

Montana Aeronautics Board
Montana Department of Transportation; Auditorium
2701 Prospect Avenue, Helena, MT
Tuesday, January 17, 2023

Aeronautics Board

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

Department of Transportation

Mack Long, MDT Director
Tim Conway, MDT Aeronautics
Karen Hallenbeck, MDT Aeronautics
Stephen Torske, MDT Aeronautics
Justin Zindell, MDT Aeronautics
Valerie Balukas, MDT Legal
Tyler Moss, MDT Legal

Guests

Craig Canfield, KLJ
Nathan Schroht, KLJ
Jim Greil, DOWL
Travis Eickman, Morrison-Maierle
Lance Bowser, Robert, Peccia & Associates
Mathew Wilder, RPA
Will Senecal, RPA
Mary E Bell, RPA
Derek Flinders, RPA (zoom)
Cory Kesler, Morrison-Maierle
Tyler Reed, Morrison-Maierle (zoom)

Rick Ryan, Butte Airport
Forrest Walker, RPA
Jared Wingo, FAA
Scott Eaton, FAA
Kevin Myhre, Century Co. Inc.
Lucas Locke, Valley County
Nick Enblom, Morrison-Maierle
Dan Cahill, Dillon Airport Board
Tom Rice, Beaverhead County Commission
Doug Phair, Miles City Airport

Call to Order / Pledge of Allegiance / Overview of the Rules / Approval of Minutes

- Chair Lepper called the meeting to order at 12:39 p.m., opening with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. Hargrove made a motion to approve the November 9, 2022, board minutes as presented. Vice-Chair Cebulski seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Quick Word from Director Long

Director Mack Long opened the meeting with a few words for the Board for the loans and grants meeting.

Legislative Audit (LAD) update from Tim Conway

Tim Conway thanked the Aeronautics staff for the work applied to this meeting. Tim wanted to refresh the Board about the legislation audit concluded in September at the last meeting in November. Tim drafted a letter concerning the Fort Peck lighting equipment for the Board's review. Chair Lepper will sign and send out.

Internal Airport Audit Update from Karen Hallenbeck

MDT is beginning an internal Audit on a FY 2021 grant for the Hot Springs airport runway rehabilitation, and FY 2022 grant and loan for Glendive on their terminal project.

Review of Loan & Grant Applications

Mr. Smith asked about the \$1.1 million for the gas tax and how much do we have? Mr. Conway stated they have about \$2.5 million. The state Fiscal Year runs July 1st to Jun 30th.

Karen listed airports that withdrew their projects:

Choteau withdrew all projects.

Conrad withdrew apron construction and fencing projects.

Forsyth withdrew all projects.

Jordan withdrew pavement rehabilitation projects.

Stevensville withdrew apron expansion project.

Three Forks withdrew their pivot gate project.

Discussion about the Omnibus bill and Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) money.

In-Person Applicant Presentations of Loan/Grant Applications

- **Baker** – Craig Canfield from KLJ provided a presentation on behalf of the airport along with Fallon County and the city of Baker.
 - Craig Canfield presented on construction, repair, and improvement of Fuel Farm/Utilities that was installed over 30 years ago.
 - Fuel system project is being completed under two FAA grants because of the cost of the project. The first grant only covers two thirds of the project. The plan is to remove the old system and replace it with a new system. The cost of the new system is about \$1M Dollars plus an additional \$70K to remove the old system. The new system has been ordered, delivered, and assembled on one of the airport ramps temporarily for operations.
 - The grant requested from Aero is to cover the match fee on the second grant.
 - The system is operated by the FBO and Leased from the county.
 - Installation and rehabilitation of the Airport beacon.
 - The current beacon is 20+ years old and unreliable. Plan is to perform the project outside of the FAA. \$16,000 in grant money is requested to replace the existing beacon. If the project was done with an FAA grant it would cost 2 to 3 times more. The new beacon will be installed on the existing pole.
 - **Questions from the board:**
 - Fuel Questions
 - Mr. Robertson asked is this Retro?
 - It's not because they have not applied for the second grant yet.
 - Mr. Smith asked if the system leased to the FBO?
 - Craig answered yes.
 - Beacon Question
 - Chair Lepper asked how much it would cost to sponsor if it was a FAA Loan.

- The project itself would be roughly around \$40,000 of which 10% would be \$4,000 to be requested from Aero. By doing outside of the FAA it would only cost \$16,000 total.
- **Big Sandy Airport** - Lance Bowser with RPA provided a presentation on behalf of the airport.
 - Request to acquire a high-speed snow removal truck along with a building an insulated temperature-controlled building to house the truck.
 - Currently they only have a tracker for snow removal. Goal is to increase safety while decreasing maintenance cost and time.
 - **Questions from the Board:**
 - No questions.
- **Big Timber Airport** – Nathan Schroht with KLJ provided a presentation on behalf of the airport.
 - Rehabilitation of one of the airport aprons along with an apron expansion.
 - The project will be completed in two phases, with the first to do an overlay on the existing apron and the second is expanding the apron.
 - **Questions from the board:**
 - No questions
- **Bridger Airport** – Lance Bowser from RPA provided a brief presentation on behalf of the Bridger Airport
- **Broadus Airport** – Nathan Schroht with KLJ provided a presentation on behalf of the airport.
 - Perform construction on 5 stall hangers along with a pilot lounge.
 - The hanger would generate more revenue for the airport. It would provide a rest area for pilots along with a flight planning area. Project is broken up into three projects to separate the project as the funds come in.
 - **Questions from the board:**
 - No questions
- **Butte** – Cory Kesler from Morrison-Maierle provided a presentation on behalf of the airport.
 - Rehabilitation of Apron: fixing the existing apron and reconstructing part of the apron into a concrete and the other part will remain asphalt.
 - **Questions from the board:**
 - Chair Lepper asked for further explanation on BIL Funds .
 - BIL (Bipartisan Infrastructure Law) Funds a one-time thing. It's a five-year funding bill. \$1.016M annually. PFC funding enplanements after COVID dropped drastically cutting the PFC Funds. Butte lost half of their flights and now have 13 flights a week.
- **Columbus Airport** – Travis Eickman with Morrison-Maierle provided a presentation on behalf of the airport.
 - Construction on revenue generated hangars looking to construct an additional 12 hangars, pre-engineered structures and low maintenance. Looking to get about \$300 in revenue a month for each hanger. Project is phased as funding is acquired.
 - **Questions from the board:**
 - Mr. Robertson asked about mill levies.
 - They do not have any specific mill levies. County and city do leverage funds out of general funds, and are pro-airport but have not dedicated any mill levies.

- Chair Lepper asked what about taxiways and apron.
 - Taxiways and aprons are in place but will require some earth work. Asphalt is the way to go. Project broken down into phases for allocation of funds.
- **Conrad Airport** – Lance Bowser with RPA provided a presentation on behalf of the airport.
 - Rehabilitation of runway, runway lighting, taxiway, apron, and construction of taxiway. Major project: pavement needs rehabilitation and soil needs work, shoulders need to be rebuilt and lighting needs to be replaced. The airport is seeing more business such as general use, more agricultural operations, and use from the hospital (flying in staff), withdrew apron expansion. The airport does not have a dedicated mill levy. The airport has had outstanding loans for about 10 years. The airport also wants to acquire land for long term needs.
 - **Question From the Board:**
 - Vice-Chair Cebulski asked how much the FAA BIL Grant is?
 - \$110K for the first \$113K for the second round
 - Mr. Bergeson asked - Last year the board awarded \$23K for similar described project what was that used for?
 - Used for preliminary cost and surveys. Now they have final design and construction costs.
- **Culbertson Airport** – Craig Canfield with KLJ provided a presentation on behalf of the airport.
 - Sponsor is Culbertson County. Requesting grant money for two projects to build a snow removal equipment building along with a small GA terminal/pilots lounge. Plans and spec designs are ready to go. They did not have enough FAA funding to present the job to the board last year, so they pushed it a year. They now have enough FAA funding to get to the project this year. Presented the floor plan for the building. Right now, the snowplow is being stored in a hanger and needs a heated building of its own. Building will be built in the same spot as the old building after the city removes the old building. Airport is used by the county, hospital, GA, and the community. The project is being broken into two projects, the equipment building and the terminal part of the project.
 - **Questions from the Board:**
 - Mr. Bergeson asked did you say that the snow removal building is 1600 sq feet?
 - The actual calculation is 1570sqft. That's about \$300/ft.².
 - Vice-Chair Cebulski asked about the SRE purchased the prior year, was that federally funded?
 - Yes, it was.
 - Vice-Chair Cebulski asked if Aeronautics participated in that last year.
 - Not sure they don't think so.
 - Vice-Chair Cebulski asked does the FAA require one or two years from when you built one or the other?
 - Recommended 1yr between grants for a project.
 - Mr. Hargrove mentioned that according to historical records the airport received a \$14,300 grant and a \$14,300 Loan awarded for snow removal equipment in FY 22
 - They used that.

- **Deer Lodge Airport** – Travis Eickman with Morrison-Maierle provided a presentation on behalf of the airport.
 - A grant request for acquisition of airport equipment, apron expansion, land acquisition, Construction to extend and improve runway safety area, and relocation of approach obstructions. There are 5 FAA funded project and 1 non-fed. The first is land acquisition for development at the North and South end of the airport. They are hoping to do land exchange with the prison. The second land acquisition is for approach protection. The third project is on the north end of the airport relocation of a road and shift of an animal control fence. The fourth project is to expand apron to the North with a future taxiway. The fifth project is the actual demolition of the Armory structure from MTNG. The sixth project is the fuel master system that processes the credit cards, the system needs to be updated. For funding, the airport receives royalties from a gravel site which funds revenue. County contributes 500K, increasing hanger rates by 10% will increase funding along with increasing aircraft fees. To complete the entire project, it would cost the sponsor \$1.5M to \$2M dollars.
 - **Questions from the Board:**
 - Mr. Bergeson. Does the sponsor charge landing fees?
 - No landing fees. Revenue comes from fuel sales and tax dollars.
 - Mr. Bergeson asked about the fuel master acquisition if the unit is owned by the FBO or Sponsor.
 - Sponsor Owned
 - Vice-Chair Cebulski asked about charging a ramp fee and if there is talk about it.
 - There is talk about it, but the trouble is tracking ramp fees.
 - Chair Lepper asked if the Rock Creek Ranch supports any income to the airport?
 - Airport specific no, they do purchase fuel, and gravel that is about it.
 - Mr. Robertson asked if 90% of the traffic goes to the Rock Creek Ranch
 - 80% of the traffic is Rock Creek Ranch.
 - Mr. Robertson suggests that game cameras could help tracking movement for ramp tracking because they are cheap.
- **Dillon Airport** – Lance Bowser with RPA provided a presentation on behalf of the airport.
 - Lance Bowser with Tom Rice County commissioner – Present rehabilitation projects on the runway and taxiway, construction of a taxiway and apron, and installation of taxiway lighting. Additional rehabilitation projects need to be conducted on taxiway, apron, and runway. The pavement is over 25 years old and in need of major repair on all movement areas along with parking. The project is highly expensive and complex, and the project keeps being pushed back. To meet the needs of the project it will cost \$11.5M dollars. The county does have a dedicated mill levy. The airport is used by GA, Business, Medical, Fire , and SAR.
 - Dan Cahill airport board member mentions they have a lack of income in the area. They are looking at increasing landing fees to assist with funding. However, landing fees could divert GA traffic to Twin Bridges airport.
 - **Questions from the Board:**
 - Chair Lepper asked about the grant application and if they have the money to complete the projects? The application says they don't, but they make mention that they do.

- They will have the funding, but it will be the way the project gets bid. The project will be bid by priority, runway is priority then parallel taxiway, then hangers.
 - Vice-Chair Cebulski - the grant application states they have funds for some projects while no funds for other projects.
 - They could complete the Runway with FAA funding but could not do the parallel taxiway without the support of Aero. The parallel taxiway is so bad that it is just a matter of time before it fails, and an aircraft falls through.
 - Mr. Smith - Why did the airport wait so long?
 - Funding.
 - Mr. Robertson- Questions about the different costs for the project. \$280K is for what?
 - Taxiways Delta & Echo.
- **Ennis Airport** – Lance Bowser with RPA provided a presentation on behalf of the airport.
 - Big Sky Airport is looking to acquire a second piece of snow removal equipment. The only equipment they have has trouble keeping up with the current snow fall this season. A second plow would greatly help them support the two airports in the county.
 - **Questions from the Board:**
 - Vice-Chair Cebulski asked if they needed another tandem axle truck.
 - Just a single axle truck.
- **Eureka Airport** – Nick Enblom with Morrison-Maierle provided a presentation on behalf of the airport and Lincoln County.
 - Fuel Project was on the list last year. With cost increases the scope of the project was reduced to leave the 100LL tank in place and pour a concrete pad. The driving factor for the project is to support growing traffic in Eureka and the increase demand for more jet fuel.
 - **Questions from the Board:**
 - No Questions
- **Fort Benton Airport** – Lance Bowser with RPA provided a presentation on behalf of the airport.
 - Installation of a certified AWOS that is expanded from the previous system that is already in place. Current system has outages and is unreliable.
 - **Questions from the board:**
 - Mr. Smith asked why are some airport AWOS systems maintained by the FAA and some not?
 - National WX Service maintains them, not the FAA. Current system is past its useful life.
- **Glasgow Airport** – Jim Greil with DOWL provided a presentation on behalf of the airport.
 - Project is a replacement and installation of new electrical components for the lighting system, also the removal and relocation of the old system. The current components are a health hazard and maintenance nightmare.
 - **Questions from the board:**
 - No questions
- **Hamilton Airport** – Lance Bowser with RPA provided a presentation on behalf of the airport.

- Looking for assistance with weather cameras for a safety aspect for the airport., ties in with the AWOS system.
- **Questions from the board:**
 - Chair Lepper - Was funding for WX cameras set aside?
 - Mr. Conway said Aero only provided weather cameras at state owned airports.
- **Havre Airport** – Jim Greil with DOWL provided a presentation on behalf of the airport.
 - Project is for a new building to house snow removal equipment and chemical storage building.
 - **Questions from the board:**
 - Mr. Smith asked what is the SQ FT?
 - Looking at a 60X60 or 50X70 building. They are seeing a cost of about \$300 to \$350 a SQ FT.
- **Hardin Airport** - Nick Enblom with Morrison-Maierle provided a presentation on behalf of the airport.
 - Looking for a grant for snow removal equipment. Looking for a tandem axle high speed snowplow.
 - **Questions from the board:**
 - **No questions**
- **Jordan Airport** – Lance Bowser with RPA provided a presentation on behalf of the airport.
 - Project to conduct and update airport master plan study. They want to institute a GPS instrument approach system which would require them to adjust the threshold, to do so they need an updated master plan.
 - **Questions from the board:**
 - Vice-Chair Cebulski asks if they move the threshold will it shorten the runway length?
 - No because the airport wants to acquire more land and extend the runway.
- **Lincoln Airport** – Nathan Schroht from KLJ provided a presentation on behalf of the airport.
 - Construct an SRE building to store snow removal equipment. Annual snow fall is about 85 inches. Looking at 2000sq ft of storage space. The GA terminal would offer a common area for pilots.
 - **Questions from the board:**
 - No Questions
- **Malta Airport** – Craig Canfield from KLJ provided a presentation on behalf of the airport.
 - Project is to acquire additional snow removal equipment. 4-wheel drive loader with several attachments with a broom and blower attachment. The airport does have a high-speed truck with plow. The loader would increase the efficiency of snow removal for larger snow removal events.
 - **Questions from the board:**
 - No questions
- **Miles City Airport** – Craig Canfield from KLJ with Doug Phair provided a presentation on behalf of the airport.
 - The first project is construction of a revenue generating hanger to store aircraft. Hanger will be 1200 SQ FT and is insulated and offer shelter for transient aircraft and local aircraft.

The project has been split into two requests with the total cost \$1.3M dollars. Requesting 114K initially, then a grant for \$240K for ineligible cost to the hanger and funds received from Aero will be used for ineligible costs. Airport loses revenue because they do not have enough hanger space for the traffic they receive. Airport is going to put in \$200k into the project from a grant they received and looking for a grant for the 10% match from Aero. The second project is for pavement rehabilitation on a portion of the runway, taxiway A and a portion of Taxiway C and part of the Apron.

- **Questions from the board:**
 - Vice-Chair Cebulski asked if a loan is out of the question for any help at all?
 - The airport would look at loans. Loan wise they are looking at Inner cap because of the longer loan terms. 3.75% for Aero Loan.
- **Poplar Airport** – Craig Canfield from KLJ provided a presentation on behalf of the airport.
 - Project replaces the airfield lighting system, the equipment, electrical vault, the cables, runway lights, and taxiway lights. Replacing the PAPI's on each end. System is 13 years old. The airport is having issues with the system. Becoming more MX intensive. When community loses power, and the power comes back on the lighting system does not return to normal operations without some troubleshooting. The airport wants the new equipment and lights to be LED which will save cost on electricity. The whole project will be about \$300K. the request is for the 10% match.
 - **Questions from the board:**
 - No Questions.
- **Scobey Airport** – Nathan Schroht with KLJ provided a presentation on behalf of the airport.
 - Project presented is for pavement maintenance with crack seal, and new markings on main apron, taxiways, and runway. The airport's main source of revenue comes from fuel sales.
 - **Questions from the board:**
 - No questions
- **Shelby Airport** - Lance Bowser with RPA provided a presentation on behalf of the airport.
 - Acquire SRE equipment, Snow Removal Equipment, Tractor or something that would plow, a snow blower and other snow removal tools. Existing tractor is 50 plus years old they do not want to purchase any equipment for the tractor because of age. They currently have a high-speed truck but looking to acquire a second piece of equipment to supplement the work.
 - **Questions from the board:**
 - No Questions
- **Sidney Airport** – Craig Canfield from KLJ provided a presentation on behalf of the airport.
 - Project at Sidney Airport is for Runway and Runway lighting Rehabilitation. Mill overlay and the replacement of runway lighting and signage. Sydney is a commercial service airport. Last Rehab was in 2009. The request is for the sponsors' 10% on the total of the project cost.
 - **Questions from the board:**
 - No Questions
- **Superior Airport** – Nathan Schroht from KLJ provided a presentation on behalf of the airport.
 - Project is to construct a new revenue generating hanger for the airport. The airport already receives revenue from current revenue generating hanger space and fuel sales.
 - **Questions from the board:**

- No Questions
- **Three Forks Airport** – Travis Eickman from Morrision-Maierle provided a presentation on behalf of the airport.
 - Project is for Runway, Taxiway, And Apron Rehabilitation, Taxiway Extension, and the construction of a new Taxiway.
 - **Questions from the board:**
 - Mr. Bergeson - Is there enough money in the Capital Reserve fund to get the project moving?
 - Yes, but it would exhaust the account.
- **Twin Bridges Airport** – Lance Bowser with RPA provided a presentation on behalf of the airport.
 - Project is for Runway, Taxiway, and Apron Rehabilitation on 9yr old pavement. There are a large number of cracks currently on the surfaces.
 - **Questions from the board:**
 - Mr. Smith asks if the vertical cut joints are opening wider?
 - Yes, vertical cut joints have been around for 20 plus years.
- **White Sulphur Springs Airport** – Lance Bowser with RPA provided a presentation on behalf of the airport.
 - Project is for obstruction removal or relocation of a main power line. The airport recently did an ALP update and a pavement maintenance project. The airport wants a GPS instrument approach procedure. There is a main powerline in the way of the approach and will be expensive to move. The relocation, lowering, or removal of the line would allow the airport to obtain a GPS instrument approach procedure.
 - **Questions from the board:**
 - Chair Lepper Asked will the FAA approve a GPS Approach Procedure?
 - The airport would have to submit new data to the FAA. If they move the line, they will have clear approaches for landing.

Zoom Applicant Presentations of Loan/Grant Applications

- **Stevensville Airport** – Tyler Reed from Morrision-Maierle provided a presentation on behalf of the airport.
 - Project is to conduct and update Airport Master Plan study. The plan is to extend the runway and apply for a precision approach later down the road. The FAA is on board with the Project but wants the Master Plan updated before the runway extension.
 - **Questions from the board:**
 - No Questions

Guidelines and Reminders for Second Day

Chair Lepper

Mr. Bergeson made a motion to adjourn, and Vice-Chair Cebulski seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 4:26 pm