

Montana Aeronautics Board
Helena, MT
June 12, 2013

Aeronautics Board

Tricia McKenna, Board Chair
Rob Buckles
Chris Edwards
Bill Hunt
Fred Lark
Roger Lincoln
Chuck Manning
Walt McNutt

Department of Transportation

Debbie Alke, MDT Aeronautics
Carol Grell-Morris, MDT Legal
Wade Cebulski, MDT Aeronautics
Patty Kautz, MDT Aeronautics

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

Fred Lark made a motion to accept the January 22 and January 23, 2013 minutes as written. Chuck Manning seconded the motion that passed unanimously.

Public Comment

- Chairman McKenna said in accordance with Montana Code Annotated Section 2-3-103, the Board of Aeronautics will hold a public comment period. Please note the public comment section is the public's opportunity to address the board on any topic. While the Board cannot take action on the issues presented, the Board will listen to comments and may ask that the issue be placed on a subsequent agenda for Board discussion.
- No public comment.

Grant Request/Dutton Airport

- Debbie Alke said the Dutton Airport sent in its application for a grant in time for the January, 2013 meeting. When the application was received it was inadvertently mis-filed and not provided to the board for consideration. In checking with MDT legal it is within legal limits to review the application as it was received in the office prior to the November 15, 2012 deadline. *Fred Lark moved to accept the application and offer a \$2,750 grant to Dutton Airport. Chris Edwards seconded the motion that passed unanimously.*
- Wade Cebulski said Chinook is requesting an extension of a \$5,000 grant caused by a delay due to higher than expected project costs. The project is planned to be done this year. *Chuck Manning moved to approve the request for extension. Fred Lark seconded the motion that passed unanimously.*
- Wade Cebulski said Deer Lodge is requesting an extension for a \$7,000 grant just in case they don't complete the project before the deadline. Chairman McKenna asked what the deadline is for extensions. Debbie Alke said it is the third Friday in May. This year we extended the deadline, according to the administrative rules which requires notifying the sponsor and posting the date on our website. *Chris Edwards moved to approve the request for extension. Fred Lark seconded the motion that passed unanimously.*
- Wade Cebulski said Ronan asked for an extension of a \$25,000 loan and grant as it has been delayed because of difficulties on land acquisition. The project will be completed but not by the June deadline. *Chuck Manning moved to approve the request for extension. Bill Hunt seconded the motion that passed unanimously.*

Board Discussion

- Fred Lark asked for an update on met towers and drones. Debbie Alke said in last legislative session Roy Hollandsworth sponsored legislation for the aerial applicators and other members of the aviation industry to require that metrological towers be marked if over 50 feet tall. The original bill required marking and lighting but the wind tower company agreed to support the bill if the requirement for lighting was removed. There will be a map on the Aeronautics website that will show these towers, including the lat & long. Debbie said in regards to drones, congress mandated that six test sites be identified by March, which still has not happened. There has not been a lot of information shared by the feds in that regard. Debbie said there is a website that shows the areas that applied for consideration; she will send the link out to the board.
- Fred Lark asked about military operating areas in Montana and if there has been any development on that. Debbie Alke said there has been no movement on the Powder River MOA expansion, the department of defense still does not have the completed EIS published, and negotiations with the tribe and the state historic preservation offices are ongoing. An article in a North Dakota newspaper said operations are expected to begin in the fall but she feels that is optimistic. Fred Lark said he knows the Hays MOA will still operate and who would use that area. Debbie Alke said she hasn't heard but neither are exclusive to Montana use.
- Wade Cebulski said they have been working with the airports district office on the Loran C tower and it sounds like it is now lit and the problem alleviated for the time being. Roger Lincoln said he believes in the next twelve months they plan to totally decommission and remove the tower. The lighting is still very erratic and feels we need to keep on it as pilots don't always check NOTAMS. Debbie Alke said she will put another call in to the feds to get an update.
- Debbie Alke said MDT internal audit will be performing two audits on non-federal monies awarded by the board. Hardin and Bridger are the two airports that were selected for this audit.
- Debbie Alke said we have talked about the financial situation in West Yellowstone for many years. With Director Tooley's help we have received approval to use highway non-restricted funds of \$150,000 beginning next fiscal year to support the airport. The Governor's office supports this transfer for three years and has encouraged us to work with the congressional delegation to get the problematic deed restrictions removed. Tim Reardon is currently reviewing citations to make sure when we ask we know the solid process. Senator Baucus' office has said they will support us in our request. A letter from Governor Bullock will be sent to DOT Secretary Foxx in the next few weeks. It won't be an immediate cash infusion but will give us opportunities to pursue areas for additional revenue. The biggest being able to charge forest service landing fees. Debbie Alke said we just hired a new airport manager, Jeff Kadlec started in March.
- Fred Lark asked Debbie if there has been word of extension of funding for Essential Air Service. Debbie Alke said she has been told they should have something in the next few weeks.
- Chairman McKenna said the next meeting is scheduled for January 21 & 22, 2014 for allocations of loans and grants. She would like each board member to do a short report from the group they represent on the first day.
- Chairman McKenna asked if Roger Lincoln wanted to continue on as secretary of the board, Roger agreed.

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- *Being no further business Fred Lark moved to adjourn the meeting, Bill Hunt seconded the motion, the meeting was adjourned at 9:45 a.m.*

Tricia McKenna, Chairman

Roger Lincoln, Secretary