

Montana Aeronautics Board
Helena, MT
January 21, 2015

Aeronautics Board

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

Department of Transportation

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

Guests

Scott Eaton, FAA Helena Airports District Office
Rick Donaldson, Robert Peccia & Associates
Alice Flesch, MDT Civil Rights

Call to order /Approval of Minutes – 1:00 p.m.

- *Chairman McKenna asked for motion, comments or discussion on the July 24, 2014 minutes. Bill Hunt made a motion to approve the July 24, 2014 minutes as distributed. Walt McNutt seconded the motion that passed unanimously.*

EEO Training

- Alice Flesch of the MDT Civil Rights Bureau conducted EEO training as it is required every two years.

MDT Update

- Debbie Alke said MDT currently has 8 bills they are carrying however none are aviation related. We are watching several Drone bills and another bill on community airport assistance program.
- Debbie said the Air Force just released its record of decision on Power River Training MOA and they adopted their preferred alternative. At this point, the record of decision will go to the FAA. Senators Tester and Daines are planning to introduce an amendment to the keystone pipeline bill, the amendment says that the secretary of the Air Force will not approve the proposed Powder River training area over Baker, in the Bakken area. Fallon County has hired a lobbyist and they are talking legal action if this does not go through.
- Debbie Alke said she talked to Dan Hargrove at Rocky Mountain College and they have created a curriculum for a minor in UAS. They currently have a course taught by Scott Wilson, and they have also partnered with an operator in the Flathead who will go to Rocky to do hands on training for the students in the class.
- Debbie Alke said this year the grant fund has \$325,000 in funds available with the previous year's closer to \$400,000. We had United and Delta airlines file for rebates

which affected that fund. The pavement preservation fund is down this year but should increase to around \$75,000 per year with current collections and rebates.

- Tim Conway announced that two more audits were underway; one for Ronan and one for Glasgow. There were two audits last year for Bridger and Hardin with no findings. Fred Leistiko asked for a paragraph on how the audit came out.
- Tim Conway went over a few work items explaining the spreadsheet and color coding.
- Director Tooley stopped by and gave an update on the department.
- Debbie Alke said commercial air service is up 9.2% in Montana. Cape Air is doing extremely well. Sidney boarded close to 12,000 in 2012; in 2013 they dropped to about 9,100 because of the transition to Cape Air. In 2014 they had close to 12,000 boarding's. Debbie asked the 135 operators to report their numbers in 2013 so they could have primary status. Primary status airports are eligible for \$1 million in federal funding. Because of this change the pavement preservation funds will now go to 8 airports as Sidney is considered a primary airport.

Board Updates

- Each board member gave a brief update on the group they represent for the Aeronautics Board.

Review Loan/Grant Applications

- **Anaconda** – request is to acquire security equipment and install perimeter fencing. Good to go with FAA, requesting a \$47,275 grant.
- **Big Sandy** – request is to rehabilitate runway, apron, and taxiway. Good to go with FAA, requesting \$12,300 in grant and loan.
- **Bridger** – This is a non-federal airport requesting \$8,000 grant to rehabilitate runway.
- **Canyon Ferry** – This is a non-federal airport requesting \$5,140 grant to acquire security equipment and install perimeter fencing.
- **Chester** – request is for pavement maintenance and land acquisition. Good to go with FAA, requesting \$14,850 in grant and loan. Fred Lark asked what the time limit was on that easement. Rick Donaldson said they will be withdrawing that portion of the application tomorrow (easement only).
- **Chinook** – request is for pavement maintenance. Good to go with FAA, requesting a \$7,815 grant.
- **Choteau** – Request is to install weather reporting equipment. Good to go with FAA, requesting an \$8,250 grant and loan.
- **Columbus** – Request is for runway rehabilitation. Good to go with FAA, requesting an \$8,333 grant and loan.
- **Conrad** – Request is to install miscellaneous NAVAIDS/Approach Aids. Not federal eligible. Requesting a \$14,000 grant.
- **Deer Lodge** – Withdrew the application to construct/Extend/Improve runway safety area. Request is to conduct/update the Airport Master Plan Study (this is retroactive) and acquire land easement for approaches. Requesting a grant for \$18,530.
- **Ennis** – Request is for apron rehabilitation (not eligible for FAA funding at this time but they support), to acquire a land/easement for development/relocation (not planned with FAA), conduct/update Airport Master Plan Study (good to go with FAA) and rehabilitate runway (supported by FAA but not planned at this time). Requesting a grant for \$111,500.

- **Fairfield** – Request is for apron construction. Non-fed airport. Requesting a grant for \$51,100.
- **Forsyth** – Request is for runway rehabilitation and lighting rehabilitation. Good to go with FAA. Requesting a grant for \$101,840.
- **Fort Benton** – Request is for runway rehabilitation. All good to go with FAA with exception of taxiway rehabilitation. Requesting a grant and loan in the amount of \$394,220 each.
- **Geraldine** – Request is to conduct/update airport master plan study and conduct environmental assessment, environmental impact statement, feasibility study/update. The airport master plan is an ongoing project. The Environmental portion is not planned for FAA. Requesting a grant and loan in the amount of \$2,850 each.
- **Glasgow** – Withdrew their application.
- **Glendive** – Withdrew their application.
- **Hamilton** – Request is for runway rehabilitation and environmental assessment, impact statement, feasibility study/update. Not planned project with FAA. Requesting a grant for \$10,819. Scott Eaton noted they can still use their entitlements, NPE funding is available.
- **Hardin** – Request is for an environmental assessment/environmental impact statement, feasibility study/update for fuel facility and Snow removal equipment/chemical storage building. They are requesting a grant for \$16,340. Snow removal equipment/chemical storage building is good to go with FAA the assessment/study is an ongoing project.
- **Harlem** – Request is for pavement maintenance. Good to go with the FAA. Requesting a grant for \$6,175.
- **Harlowton** – Request is for pavement maintenance, cannot do project without funding. FAA is good to go with project. They are asking for a grant of \$114,250.
- **Havre** – Request is for runway rehabilitation, cannot do project without assistance. FAA is good to go with project. They are asking for a loan and grant in the amount of \$175,630 each.
- **Hot Springs** – This is a non-federal project. Request is to update lighting rehabilitate airport beacons. They are asking for a grant in the amount of \$30,000.
- **Laurel** – Request is for land acquisition and runway construction. Scott Eaton said the fencing will not happen this year. FAA is good to go with the rest. They are requesting a grant and loan in the amount of \$98,800 each.
- **Lewistown** – Request to purchase a bus barn and remodel it to use for snow removal equipment storage, they are asking for a \$19,150 grant and \$19,150 loan. Scott Eaton said not planned with the FAA.
- **Libby** – Request is for runway rehabilitation. Scott Eaton said the FAA is not participating at this time. They are requesting a \$5,000 grant.
- **Malta** – Request is for pavement maintenance, FAA is good to go with this project. They are requesting an \$8,280 grant.
- **Miles City** – Request is for runway rehabilitation, this is an on-going project and they need funding to complete the project. They are requesting an \$188,975 grant and an \$188,975 loan.
- **Poplar** – Request is for runway rehabilitation. Scott Eaton said he has not confirmed if they are going through with this project, the FAA supports them and wants them to do the project but Poplar is having second thoughts. They are requesting a grant and loan in the amount of \$9,150 each.

- **Saint Ignatius** – This is a non-federal project. They need money to complete the pavement rehabilitation. Requesting a \$40,000 grant.
- **Scobey** – Request is for a \$12,153 grant for runway rehabilitation.
- **Sidney** – Withdrew their application.
- **Polson** – Debbie Alke said they had an issue with the lease they had with the tribe that expired several years ago and they have been trying to renegotiate. There is one tract of land that they need to operate that airport the appraisal came in at \$360,000 but the tribe wants \$500,000 minimum. The FAA said they need to get some kind of a waiver that will allow Polson to pay more than it appraised. Without this tract of land the only way they could continue to operate this airport is to change existing federal law or to get tribal consent. The request is for runway rehabilitation they are asking for a \$9,150 grant and a \$9,150 loan. Scott Eaton said the FAA is good to go but the land issue is holding everything up. Debbie Alke said if nothing happens they would have to cease operations of that airport. Their only option is to pay the \$500,000 for the land. Rob Buckles said he feels we need to educate the tribe about the importance of that airport; he would be willing to get involved in that. Debbie Alke said that is a good idea she will talk to Rob about it afterwards.
- **Stevensville** – Request is for runway rehabilitation, they need funding to complete. Asking for a \$5,000 grant, project is good to go with the FAA.
- **Superior** – Request is for a pilots lounge. They need funding to complete this project asking for a \$5,000 grant.
- **Three Forks** – Request is for an environmental assessment, environmental impact statement and feasibility study/update, do not have funding to complete this project. Asking for a \$5,000 grant, good to go with FAA.
- **West Yellowstone** – Request is to acquire snow removal equipment and taxiway rehabilitation. Debbie Alke said the solar snow removal plan is no longer acceptable with the FAA; plan is to get a multi-functional unit so it can be used for other things. Requesting a \$27,500 grant and a \$27,500 loan. Project is good to go with the FAA.
- **White Sulphur Springs** – Request is for pavement maintenance, asking for an \$8,750 grant and an \$8,750 loan. Good to go with the FAA.
- **Wolf Point** – Request is to improve airport drainage/erosion control and miscellaneous improvements. They are asking for a \$2,510 grant. The project came in higher than originally anticipated.
- *Being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 4:55 p.m.*

Tricia McKenna, Chairman

Roger Lincoln, Secretary