

Montana Aeronautics Board
Montana Department of Transportation; Auditorium
2701 Prospect Avenue, Helena, MT
Tuesday, December 29, 2020

Aeronautics Board

Tricia McKenna, Board Chair
Robert Buckles
Dan Hargrove
Roger Lincoln
John Maxness
Walt McNutt
Tom Schoenleben

Department of Transportation

Mike Tooley, MDT Director
Tim Conway, MDT Aeronautics
Marc McKee, MDT Aeronautics
Karen Speeg, MDT Aeronautics
Valerie Balukas, MDT Legal
Hannah Woolsey, MDT Legal

Guests

Craig Canfield, KLJ
Roger Meggers, Baker Airport Manager
Roy Rost, Commissioner
Nathan Schroht, KLJ
Bill Wallace, Sweetgrass County Comm.
Pam Chamberlain, Butte Airport Manager
Rick Ryan, Butte Asst Mgr/Fire Chief
Cory Kessler, Morrison Maierle
Jim Greil, DOWL
Travis Eickman, Morrison Maierle
Rick Knick, Chairman of S85 Airport Board
Steve Brown, KLJ
Troy Fruit, Chairman, 97M Airport Board
Kent Penney, KLJ
Tim Orthmeyer, Morrison Maierle
Lance Bowser, Robert, Peccia & Associates
Clint Tinsley, Park County
Craig Hostetler, Glendive Airport Manager
John Faulkner, Great Falls Airport Manager
Christopher Dodge, Jacobs Engineering
Rick Donaldson, Robert, Peccia & Associates
Nick Enblom, Morrison Maierle

Ross Marty, Helena Assistant Airport Director
Glen White, Hysham Airport Manager
Zack Anderson, Kalispell City
BJ Holman, Kalispell City Airport Mgr
Randy Hand, Laurel Airport Manager
Bryon Armour, Lewistown Airport Manager
Angela Newell, Carbon County
Barbara Krizek, Carbon County
Tyler Reed, Morrison Maierle
Steve Aldinger, Interstate Engineering
Mike Goffena, Musselshell County Comm.
Veronica Meyer, Interstate Engineering
Dale Galland, Board Chairman Terry Airport
Bob Hollister, Canyon Ferry Airport Manager
Heather Mosser, Morrison Maierle
Katie Barry, Morrison Maierle
Kevin Myhre, Century Companies
Mary E Bell, RPA
Nancy Geary, RPA
Derek Flinders, RPA
Tim Robertson, Century Companies
Pete Smith, Lewistown Airport

Quick Word from Director Tooley

- Thanked the Board for all the work they have put in to support Montana's aeronautics community, including with HB 661. Wished them luck in their deliberations for the next two days, and he looks forward to seeing what they accomplish in the future. Even though he will be gone, he will still be

paying attention. Tricia told him that she appreciated his engagement in aviation as well, then asked if anyone had any questions for Mr. Tooley. There were no questions.

Call to Order / Pledge of Allegiance / Overview of the Rules / Approval of Minutes

- Chairperson McKenna called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m., opening with the Pledge of Allegiance. She thanked everyone for attending this first virtual meeting, and discussed the two main reasons for changing the dates: There would be seven new board members potentially, and the meeting might not be until Spring; record number of applications and would not be fair to do that to a new board. Thanked Marc and Karen for getting this put together. She introduced Valerie Balukas who said a quick word, will be available to answer questions during the meeting. Val introduced Hannah Woolsey who is a new attorney with the department, however, was unavailable for this meeting. Tricia explained that they would not go over the applications three times as before, but just twice, beginning this morning with presentations in alphabetical order. You can raise your hand and ask questions after their presentation. Tomorrow we will close public comment and start allocating the monies. Raise your hand if you have questions, the meeting is being recorded so please identify yourself. Marc verified that everyone knows how to raise their hand.

John Maxness made a motion to approve the June 9, 2020 board minutes as presented. Walt McNutt seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Applicant Presentation of Loan/Grant Applications

- **Baker Airport** – Craig Canfield from KLJ provided a presentation on behalf of the airport along with Roger Meggers and Roy Rost
 - **Questions from the board:**
 - **Cost \$22,000 to remove 4 15k gallon tanks in Helena, why is the cost of removal so high at \$99,500?** In putting together the estimate, they contacted two licensed contractors, licensed by DEQ. There is some pavement restoration on the surface also, but that is the cost they were given by a licensed contractor.
- **Big Timber Airport** – Nathan Schroht with KLJ provided a presentation on behalf of the airport.
 - **Questions from the board:**
 - **Explanation of the highway fence?** It is a snow fence, like the ones that you see along I-90 near Livingston, to try to keep the drifting to a minimum.
 - **Are you able to take a loan?** No
- **Broadus Airport** – Nathan Schroht with KLJ provided a presentation on behalf of the airport.
 - **Questions from the board:**
 - **Are you able to take a loan?** No
- **Butte Airport** – Rick Ryan, assistant manager and fire chief and Pam Chamberlain, airport manager, provided a presentation on behalf of the airport.
 - **Questions from the board:**
 - **Will you accept a loan?** Yes
- **Canyon Ferry Airport** – There were no presentations for the Canyon Ferry Airport.
 - **Questions from the board:**
 - **What does the Pink Flamingo have to do with this project?** This is an example of one reason people fly into the airport.

- **Chinook Airport** – Cory Kessler with M-M provided a presentation on behalf of the airport.
 - **Questions from the board:**
 - **Will you accept a loan? Yes**
 - **The application says that you cannot complete the project without our help, does that mean do they need all or nothing?** They could move forward with the FAA project if they did not receive any state funds, but would prefer to receive a grant, then a loan.
- **Choteau Airport** –Jim Greil with DOWL provided a presentation on behalf of the airport.
 - There were no questions from the board.
- **Columbus Airport** –Travis Eickman with M-M provided a presentation on behalf of the airport.
 - **Questions from the board:**
 - **The pavement was put down in 2017/2018, which seems relatively new. Is there a problem?** A significant amount of grinding had to be done to address smoothing the joints and the apron has a bit of a patchwork of pavement. They try to do seal coats on a 3-5 year spread, but trying to do this due to extent of cracks and pavement scarring from grinding.
- **Culbertson Airport** – Craig Canfield with KLJ and Rick Knick provided a presentation on behalf of the airport. There were no questions from the Board. Would be willing to accept loan funds as stated in the application.
 - There were no questions from the board
- **Deer Lodge Airport** – Travis Eickman with Morrison Maierle provided a presentation on behalf of the airport.
 - There were no questions from the board.
- **Dell Airport** – withdrew their application.
- **Drummond Airport** – Steve Brown with KLJ provided a presentation on behalf of the airport.
 - There were no questions from the Board.
- **Dutton Airport** – Jim Greil with DOWL provided a presentation on behalf of the airport.
 - **Questions from the board:**
 - **If you received partial funding, would they be able to complete them?** Not in their entirety, but they will utilize whatever funding you would provide.
 - **What if it was substantially less? I don't believe they would be able to get much done with the amount of money we have to distribute.** They would be appreciative of anything you could give them, even if only part of the ramp.
- **Ekalaka Airport** – Craig Canfield from KLJ provided a presentation along on behalf of the airport along with Troy Fruit and Kent Penney.
 - There were no questions from the Board
- **Eureka Airport** – Tim Orthmeyer with Morrison Maierle provided a presentation on behalf of the airport.
 - **Questions from the board:**
 - **In the application it says annual income is \$9,000 and expenses are \$62,000. How does that work?** Income is from fuel sales and hangar leases. Fuel sales have not been that active lately. Timber and mining sales in the region used to help fund the airport, but those have dried up.
- **Fairfield Airport** –Jim Greil with DOWL provided a presentation on behalf of the airport.
 - **Questions from the board:**

- **If Fairfield were to receive partial funding, would they be able to move forward?** They could move forward with some of the project(s) depending on how much funding. Anything under \$140,000--\$150,000 would not allow them to complete them.
- **Forsyth Airport** – Nathan Schroht provided a presentation on behalf of the airport.
 - **Questions from the board:**
 - **There is a note that this was applied for last year, is that true?** Yes
 - **But this is not retroactive?** No
 - **Where do the profits from the fuel go?** To the county with a revenue generating fuel system.
- **Gardiner Airport** – Lance Bowser with RPA provided a presentation on behalf of the airport.
 - **Questions from the board:**
 - **Where would they go outside for donations?** Received a grant for \$50,000 from the Gardiner resort tax. They also received a firetruck.
 - **To be clear, you said that the project could not go forward unless they received \$400-\$500,000, is that correct?** Yes, but they recognize that this is less than a typical funding year, but they do not want to withdraw their application.
- **Geraldine Airport** – Lance Bowser with RPA provided a presentation on behalf of the airport.
 - **Questions from the board:**
 - **To be clear, is the thought of moving the airport off of the table?** Yes, the FAA has changed conditions and will now provide funding for reconstruction.
 - **When do you think they will be eligible for FAA funding?** No, you must be mistaken, as these projects are FAA funded with a significant portion of state apportionment funding as well as NPE's
- **Glasgow Airport** – Jim Greil with DOWL provided a presentation on behalf of the airport.
 - **Questions from the board:**
 - **The project requested is for rehabilitate runway, but is it for the whole airport?** Yes, it is most of the airport, some pavements will be left out because of the change of the taxiway.
 - **Question about FAA funding.** Not funded this year.
- **Glendive Airport** – Craig Canfield from KLJ provided a presentation on behalf of the airport along with Joe Sharbono and Craig Hostetler.
 - **Questions from the board:**
 - **If no assistance from MAD, your application states that you could still complete the project. How much would you need to be able to complete it?** Unless they are awarded a significant amount – 80-90% of requested, this project would be very difficult for the county to undertake. If not funded this year, airport will likely lose supplemental grant, then they would never have enough NPE's to complete this.
 - **Are you willing to take a loan up to \$250,000?** No, the maximum loan that they might accept would be around \$112,000.
- **Great Falls Airport** – John Faulkner, Airport Director, provided a presentation on behalf of the airport.
 - There were no questions from the Board.
- **Hamilton Airport** – Rick Donaldson with RPA provided a presentation on behalf of the airport.
 - There were no questions from the Board.

- **Hardin Airport** – Nick Enblom with Morrison Maierle provided a presentation on behalf of the airport.
 - **Questions from the board:**
 - **It is a 5-7 year-old runway, this crack and seal project is almost \$100k more than other projects, why is it so much more?** It is brand new pavement and not one single crack has been sealed before, significantly long cracks. There are two or three spots that need asphalt repairs as crack seal will not repair.
- **Harlowton Airport** – Lance Bowser with RPA provided a presentation on behalf of the airport.
 - There were no questions from the Board.
- **Helena Airport** – Tim Orthmeyer from Morrison Maierle provided a presentation on behalf of the airport along with Ross Marty, Airport Director.
 - There were no questions from the Board.
- **Hysham Airport** – Glen White, Hysham Airport Manager, provided a presentation on behalf of the airport.
 - **Questions from the board:**
 - **Is this a retroactive project?** Yes.
- **Kalispell City Airport** – Zack Anderson and BJ Holman provided a presentation on behalf of the airport.
 - **Questions from the board:**
 - **Just to clarify, the money that we awarded last year, \$215,462, you had not received?** Correct, we told Karen Speeg that we would refuse that.
 - **So, is this in addition to that money?** No, we reapplied with a new number, not considering anything prior.
- **Laurel Municipal Airport** – Craig Canfield and Kent Penney from KLJ provided a presentation on behalf of the airport along with Randy Hand.
 - There were no questions from the Board.
- **Lewistown Airport** – Withdrew their application during the meeting.
- **Libby Airport** – Tim Orthmeyer from Morrison Maierle provided a presentation on behalf of the airport.
 - **Questions from the board:**
 - **To be clear, would the county prefer Libby be funded if we had to make a choice between Eureka and Libby?** Yes, the county would prefer that.
- **Livingston Airport** – Lance Bowser with RPA provided a presentation on behalf of the airport. There were no questions from the Board.
- **Philipsburg Airport** – Steve Brown and Kent Penney from KLJ provided a presentation on behalf of the airport.
 - **Questions from the board:**
 - **Would you not be able to move forward with the project without funds provided because it is marked “no” on the application?** They can move forward with the project, but they have steep project costs ahead of them, so any assistance would be helpful so they can use those funds for improvements in the future.
- **Plains Airport** – Lance Bowser with RPA provided a presentation on behalf of the airport. There were no questions from the Board.
- **Plentywood Airport** – Nathan Schroht with KLJ provided a presentation on behalf of the airport.

- There were no questions from the Board.
- **Red Lodge Airport** – Angela Newell provided a presentation on behalf of the airport.
 - **Questions from the board:**
 - **Do you, as a board, ever see yourselves coming to the standards to meet FAA requirements to receive some help from feds in the future?** We would love to, but there are some issues with the approach and departure ends of the airport with obstacles that we may not meet those standards to qualify.
- **Ronan Airport** – Tyler Reed from Morrision Maierle provided a presentation on behalf of the airport.
 - There were no questions from the Board.
- **Roundup Airport** – Steve Aldinger with Interstate Engineering and Mike Goffena provided a presentation on behalf of the airport.
 - There were no questions from the Board.
- **Shelby Airport** - Lance Bowser with RPA provided a presentation on behalf of the airport.
 - There were no questions from the Board.
- **Sidney Airport** – Withdrew their application.
- **Stanford Airport** – Lance Bowser with RPA provided a presentation on behalf of the airport.
 - There were no questions from the Board.
- **Stevensville Airport** – Tyler Reed from Morrision Maierle provided a presentation on behalf of the airport.
 - There were no questions from the Board.
- **Terry Airport** – Craig Canfield from KLJ provided a presentation on behalf of the airport along with Dale Galland.
 - **To be clear, is this just for planning?** Yes
- **Thompson Falls Airport** – Lance Bowser with RPA provided a presentation on behalf of the airport.
 - There were no questions from the Board.
- **Townsend Airport** – Rick Donaldson with RPA provided a presentation on behalf of the airport.
 - **Questions from the board:**
 - **Would they move forward without funding?** Yes.
- **Turner Airport** – Cory Kesler from Morrison Maierle provided a presentation on behalf of the airport.
 - **Questions from the board:**
 - **Are the willing to entertain a loan as well as a grant?** Yes, now are requesting a loan if not a grant.
- **Twin Bridges Airport** – Lance Bowser with RPA provided a presentation on behalf of the airport.
 - **Questions from the board:**
 - **Does the county receive over 2 mils for both Ennis and Twin Bridges?** Yes, they have recently put a lot of that money into Ennis. They have had that for over 20 years as they are a very dedicated county.
- **White Sulphur Springs Airport** – Lance Bowser with RPA provided a presentation on behalf of the airport.
 - There were no questions from the Board
- **Wilsall Airport** – Lance Bowser with RPA provided a presentation on behalf of the airport.

- **Questions from the board:**
- **Verifying that the application is for runway cones and not for lighting?** Yes, there was not a line-item choice for runway cones because the project options are based on FAA projects.

Public Comment

- *No public comment*

Guidelines and Reminders for Second Day

Chairperson McKenna asked the Board if they would like to wait until tomorrow to begin to allocate the funds, or start this afternoon? Dan Hargrove suggested they take a break and do it all tomorrow to not interrupt their thinking, everyone agreed. She reminded the board that they now have \$1.4 million in grant money to award and \$600,000 in loan. Karen and Marc agreed to send the Board an updated spreadsheet. Aeronautics has recommendations, she reminded the board that they are just recommendations to give them a place to start. They also use the priority index that the FAA uses, but the board does not need to use that, either. She requested that Tim watch them tomorrow for consistency and bring it to their attention if they miss something. Safety has always been our number 1 concern, and we can fund a retroactive project. In the past (other than last year) we have not paid for planning. This is the first year that the larger airports have been able to apply due to HB661. She is going to keep revenue generating projects in mind such as fuel or hangar projects. Dan asked about the CARES Act comments on some of the applications and whether or not that is even relevant. Tim stated that most of the federal projects received CARES Act money, which funded projects at 100%, however this should have been included in their applications. The FAA will be available for any questions tomorrow, Tim would resend an email to the board members including what each airport received in Operations & Maintenance money. Chairperson McKenna also mentioned Red Lodge presentation and stated that they cannot meet FAA requirements because they built a housing development near the airport, and Tim reiterated those comments. He also took the opportunity to thank the board as a whole for their contributions to aviation.

The meeting adjourned at 2:26 PM

Bill Lepper, Chairman

Wade Cebulski, Vice-Chairman