

**MONTANA AERONAUTICS BOARD
IN PERSON MEETING
June 10, 2021**

Aeronautics Board

Bill Lepper, Board Chair
Robb Bergeson
Wade Cebulski
Pam Chamberlain
Dan Hargrove
Tom Schoenleben
Tim Robertson
Tim Sheehy
Greg Smith

Department of Transportation

Tim Conway, MDT Aeronautics
Marc McKee, MDT Aeronautics
Karen Speeg, MDT Aeronautics
Valerie Balukas, MDT Legal
Hannah Woolsey, MDT Legal
Chelsea Rayfield, Leg. Audit

Call to Order

Chair Lepper called meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.
Pledge of Allegiance
Roll call to establish a quorum; all board members present.

Bill Lepper

There was no discussion or changes to the December minutes as presented.

Tom Schoenleben made a motion to approve the December minutes as presented. Wade Cebulski seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Public Comment

Chair Lepper asked for public comment, which there was none.

FY21 Grant/Loan Extensions – Karen Speeg, Aeronautics Aviation Support Officer

Discussion about granting extensions through the federal FY through November 30, 2021, for five of the six requests, not to include Three Forks as they are expecting federal funding in Spring of 2022. The Director, Mack Long, stopped in and expressed appreciation to the Board.

Anaconda requested an extension for a \$135,000 grant. *Wade Cebulski made a motion to grant an extension through November 30, 2021. Pam Chamberlain seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.*

Glasgow requested an extension for a \$7,500 grant. *Wade Cebulski made a motion to grant an extension through November 30, 2021. Pam Chamberlain seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.*

Havre requested an extension for a \$36,000 grant. They have since received their FAA grant for 100% of project cost. *Wade Cebulski made a motion to grant an extension*

through November 30, 2021. Tom Schoenleben seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Poplar requested an extension for a \$53,300 grant. *Pam Chamberlain made a motion to grant an extension through November 30, 2021. Robb Bergeson seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.*

Stevensville requested an extension for a \$35,848 grant after the deadline. The Board does not have authority to grant an extension to any applicant who does not meet the extension filing deadline. Marc explained that they are still planning to provide the paperwork to us by June 30, 2021 and receive the state grant. *Wade Cebulski made a motion to deny the grant extension. Greg Smith seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.*

Three Forks requested an extension for a \$189,126 grant. There was discussion regarding approval of this extension due to concern that they are not ready to move forward with the project. There was discussion about 2019 legislation and increase in state grant money available. *Wade Cebulski made a motion to deny the grant extension for Three Forks. Bill Lepper seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.*

Aeronautics Update - Tim Conway, Aeronautics Division Administrator

Tim updated the staffing at Aeronautics. The accounting position will now be employed by accounting at MDT and they will sit at Aeronautics and it will be a blended position which will no longer be funded by Aeronautics, but Administration. A new position is being created as a project manager who will plan the conference, help with delinquent aircraft registrations, hoping to be advertised next week. Patricia Trooien's last day was May 27, Shannon Buswell has been hired in her place and Stacey Gabrio is now in the newly created permanent administrative assistant position. Both started on June 7.

-A/C reg is 5,067 so far this year. 425 aircraft missed March 1 registration deadline. The penalty is 5 X the registration fee. Pilot registration is at 1,920 this year, largely due to Matt Lindberg sending out pilot registration forms with aircraft registration forms.

-Aeronautics is being assessed by Legislative Audit; Chelsea Rayfield is conducting the assessment. They could invoke a full audit that we will find out in the next few weeks. There is a Loan and Grant Audit for Hot Springs, we cancelled Kalispell City, Sidney, and Miles City. We recommend airports who have higher risk for audit.

-WYS Terminal project is a very large project for the department. The public comment period for EA has lapsed with only two comments. FONSI (Finding of no significant impact) & ROD (record of decision) being filed with FAA. 2020 enplanements dropped to 4,600 so airport is being reclassified as a general airport instead of primary. Planned to start terminal project in Spring 2024.

-Biden proposed bill: \$247.7 million for EAS program. \$10 billion for airport improvement program: electrify equip. prevent emissions. FY21 projections \$1.3 million, \$1.1 million as of today.

-2021 legislative session: HB20 carried by Rep. Becky Beard. ADA compliance requirement and explanation regarding courtesy car awards.

-Passenger boarding's and enplanements all up for March and presumably for April, May, June.

- EAS has a task force, meeting planned in next few weeks.
- Babb airport has been operated by us and owned by the tribe. Letter sent from Director to the Tribe to relinquish us of any responsibility to maintain the airport. NOTAM'd closed through 6/30/2021, then will extend NOTAM if necessary, until officially closed.
- Replacing Aero Suite with Black Cat, which will be funded through MDT funding for foreseeable future.
- 5010's on schedule with 22/40 completed so far this year.
- PCI is done every 3 years, contract underway with Kimley-Horn to be completed this summer. Many airports use it to assess the condition of their pavement.
- Webcam program up and running: Lincoln, Seeley Lake, planned for Bozeman, Bozeman pass, Missoula Airport, Monida Pass, Lookout Pass, and WYS.
- ACE camp postponed for later this summer; other clinics still scheduled
- July 24th Helena Airport open house; March 3-5, 2022 Aviation Conference

Board Business

- Reimbursement Process
- Vice-Chairman Selection: Wade Cebulski was appointed as the Vice-Chairman of the Board by Bill Lepper
- Board Responsibilities – main responsibility to allocate Loans & Grants.
- Director's Meeting Recap - Director Long would like to see the Board more engaged: pilot registrations, 15 owned airports.
- Open Discussion on Board Expectations - Tim Sheehy discussed UAV's, hypersonic testing, supersonic, cyber-security, bringing in aviation technology to state, hangar fire restrictions. Wade Cebulski discussed receivers for ADS-B to enable us to see aircraft below 10,000 ft to improve safety and SAR. Cannot take a vote on any of these items as they were not agenda items.

Next Meeting

The next quarterly meeting is scheduled for September 30, 2021 in Helena. The meeting will begin at 1:00 p.m.

The Annual Grant and Loan Award meeting is scheduled for January 11-13, 2022 in Helena. The meeting will begin at 1:00 p.m. on the 11th and 8:00 a.m. on the 12th and 13th.

Robb Bergeson made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Pam Chamberlain seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Bill Lepper, Chairman

Wade Cebulski, Vice-Chairman