

**MONTANA AERONAUTICS BOARD
VIRTUAL SKYPE MEETING
June 9, 2020**

Aeronautics Board

Tricia McKenna, Board Chair
Robert Buckles
Dan Hargrove
Bill Hunt, Jr
Roger Lincoln
John Maxness
Walt McNutt
Tom Schoenleben
Jeff Wadekamper

Department of Transportation

Tim Conway, MDT Aeronautics
Matt Lindberg, MDT Aeronautics
Karen Speeg, MDT Aeronautics
Effie Benoit, MDT Aeronautics
Valerie Balukas, MDT Legal

Call to Order

Chair McKenna called meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

There were no discussion or changes to the January minutes as presented.

Bill Hunt made a motion to approve the January minutes as presented. Walt McNutt seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Public Comment

Chair McKenna asked for public comment, which there was none.

FY20 Grant/Loan Extensions – Karen Speeg, Aeronautics Aviation Support Officer

- Hysham requested an extension for a \$6,886 loan to provide the airport time to determine if the loan funds are necessary. The airport believes that they will have sufficient funding to complete the project without the loan, but would like to have the loan funds available if they are necessary.

Walt McNutt made a motion to approve the loan extension request. Tom Schoenleben seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Grant Program Available Funding Calculations - Tim Conway, Aeronautics Division Administrator

Tim Conway proposed to the Board a new methodology to determine the amount of Grant funds available to award at the annual Aeronautics Board meeting. Historically, the calculation of the amount of available Grant award funds relies on six months of projected aviation fuel tax revenues. Reduced aviation fuel sales resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic would have caused an approximate \$400,000 shortfall in the Grant fund for fiscal year 2021 awards using the historical methodology. The federal CARES Act provided 100% funding to many of the airports receiving 2021 Grant awards totaling approximately \$1.9 million. To mitigate future risk of a shortfall, Tim proposed that the calculation of available Grant funds be determined based on available cash as of December 1 of each year. Using the cash-basis methodology will create a reduction of approximately \$600,000 available in Grant awards in fiscal year 2022 and then the Grant fund will return to current projected levels in subsequent years.

Tom Schoenleben made a motion that the Board adopt a cash-basis methodology to determine available Grant fund awards as Tim presented for future Grant awards. Jeff Wadekamper seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Aeronautics Update and Montana Federal COVID-19 Relief Funding - Tim Conway, Aeronautics Administrator

Tim Conway provided an update to the Board regarding Aeronautics staffing and funding. Tim also updated the Board on the CARES Act impact on the Yellowstone Airport, explaining how the FAA determined the amount of CARES funds provided to the airport and proposed uses of the CARES funds.

Next Meeting

The Annual Grant and Loan Award meeting is scheduled for January 13-14, 2021 in Helena. The meeting will begin at 10:00 a.m. on the 13th and 8:00 a.m. on the 14th. There will be Civil Rights Training the morning of the 13th.

Tricia McKenna, Chairman

Roger Lincoln, Secretary