

**MONTANA AERONAUTICS BOARD
IN PERSON MEETING
September 30, 2021**

Aeronautics Board

Bill Lepper, Board Chair
Robb Bergeson
Wade Cebulski
Pam Chamberlain
Dan Hargrove
Tom Schoenleben
Tim Robertson
Tim Sheehy
Greg Smith

Department of Transportation

Tim Conway, MDT Aeronautics
Marc McKee, MDT Aeronautics
Karen Speeg, MDT Aeronautics
Matt Lindberg, MDT Aeronautics
Valerie Balukas, MDT Legal
Hannah Woolsey, MDT Legal

Call to Order

Chair Lepper called meeting to order at 1:11 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll call to establish a quorum; all board members present. Tom Schoenleben present via Zoom, everyone else in person.

Bill Lepper

There was no discussion or changes to the June minutes as presented.

Tim Sheehy moved to approve the June minutes as presented. Wade Cebulski seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Public Comment

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

FY21 Grant/Loan Extensions Update – Marc McKee, Aeronautics Airports/Airways Bureau Chief

- Anaconda, Havre, and Poplar have received 100% FAA Grants with the CARES Act funding, therefore sponsor share is covered federally and they no longer require the extension.
- Glasgow is awaiting grant from FAA to construct taxiway, expecting it in Spring/Summer of 2022. Their extension was only granted through November 30, 2021.
- Three Forks was denied an extension, but they received an FAA grant for design with 100% CARES Act funding. They will apply for the construction grant in 2022.

Aeronautics Update - Tim Conway, Aeronautics Division Administrator

-Tim updated the staffing at Aeronautics. The Aviation Program Manager position was filled by Matt Amble and he gave a quick background.

-Grant fund currently has \$3,424,526, revenues to date are \$1,946,017 which is trending higher and doing better than previous years with an increase of \$320,000 over last year with 2 months to go. We anticipate \$966,100 will remain in the fund due to projects being funded 100% by CARES. The

projected balance on December 1 is \$3,793,023 but not all of the balance will be available for distribution due to withholding of reserves.

-Aeronautics fund is currently \$1,056,885, considerably higher than previous years. Revenues have increased almost 9% from FY 19 to FY 20; estimated revenues anticipated to continue increasing, projecting \$1,005,627 in funding in 2022. The projected balance at the end of FY22 is \$1,685,439.

-Aeronautics is being assessed by the Legislative Audit Division. Two focus points are operations at WYS and Board of Aeronautics. Fieldwork is expected to be completed February/March 2022 with a draft report to the agency by April 2022.

-WYS currently doing winter operations survey; preliminary cut in Spring/Summer 2022.

-Aero Suite is our in-house developed software and has reached the end of its useful life and being considered for replacement with commercially available software and ISD is assisting Aero to find a suitable replacement, including a national survey to see what other states are doing.

Airports/Airways Bureau

-5010's on schedule with all 40 completed as of 9/28/21

-PCI is done every 3 years, contract underway with Kimley-Horn to be completed this summer. Many airports use it to assess the condition of their pavement.

-206 engine replacement complete. Total cost: \$111,683

-Lincoln Airport taxiway construction and pavement maintenance complete; working on instrument approach with FAA to identify which obstructions need removed and aeronautical study is complete. MP being done by MMI. CIP being developed by KLJ.

-Applied for Dell/Browning for possible opportunity to enter the NPIAS.

Safety and Education Bureau

-clinics completed in last 6 months: IA Seminar, FIRC, Youth aviation art contest, ACE Academy. Planned in next 6 months: teacher workshop being done this weekend, SAR exercises, winter survival clinic, STEM activity for youth, FIRC, IA Seminar.

-DF Equipment: working with TrueNorth Rescue (TNR) to develop an iOS application for both iPhone and iPad. Matt working with vendor to figure out something that will accommodate our unique circumstances in Montana.

-Aircraft and pilot registrations: Matt and team have done a great job with compliance and increase in numbers and revenue from registrations. Matt added that state law requires A/C and pilot registration and requires VFR flight plans over 250 NM.

WYS

-WYS airport building a terminal. EA was signed on June 25, 2021, 60-day petition period ended on 8/25. Ethnographic study expected to be completed by the Nez Perce Tribe in accordance with the EA. Terminal funding expected to be significantly reduced due to a technicality; FAA is moving WYS from a Primary airport to a GA airport, will lose major funding for the terminal.

Other

-Aero (Matt Amble) heavily planning Aviation Conference in Missoula on March 3-5, 2022. Next one will be in Billings in 2023.

-General Aviation Pilots Act of 2021-requested the Governor to sign a letter in support for the General Aviation Pilot's Act of 2021

-EAS task force, John Rabenburg stepped down after 47 years as the Chair and has been succeeded by Walt McNutt.

-Selected by Carroll College Senior Design students for a senior design project to design the RV park at WYS.

Board Business

- **ADS-B Discussion** – Wade Cebulski presented on ADS-B transceivers that can supplement the FAA system to track aircraft in locations where there is no low-level coverage. Wade will email back the FlightRadar24 CEO (Frederick) back and copy Marc and Matt. Tim Sheehy is working on making an app with FlightRadar24 to track their aircraft and suggested an app to renew pilot and a/c registration on and can upload their SAR data onto FlightRadar24.
- **Webcam Program** – Marc McKee gave an update on the webcam program via PowerPoint. He included a background of the weather cameras in Alaska and more recently, Colorado. Hawaii has plans to add several soon. He asked the board if we were allowed to apply for a block grant to help pay for weather cameras at airports and/or mountain passes, would they be willing to award a grant. Question to legal: Would it be allowed under statute and rule for Aeronautics to apply for a block grant for weather cameras?
- **Project Updates** – Tim Sheehy has an update; Three Forks is first airport in the country approved for UAS activity, must be ADS-B in & out. Both Helena and Gallatin College are establishing avionics technician programs. Several states are outlawing the hangar foam fire suppression systems. Suggests sending a letter to DOA and/or the state fire marshal making a recommendation to evaluate and change the state's building fire code. If the board agrees this is an issue they can address, he will draft a letter as Board/Aero and request they conduct a review of the state fire codes and request that they update it to 2021 standards.

Tim Sheehy moved in support of drafting a letter for hangar fire suppression building code revision. Dan Hargrove seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

- **Safety Issues across Montana** – Bill Lepper gave a handout of the RNAV Rwy 20 approach to KGPI. Traffic has increased in the Flathead Valley with increased population and aircraft. And there are concerns about increased traffic, less pilots with experience mountain flying, pilot deviations. Tim Sheehy added that there is increased traffic in Bozeman, also. The Board decided to work on drafting a letter to the FAA.
- **Open discussion on future Board projects** – Wade Cebulski said to keep their eyes and ears open to how they can support aviation in Montana.

Next Meeting

The Annual Grant and Loan Award meeting is scheduled for January 11-13, 2022 in Helena. The meeting will begin at 1:00 p.m. on the 11th and 8:00 a.m. on the 12th and 13th.

Robb Bergeson moved to adjourn the meeting. Greg Smith seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Bill Lepper, Chairman

Wade Cebulski, Vice-Chairman