

**Montana Aeronautics Board**  
**Montana Department of Transportation; Auditorium**  
**2701 Prospect Avenue, Helena, MT**  
**Thursday, January 18, 2024**

**Aeronautics Board In Person**

Bill Lepper, Board Chair  
Wade Cebulski, Vice-Chair  
Pam Chamberlin  
Tim Robertson  
Tom Schoenleben  
Greg Smith

**Department of Transportation**

Tim Conway, MDT Aeronautics  
Karen Hallenbeck, MDT Aeronautics  
Stephen Torske, MDT Aeronautics  
John Haffey, MDT Legal  
Chris Nygren, MDT Legal

**Aeronautics Board – Virtual**

Robb Bergeson  
Grayson Sperry  
Mathew Prinkki

**Guests**

Craig Canfield, KLJ  
Nathan Schroht, KLJ  
Justin Zindell, KLJ  
Travis Eickman, Morrison-Maierle  
Cory Kesler, Morrison-Maierle  
Nick Enblom, Morrison-Maierle  
Jim Greil, DOWL  
Andrea Friedrich, DOWL  
Mat Wilder, RPA  
Rick Ryan, Bert Mooney Airport  
Lance Bowser, RPA

Kevin Myhre, Century Company Inc.  
Lucas Locke, Valley County Airport Manager  
Chelsea Rayfield, Legislative Audit Division  
Kenneth Weddings, Legislative Audit Division  
Jared Wingo, FAA ADO  
Michael Grover, FAA ADO

**Call to Order**

- Chairperson Lepper called the meeting to order at 8:03 a.m.

**Public Comment**

Lance Bowser made a request to withdraw the withdrawal for the Lewistown access road project and the Board accepted the request, so that project is still requesting a grant.

There was no other public comment.

**Loan/Grant Allocations**

The Board decided to award grants and loans, as requested, to all airports at 100% with a few exceptions: They decided to reduce the award to larger airports and to partially fund weather cameras. There was discussion as to what defines a large airport and they agreed those were Butte, Great Falls, and Helena as they have commercial service. The Board awarded a \$2,000 grant for all 14 weather camera projects and

an additional \$2,500 in loan for all 13 airports who requested \$4,500. They did not offer a loan to Anaconda who only requested \$2,500 total, because it would have only been \$500 and not worth the paperwork involved in processing a loan. The Board awarded the three large airports a 73% grant, offering a loan for the remaining requested amount for only Butte because they are the only large airport who stated during the meeting that they would accept a loan. Other exceptions of the board are that they did not award Plentywood for a taxiway project because it was for private hangar access and not public access. They did not award Troy Airport because it is owned by the US Forest Service and they do not feel that the County should pay to rehabilitate the airport, additionally it was questionable whether they can receive a state grant as they are federally owned.

- **Anaconda Airport**
  - Rehabilitate Runway – Requested a grant of \$30,000.
    - \$30,000 Granted.
  - Rehabilitate Taxiway – Requested a grant of \$6,500.
    - \$6,500 Granted.
  - Rehabilitate Apron – Requested a grant of \$6,500.
    - \$6,500 Granted.
  - Install Weather Reporting Equipment (AWOS) – Requested a grant of \$37,000.
    - \$37,000 Granted.
  - Construct/Improve/Repair Fuel Farm/Utilities – Requested a grant of \$45,500.
    - \$45,500 Granted.
  - Install Weather Cameras — Requested a grant of \$2,500.
    - \$2,000 Granted.
      - First Pass – no comment, as recommended by Aeronautics.
      - Second Pass – Granted \$2,000 for weather cameras.
      - Third Pass – Keep as is.
- **Big Sandy Airport**
  - Install Weather Cameras - Requested a grant of \$4,500.
    - \$2,000 Granted.
    - Loan of \$2,500 offered.
      - First Pass - No award.
      - Second Pass – Granted \$2,000 for weather cameras.
      - Third Pass – Loan offered for remaining weather camera request.
- **Bridger Airport**
  - Install Miscellaneous NAVAIDS (windsock) – Requested a grant of \$11,000.
    - \$11,000 Granted
    - Loan of \$7,000 offered.
      - First Pass – A windsock should be a higher priority, so they want to award \$11,000 grant.
      - Second Pass – The board decided to award the rest of the project cost in loan.
      - Third Pass – Keep as is.
- **Broadus Airport**
  - Construct/Expand/Improve/Modify/Rehabilitate Building – Requested a grant of \$135,000.
    - \$135,000 Granted.

- Construct Terminal Building – Requested a grant of \$25,000.
  - \$25,000 Granted.
    - First Pass – Discussion on priority ratings and that the board should include the low priority projects at this point then work their way backwards depending on how much money is left.
    - Second Pass – There was discussion whether to support private use hangars. It was suggested to leave it in, if they decide to reduce it, they should use the multiplier to reduce all low priority projects. There is concern that doing so would reduce all low priority projects and not just hangars.
    - Third Pass – They agreed to keep as is.
- **Butte Airport**
  - Rehabilitate Apron – Requested a grant of \$221,500.
    - \$161,595 Granted.
    - Loan of \$59,805 offered.
      - First Pass – Pam Chamberlin notified the Chair that she will abstain from this discussion.
      - Second Pass – 73% grant and offered the rest in loan
      - Third Pass – Keep as is.
- **Chester Airport**
- Install Weather Cameras - Requested a grant of \$4,500.
  - \$2,000 Granted.
  - Loan of \$2,500 offered.
    - First Pass – no award
    - Second Pass – Granted \$2,000 for weather cameras.
    - Third Pass – Loan offered for remaining weather camera request.
- **Choteau Airport**
  - Rehabilitate Runway – Requested a grant of \$57,000.
    - \$57,000 Granted.
  - Rehabilitate Taxiway - Requested a grant of \$9,000.
    - \$9,000 Granted.
  - Rehabilitate Apron - Requested a grant of \$9,000.
    - \$9,000 Granted.
  - Install Guidance/other signs - Requested a grant of \$20,000.
    - \$20,000 Granted.
      - First Pass – Award 100%.
      - Second Pass – Keep as is.
      - Third Pass – Keep as is.
- **Circle Airport**
  - Rehabilitate Runway – Requested a grant of \$51,000.
    - \$51,000 Granted.
  - Improve Airport Drainage/Erosion Control– Requested a grant of \$30,000.
    - \$30,000 Granted.

- First Pass – Award 100%
  - Second Pass – Keep as is.
  - Third Pass – Keep as is.
- **Colstrip Airport**
  - Acquire Security Equipment/Install Fencing – Requested a grant of \$7,000.
    - \$7,000 Granted.
  - Install Weather Reporting Equipment (AWOS) – Requested a grant of \$33,000.
    - \$33,000 Granted.
      - First Pass – Award 100%.
      - Second Pass – Keep as is.
      - Third Pass – Keep as is.
- **Conrad Airport**
  - Rehabilitate Runway - Requested a loan of \$115,500.
    - Loan of \$115,500 offered.
  - Rehabilitate Taxiway - Requested a loan of \$24,750.
    - Loan of \$24,750 offered.
  - Rehabilitate Apron - Requested a loan of \$25,073.
    - Loan of \$25,073 offered.
  - Install Weather Cameras – Requested a grant of \$4,500.
    - \$2,000 Granted.
    - Loan of \$2,500 offered.
      - First Pass – Award loan 100% except for weather cameras.
      - Second Pass – Granted \$2,000 for weather cameras.
      - Third Pass – Loan offered for remaining weather camera request.
- **Deer Lodge Airport**
  - Expand Apron – Requested a grant of \$67,250.
    - \$67,250 Granted.
  - Acquire land/easement for development/relocation - Requested a grant of \$1,500.
    - \$1,500 Granted.
  - Acquire land/easement for approaches – Requested a grant of \$8,891.
    - \$8,891 Granted.
  - Construct/extend/improve runway safety area - Requested a grant of \$45,701.
    - \$45,701 Granted.
  - Light/Mark/Remove Obstructions – Requested a grant of \$4,763.
    - \$4,763 Granted.
      - First Pass – Award 100%.
      - Second Pass – Keep as is.
      - Third Pass – Keep as is.
- **Dillon Airport**
  - Rehabilitate Runway – Requested a grant of \$22,250.
    - \$22,250 Granted.
  - Install Weather Cameras – Requested a grant of \$4,500.
    - \$2,000 Granted.
    - Loan of \$2,500 offered.
      - First Pass – Awarded 100% except for weather cameras.

- Second Pass – Granted \$2,000 for weather cameras.
  - Third Pass – Loan offered for remaining weather camera request.
- **Ekalaka Airport**
  - Install Weather Reporting Equipment (AWOS) – Requested a grant of \$36,100.
    - \$36,100 Granted.
      - First Pass – Awarded 100%
      - Second Pass – Keep as is.
      - Third Pass – Keep as is.
- **Ennis Airport**
  - Install Weather Cameras – Requested a grant of \$4,500.
    - \$2,000 Granted.
    - Loan of \$2,500 offered.
      - First Pass – no award
      - Second Pass – Granted \$2,000 for weather cameras.
      - Third Pass – Loan offered for remaining weather camera request.
- **Fairfield Airport**
  - Rehabilitate Runway – Requested a grant of \$18,016.
    - \$18,016 Granted.
      - First Pass – There is some concern as they would like to see them complete some of the project before awarding them a third time. Awarded as recommended 100% but will come back to look at it.
      - Second Pass – Keep as is.
      - Third Pass – Discussion about awarding them a third time and the struggle for them to acquire a contractor. The Board decided to award it because we have the funds.
- **Forsyth Airport**
  - Install Weather Reporting Equipment (AWOS) – Requested a grant of \$37,000.
    - \$37,000 Granted.
      - First Pass – Awarded 100%.
      - Second Pass – Keep as is.
      - Third Pass – Keep as is.
- **Fort Benton Airport**
  - Install Weather Cameras – Requested a grant of \$4,500.
    - \$2,000 Granted.
    - Loan of \$2,500 offered.
      - First Pass – no award
      - Second Pass – Granted \$2,000 for weather cameras.
      - Third Pass – Loan offered for remaining weather camera request.
- **Geraldine Airport**
  - Acquire land/easement for approaches – Requested a grant of \$9,000.
    - \$9,000 Granted.
  - Install Weather Cameras – Requested a grant of \$4,500.
    - \$2,000 Granted.
    - Loan of \$2,500 offered.
      - First Pass – no award

- Second Pass – Granted \$2,000 for weather cameras.
  - Third Pass – Loan offered for remaining weather camera request.
- **Glasgow Airport**
  - Rehabilitate Runway Lighting/Vault – Requested a grant of \$25,318.
    - \$25,318 Granted.
      - First Pass – Awarded 100%.
      - Second Pass – Keep as is.
      - Third Pass – Keep as is.
- **Glendive Airport**
  - Conduct/Update Airport Master Plan Study – Requested a grant of \$25,000.
    - \$25,000 Granted.
      - First Pass – Awarded 100%.
      - Second Pass – Keep as is.
      - Third Pass – Keep as is.
- **Great Falls Airport**
  - Rehabilitate Taxiway – Requested a grant of \$150,000.
    - \$109,500 Granted.
      - First Pass – The board discussed pulling them out, then decided to award 100% then look at it again.
      - Second Pass - 73% grant and did not offer loan because they stated that they would not accept one.
      - Third Pass – Keep as is.
- **Hamilton Airport**
  - Construct Apron – Requested a grant of \$15,000.
    - \$15,000 Granted.
      - First Pass – Awarded 100%.
      - Second Pass – Keep as is.
      - Third Pass – Keep as is.
- **Harlowton Airport**
  - Acquire land/easement for approaches – Requested a grant of \$7,000
    - \$7,000 Granted.
  - Construct Terminal Building – Requested a grant of \$24,500.
    - \$24,500 Granted.
      - First Pass – Awarded 100%.
      - Second Pass – Keep as is.
      - Third Pass – Keep as is.
- **Havre Airport**
  - Construct/Expand/Improve/Modify/Rehab Bldg. – Requested a grant of \$150,000.
    - \$150,000 Granted.
      - First Pass – Greg thinks that this is the best use of grant money because if it falls down, it will cost much more to rebuild and that they should maintain current structures. Awarded 100% of request.
      - Second Pass – Keep as is.
      - Third Pass – Keep as is.

- **Helena Airport**
  - Construct Taxiway – Requested a grant of \$103,299.
    - \$75,408 Granted.
      - First Pass – The board is not completely supportive of hangar access funding, but awarded 100% and will review next pass.
      - Second Pass - 73% grant and did not offer loan because they stated that they would not accept one.
      - Third Pass – Keep as is.
- **Jordan Airport**
  - Install Weather Cameras – Requested a grant of \$4,500.
    - \$2,000 Granted.
    - Loan of \$2,500 offered.
      - First Pass – no award.
      - Second Pass – Granted \$2,000 for weather cameras.
      - Third Pass – Loan offered for remaining weather camera request.
- **Laurel Airport**
  - Rehabilitate Runway – Requested a grant of \$18,000.
    - \$18,000 Granted.
  - Rehabilitate Taxiway – Requested a grant of \$10,000.
    - \$10,000 Granted.
  - Rehabilitate Apron – Requested a grant of \$8,600.
    - \$8,600 Granted.
  - Install Weather Reporting Equipment (AWOS) – Requested a grant of \$38,000.
    - \$38,000 Granted.
      - First Pass – Award 100% then relook at AWOS next pass.
      - Second Pass – Keep as is.
      - Third Pass – Keep as is.
- **Lewistown Airport**
  - Construct/Expand/Improve/Modify/Rehab. Access Road – Requested a grant of \$41,000.
    - \$41,000 Granted.
  - Construct/Rehab. Parking Lot – Requested a grant of \$97,000.
    - \$97,000 Granted.
      - First Pass – Greg Smith and Tim Robertson notified the Chair that they would abstain from discussion. Award 100% then relook at next pass.
      - Second Pass – Keep as is.
      - Third Pass – Keep as is.
- **Libby Airport – Withdrew project on 1/8/2024.**
- **Philipsburg Airport**
  - Install/Rehabilitate Airport Beacons – Requested a grant of \$65,000.
    - \$65,000 Granted.
      - First Pass – Award 100% but discuss later.
      - Second Pass – Keep as is.
      - Third Pass – Keep as is.
- **Plains Airport**

- Install Miscellaneous NAVAIDS (windsock) – Requested a grant of \$15,250.
  - \$15,250 Granted.
- Construct Terminal Building – Requested a grant of \$83,000.
  - \$83,000 Granted.
- Install Weather Cameras – Requested a grant of \$4,500.
  - \$2,000 Granted.
  - Loan of \$2,500 offered.
    - First Pass – Awarded 100% on all except weather cameras but will come back later to discuss.
    - Second Pass – Granted \$2,000 for weather cameras.
    - Third Pass – Loan offered for remaining weather camera request.
- **Plentywood Airport**
  - Rehabilitate Apron – Requested a grant of \$102,000.
    - \$0 Granted.
    - Loan of \$0 offered.
      - First Pass – The Board did not support funding private hangar aprons and does not recommend funding as it stands. They feel that it should be part of the hangar maintenance and a private responsibility. The board agreed not to award this project.
      - Second Pass – Keep as no award.
      - Third Pass – Discussed offering them a loan but they stated they would not accept one in their application.
- **Polson Airport - Withdrew all projects on 1/11/2024.**
- **Red Lodge Airport**
  - Install Weather Cameras – Requested a grant of \$4,500.
    - \$2,000 Granted.
    - Loan of \$2,500 offered.
      - First Pass – no award.
      - Second Pass – Granted \$2,000 for weather cameras.
      - Third Pass – Loan offered for remaining weather camera request.
- **Shelby Airport**
  - Install Weather Cameras – Requested a grant of \$4,500.
    - \$2,000 Granted.
    - Loan of \$2,500 offered.
      - First Pass – no award.
      - Second Pass – Granted \$2,000 for weather cameras.
      - Third Pass – Loan offered for remaining weather camera request.
- **Sidney Airport**
  - Acquire Snow Removal Equipment – Requested a grant of \$87,600.
    - \$87,600 Granted
  - Conduct/Update Airport Master Plan Study – Requested a grant of \$30,000.
    - \$30,000 Granted
      - First Pass – fund 100%.
      - Second Pass – Keep as is.
      - Third Pass – Keep as is.



- **St. Ignatius Airport**
  - Construct Taxiway – Requested a grant of \$133,333 and a loan of \$66,666.
    - \$133,333 Granted.
    - Loan of \$66,666 offered.
      - First Pass – fund 100%, as requested.
      - Second Pass – Keep as is.
      - Third Pass – Keep as is.
- **Stanford Airport**
  - Install/Rehabilitate Airport Beacons – Requested a grant of \$14,000.
    - \$14,000 Granted.
      - First Pass – fund 100%.
      - Second Pass – Keep as is.
      - Third Pass – Keep as is.
- **Superior Airport**
  - Construct/Expand/Improve/Modify/Rehabilitate Building – Requested a grant of \$80,000.
    - \$80,000 Granted.
      - First Pass – fund 100%.
      - Second Pass – Keep as is.
      - Third Pass – Keep as is.
- **Thompson Falls**
  - Acquire Security Equipment/Install Fencing – Requested a grant of \$8,100.
    - \$8,100 Granted.
  - Construct Terminal Building – Requested a grant of \$83,000.
    - \$83,000 Granted
      - First Pass – fund 100%.
      - Second Pass – Keep as is.
      - Third Pass – Keep as is.
- **Three Forks Airport**
  - Acquire Snow Removal Equipment – Requested a grant of \$6,500.
    - \$6,500 Granted.
  - Construct Taxiway – Requested a grant of \$17,666.
    - \$17,666 Granted.
      - First Pass – fund 100%.
      - Second Pass – Keep as is.
      - Third Pass – Keep as is.
- **Townsend Airport**
  - Rehabilitate Runway – Requested a grant of \$290,000.
    - \$290,000 Granted.
  - Rehabilitate Taxiway – Requested a grant of \$60,000.
    - \$ 60,000 Granted.
  - Rehabilitate Apron – Requested a grant of \$133,000.
    - \$133,000 Granted.
  - Construct Taxiway – Requested a grant of \$22,000.
    - \$22,000 Granted.
  - Expand Apron – Requested a grant of \$50,000.

- \$50,000 Granted.
  - Rehabilitate Runway Lighting/Electrical Vault – Requested a grant of \$48,000.
    - \$48,000 Granted.
  - Install Runway vertical/visual Guidance System - Requested a grant of \$8,000.
    - \$8,000 Granted.
  - Install/Rehabilitate Airport Beacons - Requested a grant of \$6,000.
    - \$6,000 Granted
      - First Pass – Is there a possibility that the apron and taxiway expansions would be FAA funded? FAA said it is not likely. The Board thinks it would be the most efficient time to do those projects while they are rehabilitating pavements and would rather award it now. Awarded 100% then will discuss next pass.
      - Second Pass – Keep as is.
      - Third Pass – Keep as is.
- **Troy Airport**
  - Rehabilitate Runway – Requested a grant of \$425,000.
    - \$0 Granted.
    - Loan of \$0 offered.
  - Rehabilitate Taxiway – Requested a grant of \$75,000.
    - \$0 Granted.
      - \$0 offered First Pass – The board is not in favor of awarding this because it is USFS, and the County is taking responsibility when they have two other airports to maintain.
      - Second Pass – Keep as is.
      - Third Pass – The board would like us to reach out and ask them to reapply next year with a better plan for how they are maintaining the pavement and provide more information as far as the use of the airport, and that they would like to see more participation from the USFS. The board suggested that Aeronautics write a letter to them, but they decided to have the consultant communicate with them to discuss future applications and he agreed to do so.
- **Turner Airport**
  - Rehabilitate Runway – Requested a grant of \$22,550.
    - \$22,550 Granted.
  - Rehabilitate Runway Lighting/Electrical Vault – Requested a grant of \$33,950.
    - \$33,950 Granted.
      - First Pass – fund 100%.
      - Second Pass – Keep as is.
      - Third Pass – Keep as is.
- **Twin Bridges Airport**
  - Conduct/Update Airport Master Plan Study – Requested a grant of \$6,000.
    - \$6,000 Granted.
  - Install Weather Cameras – Requested a grant of \$4,500.
    - \$2,000 Granted.
    - Loan of \$2,500 offered.

- First Pass – fund 100%.
- Second Pass – Granted \$2,000 for weather cameras.
- Third Pass – Loan offered for remaining weather camera request.
- **White Sulphur Springs Airport**
  - Install Weather Cameras – Requested a grant of \$4,500.
    - \$2,000 Granted.
    - Loan of \$2,500 offered.
      - First Pass – no award
      - Second Pass – Granted \$2,000 for weather cameras.
      - Third Pass – Loan offered for remaining weather camera request.

*Tom Schoenleben made a motion to accept the proposed board allocations for grants and loans as presented in the FY 25 loan and grant analysis. Greg Smith seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.*

*Bill Lepper stated that he would entertain a motion to adjourn. Tim Robertson motioned to adjourn the meeting. Pam Chamberlin seconded the motion which passed unanimously.*

*The meeting adjourned at 10:35 a.m.*