

June 12, 2012

Montana Aeronautics Board
Helena, MT
June 12, 2012

Aeronautics Board

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

Department of Transportation

Debbie Alke, Administrator
Carol Grell-Morris, MDT Legal
Wade Cebulski, Airport/Airways Bureau

Others

Gary Gates, FAA

Call to order/approval of minutes – 9:00 a.m.

*Bill Hunt made a motion to accept the January 25 and January 26, 2012 minutes as written.
Roger Lincoln seconded the motion that passed unanimously.*

Public Comment

Chairman McKenna called for public comment. There was no public comment made.

Grant Extensions/Board Discussion

There were no grant extensions submitted.

Debbie Alke updated the board on the Fort Peck grant. Debbie said Bob Lipscomb, Chairman of the Valley County Airport Commission sent a letter explaining that the equipment had been purchased for the lighting but the installation fees were higher than anticipated. They returned the unused portion of the grant in the amount of \$3,478.19 to the Aeronautics Division. Chairman McKenna asked if there were any safeguards in place to ensure money disbursed for grants is used for the right purpose. Carol Grell-Morris said the language is in the board rules. It says a recipient of a grant or loan must retain all records of transactions and disbursements of grant or loan money for a period of three years after the completion of the project for which the grant or loan was rewarded. By accepting a grant or loan a recipient agrees that upon reasonable notice the State of Montana may audit the records supporting the acquisitions and disbursements of the grant or loan money. This does tell us we have the ability to audit and request those records. Debbie Alke said she would be happy to discuss with MDT's internal audit unit for inclusion in next year's audit plan. Chairman McKenna said she thinks it's a good idea. Gary Gates said the federal projects require that the airport owner give them a report that they have completed the work as they have indicated and often the Federal Aviation Administration will inspect the work. They do an audit and thorough check on the federal portion. Fred Leistiko suggested Debbie ask that those airports without federal funding be recommended for audit.

Fred Leistiko said there is a lot of misinformation circulating about the Kalispell City Airport. They thought the council was going to approve the upgrade that would correct a lot of deficiencies of the airport. But voted instead to put the issue on the next ballot.

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Debbie Alke said Three Forks has been in the process of trying to comply with state statute to protect their airport and adopt an Airport Affected Area Regulation. The Gallatin County Commission held a recent meeting and it did pass two to one. Gary Gates said they recently got a call from Culbertson and because of oil activity in that part of the state there was a proposed subdivision right next to the airport, this is a location that has not been successful in creating an Airport Affected Area Regulation and they are in a hurry now to acquire land and protect that airport. We are seeing more of that in communities.

Debbie Alke said Don DeGraw is no longer airport manager in West Yellowstone. He left for another career opportunity at LaGuardia airport. We are in process of recruiting and will have top applicant come to West Yellowstone next week. The advanced bookings on SkyWest are looking strong. We talked about financial status at that airport in January, nothing changed since then. We have decided not to go forward with construction of the fire equipment building, but will proceed with the wildlife assessment and electrical upgrade. Chairman McKenna asked if any progress had been made as far as tourist tax for the airport. Debbie Alke said Don had discussions with mayor; it appears that the town is interested in airport but financially they could only offer a small amount of financial assistance. Discussions will continue once a new manager is on board.

Debbie Alke said congress passed an FAA reauthorization bill in April. The match for federal projects changes from 95/5 to 90/10 (90% federal/10% local) effective immediately. Gary Gates said a few projects have dropped out because of the local match increase.

Debbie Alke said Representative Rehberg's office has been active on the Super Unicomms that have been decommissioned. Debbie said FAA has received a resubmittal of documentation from Potomac Aviation and are in the process of reviewing it and hope to have a resolution soon. Debbie said she will continue to follow up.

Debbie Alke said no new information on the UAV movement. FAA will designate six test sites around the country but that is still a year out.

Fred Leistiko made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Fred Lark seconded the motion.

Tricia McKenna, Chairman

Roger Lincoln, Secretary