

Montana Aeronautics Board
Helena, MT
June 11, 2014

Aeronautics Board

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

Department of Transportation

Mike Tooley, MDT Director
Debbie Alke, MDT Aeronautics
Carol Grell-Morris, MDT Legal
Wade Cebulski, MDT Aeronautics
Tim Conway, MDT Aeronautics
Patty Kautz, MDT Aeronautics

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

- Chairman McKenna called the meeting to order and asked for public comment in accordance with Montana Code Annotated Section 2-3-103; the Board of Aeronautics held 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.
- *Bill Hunt made a motion to accept the January 21 and January 22, 2014 minutes as written. Fred Leistiko seconded the motion that passed unanimously.*

FY14 Grant Extensions

- **Bridger Airport** – Wade Cebulski said a lot of this project is volunteer work so that is part of the problem; they are trying to do the best they can with the money they have. Project is well under way they will finish at any time. *Chris Edwards made a motion to offer the grant extension. Fred Leistiko seconded the motion that passed unanimously.*
- **Colstrip Airport** – Wade Cebulski said the bid was higher than anticipated, plan to rebid and combine with Forsyth to get a lower bid on the project. *Chuck Manning made a motion to offer the loan/grant extension. Fred Lark seconded the motion that passed unanimously.*
- **Columbus Airport** – Wade Cebulski said the FAA grant wasn't issued until August, 2013 they estimate the project will not be completed until December, 2014. The delay in government funding delayed some of these grants. *Chris Edwards made a motion to offer the loan and grant extension to Columbus, and also consider an extension on Culbertson for their loan and grant and Deer Lodge on their grant since they are delayed for the same reason. Fred Leistiko seconded the motion that passed unanimously.*
- **Three Forks** – Debbie Alke said they received the request for funds yesterday so they no longer need an extension. Wade Cebulski said he still does not have a signature but it is supposed to happen at a meeting tonight. They are assuming they will get the signature then. Debbie Alke said to be safe she would ask that the board consider their request.

Fred Lark made a motion to offer the grant extension to Three Forks. Walt McNutt seconded the motion that passed unanimously.

Loan/Grant Application/Administrative Rules

- Chairman McKenna said at the January board meeting Carol Grell-Morris reminded the board that the administrative rules are reviewed every couple of years and asked for comments on those rules to be submitted by May 1. Tim Conway said he did not receive any comments by the May 1 deadline, he wants to be sure no one has comments that they have thought of since then. Fred Leistiko said he thinks we need to review the procedures for addressing multiple applications from airport sponsors. He thinks there is an inequity of how they are doing that. Maybe the applicants with multiple applications can prioritize. He doesn't know if it's something we need to put in rules or if the board can take that into consideration from here forward. Tim Conway said the new online application process will be up this coming year. The sponsor will only be able to submit a single application for all work they requested. He anticipates that Aeronautics will break out similar types of work based on priority and let the board act on those however they choose. The board has the option of asking Aeronautics to identify in their award what the money is to be spent on or not spent on. Carol Grell-Morris said this is a good point that we need to discuss. We have several issues one is the new system, second is the FAA part of it we don't want to be paying for projects that haven't been approved and we don't want these coming up year after year with no one understanding where the money went. Let's fix it now if it's confusing. Debbie Alke asked the board to let us have a discussion internally and report back, we can schedule another conference call in the next few months so we have a process in place before the next cycle. Chairman McKenna said in the meantime any suggestions or comments please send to Tim and Debbie and copy her. Chairman McKenna asked Tim when he wants to have the online application up and going. Tim Conway said the development should be completed by August 1; there will be a period of testing after that. We want to be done by October 1. Chairman McKenna asked the board to have additional suggestions/comments in by July 10, the sooner the better. Chris Edwards said he would like part of the application to say they acknowledge that they will use the money on what it's awarded for. Chuck Manning asked if that could all be done with a standardized form – if they ask for funds to be released to specify what those funds will be used for. Wade Cebulski said he reviews their application to assure it is in line with their grant. But that only applies to federally funded projects.
- Chris Edwards said he has one comment, one suggestion he made was to have on the application whether or not they can do this project without the loan/grant. He understands they are not accurate a lot of the times and do the project anyway. We need to make them more accountable; if they say they can't do the project without funding and do it anyway Aeronautics would know and feels this is something we need to track. It's important for us as a board to have that information. Chairman McKenna said she had suggested some of those be required responses on the on-line application. Tim Conway said the information is only as good as what the sponsor provides us. Chris Edwards said he feels whether they can do the project with or without funds is an important issue for the board to consider and helps the board make decisions. Debbie Alke read the statement from the application "If your request for the grant and/or loan

amount on the previous page was rejected, would the airport still have the financial means to complete the project, yes or no.” Fred Leistiko feels they are going to say no so the board gives them full consideration. Maybe we need to rephrase. Chairman McKenna asked if they could add a comment section. Debbie Alke commented that the funds aren’t designed just to help those with no funding. Chris Edwards said it’s a valuable tool when funding is limited. Chairman McKenna said she is confident that the board acts appropriately and doesn’t put the application aside because they say they can do the project without funding. Tim Conway said he will make sure it’s included in the online application, and see if there is a way the board can review the online process.

Other Business

- Chairman McKenna reminded the board the next meeting is scheduled for January 21 & 22, 2015 in Helena. Rob, Chuck, Chris and Fred Lark terms will expire December 31 but they will serve until they are replaced. You are welcome to reapply.
- Debbie Alke said the department will be updating its economic impact study that was last done in 2008. MDT research committee has approved this project for funding. Chris Edwards has been asked to serve on the technical panel. It’s in the early stages but wanted to let the board know.
- Debbie Alke said concerning Powder River MOA the comment period closed beginning of May. FAA is waiting on final EIS from the Air Force. It appears the Air Force may be having some difficulty in negotiations with the tribes. She and Tim Conway will travel to Baker on Friday to discuss the next steps. We will continue to remain engaged in this process. She will resend out the letter from the governor to the board.
- Fred Lark asked about drone instruction at Rocky Mountain College and where they were going to be doing their trial flying. Debbie Alke said she does not know she can follow up with Dan Hargrove and email the board with more information.
- Fred Lark asked if the board should resubmit their comments to Tim. Chairman McKenna said no need to resubmit.
- Fred Lark asked if there was anything new on the weather towers. Debbie Alke said at the last session they were successful in passing legislation that requires those MET towers over 50’ be lighted and marked. We are asking anyone that sees one to self-report and we will follow up. Information is also included on our website that shows where these towers are located. It is a misdemeanor if they violate the law. This may be something Roger would want to discuss with his group and keep us in the loop on it.
- Fred Lark asked for the link to reapply for the board. Director Tooley said if the board members are interested in reapplying to let Debbie Alke know and we can take that input as part of the process.
- ***Bill Hunt made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:15 a.m. Fred Leistiko seconded the motion that passed unanimously.***

Tricia McKenna, Chairman

Roger Lincoln, Secretary