

Montana Aeronautics Board
Montana Department of Transportation; Auditorium
2704 Prospect Avenue, Helena, MT
Wednesday, January 18, 2017

Aeronautics Board

Tricia McKenna, Board Chair
Chris Edwards, Vice-Chair
Robert Buckles
Dan Hargrove
Bill Hunt, Jr
Fred Lark
Roger Lincoln
Walt McNutt

Department of Transportation

Debbie Alke, MDT Aeronautics
Wade Cebulski, MDT Aeronautics
Tim Conway, MDT Aeronautics
Carol Grell-Morris, MDT Legal
Pat Wise, MDT Deputy Director

Guests

Lance Bowser, Robert Picca & Associates
Rachel Court, Senator Jon Tester's Office
Nigel Davis, Morrison-Maierle Engineering
Scott Eaton, Federal Aviation Administration

Jim Greil, DOWL Engineering
Nancy Kriston, Federal Aviation Administration
Tim Roberston, Lewistown Airport Board
Nathan Schroht, KLJ Engineering

Call to Order / Approval of Minutes

- Chairman McKenna called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m., opening with the Pledge of Allegiance.
- Introduction of all board members to the public.

Fred Lark made a motion to approve the June 1, 2016 board minutes as presented. Bill Hunt seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Aeronautics Update - Debbie Alke, Aeronautics Division Administrator

- Legislative Update
 - Legislative Fiscal Division has proposed legislation that all state special revenue funds that do not retain their own interest will receive a five percent budget reduction; \$17,500 reduction to grant and loan fund and \$3,500 to the pavement preservation fund. MDT is hoping to get the budget back. The Board can have a contingency to allocate the remaining budget authority at June telecon meeting.
 - Commercial Air Service Grant - A proposed bill to enable commercial service airports to apply for grants to enhance or entice commercial air service to those airports. Program will be administered by MDT, not the Aeronautics Board. This will be funded by a one percent tax increase on rental cars.
 - Central Assessment vs. Aircraft Registration – A proposed bill to clean up the language relative to Part 135 carriers.

- Several placeholders are in but no text yet regarding airport environmental issues, generally revise aeronautics laws, revise laws of operations and services of the Department of Transportation, and revise aviation fuel taxes. There are also a variety of air ambulance and Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) bills.
- Beacon Update - Some beacons have gone dark and MDT has not serviced them due to loss of staff and priority. MDT will service McDonald Pass, Spokane Hill, and Strawberry beacons for historical factors. McDonald Pass is on the historical register. We didn't advertise that they were out to gauge use, received very little input. Issue has become very controversial with public comment at Legislative Budget Sub-Committee Hearing to testify in support of the beacons.
- Powder River Complex Update – They have formed a council of interested stakeholders to discuss issues surrounding the complex. The only issue identified is communication issues. If you are flying in the area and experience any kind of issue, notify the Air Force immediately.
- Yellowstone Airport – Service started flying five days early without subsidy and boardings are up almost seven percent. Hoping to get to 10,000 enplanement figure to receive the \$1 million federal entitlements. SkyWest will begin May 25th this season. A few years ago, the airport was not doing well, however with the new airport manager, Jeff Kadlec, it has made a turnaround.

MDT Update – MDT Deputy Director, Pat Wise

- Legislative Sub-Committee Budget Hearing was early this year with two questions for Aeronautics. The first was about the air space around Baker Airport and the second was about the decommissioning of the airway beacons.

Tim Conway, Airports & Airways Bureau Chief

- Introduction of new MDT staff; Jan Smith, Aircraft Mechanic – helps with everything around the office; Britten Carlson – 90 day temporary employee helping with aircraft and pilot registration and conference; and Patricia Trooien – Administrative Assistant with Safety & Education Bureau.
- FY18 loan interest rate is half of prime (3.75%) so it will be 1.875%.
- Loan and Grant Audit Status:
 - Cut Bank - FY15 completed April 2016, with no findings.
 - Twin Bridges - FY15 completed May 2016, with no findings.
 - Fort Benton and Havre will undergo audits for FY16 grant and loan awards. Audits are selected based on risk.
- MDT underwent audit on our loan and grant processes with the intent to ensure that the programs follow state and federal laws and procedures and to state funds are being used appropriately. Preliminary report is that MDT is in compliance with all state rules, but did find areas for improvement on the process. Will provide final results at June telecom.
- The Board agreed that if a project actual costs come in less than the application, the refund will be distributed proportionally based on the distribution that the Board awarded the grant and loan.

Board Updates

- Each board member gave a brief update for the Aeronautics Board.

Review of Loan/Grant Applications

- **Anaconda – Bowman Field** applied for a \$12,250 grant to construct/improve/repair a fuel farm. No Board questions; FAA funded project.
- **Baker Airport** applied for a \$15,200 grant to rehabilitate the runway, apron, and taxiway. No Board questions; FAA funded project.
- **Big Sandy Airport** applied for a \$7,500 grant and a \$7,500 loan to install/rehabilitate airport beacons, rehabilitate runway lighting and to install NAVAIDS. No Board questions; FAA funded project.
- **Broadus Airport** applied for a \$31,500 grant and a \$31,500 loan to construct/expand/improve/modify/rehabilitate a building. No Board questions; FAA funded project.
- **Chinook - Edgar G. Obie Airport** applied for \$37,674 grant to rehabilitate the apron. Completed in FY16, Board awarded \$47,300 in grant and loan funds in FY17, asking again for balance of project. FAA funded project.
- **Choteau Airport** applied for a \$10,000 grant and a \$10,000 loan to conduct an update to their Airport Master Plan Study. No Board questions; FAA funded project.
- **Circle Airport** applied for a \$25,925 grant and a \$25,925 loan to rehabilitate the runway, apron, and taxiway and to install an AWOS system. Want to ensure that this as an AWOS 2 to ensure that there is FAA funding.
- **Columbus – Wolterman Airport** applied for a \$105,908 grant and a \$105,911 loan to rehabilitate the runway, apron, and taxiway and to construct a taxiway. No Board questions; FAA funded project.
- **Conrad Airport** applied for a \$60,750 grant and a \$60,750 loan to rehabilitate the runway, apron, and two taxiways, to conduct/update the Airport Master Plan Study, install a PAPI system, construct/expand/improve/modify/rehabilitate a building, and to construct a taxiway. No Board questions; FAA funded project.
- **Culbertson – Big Sky Field** applied for a \$9,250 grant and a \$9,250 loan to install an AWOS system. No Board questions; FAA funded project.
- **Cut Bank Airport** applied for a \$17,800 grant to rehabilitate the runway, taxiway, and apron. No Board questions; FAA funded project.
- **Ekalaka Airport** applied for a \$7,775 grant to rehabilitate the runway, taxiway, and apron. No Board questions; FAA funded project.
- **Ennis – Big Sky Airport** applied for a \$38,250 grant to acquire snow removal equipment, install an AWOS system, acquire land, conduct/update the Airport Master Plan Study, and rehabilitate the apron and taxiway. No Board questions; FAA funded project.
- **Eureka Airport** applied for a \$20,000 grant to install taxiway lighting. The FAA will fund signage replacement, but not repairs.
- **Fairfield Airport** applied for a \$50,000 grant to construct an apron. No Board questions; NOT a FAA funded project.

- **Forsyth – Tillitt Field Airport** applied for a \$141,770 grant to construct a taxiway and to rehabilitate a taxiway and apron. Retroactive request; no Board questions; FAA funded project.
- **Fort Benton Airport** applied for a \$3,000 grant and a \$3,000 loan to acquire security equipment/install perimeter fencing. No Board questions; FAA funded project.
- **Glasgow – Wokal Field Airport** applied for a \$29,000 grant construct/improve/repair fuel farm/utilities. Retroactive request; no Board questions; FAA funded project.
- **Glendive – Dawson Community Airport** applied for a \$22,500 grant and a \$22,500 loan to expand the terminal building. No Board questions; FAA funded project.
- **Havre Airport** applied for a \$82,900 grant and a \$82,900 loan to construct and rehabilitate an apron. No Board questions; FAA funded project.
- **Laurel Airport** applied for a \$243,436 grant and a \$243,436 loan to construct a taxiway and runway, acquire land, and acquire security equipment/install perimeter fencing. No Board questions; FAA funded project.
- **Lewistown Airport** applied for a \$34,300 grant to rehabilitate the runway. No Board questions; NOT a FAA funded project.
- **Miles City – Frank Wiley Airport** applied for a \$22,625 grant and a \$22,625 loan to conduct/update the Airport Master Plan Study, extend/widen/strengthen the runway, construct a taxiway, and acquire snow removal equipment. No Board questions; FAA funded project.
- **Polson Airport** applied for a \$34,300 grant and a \$22,800 loan to acquire snow removal equipment and to rehabilitate the apron. No Board questions; FAA funded project.
- **Ronan Airport** applied for a \$11,750 grant to install an AWOS system. No Board questions; FAA funded project.
- **Shelby - Mineral County Airport** applied for a \$42,500 grant to construct, expand, improve, modify or rehabilitate a building. No Board questions; FAA funded project.
- **Superior Airport** applied for a \$28,095 grant and a \$12,095 loan to install an AWOS system and rehabilitate the runway. No Board questions; AWOS is NOT FAA funded project; rehabilitation of runway is FAA funded project.
- **Terry Airport** applied for a \$7,500 grant and a \$7,500 loan to conduct or update the Airport Master Plan Study. No Board questions; FAA funded project.
- **Three Forks – Pogreba Field Airport** applied for a \$22,280 grant to rehabilitate the runway and the runway lighting. No Board questions; FAA funded project.
- **Townsend Airport** applied for a \$7,999 grant and a \$7,999 loan to rehabilitate the runway, apron, and taxiway. No Board questions; FAA funded project.
- **Twin Bridges Airport** applied for \$8,300 grant to conduct or update the Airport Master Plan Study. No Board questions; FAA funded project.
- **West Yellowstone - Yellowstone Airport** applied for a \$286,807 grant to rehabilitate the taxiway and apron and to remove obstructions. No Board questions; FAA funded project.
- **White Sulphur Springs Airport** applied for a \$20,975 grant and a \$20,975 loan to install an AWOS system and guidance signs. FAA will pay for the difference between an AWOS 2 and AWOS 3 as long as it is not connected to the FAA system.
- **Wolf Point – L.M. Clayton Airport** applied for a \$99,850 grant to construct, expand, improve, modify airport buildings. No Board questions; NOT a FAA funded project.

Next Meeting

- The June Extension meeting is tentatively set for 6/6/17 at 8:00 a.m. via teleconference.
- The next board meeting is tentatively set for 1/17-18/18.

Pavement Preservation Grant Allocations

- \$115,500 is available for pavement preservation grants to be equally distributed between the seven primary airports for a total of \$16,500 per airport.

Fred Lark made a motion to approve allocation of \$16,500 pavement preservation grants to the seven primary airports. Chris Edwards approved the motion that passed unanimously.

Tricia McKenna, Chairman

Roger Lincoln, Secretary