$4,722 grant and a \$7,278 loan. FAA is good to go with this project.
- **Poplar #1** – Tim Conway said the request is for snow removal equipment they are requesting a \$11,275 grant and a \$11,275 loan. FAA is good to go with this project. Aeronautics recommends a \$8,873 grant and a \$13,677 loan. Gary Gates said they can receive surplus equipment but the FAA can't fund used equipment. If funded by FAA they need a plan for storage.
- **Poplar #2** – Tim Conway said the request is for a snow removal equipment building. They are requesting a \$9,475 grant and loan. FAA is good to go. Aeronautics recommends a \$7,457 grant and a \$11,493 loan. Chairman McKenna noted they cannot complete the project if the loan/grant is denied and same applies to Poplar #1.
- **Ronan** – Tim Conway said the request is for pavement maintenance. Request is for \$11,800 loan and grant. Aeronautics recommended funding. FAA is good to go with project.
- **Roundup** – Tim Conway said request is for taxiway paving. Request for \$31,640 loan and grant. Aeronautics does not recommend funding. FAA good to go with project.
- **St. Ignatius** – Tim Conway said this is a non-federal project. They are requesting a \$17,000 grant for hangar roof replacement. Aeronautics does not recommend funding because low priority.
- **Shelby** – Tim Conway said Shelby is retroactive for runway rehabilitation and construction of hangar. They are requesting a \$70,000 loan and grant. Aeronautics did not recommend funding. FAA is good to go with this project.
- **Stevensville** – Tim Conway said request is for a taxiway extension and to replace their beacon. They are requesting a \$9,307 grant. Aeronautics recommends a loan of \$7,325.

FAA is good to go with this project. Chairman McKenna noted if they don't get the funds they cannot do the project.

- **Superior** – Tim Conway said they are requesting this project in three pieces; an \$11,000 grant and loan for a snow removal building. Good to go with FAA as planned; the community indicates minimum for acceptance \$26,100 grant and \$40,000 loan he is not sure how it breaks down into individual pieces of work. MDT recommends funding equipment not the building to be consistent. They are also requesting a \$10,000 grant and loan for a sweeper snow plow. Aeronautics recommends a \$7,870 grant; \$12,130 loan for the equipment. For hangar construction they are requesting a \$12,015 grant and loan. FAA said this is eligible but support would be delayed pending demonstration of need. Aeronautics did not recommend funding the hangar construction.
- **Three Forks** – Tim Conway said they are requesting \$8,750 grant for a mower, this is a non-federal project. Aeronautics recommends \$2,000 grant.
- **Thompson Falls** – Tim Conway said they are requesting \$6,500 loan and grant for pavement rehabilitation and engineering. Good to go with FAA. Aeronautics recommends funding.
- **Townsend** – Tim Conway said this is a retroactive project. They are requesting \$1,600 grant for pavement maintenance, capital improvement plan and engineering. Good to go with FAA. Aeronautics does not recommend funding.
- **Turner #1** – Tim Conway said Turner is requesting \$7,314 grant for a retroactive project for a wildlife fence. FAA is good to go with this project. Aeronautics does not recommend funding.
- **Turner #2** – Tim Conway said this is retroactive requesting a grant of \$3,219 for land acquisition. FAA is good to go with this project. Aeronautics does not recommend funding.
- **Turner #3** – Tim Conway said they are requesting a \$10,000 grant for a fuel system. FAA commented that it's an acceptable item but can't fund until EA requirements are known. Gary Gates said he can check on this not sure if it is done will let board know tomorrow. Aeronautics does not recommend funding.
- **White Sulphur Springs** – Tim Conway said they are requesting a loan and grant for \$9,850 for a fuel system. FAA is good to go with this project. Aeronautics does not recommend funding.
- **West Yellowstone** – Tim Conway said West Yellowstone is requesting a \$16,154 grant for pavement maintenance. FAA is good to go with this project. Aeronautics recommends a \$16,154 loan and grant. Debbie Alke said since we've talked in June we've had a roof blow off a building and found arsenic in the water. She talked to Mike Tooley and he has a strong interest in this airport, hoping we can use some highway non-restricted funds and on the federal side pursuing a line item approp to have the forest service contribute. A question he asked is what if we just walk away and give back to the feds but last cost estimate is we would owe two and half million dollars. We hope to make it the facility it should be. Now with new leadership and a new manager we will get serious and talk to community to participate and contribute.
- Carol Grell Morris mentioned that the board needs to be aware of the 10% change tomorrow. She thinks we are running into a lot of questions as to if we are funding the additional 5%. Nothing specific in the rules as this is an unusual situation. If you look at 18-13-407 it talks about terms and conditions of successful applicants. Board needs to be

aware of those guidelines. The fiscal year 2013 applications were effective on July 1, 2012. Rules are clear if they received a grant or loan in that fiscal year they can be paid up to June 30, 2013. They can also ask for an extension at the June meeting. If not clear the board needs to ask questions.

- Tim Conway said when doing recommendations they only considered them retroactive if the airport was paid the money. If they didn't receive a check we did not consider them retroactive. Chairman McKenna said to take a few minutes and look them over to see if there are any more questions. Tomorrow the board will start with presentations and wants members to have questions ready for presenters. We will then have lunch and close to public comment.
- **Cut Bank** - Ted Schye asked what the possibility is that they may not have that environmental piece done. Gary Gates said he has it flagged and they will have a discussion in his office to see if they can determine that. Chairman McKenna said we don't want to tie up that money if it will be another year. Gary Gates will try to let the board know the environmental piece in question. He will have an answer on the fueling system in Turner and the environmental piece in Cut Bank.
- Chairman McKenna asked if there were any more specific questions on a specific project. Fred Lark said fiscal years are confusing is glad legal can clarify. Chuck Manning asked if the \$2,000 threshold is something Tim arbitrarily picked. Tim Conway said that is correct. Chuck Manning said the board hasn't discussed that threshold so need to do so by tomorrow. Chairman McKenna said we have talked in the past about the small loans and costs to administer. She likes what Aeronautics does with recommendations but likes to keep it separate from board. She wouldn't recommend changing the rules because she likes flexibility.
- Chuck Manning said as far as retroactive it is his understanding they have until May to withdraw but can take money up to end of grant period. It would be nice to know who has been paid and who hasn't for his own clarification. Wade Cebulski said he will have copies for board of who has been paid out so far for fiscal year 2013.
- ***Being no further business the meeting adjourned at 4:20 p.m.***

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Tricia McKenna, Chairman

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Roger Lincoln, Secretary